Thirteenth Series, Vol. IX, No. 16

Wednesday, August 16, 2000
Sravana 25, 1922 (Saka)

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Fourth Session

(Thirteenth Lok Sabha)



(Vol. IX contains Nos. 11 to 20)

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

Price Rs. 50.00

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LOK SABHA

Wednesday, August 16, 2000/Sravana 25, 1922 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Three Minutes past Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Q. No. 321.

(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR (Akola) : Sir, I have given a notice for leave to move a Motion for Adjournment. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN (Sivaganga) : The Prime Minister has not respected the feelings of the people of Tamil Nadu by not addressing the National in English. Normally, that is the convention of all the Prime Ministers. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Ambedkar, you can raise the matter in the Zero Hour, not in the Question Hour.

(Interruptions)

SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN : The Prime Minister has to address the Nation in both the languages. It is a promise made by the first Prime Minister of India here in Parliament. . . .*(Interruptions)* They have hurt the feelings of the Tamils. . . .*(Interruptions)* The DMK Party has not protested against this because they are in the Ministry. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Natchiappan, not now. Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Cotton Technology Mission/Cotton Board

+

*321. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA :
SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have launched Cotton Technology Mission to improve the yield and quality of cotton;

(b) if so, the salient features of the mission;

(c) the target fixed for production of cotton under this Mission and achievement made in the country particularly in Maharashtra;

(d) the steps taken for attracting the farmers of cotton cultivation more progressively;

(e) whether the Government propose to set up a Cotton Board on the lines of Tobacco and Tea Board; and

(f) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action taken/proposed to be taken in this regard ?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR) : (a) to (f) A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In order to improve the yield and the quality of cotton, the Government of India has approved the implementation of a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Technology Mission on Cotton in January, 2000. The Mission consists of four Mini-Missions. The Mini-Mission-I on research is to be dealt by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research for evolving newer and better varieties/technologies suited to different agro-climatic conditions of the country for improving the yield and quality of cotton.

The Department of Agricultural and Cooperation is responsible for the implementation of Mini-Mission-II for enhancing production through the modification of on-going Scheme of Intensive Cotton Development Programme. The Intensive Cotton Development Programme envisages to enhance production and productivity through various extension/development activities such as transfer to technologies by field demonstration/farmer training, supply of certified seeds of varieties released during last fifteen years, use of water saving devices like sprinkler and drip system, establishment of seed delinting machines and various activities of pest control including setting up of bio-agent unit, surveillance, Integrated Pest Management (IPM), demonstration-cum-training supply of sprayers/ pheromone trap/bio-agents.

The Ministry of Textile is nodal Ministry for implementation of Mini-Mission-III and Mini-Mission-IV. The Mini-Mission-III is meant for the development of marketing infrastructure by undertaking activities like construction of marketing yards, auction centres, grading facilities, laboratories for testing quality of cotton. The Mini-Mission-IV aims at upgradation and modernisation of ginning and passing factories for the production of better quality cotton,

(c) For the current year, namely 2000-2001 a target of 145 lakh bales of 170 Kg. each has been fixed for the entire country, out of which 33 lakh bales have been fixed for Maharashtra. As the crop is still in a vegetative stage, it is too early to estimate the production.

(d) In the Technology Mission on Cotton a number of incentives have been provided such as subsidy on certified seeds, distribution of farm implements particularly drip and sprinkler irrigation devices to make it attractive to the farmers.

(e) In view of the Technology Mission on Cotton launched by the Government, which takes into account not only production but marketing aspect of cotton also, there is no proposal to set up a Cotton Board.

(f) Does not arise.

SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, India produces a big quantity of cotton out of the total cotton production of the world but the productivity level i.e. yield of the cotton per hectare is extremely low. The quality of the cotton being produced in India is also not upto the mark. Hence Cotton Technology Mission has been launched under the Ninth Five Year Plan to increase the yield and quality of the cotton crop. The technology mission has been divided into four Mini Missions to respectively look after the Research, Development, Marketing and Processing aspects of the cotton crop. Through you, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what changes he would like to bring in the research work to increase the yield as well as the quality of the cotton crop ?

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the productivity of cotton in our country is less than the average cotton productivity in the world. This Technology Mission has been launched to improve the productivity and quality of the cotton crop and it has four components. Its first component is Mini Mission I which is related to research activities. Under it ICAR has been working to carry out its research activities for the production of better quality seeds. Several research programmes have already been running but to accelerate this process of research for the production of good quality seeds and for making available hybrid and high yielding seeds, Mini Mission. I has been significantly contributing.

SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, cotton Technology Mission has been launched and under it four Mini Mission have been created. The marketing aspect is being looked after the Mini Mission-III. An announcement of construct a marketing yard has been made as a first step for modernisation of marketing. 15 places have been chosen for modernising their marketing yards. I would like to know as to cut of these 15 places chosen for modernisation of marketing yards how many lie in Maharashtra and what steps the Government of India are contemplating to provide minimum support price for the cotton crop received in the marketing yard ?

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : A plan has been prepared to launch Technology Mission in all the cotton producing states as well as some other states also. The Mini-Mission-III which is the third component of this Mission is related to encourage marketing and modernisation and upgradation of marketing yards will be done to achieve its target. For this funds have been made available from the centre and Textiles Ministry looks after them. Among the total funds 60 percent share will be of the Government of India which 40 percent share of will be borne by the state government and its benefit will percolate down to all the states.

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE : Hon. Speaker, Sir, though the Indian farmers as well as the government have been trying for increasing the production of cotton but what action the government are contemplating in regard to paying proper remunerative prices for the crop, maintaining the cotton monopoly in Maharashtra, make arrangement for payment of the prices in the current year instead of withholding the payment, promote Khadi Gramudyog and to ban import of cotton ?

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Steps are being taken to increase productivity and quality. As per the last year's figures the average yield per hectare was 232 kilogram and now the target is to increase it up to 388 kg 1 hectare. A Mini Mission has been launched for this purpose and total number of such Mission are four as I have told in my original reply. As far as the payment of better and increased minimum support price is concerned, it is announced for this types of cotton varieties. Textile Commission regulate and announce it accordingly. In Maharashtra, the Monopoly Procurement Scheme is being run by the state government while in other places, cotton procurement in done by cotton development corporation.

[English]

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what are the steps taken by the Government to provide certified cotton seeds to the farmers. I would also like to know as to how much percentage of farmers we have been able to provide certified seeds.

MR. SPEAKER : This question is about Cotton Technology Mission and Cotton Board.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Farmers are given assistance for purchasing certified and hybrid seeds. It will be our effort that the farmers may get the equality seeds as per their requirements.

[English]

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, India is one of the countries which produces lowest quantity of cotton in the world, that is, 4 quintals per hectare, as against China which produces 17 quintals per hectare and United States of America which produces 18 quintals per hectare.

MR. SPEAKER : After a long time you are asking a supplementary.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : One of the reasons for this is that these countries have developed a new variety called BT Cotton. The proposal regarding BT Cotton variety had been pending with the Government and the ICAR for final approval practically for the last two years. Is the Government going to take a decision about approval for BT Cotton as early as possible which will ultimately improve the yield per hectare ?

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : As far the BT Cotton is concerned, ICAR system has also been doing research work on it. But private companies also are engaged in R&D activities over BT cotton. Hon. Member might be aware that the permission to carry out field trials have been given for it to check out its impact on environment. The Bio-Technology Committee under Bio-Tech Department gives permission in this regard. The permission has been granted and people are conducting a free trial this year on an experiment basis.

[English]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, despite the fact that the Punjab Agricultural University at Ludhiana has worked out a number of improvement schemes, coming out with better varieties of cotton seeds, the fact remains that a majority of the farmers in that developed State still have to resort only to the cotton seeds that they purchase from different Ginning Mills. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to how far the funds under the Mission have been allocated for Punjab to ensure that the farmers get better seeds and to ensure that the decline that we have in the cotton production there in the State is really stemmed.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : I have mentioned that under the Mini Mission-II efforts and arrangements have been made to provide certified seeds to the farmers. Assistance is also being provided to the farmers to purchase the certified seeds. The provision for granting subsidy to the farmers has been made so that the farmers may get better quality seeds.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : But the production in Punjab has declined a lot, it was better in the past.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : I have mentioned that the scheme is in operation in 14 states including Punjab.

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Which is the highest seed variety of cotton in India and how much of the high quality seed was made available in Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Rajasthan as compared to the demand ? Whether any target has been fixed for the production of coloured cotton ? If so, what is the target fixed for Madhya Pradesh ?

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Sir, statewise figures will be made available to them.

[English]

SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR Sir, research has been going on in many fields. A research project regarding increase in the yield of cotton was also taken up in collaboration with Israel. It went on for nearly three years. Maharashtra was one of the States. The Punjab Agricultural University was also one of the universities which was taken up under the Centrally-Sponsored Schemes. I would like to know from the Minister what has happened to that scheme. Has it been abandoned ? If it has not been done so far, what are the result of the research that had taken place ?

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Sir, research work being done by ICAR for better yielding crops and it is a continuous process. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR : Sir, I am asking a specific question as to what has happened to the research of that yield ? . . . *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : He is not supposed to reply to the question.

(Interruptions)

SHRI C. KUPPUSAMI : Let him speak in English.

MR. SPEAKER : No, no, please.

[Translation]

SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR : I can understand Hindi. . . . *(Interruptions)*

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : You can get it. We have got very learned interpreters. . . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : A very good interpretation is available there.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please do not waste the time of the House.

[Translation]

SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR : Approximately 15 lakh farmers of the country are related to that research. Hon. Minister may please give specific reply, don't give ambiguous reply. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Hon. Member wants to have information about to specific research. That will be made available to them. But many research projects are run by them through ICAR system and agriculture university. There institution have produced many high yielding varieties. . . .*(Interruptions)*.

SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR : This matter is between ICAR and central government universities. You can not say so. . . .*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Ambedkar, once you have asked a question, why are you not allowing the Minister to reply ?

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : If some specific work is being done under state government their information will be made available to them. I have said that.

[English]

SHRI SAMAR CHOUDHURY : Mr. Speaker, I want to know from the Minister whether some foreign agencies have extended such business to India with the worst quality of cotton seeds and the peasants are losing much.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Sir, it is related to seeds, hence Technology Mission has been launched so that the farmers may get good quality seeds and better remunerative prices for the crops. . . .*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : No supplementary please.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Indian farmers are cultivating many crops but the cotton growers are suffering a lot. What are the reasons behind that ? In many States, several farmers, particularly cotton growers, have committed suicides. What steps has the Government of India taken so far ?

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Yerrannaidu, please go through the Question first. It relates to Cotton Technology Mission and Cotton Board.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Particularly the cotton growers are facing problems as compared to growers of other crops. What are the defects that you have seen in the cotton crop ? What steps have been taken by the Government so far ? Through you, I want to know about that.

MR. SPEAKER : This is a general question.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : It is not a general question but it is a specific one. It relates to cotton farmers.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is true that during the last few years the cotton growing farmer have committed suicides at many places. The reason behind their committing suicides is that they have to make by investment to grow cotton crop and the farmer have to take loans to do it what they are unable to repay in case of crop damage. Generally cotton crop is more prone to attracks from pests which cause a great damage to the crop. The farmer have been forced to commit suicide due to the severe crop damage by the pests. The matter has been discussed in the House and the Member are aware of it. Many steps have been taken by the state government as well as by the centre in this regard. Cotton Technology Mission too has been launched in view of all these facts and for the overall development of cotton crop so that the farmer may get better quality seeds. The research has been going on in regard to BT cotton and even the private agencies have been given the permission to carry out research. Through genetic engineering such genes will be imbibed in the new cotton seed, which will render the pests ineffective. In this regard the discussion has been going on in our country as well as throughout the would and steps are being taken very carefully. So for they have conducted trials in limited conditions only but now they have started field trials this year.

While on one hand, the work on if going on in ICAR, in the other hand even the private sector has been given permission to carry out research under field conditions. If no adverse impact on the environment a observed during there trials and if the technical committee approved the project them further action will be taken.

SHRI SIS RAM OLA : I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to whether the government have make

any arrangement to check the menace of this doceadful disease occurring due to a pest which lead to the crop damage in the entire field ?

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Hon. Member is a resident of Rajasthan to our border areas close to Pakistan, crop were affected due to a particular kind of disease. In view of that, the cotton import from Pakistan has been banned and the farmer are being educated to treat this problem and the research work is also being carried out in this regard.

[English]

Centrally Sponsored Schemes

*322. SHRI A. NARENDRA : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have made any review of the implementation of the Centrally Sponsored Schemes for development of agro and rural industries;

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

(c) whether any coordination is maintained with the State Governments for the implementation of the schemes;

(d) if so, the funds allocated and the target fixed and achieved during the last three years, State-wise and Scheme-wise;

(e) whether any new proposals relating to Centrally Sponsored Schemes have been received from the States for clearance;

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

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

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 DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) to (g) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

The Ministry of SSI and ARI is operating a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, namely, "Cooperativisation" in Coir Sector for the development of Agro and Rural Industries. For taking a decision on its continuance in the 9th Five Year Plan this Ministry has decided to evaluate the Scheme by engaging the Institute of Rural Management, Anand. No specific targets have been fixed under the Integrated Coir Development Project (ICDP). Funds released for ICDP are as follows :

(Rs. in lakhs)

State	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
Kerala	146.58	–	–
Orissa	1.42	–	–
Tamilnadu	–	87.86	–
Karnataka	–	–	42.90

[Translation]

SHRI A. NARENDRA : Sir, the hon'ble Minister has not answered to my basic question. I want to say that the Union Government has not reviewed the implementation of the centrally sponsored schemes for the development of agro and rural industries. The Minister has answered only about coir industry, she hasn't given details of all the industries and as to which are small scale industries. There is no rural agro based small scale industries which are covered under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme and if it does, then which are these industries and the minister should give full details. It will not be proper to tell only about coir industry and nothing about other industries. I would like to know which are the small scale and agro based industries in the country and the type of assistance provided for them by the Union Government and the quantum of financial assistance being provided. Whether somebody is working in these industries or they have been closed ? It is better to give state-wise details in this regard.

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : The first question asked by the member is that.

[English]

The Union Government make any review of the implementation of the Centrally Sponsored Schemes for development of agro and rural industries.

[Translation]

It means that it has nothing to do with the small scale industry, but the overall view that we have taken, I want to tell.

[English]

What is the definition of Centrally Sponsored Schemes ?

[Translation]

The hon'ble Member will be satisfied from this.

[English]

The hon. Member will know that there was a group of officials that made a definition on what the Central Schemes were and the definition was that it should cover all schemes that were fully or partially funded by the Centre and implemented by the State or State agencies. Under that, we only have the corporatisation of this coir industry. Therefore, I have given information as far as that is concerned.

If anything the hon. Member would like to know about the corporatisation of coir, I would be happy to tell him. I think, the hon. Member is talking about things like Central Sector Schemes.

[Translation]

Several Schemes comes under Central Sector Scheme. PMRY, I.I.D., Credit Guarantee, upgradation of Technology are in it and this is the additional information which I am giving to you, though it does come under the question. Similarly, the project of UNDP is also an externally funded project. I have list about them and I can give the same to you but that also do not come under Centrally Sponsored Schemes.

SHRI A. NARENDRA : Speaker, Sir, my question was that what is the definition of Central Sponsored Schemes ? Only coir industry does not come under it, other schemes also come under it. There are no details of agro based rural small scale industry in it. Hon'ble Minister is talking about coir industry. If proposals regarding small scale industry, agro based schemes have been received from these State Governments for any new schemes, then what are these proposals and especially whether the Andhra Pradesh has sent any such scheme ? If yes it would better to give their details as to what is it's status and when it would be completed.

[English]

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Sir, I would very much like to help the hon. Member. Since he has asked the question about the Centrally-Sponsored Schemes, there is very little else that I can offer him. We have only one Centrally Sponsored Scheme, and that is, corporatisation of coir. We are happy to help him with any questions on that, if he wishes.

[Translation]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : Sir, agro based industry and rural industry has great importance in the country. If you want to encourage the economic condition of our rural areas, you have to pay due attention on both the industries. But the answer we got is perhaps technically right but on the other hand it is not the proper solution. The target that should have been fixed for agro-based industry and rural industry is perhaps had not been fixed and due to which the burden of agriculture is not getting down from villages. People are not getting jobs in villages and the rural economic development has also not been up to the mark. Under the circumstances, we would like to ask the Government as whether there is a proposal to make any special arrangements for it and if so, what are its details and how would you like to encourage agro based industry and rural industry by implementing the same.

[English]

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Sir, I would like very much to help the hon. Member but it is not a part of this Question. If there is anything that he would like to know about it and if he wishes to know, I would still tell him about the Central Sector Schemes. Amongst them, for rural and agro industries, we have a lot of them. We have the Rural Employment Generation Programme, we have the Khadi Grants, we have the Coir Grants, and we have the Village Industries Grants. There are a lot of schemes that come under the Central Sector Schemes.

As far as village, rural and agro industries are concerned, they are a growing sector, and I would imagine, Sir, that the Government is extremely concerned about this sector, particularly because of the employment generation possibilities that it throws up.

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there was a decision during the Eighth Five Year Plan that all Centrally-Sponsored Schemes would be transferred to the States. In the context of that, is it necessary for Centrally-Sponsored Schemes to be maintained ? Will the hon. Minister kindly enlighten on this ?

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Sir, the question that the hon. Member has asked is a very interesting question. Normally we would like to send the money to the States and then the States take up the development work of it. As far as we are concerned, we have only this particular scheme and this also, we are slowly phasing out, particularly because of this thinking. We have just now four parts of this scheme with coir, out of that, two parts of this scheme are still being continued, and they are only being continued because of the fact that these were the schemes which we have made promises before.

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the scope of this Question is very vast but the answer is very brief. I do not know how the hon. Minister has chosen to confine her answer only to corporatisation of coir.

The very Question itself is about the schemes for development of agro and rural industries. There are several agro-industries which come under the small scale industries. So, any agro based industries – as far as the small scale industries are concerned – should have been the answer for this.

As far as agro-based industries are concerned, I would like to know from the hon. Minister of Small Scale Industries whether any survey has been done by the Union Government so that the price fluctuations amongst several crops can be stabilised by having the small scale-agro-based industries, that too to on farm, location-specific industries. The total operation that the hon. Minister has been mentioning is confined only to Rs. 2 crore over the past three years. So, I would like to know whether any survey has been done about the scope for opening the small-scale industries in the agro-based industries sector.

MR. SPEAKER : His question is regarding the survey.

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : There a little I can say on this. I would like to stick to the original Question. And this question is nothing to do with the subject that has been just raised. I am trying to explain that there is only one part to this question. It is Centrally-Sponsored Scheme. There happens to be just one Centrally-Sponsored Scheme. I just answered the hon. Member from Trinamool Congress Party, who is sitting over here.

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : The hon. Minister is giving only one stock reply to all these questions.

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : There is no other answer. If anybody wishes to ask another Question, please give a fresh notice. I will be happy to answer him.

[Translation]

DR. KRISHNA KUSMARIA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, a large number of people are migrating from Bundelkhand area of Madhya Pradesh. Thousands of people are migrating in search of job. it was an agricultural area. Despite that people are migrating in the absence of small scale industry and agro based industry. Whether you are ready to provide an infrastructure of agro based industry in the backward area of Bundelkhand ?

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : The suggestion of the hon. Member will be taken into account.

Internet Subscriber In India

*323. SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Internet subscribers in India at present;

(b) the likely increase in the number of subscribers in the coming years keeping in view the possibility of expansion of Internet;

(c) whether complaint regarding misuse of Internet by anti-social elements, criminals and anti-national elements have come to the notice of the Government; and

(d) if so, the measures being taken by the Government to check such activities ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTRY OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

Statement

(a) The number of internet subscribers in India is presently estimated at 14 lakhs.

(b) The number of subscribers for the country as a whole in the year 2002 is projected to be 38 lakhs.

(c) Yes, Sir. The Government has come across some press reports in this regard.

(d) The various measures taken in this regard are :

(i) The Information Technology Act, 2000 has been enacted. This Act has provisions to prevent misuse of computer and internet.

(ii) Ministry of Information Technology has framed Information Technology Guidelines the draft of which has been put on the web for public comments. These guidelines will be finalised on receipt of the public comments.

(iii) National Information Centre (NIC) has established a Secure Zone to protect the websites hosted on their network.

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, first of all I congratulate hon'ble Minister and his Ministry. I think that the remaining ministries will follow this. The guidelines drafted by Ministry of Information and Technology have been put on the website so that the people can give their suggestions. But I am not satisfied with the reply of the Minister. The Minister has said in his reply that.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Do you want the reply also in the website ?

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : The National Information Science Centre has established a security Zone for the safely of websites provided on its network. If a Government agency or a Ministry want to talk on e-mail with another Government agency or Government Ministry, what arrangements have been made for its safety, data safety and to monitor the same ? It is essential for the security agencies to install monitoring equipments for providing gateway licence. Indian Telecom has just obtained gateway licence but haven't installed equipment. It has not been installed because Government have not developed it so far. I would like to know from hon. Minister as to when the equipment will be developed because it is an essential condition for gateway licence.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, two questions have been asked in the form of supplementary parts. First of all, efforts should be made to understand as to how security risks have occurred on Internet ? Generally three are there ways due to which security risks have occurred on Internet. The person who uses Internet have his own password. He can use the Internet with the help of password only. If someone else gets hold of your password by mistake, he can use you website. Therefore, the foremost safety is this that your password may remain secret, it is known to you or to such person for whom you have no objection to use the website. Secondly, you have read that "I love you" virus has come into existence. They tried to come on Internet through E-mail. It is mainly used in E-mail. At times unidentified persons tried to come on E-mail. They spread virus after coming. Therefore, during utilising E-Mail it should be kept in mind. Besides, there is a package sniffing in which without asking you, a software is developed and put into your internet site which remains sniffing what is coming frequently into the site or going out of it. After sniffing this is all estimated. For this three measures of safety can be taken. One among them is secrecy. Keep precaution that the knowledge of your password remains confined to you. Secondly, there is need to develop cyber ethics in the country. As we teach children that if someone knocks at the door, don't open it without peeping out. In the same way if someone knocks at the door of your internet donot open your door without recognising who is standing on that site. There is need to develop such an ethics. Thirdly, there is need to develop fire walls in software through which we can ensure security. Internet is the new medium of contracting one another and therefore the crimes in this are naturally new crimes, New ways should be chalked out to tackle these crimes. Basically private sector has chalked out ways for this. So far as the mention of N.I.C. is concerned, the charge of maintaining and safeguarding all the Government sites is with it. As far as the private sites are concerned, their security is to be maintained by the persons who has got the site. Police post is installed to ensure law and order in a village but it is not possible to install a police post on internet to see that who is coming in the alley or not. Therefore everyone has to safeguard it from his own vision. So far as the second question of the hon'ble Member is concerned, that is not concerned to my Ministry but in convergence I consider it necessary to give it's reply. Those who have to take gateway licence have to do the monitoring so as to ensure no hindrance to national security is created. As you my knowledge there are equipments with the security agency by which they are monitoring it. However. I would talk to devotee about the name of the company you have mentioned.

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, my second supplementary question is that in the field of information and technology several companies are coming up like mushrooms. I have come to know that more than 24 thousand crore rupees have been collected from public through public issues. Today half of these companies have disappeared. Today also, I saw an advertisement published in the Hindustan Times to this effect that. 'Bina Ek Paise Lagaye Lakhon Rupaye Kamaiye' but for that send a draft of Rs. 1150.'

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sankhya Vahini is the best company, what is your opinion regarding this. clarify it in the House.

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Mr. Speaker, you must give him an opportunity to ask. As I told that crores of rupees have been accumulated through public issues, what his Ministry is doing to save the money of the public which have been duped by several companies ?

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN Mr. Speaker, be it convergence, in that I cannot go from Information Technology to DOT to that upto Finance. It is the responsibility of Finance Ministry to see the unscrupulous companies of all fields, be it IT field, from where they are being floated and thereby causing huge losses by depositing the money with them. My Ministry is not responsible for that.

[English]

SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN : There are anti-social elements, anti-national elements and criminals who are using the cyberclubs for communicating with each other and they are damaging the national security. What is the Government's stand on it and how are they going to protect the interests of the nation when the cyberclubs are misused ?

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : There was always a suggestion to ban such kind of cyberclubs which I do not think is a right answer to a situation. The cyberclubs are like the STD booths. Even from the STD booths people can commit crimes. So, committing a crime is different. Technology is user neutral. The Police use it, the criminals can use it, and we cannot stop the technology only because the criminals are using it. Only we have to create a protection to our security agencies and as rightly said, today the computerisation in our country is minimal. But slowly every day it is increasing.

So, naturally, the Government is also thinking of creating some Cell in the Government of India on the lines of the Cell which is called National Infrastructure Protection Centre in FBI because Americans have developed it to support the eight critical infrastructure sectors where the Government is used, like the railway reservation, the aviation, the ONGC, the power, etc. These are the sectors where we will not like anti-social elements or criminals to enter. So, wherever the Government is involved, the Government can take care of it. We are thinking on those lines. But as far as the private sector is concerned, I think, the private sector themselves will have to take care of it.

Even yesterday when I inaugurated such kind of a technology in my Ministry, there is a system of giving permission no ethical hackers to hack into your site. You give a permission to a thief that he will be allowed to come into, and you will not report it to the police so that I can understand where are the lacunae in my security system. So, I will advise both the private and Government sectors to hire these ethical hackers, to enter your system without asking you, and then you will find out where are the lacunae which you can take care of.

Mechanisation in Agriculture

*325. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have implemented a Central scheme for the development of mechanisation in agriculture among small and marginal farmers in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of small and marginal farmers benefited therefrom during the last three years and upto June, 2000 ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR) : (a) to (c) A Centrally Sponsored Scheme entitled 'Promotion of Agricultural Mechanisation among Small Farmers' has been under implementation since 1992-93. Under the Scheme, subsidy at the rate of 30% of the cost of tractor, including implements, limited to Rs. 30,000/- is available to the farmers individually or in groups for the purchase of tractors upto 30 Power Take Off Horse Power (PTOHP). 11970 number of tractors have been subsidised benefiting more than this number of farmers, including small and marginal farmers, during the last three years (till 31.3.2000). During the current year funds have been released to the States for subsidising 550 number of tractors.

[Translation]

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA : Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, the Minister in this reply has got it known that there is a scheme for mechanisation of marginal, small tenants. But there are more than 80 percent marginal tenants in India and only through tractorisation there cannot be any solution. For instance, in the new condition cultivation of fruit, flowers, vegetables and herbs is more viable for small tenants. Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state that whether he has any scheme for the mechanisation in this regard ?

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is correct that by injecting the component of subsidy only in tractor, there will be no mechanisation. Since he had asked about that scheme, therefore information about that scheme has been given. But so far as the question of mechanisation is concerned, there is provision for subsidy for machanisation of the several crop development schemes. There is not a single, but several such schemes are going on. Whether you cultivate paddy whether you cultivate wild palm, there is this component. The separate centrally sponsored schemes have got the provision of subsidy for farm implements.

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wanted to know one more thing. You have not mentioned specifically about the machines of thrashing, about the mechanised and small instruments of sowing and plantation. Will you please let us know about that.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : He had asked about a scheme, that is why this reply was given. As I informed there is not a single, but several such schemes. As you have told there are certain such implements manually operated, bullock driven which is given at the 50 percent of the cost under several schemes of I.C.D.P. rice, I.C.D.P. wheat and I.C.D.P. coarse cereals. There is per unit limit provided between Rs. 250 to Rs. 2000. Now, there is provision for manually operated plant protection equipments as well as for the power operated ones. That is whichever scheme's power driven implements you have mentioned separately, there are such and several other varieties e.g. multi-crop

thrashers, sprinkler sets and for drip irrigation. Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is utilised for several other things, such as power tiller, plastics in agriculture. Under these schemes, assistance is provided for promoting mechanisation.

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN : Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, Hon'ble Minister knows that there are 90 percent small or marginal farmers in our country, but he has stated in his reply that since the commencement of the scheme, i.e. since 1992-93 till date subsidy has been given on tractors numbering total 11,970 and during the current year subsidy has been provided on 550 tractors only. I want to ask the Hon'ble Minister that what is the purpose of giving subsidy on only 550 tractors this year? I would also like to know from the Minister as to what his Ministry is doing so that more people could get the benefit of this facility?

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, since one fourth amount have been released so far, therefore updated figures and facts have been given for the current year regarding the subsidy on 550 tractors. The remaining amount has not been released because action is being taken in the direction of making one scheme by converting several centrally sponsored schemes and under that 90 percent share will be of Government of India and 10 percent will be of states. This amount will be given to the states and they could choose separate components as per their convenience. We want to launch a new scheme named "Macro Management in Agriculture" by combining all these scheme. Since only one fourth amount have been released, therefore, it is written only of 550 tractors in the reply. But so far as the question of providing this facility to more than 11 thousands tractors since 1992-93 to till date is concerned, I would like to say that these figures are of the last three years and not of since 1992-93 to till date. I want to reiterate that these figures are of the last three years.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the statement of the Hon'ble member is correct that there will be no mechanisation by this meagre amount. I would like to say that this is helpful for the process of mechanisation. Government of India does not bear the cost of mechanisation in toto.

Capacity of Cold Storages

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*328. KUMARI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI :
SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

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

(b) the details of the financial assistance provided for setting up of cold storages during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(c) whether a high level specialists committee has recommended to enhance the storage capacity in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to increase the required capacity?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR) : (a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

(a) The total installed capacity of cold storages in the country as on 31.03.2000 is estimated to be 136.22 lakh tonnes.

(b) State-wise financial assistance provided by the National Horticulture Board (NHB), National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) and the Department of Food Processing Industries (DFPI) for setting up of cold storages in each of the last three years, i.e., from 1997-98 to 1999-2000 is indicated in the statement at Annexure-I. In addition, during the year 1999-2000, under the Scheme of the Capital Investment Subsidy launched during 1999-2000, a subsidy of Rs. 20.70 crores had been released by the National Horticulture Board to the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) for projects sanctioned through Commercial Banks, etc. and covered under NABARD Refinance and Rs. 7.30 crores to National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) for projects covered under the Cooperative Sector respectively during 1999-2000 for further releasing the same for the cold storage projects under the scheme.

(c) to (e) With a view to launch initiative to develop storage facilities, the Government of India constituted a High Level Expert Committee (HLEC) under the Chairmanship of Shri J.N.L. Srivastava, the then Additional Secretary, Department of Agriculture and Cooperation on 20.11.1998. The Committee considered the status of cold storage industry, identified constraints in the way of development of cold storages/storages and suggested incentives for its growth and development. The Committee suggested creation/expansion of 12 lakh tonnes and rehabilitation/modernization of 8 lakh tonnes of cold storage capacity and addition of 4.5 lakh tonnes of onion storage capacity in the country during the 9th Five Year Plan. In the light of the recommendations of the Expert

Committee and further deliberations in this regard, the Government of India approved the Scheme to provide Capital investment Subsidy for Construction/Expansion/ Modernization of Cold Storages and Storages for Horticultural Produce during December, 1999. The Scheme is being implemented by the National Horticulture Board at on outlay of Rs. 175.00 crores. The targets under the Scheme include creation/expansion of 12 lakh tonnes and rehabilitation/modernization of 8 lakh tonnes of cold storage capacity during the year 1999-2000 to 2001-2002. The Scheme envisages providing capital subsidy amounting to 25% of the project cost subject to a maximum of Rs. 50.00 lakhs to be released in the form of back-ended subsidy. In the case of North Eastern States, the provision in subsidy is @ 33.33% subject to a maximum of Rs. 60 lakhs per project.

Annexure-I

State/UT-wise financial assistance provided for setting up cold storages during 1997-98 to 1999-2000

(Rs. in lakh)

State	Year	Financial assistance provided			Total
		NHB	NCDC	DFPI	
1	2	3	4	5	6
Andhra Pradesh	1997-98	25.00	–	–	25.00
	1998-99	40.00	–	–	40.00
	1999-2000	85.00	–	50.00	135.00
Assam	1997-98	–	–	–	–
	1998-99	–	–	–	–
	1999-2000	–	–	50.00	50.00
Bihar	1997-98	–	–	–	–
	1998-99	–	–	–	–
	1999-2000	70.00	–	–	70.00
Gujarat	1997-98	–	–	–	–
	1998-99	–	–	25.00	25.00
	1999-2000	–	–	30.00	30.00
Haryana	1997-98	25.00	–	–	25.00
	1998-99	10.00	–	–	10.00
	1999-2000	–	–	50.00	50.00
Karnataka	1997-98	59.18	39.74	43.75	142.67
	1998-99	67.70	32.56	25.00	125.26
	1999-2000	35.00	36.00	75.00	146.00
Meghalaya	1997-98	–	–	–	–
	1998-99	–	–	–	–
	1999-2000	–	–	44.30	44.30
Maharashtra	1997-98	37.00	–	93.50	130.50
	1998-99	42.27	–	64.07	106.34
	1999-2000	89.00	–	61.69	150.69

1	2	3	4	5	6
Madhya Pradesh	1997-98	35.00	251.70	–	286.70
	1998-99	270.00	105.28	73.00	448.28
	1999-2000	110.00	129.99	–	239.99
Orissa	1997-98	–	24.75	–	24.75
	1998-99	67.00	49.00	10.00	126.00
	1999-2000	70.00	87.90	50.00	207.90
Punjab	1997-98	55.00	–	24.45	74.95
	1998-99	138.50	–	48.15	186.65
	1999-2000	118.00	–	–	118.00
Rajasthan	1997-98	15.00	–	–	15.00
	1998-99	135.00	–	–	135.00
	1999-2000	20.00	–	–	20.00
Tamil Nadu	1997-98	36.40	–	–	36.40
	1998-99	–	–	–	–
	1999-2000	–	–	–	–
Uttar Pradesh	1997-98	–	–	–	–
	1998-99	107.00	–	–	107.00
	1999-2000	10.00	–	50.00	60.00
West Bengal	1997-98	42.65	257.97	–	300.62
	1998-99	272.35	82.73	171.60	526.68
	1999-2000	79.00	884.01	66.40	1029.41
Himachal Pradesh	1998-99	–	–	25.00	25.00
Total		2161.55	1981.63	1130.91	5274.09

NHB : National Horticulture Board.

NCDC : National Co-operative Development Corporation.

DFPI : Department of Food Processing Industries.

[Translation]

KUMARI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether the high level expert committee set up under the Chairmanship of Shri JNL Srivastava has recommended in its report construction of cold storages in Maharashtra so that the large scale production of oranges in Vidarbha could be stored safely and the farmers get some relief. Whether any special plan has been formulated to check the losses suffered by the farmers particularly, in the absence of cold storages ? If so, what is it ?

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the terms of reference of the high level expert committee was to assess the status and capacity of cold storages countrywide, to identify the constraints in the way of development of cold storages and suggest steps to enhance the storage capacity. The Committee submitted its report and on the basis of the recommendation given in the report, a new scheme is being implemented. This scheme has been mentioned in the reply to the main question. The scheme has been implemented in the entire country. No allocation has been made for a particular state or area. Storage capacity has to be generated in all parts of the country. The target is to create 12 lakh tonnes of storage capacity.

Besides, modernization of 8 lakh tonnes of cold storage capacity 4.5 lakh tonnes of onion capacity is to be created in the country during the Ninth Five Year Plan. The scheme has been initiated with this objective and the response is good.

KUMARI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, whether the Government is planning to set up cold storage in every district of the country to prevent the losses suffered by the farmers as a result of rotting of oranges, other fruits and onions in the absence of cold storages.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have stated earlier, allocation has not been made on the basis of a particular area or state. If anywhere there is lack of cold storage facility, the hon. Member should encourage the people to take maximum benefit of the scheme. Not only the vegetables but fruits can also be stored in the cold storages.

SHRIMATI BHAVANABEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, our country is primarily an agricultural country. Farmers work hard to increase the agricultural production. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister as to how much losses have been suffered due to lack of storage capacity. We produce sufficient amount of crop but lack of storage capacity leads to the rotting of crop production. Through you, I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister as to what provisions have been made by the Government to safely store the crop production.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, figures are not available as to how much losses have been made due to lack of cold storage facility but on the basis of post harvest losses, 20-30% losses are being suffered in horticulture produce.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, farmer toils hard to produce potato and onion but in the absence of cold storage, every year the crop get damaged. Hon'ble Minister must be aware of the fact that 2 crore 40 lakhs tonnes of potatoes are being produced every year in the country. I want to say that 50% cold storage capacity should be made available but we have a provision of only 1 crore tonnes of storage capacity due to which cold storage capacity is not being utilized fully. Just now, hon'ble Minister has mentioned about Srivastava Committee. This committee has made a provision that 25% subsidy would be provided where cold storages are set up. The Hon'ble Minister should state-wise identify the quantum of production of potatoes and onions alongwith the shortage of cold storage capacity to store it. After setting up the committee, now what action is being taken so that potato and onion crop may not get destroyed. What research work has been undertaken to store the fruits and vegetables in a modernized way ? Whether by providing 25% subsidy the number of cold storages has also increased ? If not, what other steps are required to be taken ?

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, even after the narration of the whole story, things are not clear in his mind. It is like asking who was Sita after the Ramayana is the shortfall in the storage capacity. Assessment was done and the committee recommended. . . .*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Is this the reply. . . .*(Interruptions)* Farmers are suffering miserably. Agriculture Minister is not aware of the requirement. He does not have any answer regarding the steps to be taken in this regard. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : He wants reply to the supplementary question and not Ramayana.

(Interruptions)

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : The need of the Hour is to think about the future of the farmers. . . *(Interruptions)* We can help the farmers. They work hard to produce. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : He wants reply to supplementary question and not Ramayana.

(Interruptions)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am replying. I have spoken only one sentence, why he has become so much aggressive. . . .*(Interruptions)* I am pointing him only because he has been the Minister in Bihar for a long period and has been a Minister in Central Government also. I request him to read the reply to the original question which will definitely solve his query. If he has not read, Sir, with your permission, I would like to explain him about that. Please listen to me. . . .*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : I have read it and I felt that you have not understand the question fully. The reply to that question is contradictory. . . .*(Interruptions)* Construction of cold storages will not solve the problem of farmers.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : If you have not read it, do not try to cover up it. I am replying the same. . . .*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : I have read it . . .*(Interruptions)* It is regarding the promotion of cold

storages. . . .*(Interruptions)* This is the main agony of the farmers. . . .*(Interruptions)* Crores of farmers invest their money for getting agriculture produce. But their crop often get rotten and even for throwing this damaged crop, they have to spend money and labour. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please reply about potatoes do not dictate Ramayana.

(Interruptions)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Srivastava Committee has submitted its report and has recommended that the capacity of cold storage must be increased to 1 crore 50 lakh tonnes.

After consideration, they assessed that on the basis of total requirement, 12 lakh tonnes capacity of cold storages should be created during the ninth five year plan period and also to enhance the capacity of old cold storages upto 8 lakh tonnes by modernizing and upgrading them alongwith 4.5 lakh tonnes of onion storage capacity. The capital investment subsidy scheme envisage providing capital subsidy amounting to 25% of the project cost subject to 9 maximum of Rs. 50 lakhs for normal areas and in the case of North Eastern states, the provision of subsidy is 33% subject to a maximum of Rs. 60 lakhs, and cold storage with the capacity of maximum 5 thousand tonne will be constructed. However, it does not mean that cold storage with the less capacity will not be constructed. 25% will be provided by the promoters and rest 50% will be provided from the banks as loans. This loan will be provided on prime landing rate of + 1% NABARD will refinance the bank. . . .*(Interruptions)* You are saying that the storage capacity will be generated, he is saying that potato crop is rotting. Hon'ble Minister is not replying in this regard. You please read the written reply. . . . *(Interruptions)*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Storage capacity is lacked by 50 lakh tonnes. You have increased the storage capacity by 12 lakh tonnes but still 38 lakh tonnes of produce will be wasted. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : A new committee should be set up under the Chairmanship of Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh. . . .*(Interruptions)* The questions which he is raising with your permission, I would like to tell him that it is implemented in those states only where old storage control order would not be implemented. Abolish cold storage control order from your state so that farmers of your area could avail the benefits of the scheme and their crop may not get rotten. Otherwise, you remain shouting here and the potato crop there. . . .*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : This will not go on record. Now, Shri Sansuma Khunggur Bwiswmuthiary will ask the question.

*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY : Hon'ble Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to ask a question to Union Minister of Agriculture. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : It is very difficult to handle the issue of Bihar.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY : I have been elected as member of parliament from Bodoland area having population of 70 lakh. 53 years have been passed since our country got independence but not a single cold storage has been constructed in Bodoland territory having population of 70 lakh. I would like to have the reply today itself. . . .*(Interruptions)*

[English]

What kind of action has the Government of India taken so far for setting up of cold storages within the Bodoland ? What kind of Action Plan has been thought of to do justice to the Bodoland people ? They have always been telling that it is the duty of the Government of Assam. If the Government of Assam does not do anything, is it not the duty of the Government of India to do justice to the people of Bodoland ?

MR. SPEAKER : This is Question Hour and not a debate.

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY : Sir, therefore, I would like to know from the hon. Minister of Agriculture what kind of action is going to be taken for setting up of adequate number of cold storages in the Bodoland.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the every state of the country can be benefited by constructing cold storages under capital investment subsidy scheme including the area mentioned by hon'ble Member. North-Eastern region has been provided more amount of subsidy in comparison to other areas. Therefore, they should avail the benefit. . . .*(Interruptions)*

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*Not recorded.

[English]

SHRI TARUN GOGOI : It appears from the reply of the hon. Minister that no financial assistance has been given to Assam and Meghalaya. May I know from the hon. Minister why financial assistance has not been given to Assam and Meghalaya despite there being a lot of potentialities ?

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : It is implemented throughout the country. Benefit of this scheme can be availed everywhere whether it is Meghalaya or Assam. Earlier also I have stated. . . .*(Interruptions)*

12.00 hrs.

[English]

SHRI TARUN GOGOI : That is true, but the Government has not given an assistance till today.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, the question of the hon. Member is very specific. Why nothing has been given to Assam and Meghalaya ? The Minister has to give a specific answer to it.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : I think you would like to know about the initial scheme.

[English]

SHRI TARUN GOGOI : It is given in the Minister's reply.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Earlier different schemes were running in cooperative sector under NCDC. . . . *(Interruptions)* I am telling you, these are the primary schemes. Now all these schemes have been merged and a new capital investment subsidy scheme has been introduced. So far as Meghalaya is concerned, a part of the profit earned by the Department of Food Processing was given to Meghalaya in the form of financial assistance. These are the initial schemes which were being run either by National Horticulture Board, NCDC or by Department of Food processing Industries. Now all the schemes have been merged and capital Investment Subsidy Scheme has come into force. Under this scheme north eastern areas have been granted more amount of subsidy and the farmers can take benefit from it.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Qualified Medical Practitioners

*301. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY :
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :

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

(a) whether quacks has outnumbered qualified medical practitioners in the country;

(b) if so, the estimated number of quacks and qualified doctors working in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Assam and other States and Union Territories, State-wise including the NCT at present;

(c) whether the Medical Council of India and State Medical Councils have recommended to the Government that quackery be declared a cognizable offence; and

(d) if so, the action taken by the Government and different State Governments in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR) : (a) and (b) No such survey has been conducted about the number of quacks in the country. The total number of registered medical practitioners in all systems of medicine, State-wise, is given in the Statement attached.

(c) and (d) Government have initiated steps to formulate a legislative proposal for prohibition of unauthorised institution awarding degrees and practice by unqualified persons in modern medicine, Indian Systems of Medicine and Homoeopathy. It is proposed to make quackery a cognizable offence.

Statement

Statewise Number of Registered ISM&H and Allopathic Practitioners as on 1.1.1999

Sl. No.	States/U.T's	Ayurveda	Unani	Siddha	Naturo-pathy	Homoeo-pathy	Total	
							ISM&H	Allopathy
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Andhra Pradesh	14504	4581	–	321	8180	27586	41429

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
3.	Assam	250	N.A.	–	–	464	714	13293
4.	Bihar	75711	3250	–	–	25669	104630	30720
5.	Delhi	5952	2112	–	–	2586	10650	18567
6.	Goa	–	–	–	–	–	–	1569
7.	Gujarat	16223	234	–	–	3930	20387	29483
8.	Haryana	18553	1656	–	–	5474	25683	925
9.	Himachal Pradesh	6757	454	–	–	1076	8287	–
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	343	162	–	–	–	505	5798
11.	Karnataka	10555	679	1	67	5871	17173	50077
12.	Kerala	12943	54	1341	–	7580	21918	23622
13.	Madhya Pradesh	47130	427	–	2	6794	54353	16382
14.	Maharashtra	46519	2298	–	–	27911	76728	66477
15.	Manipur	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
16.	Meghalaya	–	–	–	–	229	229	–
17.	Mizoram	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
18.	Nagaland	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
19.	Orissa	3653	15	–	–	4733	8401	13057
20.	Punjab	19924	5610	–	–	7021	32555	29170
21.	Rajasthan	26056	1432	–	–	3950	31438	18504
22.	Sikkim	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
23.	Tamil Nadu	3335	894	11569	12	15947	31757	59305
24.	Tripura	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
25.	Uttar Pradesh	55921	11963	–	–	24711	92595	38628
26.	West Bengal	2483	4927	–	–	36107	43517	46941
27.	A and N Islands	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
28.	Chandigarh	–	–	–	–	294	294	–
29.	D and N Haveli	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
30.	Daman and Diu	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
31.	Lakshadweep	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
32.	Pondicherry	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
	Total	366812	40748	12911	402	188527	609400	503947

Note :

– = Nil information. N.A. = Not Available

Figures are Provisional.

[Translation]

Inclusion of ISM&H into NHFWP

*302. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH :
SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL :

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

(a) whether the Government have decided to integrate the Indian System of Medicines and Homoeopathy into the National Health and Family Welfare Programme;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof;

(c) the total fund earmarked for the procurement of these medicines during the Ninth Plan period;

(d) whether enhancement of the World Bank fund for the National Health and Family Welfare Programme has also been approved by the Government; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR) : (a) to (e) As part of the National Family Welfare Programme, Government of India is implementing the Reproductive and Child Health Programme. This programme aims at improving the health of women and children and reducing the maternal, infant and child mortality and morbidity. Government of India has decided to involve the Indian Systems of Medicine and Homeopathy particularly the Ayurveda and Unani systems to ensure that the benefits of the Reproductive and Child Health Programme reach the widest possible cross section of the population through the large network of ISM Practitioners especially in rural areas. Some of the schemes being implemented for this purpose are :

(i) Training of ISM practitioners on concepts and practices of ISM relating to Reproductive and Child Health.

(ii) Improving awareness and availability of ISM remedies.

(iii) Research in ISM.

(iv) Augmenting availability of medicinal plants by establishing Vanaspati Van.

In addition, the Government of India have recently decided to procure and supply Ayurvedic medicines to 7 States i.e., Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Kerala and also Unani medicines in 4 cities viz. Delhi, Lucknow, Aligarh and Hyderabad in the first phase where the infrastructure of government institutions is relatively strong. The names of the medicines and their uses are given in statement. These medicines are in addition to the drugs already being supplied as part of Drug Kits to the sub-centers under the Reproductive and Child Health Programme. A provision of Rs. 70 crores has been kept for this purpose during the Ninth Plan Period.

The procurement of Ayurvedic and Unani Drugs is inclusive of the total outlay approved for the Reproductive and Child Health Programme during the Ninth Plan Period. As such no enhancement of World Bank funds available for the Reproductive and Child Health Project is necessary at this stage.

In addition, under the National Aids Control Programme, the Indian Systems of Medicine and Homoeopathy have been involved in training, dissemination of information and research activities.

Statement

List of Ayurvedic and Unani Drugs

	Ayurvedic Medicines	Their Usage
	1	2
(i)	Punarnauadi Mandoora	Tablets for Anemia, Oedema during pregnancy etc.
(ii)	Saubhagya Shunthi	Granules for post-delivery problems e.g. body pains, urine and abdominal problems, lactation related problems, fever, etc.
(iii)	Kasheer Bala Tail	Body massage oil for strengthening the abdominal muscles of the mother, body massage, body ache etc.
(iv)	Ayush Ghutti	Tablet or syrup for common ailments of babies like indigestion, intestinal discomfort, diarrhoea, vomitting etc.
(v)	Bal Rasayan	Tablets/Granules for nutritional supplement of proteins, calcium and essential mineral for children for 1/2 to 5 years.

1		2
(vi)	Ark Ajwain Liquid	For promotion of appetite, digestion, etc.
(vii)	Ark Pudina Liquid	For intestinal discomfort or pain etc.
Unani Drugs		
(i)	Habb-e-Khubsul (Tabs)	For Anemia
(ii)	Majoon Suhag Sonth	For post delivery problems e.g. body pains, Abdominal problems. Lactation related problems.
(iii)	Roughan Luboob Saba	For body massage of children and mothers.
(iv)	Arka Ajawain	For promotion of appetite and Digestion.
(v)	Arka Pudina (Nana)	For intestinal discomfort and pain.

[English]

Recognition of Degrees/Certificates issued by Foreign Institutes

*303. PROF. UMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Directorate General of Civil Aviation has refused to recognise the degress and certificates conferred by many institutes for pilots in USA and elsewhere;

(b) whether a number of youth go abroad and get training in foreign aviation institutes;

(c) if so, the number of applications of grant of Indian pilot licences made to the DGCA in 1999-2000 and the numbers out of those applications still pending;

(d) whether any uniform set of rules has been formulated;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken to avoid such delays and harassment and also to bring transparency in according approval of licences to the young people ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) A total of 815 pilot licences in various categories were issued by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) during the year 1999-2000. No application, received in 1999-2000, is pending.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) the conditions and requirements for issue of each category of licence have been spelt out in Schedule-II of the Aircraft Rules, 1937. Besides, DGCA has also issued Civil Aviation Requirements for the purpose.

(f) A mechanism exists in the DGCA for redressal of grievances and to make the system of approval of licences transparent.

[Translation]

Unutilised Bilateral Flying Rights

*304. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN :
SHRI ZORA SINGH MANN :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "unutilised bilateral rights to be pivot of AI, IA selloff" appearing in the Economic Times dated June 13, 2000;

(b) if so, whether the rights of flights availed of by the Air India and the Indian Airlines are not being utilized at the International level; and

(c) if so, the period from which these airlines are deprived of these rights and the estimated financial loss suffered as a result thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) At present Air India and Indian Airlines together are utilising about 39% of the existing traffic rights available to them under various Air Services Agreements.

(c) The utilisation of available traffic rights is a matter of commercial judgement of the national carriers who decide the operations keeping in view the traffic

demand, available aircraft capacity etc. No financial loss can therefore be estimated on this account.

[English]

Capacity of Major Ports

*305. SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the actual capacity of various ports in the country at present and the performance of various port trusts in cargo transit for the last three years, port-wise;

(b) whether any programme appraisal of these ports has been made;

(c) if so, details thereof; and

(d) the performance of the Madras Port Trust and Tuticorin Port Trust during the above period and their target for the coming years ?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJNATH SINGH) : (a) The capacity of major ports in the country as on 31.3.2000 and the cargo handled by them during the last three years (Port-wise) is given in Statement-I attached.

(b) to (d) Performance of Major Ports is reviewed from time to time. Port performance is measured mainly in terms of traffic handled, average pre-berthing detention, average turnaround time of ships and output per ship berth day. While traffic figures are given in Statement-I attached, a statement showing others performance indicators in respect of Major Ports (port-wise) during the last three years is given in Statement-II attached.

The traffic targets fixed for Chennai Port Trust and Tuticorin Port Trust during the year 2000-2001 are 42.44 million tonnes and 10.90 million tonnes respectively.

Statement-I

(in million tonnes)

Name of the Port	Capacity as on 31.3.2000	Traffic Handled		
		1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
Calcutta	8.30	7.95	9.16	10.31
Haldia	28.70	20.21	20.22	20.69
Paradip	12.85	13.30	13.11	13.64
Visakhapatnam	30.80	36.01	35.65	39.51
Chennai	27.62	35.53	35.20	37.44
Tuticorin	12.50	9.98	10.15	9.99
Cochin	13.45	12.32	12.68	12.80
New Mangalore	20.25	15.28	14.21	17.60
Mormugao	19.48	21.18	18.02	18.23
J.L. Nehru	14.60	8.90	11.72	14.98
Mumbai	30.50	32.10	30.97	30.38
Kandla	39.00	38.90	40.64	46.30
Total	258.05	251.66	251.72	271.87

Statement-II

Name of the Port	Average pre-berthing detention* (in days)			Average turn around time (in days)			Output per ship per berth day (in tonnes)		
	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000**	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000**	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000**
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Calcutta	0.22	0.12	0.21	7.47	7.12	6.59	1285	1527	2157
Haldia	0.72	0.46	0.61	5.30	4.84	5.16	5902	5634	5599
Paradip	0.65	0.33	0.26	5.12	4.16	3.88	6128	6750	7106
Visakhapatnam	1.54	0.76	0.69	6.11	5.51	4.75	6286	6466	7579
Chennai	1.02	1.59	2.10	7.12	7.58	6.80	4800	5484	6086
Tuticorin	0.45	0.01	2.54	5.05	4.91	6.38	2934	2577	2893
Cochin	0.42	0.25	0.20	3.99	3.61	3.20	5420	4617	5824

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
New Mangalore	0.70	0.38	0.21	4.09	3.75	3.80	7210	7536	9082
Mormugao	0.54	0.49	0.36	6.32	5.44	4.30	10171	10696	11162
J.L. Nehru	1.52	0.45	0.64	4.47	3.38	1.72	6209	6886	5905
Mumbai	1.44	0.99	0.26	8.37	6.84	3.95	2530	2800	3907
Kandla	3.17	1.60	1.13	8.98	8.30	4.00	6556	7230	8646

*on ports account

**provisional figures

HIV Affected Children

*306. DR. B.B. RAMAIAH :
SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU :

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

(a) the number of children who have HIV positive or are full blown AIDS cases;

(b) whether there is five times increase of the infection among children in the past one decade;

(c) if so, the new cause of the increase in the indicate of HIV/AIDS in children; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to check such rise of AIDS among children ?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR) : (a) to (d) Based on the sentinel survey done in 1998, the Government of India has estimated that India would have around 3.5 million HIV infections in the country in adults between 15 to 49 years of age. Estimates have not been made for children below 15 years of age. However, UNAIDS report on the Global/HIV/AIDS epidemic, June 2000 has estimated 1.60 lakh infections among children between 0-14 years of age. But they have not given the basis of such estimates.

The reported cumulative number of full blown AIDS cases among children below the age of 14 years as on 31st July 2000 is only 512, as cases of full blown AIDS are often not reported.

There is a gradual increase in HIV infection among the children over the years. The main reasons for the increase in HIV infection among the child population are i) increasing number of HIV infected mothers due to overall increase in HIV transmission in the general population, and, ii) sexual exploitation of street children.

Government of India has initiated a pilot project for prevention of mother to child transmission of HIV infection (MTCT) in 11 centers spread over 5 high HIV prevalent states in the country, namely, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Manipur.

The objectives of the study is to assess the feasibility of administering AZT prophylaxis to prevent the transmission of HIV infection from mother to child in pregnant mothers. This study has started in March 2000 for a period of one year. It has been found in other countries of the World that such short course regimen of AZT reduces mother to the child transmission of HIV by 50%. The overall objective of the project is to assess the feasibility of administration of short course AZT prophylaxis to pregnant mothers starting at 36 weeks of gestation. As on 31st May 2000, a total of 19,582 mothers have been counseled in these centers, out of which, 8847 (45%) have voluntarily been screened for HIV infection. Of these mothers screened, 138 (1.5%) have been found to be HIV positive. Thirty six mothers from this group have been put on AZT prophylaxis and 13 mothers have delivered.

Besides, the street children have been identified as one of the major group to be targeted for preventing the spread of HIV infection. A comprehensive strategy of Behaviour change communication, counseling, provision of health services and empowering them by creating an enabling environment of sustained change of behaviour is being implemented. Government of India has funded 21 NGOs for implementing targeted interventions in 12 states/union territories/municipal corporation, exclusively for street children. The total cost of these project is Rs. 1.27 crores.

National Afforestation and Eco-Development Board

*307. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Afforestation and Eco-Development Board has been constituted;

(b) if so, the main aims and objectives thereof;

(c) whether the objectives have been achieved;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the measures taken by the Board to achieve the aims and objectives for which it was set up ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) to (e) National Afforestation and Eco-Development Board (NAEB) was constituted in the Ministry of Environment and Forests in August 1992 with the mandate of promoting afforestation, tree planting, ecological restoration and eco-development activities in the country, with special attention to degraded forest areas and lands adjoining forest areas, national parks, sanctuaries and other protected areas, as well as ecologically fragile areas like the Western Himalayas, Aravallis, Western Ghats, etc. The aims and objectives are given in detail in the Statement attached.

National Afforestation and Eco-Development Board has evolved specific schemes (such as Integrated Afforestation and Eco-Development Projects Scheme, Area Oriented Fuelwood and Fodder Projects Scheme, Conservation and Development of Non-Timber Forest Produce including Medicinal Plants Scheme), which aim at helping the States in developing appropriate afforestation and eco-development packages for augmenting biomass production. Joint Forest Management has been made an integral part of these schemes for ensuring people's participation. NAEB also functions as the nodal agency in the Centre for setting annual targets and monitoring the progress of afforestation in all States under Point No. 16 of the Twenty Point Programme. These activities are carried out through the appropriate schemes of several other central ministries, as also through State Plan Schemes. The total physical coverage under the Twenty Point Programme since inception of the Board has been 12.71 million hectares. In its endeavour to realise the laid down objectives, the targets set under NAEB's various schemes/programmes have been largely achieved.

Statement

Aims and objectives of National Afforestation and Eco-Development Project

The National Afforestation and Eco-Development Board will be responsible for promoting afforestation, tree planting, ecological restoration and eco-development activities in the country. Special attention will be given to the regeneration of degraded forest areas and lands adjoining forest areas, national parks, sanctuaries and other protected areas as well as the ecologically fragile areas like the Western Himalayas, Aravallis, Western Ghats, etc. in drawing up the plans for afforestation and eco-development, the Board will ensure the following :-

(a) Evolve mechanisms for ecological restoration of degraded forest areas and adjoining lands through systematic planning and implementation, in a cost effective manner;

(b) Restore through natural regeneration or appropriate intervention the forest cover in the country for ecological security and to meet the fuelwood, fodder and other needs of the rural communities;

(c) Restore fuelwood, fodder, timber and other forest produce on the degraded forest and adjoining lands in order to meet the demands for these items;

(d) Sponsor research and extension of research findings to disseminate new and proper technologies for the regeneration and development of degraded forest areas and adjoining lands;

(e) Create general awareness and help foster people's movement for promoting afforestation and eco-development with the assistance of voluntary agencies, non-government organisations, Panchayati Raj institutions and others and promote participatory and sustainable management of degraded forest areas and adjoining lands;

(f) Coordinate and monitor the Action Plans for afforestation, tree planting, ecological restoration and eco-development; and

(g) Undertake all other measures necessary for promoting afforestation, tree planting, ecological restoration and eco-development activities in the country.

Communication Centres in Panchayats

*308. SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR :
SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is proposed to provide fully equipped communication centres to all panchayats;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the extent to which this objective has already been attained, State-wise; and

(e) the time by which the said centres are likely to be provided in all the panchayats of the country ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) and (b) There is no proposal, at

present, to provide fully equipped communication centres to all panchayats. However, Telecommunication facilities are being provided to all the villages including the panchayat villages. Among various Telecommunication facilities, village public telephones (VPTs) have been provided to 3,76,068 villages out of total 6,07,491 villages in India. This includes the 1,96,883 panchayat villages out of 2,39,811 panchayat villages which have been provided with VPTs. Status of VPTs installed in Panchayat village, Circle-wise, is given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) and (d) The remaining 2,31,923 villages including 42,928 panchayat villages have been planned to be provided with VPTs progressively by March, 2002.

Statement

Circlewise Status of Panchayat Villages with VPTs as on 1.6.2000

Sl. No.	Name of the Circle	Number of Panchayat Villages	Panchayat Villages Provided with VPT	Remaining Panchayat Villages
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andaman and Nicobar	67	67	0
2.	Andhra Pradesh	19533	18256	1277
3.	Assam	2486	2094	392
4.	Bihar	11792	6855	4937
5.	Gujarat	13510	12410	1100
6.	Haryana	5946	5946	0
7.	Himachal Pradesh	2922	2584	338
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	1461	874	587
9.	Karnataka	5692	5419	273
10.	Kerala	982	982	0
11.	Madhya Pradesh	31168	24089	7079
12.	Maharashtra	24937	22917	2020
13.	North East	4347	2542	1805
14.	Orissa	5261	5010	251
15.	Punjab	12477	11975	502
16.	Rajasthan	9184	8620	564
17.	Tamil Nadu	13126	13111	15
18.	Uttar Pradesh – East	51262	34244	17018
19.	Uttar Pradesh – West	19674	14998	4676
20.	West Bengal	3325	3278	47
21.	Calcutta	468	421	47
22.	Delhi	191	191	0
	Total	239811	196883	42928

Technology Mission

*309. SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH :
SHRI RAJAIAH MALYALA :

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

(a) whether a Special Technology Mission for the States having an appalling record of population control has been set up by the Union Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the names of States where the said mission is likely to operate; and

(c) the specific steps taken to provide better quality of health care and reduce death and birth rates during the last two years ?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR) : (a) and (b) The Technology Mission as envisaged in the National Population Policy has been named as "Empowered Action Group" to be attached to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, for preparing area-specific programmes, with special emphasis on States that have been lagging behind in containing population growth to manageable limits.

(c) The following steps are being taken under the National Family Welfare Programme to stabilise the increase in population :

(i) An integrated and holistic programme of Reproductive and Child Health that include Maternal Health, Child Health and Contraception issues was launched since, 1997.

(ii) Information, Education and Communication Programme to create awareness about the benefits of small family.

(ii) Assistance to States/UTs to maintain certain family welfare infrastructure.

(iv) Assistance to Voluntary Organisations and NGOs for implementing family welfare programme.

The National Population Policy adopted by the Government seeks to put in place a multi sectoral agenda for population stabilisation which includes increasing out-reach and coverage of reproductive and child health care services, strengthening of health infrastructure, meeting the unmet needs for contraception services, and converging of integrated service delivery at village and household levels.

Infrastructural Basic Facilities at Airports

*310. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA :
SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the basic infrastructural facilities are not available at many airports in the country;

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

(c) the steps the Government propose to take to provide best possible infrastructural facilities at all Airports ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) to (c) The basic infrastructural facilities are available at the operational airports. The level of these facilities varies depending upon the traffic potential and type of aircraft operations expected at a particular airport. Upgradation of such facilities is a continuing process keeping in view the traffic potential, availability of resources and economic viability of such investments. In the Ninth Five Year Plan an amount of Rs. 3421.87 crores approximately has been allocated by the Airports Authority of India (AAI) for this purpose. Policy on Airport Infrastructure also aims at encouraging private sector participation in upgradation of airport infrastructure. It has also been decided to lease out airports of AAI on long term basis as and when found suitable. At present, airports at Mumbai, Delhi, Chennai and Calcutta are being taken up for this exercise to improve efficiency and standard of facilities and services to international standards.

Environmental Damage

*311. SHRI RASHID ALVI : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have worked out the estimated cost of environmental damage caused from air, vehicular pollution, water pollution, soil degradations and deforestation on account of various fires during each of the last three years; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Government have not worked out the estimated cost of environmental damage in the country. However, the cost of environmental degradation have been estimated by the World Bank and the Tata Energy Research Institute. According to the World Bank, the estimated cost of environmental degradation for the year 1991-92 adds up to 4.8% of GDP.

According to the Tata Energy Research Institute, the economic values of environmental degradation and depletion of natural resources in 1997 are as follows :-

Problem	Annual Economic Value (Rs. billion)
Poor quality of drinking water and its effect of human health	122
Loss of crop productivity due to soil degradation	89-232
Loss of wood due to forest degradation	57
Air pollution and its impact on human health	885-4250

Free Telephone to Staff

*312. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT :
SHRI SHRINIWAS PATIL :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether this ministry propose to provide free telephone facilities to all its Postal and Telecom employees throughout the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the details of the guidelines framed for this purpose;

(c) the estimated number of telephone connections to be provided under this scheme and expenditure likely to be incurred by the Government on this account every year;

(d) whether the objections raised by the Ministry of Finance have been cleared by the Government and the scheme has been finally approved;

(e) whether similar free telephone facility would be provided to employees of other Government departments also;

(f) if not, the reasons therefor;

(g) whether the said decision has been challenged in Kerala High Court and Supreme Court;

(h) if so, the details thereof; and

(i) the details of steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to prevent misuse of free telephone facility ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) to (i) It has been decided to provide certain concessional telephone facilities to the telecom employees wishing to take private telephone connections.

This operational decision has been taken in the wake of increased competitive environment which has emerged in the telecom sector. The decision is meant to motivate the employees and increase their availability for betterment of the public utility service. Concessions, such as waiver of (i) registration charges, (ii) installation charges and (iii) bimonthly rental (at the present level), would be extended to the telecom employees who wish to take private connections. The employees will have to pay applicable call charges for the calls made by them like any normal subscriber. Those employees, who have been provided service telephone connection, will not be entitled to seek these concessions.

About 3 lakh employees of the Department are expected to be covered under this scheme. Estimated financial implications involved are a recurring expenditure between Rs. 78.3 Crore (for low calling) to Rs. 99.9 Crore (for high calling) per annum and a non-recurring expenditure of about Rs. 25 Crore.

Telecom Commission has full executive and financial powers to decide the matters relating to the affairs of telecom services. Decisions to grant concessions to the employees are based on the overall administrative and operational requirement of the respective Departments only. The question of extending similar facility of employees of other Departments is outside the purview of Telecom Commission.

Four Original Petitions along-with Civil Miscellaneous Petitions, have been filed in the High Court of the Kerala by individuals and a registered organization against the decision of the Department and a stay has also been granted by the Hon'ble High Court. Common Cause, a Registered Society, has filed Civil Writ Petition in the Supreme Court. The matter is presently sub-judice and no formal orders have been issued so far.

The concessions would be admissible on private telephones only for which applicable call charges will have to be paid by the employees like any normal subscriber. Hence, no misuse of the telephone facility is anticipated.

[Translation]

Rashtriya Punarnirman Vahini Scheme

*313. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government regarding implementation of 'Rashtriya Punarnirman Vahini Scheme';

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of backward districts identified for implementation of the said scheme;

(d) the number of volunteers getting scholarship at present under the said scheme, State-wise; and

(e) the action taken so far to implement the said scheme in the Marathwada area of Maharashtra ?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI SUKH DEV SINGH DHINDSA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The National Reconstruction Corps Scheme was launched in June 1999 as a Central Sector Scheme to be implemented on a pilot basis in 80 districts of the country in the 1st year and 120 districts in the 2nd year.

(c) A list of backward districts identified for implementation during the 1st year is given in enclosed Statement.

(d) and (e) Volunteers deployed under the NRC scheme will be paid an honorarium of Rs. 1000/-p.m. Steps are being initiated to recruit volunteers under the NRC Scheme in the selected districts of the country including the five districts identified for implementation in Maharashtra. These five districts in Maharashtra include Beed in Marathwada region of the State. Since volunteers have not yet been deployed, no honorarium has been paid so far.

Statement

List of Selected Districts for NRC Scheme

State		District
1		2
Andhra Pradesh	1.	Hyderabad
	2.	Karim Nagar
	3.	Visakhapatnam
	4.	East Godawari

1	2
Assam	5. Cachar (Silcher)
	6. Guwahati
	7. N.C. Hills
Bihar	8. Gumla
	9. Dumka
	10. Hazaribagh
	11. Jahanabad
	12. Nawada
	13. Nalanda
	14. Patna
	15. Sitamarhi
	16. Kishanganj
Gujarat	17. Ahmedabad
Haryana	18. Narnaul (Mahendragarh)
Himachal Pradesh	19. Sirmour (Nahan)
	20. Una
Karnataka	21. Bidar
	22. Shimoga
	23. Bijapur
Kerala	24. Kasargod
	25. Waynad
Madhya Pradesh	26. Chattarpur
	27. Tikamgarh
	28. Seoni
	29. Jabalpur
	30. Shahdol
	31. Sarguja
	32. Jhabua
	33. Gwalior
	34. Bhopal
	35. Kanker
Maharashtra	36. Mumbai
	37. Beed
	38. Amravati
	39. Sindhudurg
	40. Gadhchiroli
Punjab	41. Gurdaspur
Orissa	42. Kalahandi
	43. Koraput
	44. Bolangir
	45. Neupara
	46. Phulbani
	47. Bhubneshwar
	48. Mayurbhunj
Rajasthan	49. Bharatpur
	50. Jhalwar
	51. Sikar
	52. Jaipur
Tamil Nadu	53. Ramananthapuram
	54. Kanyakumari
	55. Chennai
	56. Kancheepuram
	57. Tirichurapalli
Uttar Pradesh	58. Pilibhit
	59. Lucknow
	60. Meerut
	61. Mathura
	62. Tehri Garhwal
	63. Lalitpur
	64. Kanpur
	65. Banda
Jammu and Kashmir	66. Udhampur
	67. Leh
Manipur	68. Bishanpur
West Bengal	69. Malda
	70. South Dinajpur (North)
	71. Bankura
	72. Calcutta
Meghalaya	73. West Goro Hills (Tura)
Nagaland	74. Kohima
Sikkim	75. Gangtok

1	2	
Arunachal Pradesh	76.	Lohit
Delhi	77.	Alipur
	78.	Mehrauli
Mizoam	79.	Lungeli
Tripura	80.	Dharamnagar

[English]

Jain Committee Report on Airports

*314. SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU :
COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have since received the final report of R.C. Jain Committee constituted to look into all major issues of airport management;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the report has highlighted the mismanagement and lack of facilities in almost all the major airports of the country;

(d) if so, whether the Government have examined the recommendations made by the Committee;

(e) if so, the details of recommendations accepted; and

(f) the steps being taken by the Government to implement those recommendations ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (f) The report of the Committee is under examination.

Promotion of Sports other than Cricket

*315. SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL : Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some sports like Football, Hockey, Kabaddi, Wrestling, Volleyball and Track events are ignored as compared to Cricket and other Western games;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for promotion of these sports; and

(d) the details of arrangements made/schemes formulated for the sports persons likely to participate in the coming Olympics ?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI SUKH DEV SINGH DHINDSA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Government is extending assistance for promotion of these games under the Scheme of Assistance of National Sports Federations. The assistance is provided for training and participation in tournaments abroad, holding of international tournaments in India, organization of National Championships at senior, junior and sub-junior levels, organization of coaching camps with facilities of boarding lodging, equipment, training through Indian and foreign coaches and necessary scientific and technical back-up. Assistance is also provided for development of sports infrastructure, incentives and scholarships to sports persons showing excellence and through other schemes of the Ministry and the Sports Authority of India for promotion of these sports.

(d) For the sports persons who are likely to participate in the coming Olympics, all assistance for their training within India, under the best Indian coaches as well as foreign coaches and experts and for training aboard, is being extended. All requisite support for equipment, scientific and technical back-up is being provided so that the players can put up a good performance in the Olympics.

Capacity of Dredging Corporation of India

*316. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether at present the Dredging Corporation of India (DCI) could cater to only around 50 per cent of the requirement of the ports, Navy and other establishments;

(b) if so, the present dredging capacity of DCI per annum in comparison to the dredging requirement of the country's major ports; and

(c) the fresh steps taken to increase the capacity of Dredging Corporation of India by acquiring new dredgers ?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJNATH SINGH) : (a) to (c) The present dredging capacity of Dredging Corporation of India is 41.5 million cu.m. (In situ). The estimated average annual maintenance dredging requirement of Major Ports, Navy and other establishments

during Ninth Plan period is 79 million cu.m. (In situ) including 57 million cu.m. for major ports. The capacity of the Dredging Corporation of India will increase to about 56 million cu.m. (In situ) per annum, with the addition of 2 trailer suction dredgers of 7400 cu.m. hopper capacity each in the year 2001, for which orders have been placed.

Plan to Safeguard Environment

*317. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH :
SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the problems of environmental degradation in the country are assuming alarming proportions; and

(b) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken for effective management of the environment protection in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, there are rising levels of pollution in some industrial pockets, mining areas, urban centres etc. The Government of India have taken the following steps for protection and improvement of the environment :

(i) Formulated a Policy Statement for Abatement of Pollution.

(ii) National Conservation Strategy and Policy Statement on Environment and Development has been drawn up.

(iii) Fiscal incentives are provided for installation of pollution control equipment and also for the shifting of industries from congested areas.

(iv) Unleaded petrol is now made available throughout the country and sulphur contents in petrol and diesel has been reduced substantially.

(v) Gross emission standards for all categories of new vehicles have been notified under the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989.

(vi) Air and water quality are being monitored through a network of monitoring stations throughout the country.

(vii) Emission from highly polluting industrial units and thermal power plants are regularly monitored by the Central and State Pollution Control Boards.

(viii) A scheme for setting up of common effluents treatment plants in different industrial areas and estates for treating effluents from clusters of small-scale industrial units has been taken up.

(ix) The Ministry in order to enforce and monitor the implementation of Coastal Regulation Zone Notification has constituted a National Coastal Zone Management Authority and other State level Coastal Zone Management Authorities.

(x) In order to strengthen the institutional mechanism at the Central and State levels, the Government have delegated powers of section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 to the State Governments and Central Pollution Control Board.

Memorandum of Understanding with the CSIR and CCRUM

*318. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Unani medicine system is being mixed with modern science to enable it to measure up to global clinical and pharmaceutical standards for its commercial exploitation;

(b) if so, whether the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Central Council for Research in Unani Medicine;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the facility will help in establishing standardisation procedure with improved processing and preserving techniques; and

(e) if so, the details of the MoU reached with CSIR and CCRUM ?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR) : (a) to (e) The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and the Central Council for Research in Unani Medicine (CCRUM) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to develop viable bio-active molecules and to establish standardization procedures and improved processing and preserving techniques applicable to Unani system of Medicines for single drugs and compound formulations for Global competition. CSIR will also assist CCRUM in developing appropriate agro-technologies for growing plants and appropriate methods of storage of plant raw materials. The responsibilities of both the organisations have been delineated. CSIR would provide training, technical advice and assistance and

CCRUM inputs in terms of plants and drugs. The Memorandum of Understanding shall be valid for 5 years extendable with mutual agreements. Intellectual property generated would be equally shared. There would be a Joint Implementation Committee to oversee the implementation.

Workshops on Liquid and Solid Waste Management

*319. SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether some workshops on Liquid and Solid Waste Management in Chemical Industries were organised at New Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith suggestions made therein;

(c) whether it was emphasised in the workshops that there is a need for systematic development of industrial areas;

(d) if so, the details thereof with steps to be taken to contain pollution from processing industry;

(e) whether the Government propose to seek help from Indian Institute of Technology and other agencies in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) to (f) A workshop on "Liquid and Solid Waste Management in Chemical Industries" was held on 21-22 April, 2000 at Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Delhi under the auspices of Chemical Engineering Department, IIT, Delhi, Indian Institute of Chemical Engineers (Northern Regional Centre) and Indian Chemical Manufactures Association. Suggestions made, inter-alia, include improved waste water treatment and management in process industries, better management of hazardous solid wastes, recycling and reuse of liquid and solid wastes and systematic development of industrial estates.

The Government has initiated several steps to control pollution from process industries such as :

- Preparation of Zoning Atlas for siting of industrial areas.
- Setting up of common effluent treatment plants and hazardous solid waste disposal facilities.
- Statutory environmental clearance for 30 categories of projects including process industries.
- Statutory environmental audit for polluting industries.

The Government interacts regularly with IITs and other scientific and academic institutions of obtain professional inputs in pollution control and management of process industries.

Projects for Development of Waterways

*320. SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government had prepared project reports to promote the use of waterways and for the development of these waterways in the country during the last many years;

(b) if so, the names of the projects undertaken and the time by which these projects are to be completed;

(c) the total amount spent on the construction of these projects as on March, 2000; and

(d) the total amount required for the completion of such projects ?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJNATH SINGH) : (a) Surveys and investigations have been carried out for the development, maintenance and better utilization of the national waterways by the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI), constituted under the Inland Waterways Authority of India Act, 1985.

(b) The following three national waterways have been taken up by IWAI for development :–

National Waterways No. 1	(Ganga-Bhagirathi-Hooghly River System–from Haldia to Allahabad)
National Waterways No. 2	(Brahmaputra River – from Dhubri to Sadiya)
National Waterways No. 3	(West Coast Canal – from Kollam to Kottampuram along with Champakkara and Udyogamandal canals)

(c) and (d) An expenditure of Rs. 119 crores has been incurred for developing the said three national waterways. The estimated cost for completion of these projects envisaged by 9th Plan Working Group is Rs. 447 crores.

International Labour Organisation

*324. DR. RAJESWARAMMA VUKKALA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the International Labour Organisation (ILO) has expressed serious concern over absence of unemployment protection in developing countries, including India;

(b) if so, whether any assessment has been made by the Indian Government in this regard; and

(c) the concrete measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to provide employment guarantee for a number of days per year to unemployed workers through-intensive infrastructure programmes ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA) : (a) to (c) International Labour Organisation in their World Labour Report, 2000 have indicated that excepting those who work in the rural/urban formal (organised) sectors in developing countries, there is hardly any unemployment protection to the rest of the work force. The Report also notes that major Asian countries like India have Social and Health Insurance Schemes covering millions of workers and their families but the vast majority of the population in developing countries, including informal sector wage earners and self-employed personnel have no social protection. It has been suggested that the major focus must be on the extension of the coverage to these workers.

Government of India has been implementing various self-employment and wage employment programmes both in the rural and urban areas with a view the providing employment to the unemployed. While in rural areas Swarna Jayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana, Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana and Employment Assurance Schemes are being implemented, the programmes implemented in the urban areas are : Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana and Swarna Jayanti Sahari Rozgar Yojana. It is, however, not possible, at the present stage of economic development, to provide comprehensive unemployment insurance or employment guarantee to all the unemployed in the country.

Incentives to the Food Processing Industries

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

(a) whether the Government have extended several incentives to the Food Processing Industries during the last three years with a view to promote exports;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the value of exports made from the country during the last three years; and

(d) the extent of investment made during each of the last three years ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government provide assistance under the Plan Schemes for development of food processing sector which also include units engaged in export production. The assistance provided in this regard include the following :-

(i) Provision of Grant/Loan for establishment of post harvest infrastructure and cold chain facilities for food processing, assistance for undertaking research and development, human resource development, for development and modernization of meat processing, strengthening of traditional fish processing technologies and marketing;

(ii) Grant of financial assistance for improved packaging and strengthening of quality control including adoption of quality systems such as ISO 9000/HACCP at export units;

(iii) Arranging promotional campaigns such as buyer-seller meets and participation in important international fairs and exhibitions; and

(iv) Setting up integrated cargo handling cold storage facilities at various international airports.

(c) The value of processed food items comprising of processed fruits and vegetables and other processed food items such as jaggery and confectionaries, cocoa products, cereal preparations, alcoholic beverages, milled products, guar gum, ground nuts, animal products, rice (Basmati and Non Basmati) and marine products exported during the year 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99 are as follows :-

Year	Value (Rs. in Crores)
1996-97	10105
1997-98	11165
1998-99	13560

(Source : DGCI&S, Calcutta/APEDA, New Delhi/MPEDA, Cochin)

(d) The inflow of foreign direct investment and domestic investments approved during the years 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99 in the food processing industries has been as follows :-

(Amount : Rs. in Crores)

Year	Amount of inflow of Foreign Direct Investment	Domestic Investment
1996-97	832.29	3273
1997-98	342.09	1988
1998-99	94.75	2038

(Source : Deptt. of International Policy and Promotion)

I.T. Act

*327. SHRI MUDRAGADA PADMANABHAM : Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether I.T. Act is silent on Intellectual property rights and copyrights; and

(b) if so, the action proposed to be taken to protect the copying of the content provided by the Internet Service Provider or Net Service Provider ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : (a) and (b) Information Technology Act, 2000 provides legal recognition for transactions carried out by means of electronic data interchange and other means of electronic communications, commonly referred to as "electronic commerce", which involve the use of alternatives to paper-based methods of communication and storage of information, to facilitate electronic filing of documents with the Government agencies. This act further amends the Indian Penal Code, the Indian Evidence Act, 1872, the Bankers' Books Evidence Act, 1891 and the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. The Information Technology Act does not certain the provisions pertaining to Intellectual Property Rights and Copyrights.

As per the Copyright Act, 1957, as amended in 1999, copyright subsists throughout India in the following classes of works namely all original literary, dramatic, musical and artistic works, cinematography films and sound recordings. The Act also covers all original works provided by the Internet service providers.

Exploitation of Indian Domestic Women in Kuwait

*309. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :
SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether cases of exploitation of Indian women working as domestic servants in Kuwait have come to the notice of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government of India have imposed ban on Indian women working in Kuwait;

(d) if so, the number of Indian women jobless as a result thereof;

(e) whether any representation has been received by the Government to lift the ban;

(f) if so, whether the Government propose to send a welfare team to Kuwait to finalise the guidelines before lifting the ban;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) the measure taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to protect the Indian women there?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA) : (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Several cases of exploitation of Indian women working as housemaids in Kuwait had come to the notice of the Government. These, inter-alia included non-payment/delayed payment of salaries, physical and mental torture, non-observance of the terms and conditions of employment by the employers etc. In view of this, Government had imposed a ban on fresh deployment of Indian women as housemaids in Kuwait.

(e) to (h) A few requests for allowing the Indian women to go to Kuwait for employment as housemaids were received. However, the ban has not been lifted. The question of lifting the ban or otherwise on deployment of Indian housemaids in Kuwait can be considered only after Government is assured that such deployment would be as per the terms and conditions of employment. A community welfare team is expected to visit Kuwait to have discussions with the Kuwaiti authorities with a view to evolving a system that should ensure well-being of all Indians employed in Kuwait. This would facilitate review of the situation which could ultimately lead of removal of the existing restrictions.

Compensation to Kuwati Evacuees

*330. PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large number of Indians who were constrained to leave Kuwait during the Kuwait War are yet to get their compensation;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof alongwith the number of persons yet to get the compensation;

(c) whether there are persons whose claims have not been settled so far;

(d) if so, the reasons thereof and the number of such persons; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken for the settlement of the claims and also release of the compensation amount ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) to (d) The following table gives the information on the individual claims filed by Indian nationals :

Type of claim	Description	No. of claims Registered	No. of claims approved by UNCC	Success percentage
Category A	Mental/Physical anguish due to sudden departure.	1,05,010	102154	97.28
Category B	Death/Serious injuries caused by the War	258	183	70.93
Category C	Loss of personal property worth less than $ 100,000	39,435	38953	98.78
Category D	Loss or personal property worth more than $ 1,00,000	937	475	–
		145640	141765	

Notes :

I. A small percentage of A and C claims have been rejected by UNCC as duplicate claims. In case of B claims, some serious injury cases have been rejected due to lack of evidentiary documents.

II. Processing of D claims is not yet complete. As Indicate above, only 475 cases have been resolved. Partial amounts have been received only for 266 claims.

Compensation amount received till date from UNCC is $ 690.04 mn or approximately Rs. 3036.17 Crores (at present exchange rate).

The factors which may delay payments to the successful claimants are :

(i) Claimant is not living at the address given to SKC and so cannot be located.

(ii) Claimant is deceased and his heirs are not ready with a Succession Certificate, or a probated Will.

(iii) Claimants have filed multiple claims. Matter has to be referred to UNCC for deciding on the operative claim. Claimants fail to produce necessary documents as laid down in the guidelines for disbursement of claims procedure.

(iv) There is a mismatch in the data supplied by UNCC and the data which is available with SKC and has been given to the Banks.

(e) All efforts are made by the Special Kuwait Cell of the Ministry of External Affairs in conjunction with the Banks to remove causes to delay in release of payment. Claimants are constantly advised. Exact number of such cases cannot be given as this is changing constantly. The number is in fact decreasing each day.

As for all decision regarding claims, it is the exclusive responsibility of UNCC to evaluate and scrutinize all claims, decide upon the quantum and timing of compensation, and transfer requisite funds to the respective governments.

MPLADS

*331. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Govt. have received any complaints regarding slow pace of work under MPLADS Scheme in West Bengal and other States;

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

(c) the corrective steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Govt. in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE) : (a) and (b) Complaints regarding slow pace of work, under MPLADS, have been received from some Members of Parliament from West Bengal and other States.

These complaints broadly highlight various circumstances leading to slow pace of work. Some of these are indicated below :

(i) Delay in release of funds.

(ii) Delay in processing of recommendations received from MPs by District Authorities.

(iii) Delay in preparation of estimates by the concerned agencies.

(iv) Delay in issue of financial sanction by the District Heads.

(v) Non-compliance of time frame by the implementing agencies.

(vi) Delay in transfer of funds from one District to another.

(vii) Non-submission of expenditure statement by District Heads to the Central Government.

(viii) Non-availability of/delay in acquisition of land.

(ix) Operation of the Model Code of Conduct.

(c) On receipt of such complaints, the matter is immediately taken up with the concerned State Governments/nodal authorities for investigation and remedial action. The State Governments have been advised from time to time to follow strictly the provisions of the guidelines and implement works recommended by members of Parliament expeditiously. The District Heads have been advised to sanction works recommended by members of Parliament to the extent of their entitlement without waiting for actual release of funds and submit the expenditure report expeditiously so that funds could be released from the Ministry speedily. The District Heads have also been advised to evolve a timeframe for implementation keeping in view the nature of the works and follow the same strictly. To streamline the process of release of funds by the Central Government, in place of release of funds of Rs. 2 crores in four instalments of Rs. 50 lakhs each, it has been decided to release annual entitlement of Rs. 2 crores in two instalments of Rs. 1 crore each on the condition that the moment the unsanctioned balance comes below Rs. 1 crore the next instalment of Rs. 1 crore is released. The State Governments/District Heads have also been advised to comply with the provision of monitoring of works as per the guidelines on MPLADS and make special arrangements for holding review meetings at the level of Chief Secretary/Additional Chief Secretary/Principal Secretary etc. Special Review Meetings are also being held from time to time at the level of MOS (S&PI) to remove the constraints so as to ensure expeditious implementations of works recommended.

Review Meetings involving MPs and District Collectors were held at Patna on 1-2 September, 98, at Calcutta on 8.1.99 and 2.7.2000, and at Bhubaneswar on 16.2.99 by Minister of State for Programme Implementation. Under the leadership of the Hon'ble Speaker, the Committee on Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme, Lok Sabha also had an Interactive session with some District Collectors of Southern region on 15th April, 2000 at Hyderabad. These meetings helped to identify measures for better implementation of the works under the Schemes.

Under the chairmanship of the Hon'ble Speaker, the Lok Sabha Committee on MPLADS would be having another Interactive session with the District and State authorities of the States of Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Bihar at Khajuraho on 12th September, 2000. Another special Review meeting to review implementation of MPLADS in the State of West Bengal is also proposed to be held by Minister of State for Programme Implementation in September, 2000.

Shortage of Staff in ESI Hospitals

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

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the appalling conditions of ESI hospitals in the country particularly in the capital;

(b) whether the Government have paid scant attention to the conditions in these hospitals;

(c) whether there are complaints about shortage of doctors, staff etc. in most of ESI hospitals;

(d) if so, the reasons therefore; and

(e) the steps being taken to streamline the working of these hospitals ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA) : (a) to (e) The conditions of ESI hospitals and their working in the country, particularly in the capital, is generally satisfactory. However, there have been sporadic complaints about shortage of doctors, nurses, medicines, drugs, dressing equipments etc. in the ESI hospitals. The responsibility for administration of medical care under the ESI Scheme vests in the State Governments/UT administration except in Delhi and NOIDA where it is being administered by the ESIC direct. Therefore, such complaints as and when received, are forwarded to the concerned State Government for taking appropriate remedial action. Recently in order to bring improvement in the working of all ESI hospitals the ESI Corporation had formulated an Action Plan which includes, inter-alia, upgradation/ modernization of medical facilities in the ESI hospitals. This Action Plan was forwarded to the State Governments for implementation in consultation with the Corporation. Necessary funds in this regard, as required by the State Governments, have since been released by the ESI Corporation. As regards shortage of staff in ESI hospitals, the concerned State Governments are requested from time to time to fill the vacant posts as per the norms prescribed by the ESI Corporation.

[Translation]

Seeds for the Development of Vegetables

*333. SHRI RAMANAND SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the percentage to total agriculture land on which vegetables are grown in the country;

(b) the arrangement made for supply of high quality and hybrid seeds to the vegetable growing farmers;

(c) whether the Government have set-up any farms or institutes to ensure availability of high quality varieties of seeds of vegetables; and

(d) if so, the total requirement of seeds of the vegetable growing farmers and the quantity made available by these farms and institutes ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR) : (a) According to the Indian Horticulture Data Base maintained by the National Horticulture Board, the total area on which vegetables were grown during the year 1998-99 was 5.86 million hectares. This works out to 4.1% of the net area sown in the country.

(b) and (c) Production and distribution of seeds including that of vegetable crops is primarily the responsibility of the respective State Governments through their own organisations like State Seed Corporations (wherever they exist), State Governments Seeds Farms, Cooperative Institutions, Agro-Industries Corporations etc. Their efforts are supplemented by the national seeds producing organisations, namely National Seeds Corporation (NSC) and State Farms Corporation of India (SFCI). Besides, under the centrally sponsored scheme on "Integrated Development of Vegetables including Root and Tuber Crops and Onion and Potato", assistance is provided to ICAR Research Institutes, State Agricultural Universities and National Horticultural Research Development Foundation (NHRDF) for production of vegetable seeds.

(d) The requirement and availability of certified/ quality seed of vegetable crops was assessed by the Government of India with the State Government/concerned organisations during Kharif 2000 Zonal Seeds Review Meeting held in February, 2000. The overall availability of vegetable certified/quality seed is assessed at 50311 quintals against the estimated seed requirement of 50197 quintals as reported by the States/Union Territories.

[English]

Visit of Chinese Foreign Minister

*334. SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY : SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Chinese Foreign Minister visited India recently and held discussion with Indian leaders;

(b) if so, the details of discussions held;

(c) the outcome thereof;

(d) whether India conveyed its concern to him over the Chinese Military aid to Pakistan;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the Chinese response thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) to (f) China's Foreign Minister Tang Jiaxuan visited India on July 21-22, 2000 at my invitation. During the ensuring talks, we discussed bilateral as well as regional and international issues of mutual interest. Bilateral relations since my visit to China in June last year, were reviewed. We expressed satisfaction at the positive trends in our relations including the joint commemoration

of the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries (April 1, 2000), and the visit of Rashtrapatiji to China from May 28-June 3, 2000. In my discussions with FM Tang, we agreed to promote bilateral economic relations, enhance military-to- military exchanges, convene the first meeting of the India-China Eminent Persons Group at an early date, and, raise the bilateral Security Dialogue to the level of Additional Secretary/Assistant Foreign Minister. We agreed also on expediting clarification of the LAC through more frequent meetings of the India-China Expert Group of Diplomatic and Military Officials.

Views were also exchange on indo-Pak relations, the problem of international terrorism, UN reforms and UN Security Council restructuring, and the situation in Afghanistan. I reiterated our position on resumption of dialogue with Pakistan. FM Tang said that China's position on Indo-Pak issues, including the problem of Jammu and Kashmir, was well-known and that China stood for peace. On international terrorism, FM Tang expressed China's opposition to all forms of terrorism and the use of terrorism to achieve political objectives and added that China supported international efforts to combat it. FM Tang stated that UN reforms must fully reflect the interests of developing countries and advocated greater consultations and consensus. I emphasised the adverse impact on India's security of the narcotics trade originating from Afghanistan. FM Tang said that China supported a peaceful solution through dialogue and the formation of a coalition Government representing all parties within Afganistan and endorsed by the international community.

FM Tang briefed me on the Taiwan issue and China's position on Tibet. I reiterated and well-known and consistent position on these issues.

Sino-Pak military co-operation, which includes co-operation in the nuclear and missile field, has been raised with the Chinese side at various levels. I reiterated our concerns to Foreign Minister Tang in this regard. FM Tang said that China had normal state-to-state relations with Pakistan including normal military co-operation. He said Sino-Pak co-operation was not targeted against any third country.

Cyber Crime

*335. SHRI SHIVAJI MANE :
SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a move to set-up an e-court to deal with cyber crime;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to give more teeth to Information Technology Act ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : (a) There is no proposal with the Government to set up e-court to deal with cyber crime.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Information Technology Act, 2000 has adequate provisions to deal with cyber crime and there is no proposal at this juncture to amend this Act. However, cyber crime being a fast evolving area, periodic review is envisaged to formulate/modify rules under the act to take care of such crimes.

Impetus to I.T. Industry

*336. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the market fluctuations in I.T. scrips is likely to adversely effect the growth of Indian Information Technology Sector;

(b) if so, to what extent; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to give impetus to the I.T. Industries ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : (a) and (b) The market fluctuations in I.T. scrips take place from time to time and it is not necessary that such fluctuations adversely affect the growth of Indian IT sector as will be seen from the significant increase in exports.

(c) The details are given in enclosed Statement.

Statement

Incentives to it Sector

To encourage and promote information technology business abroad, the Government of India has abolished and simplified the procedures to make them transparent. The following major steps have been taken to promote export of IT Sector :-

1. To provide legal framework so as to facilitate Electronic Commerce in the country, the Government has drafted Information Technology Act. The Act provides legal framework for amongst others recognition of electronic contracts,

prevention of computer crimes, and electronic filing/documents. The mechanism of digital signature has been approved to address the issues of jurisdiction, authentication and origination.

2. Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) Scheme at 5% duty.

3. Foreign direct Investments up to 100% allowed.

4. Software Technology Parks Scheme.

5. Special Stock Option Schemes for Indian Software Companies linked with ADR/GDR offering.

6. Working Capital Finance to Information Technology and Software industry.

7. Sweat Equity has been introduced in the Companies Act.

8. Domestic Tariff Area (DTA) access up to 50% of FOB value of exports for units under Export Oriented Unit (EOU)/Export Processing Zone (EPZ)/Software Technology Parks (STP) Scheme.

9. Depreciation on Computer @ 60% per annum.

10. Reduction in Custom Duty on computer and peripherals to 15%. The customs duty on all storage devices, integrated circuits, microprocessors, data display tubes and deflection components of colour monitors is @ 0%.

11. Software exempted from custom duty and excise duty.

12. Relaxation in income tax to software units under EOU/EPZ/STP Schemes.

13. Exemption of withholding tax on interest on External Commercial Borrowings.

14. Computer systems have been made freely importable. The donation of used computers to educational institutes, hospitals etc. have been permitted duty free from units in EOU/EPZ/STP/ Electronics Hardware Technology Park (E' 'TP).

15. Exemption on income from dividends on Venture Capital Fund.

16. "Business Support Centre" has been opened in "Silicon Valley" California, USA to assist small and medium enterprises in establishing strategic alliance in the US.

[Translation]

Soil Erosion

*337. DR. RAM LAKHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the 33 percent agricultural land in Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh has gone waste due to a large scale soil erosion caused by Chambal river;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the measures being taken by the Government to check such soil erosion; and

(d) the action being taken for the rehabilitation of the villagers displaced as a result thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) The areas affected by soil erosion caused by Chambal river is generally categorised as ravine area. According to the estimates of the Working Group on Soil and Water Conservation for IX Five Year Plan, the ravine area caused by Chambal river is 3.04 lakh ha. in the States of Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan.

(c) Government of India, Department of Agriculture is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Enhancing Productivity of Degraded Lands in the Catchments of River Valley Projects and Flood Prone Rivers (RVP and FPR) to control soil erosion in the catchments of Chambal. In addition, State Governments of Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan are also implementing various State Plan schemes to control soil erosion in their respective States.

(d) No instance of displacement of farmers has been reported in these areas.

[English]

National Cooperative Development Corporation

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

(a) whether National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) is likely to face a resource gap of Rs. 270 crores against the financial outlay of Rs. 500 crores this year

(b) if so, whether the Government have any financial source to fill up this gap;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government will also consider formulating National policy on Cooperatives aiming to facilitate their all-round development; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Government of India has already given permission to NCDC to fill this gap through market borrowings to the tune of Rs. 268.45 crores.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. The draft national policy on cooperatives is under consideration of the Government of facilitate all-round development of the cooperatives and their economic viability. This will provide necessary support, encouragement and assistance to the cooperatives to ensure their autonomy, self-reliance and democratic concept.

Agricultural Farmers

*339. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have conducted a survey regarding the indebtedness of the agricultural farmers in the rural areas;

(b) if so, the details of the outcome thereof during each of the last three years; State-wise;

(c) whether due to indebtedness the small and marginal farmers are being compelled to sell their holdings and are becoming landless agricultural labourers; and

(d) if so, the details of the fall in the number of agricultural holdings during each of the last three years, State-wise, particularly in the State of the Madhya Pradesh ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The survey is conducted decennially by the National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) and the last such survey was conducted by NSSO with July, 1991 – June, 1992 as the reference period. The details of the outcome of this survey is given in enclosed Statement.

(c) No such information has been received.

(d) Does not arise.

Statement

Details of the outcome of the study of NSSO during each of the Last Years

1. Incidence of indebtedness and Debt Asset Ratio of Households.

Item	Year	Rural Households		All
		Cultivators	Non Cultivators	
Incidence of Indebtedness (Per Cent)	1971	46.10	34.30	42.80
	1981	22.30	12.40	20.00
	1991	25.90	18.50	23.40
Average Debt Per Household (Rs.)*	1971	605	223	500
	1981	803	205	661
	1991	2294	1151	1906
Average Asset Holding Per Household (Rs.)*	1971	14627	2613	11311
	1981	44525	8973	36090
	1991	142308	38180	107007
Debt Asset Ratio (Per Cent)	1971	4.13	8.53	4.42
	1981	1.80	2.28	1.83
	1991	1.61	3.01	1.78

*At respective years prices.

2. Incidence of Indebtedness (101) average Debt per Household (ADH) for Major Categories of Households in different States as on 30 June, 1991.

States	101 (Per Cent)			ADH (Rs.)		
	Cultivators	Non Cultivators	All	Cultivators	Non Cultivators	All
Andhra Pradesh	39.9	27.8	34.6	3287	1755	2609
Assam	6.5	5.4	6.2	248	262	252
Bihar	17.2	14.0	16.2	712	447	632
Gujarat	21.4	9.1	16.5	2460	487	1678
Haryana	28.4	26.8	27.7	5486	2934	4397
Himachal Pradesh	21.8	20.1	21.5	1212	1227	1214
Jammu and Kashmir	14.8	8.8	14	1151	768	1099
Karnataka	33.1	17.0	28.1	3244	931	2535
Kerala	32.8	23.5	30.7	3857	1910	3432
Madhya Pradesh	22.2	17.5	20.8	1961	699	1593
Maharashtra	29.0	12.5	22.4	2890	988	2133
Orissa	27.9	13.2	23.3	1367	374	1054
Punjab	30.0	21.4	25.1	7125	1803	4129
Rajasthan	31.3	25.4	30.2	3797	2629	3568
Tamil Nadu	38.8	22.4	29.6	3785	1420	2457
Uttar Pradesh	19.2	18.1	18.9	1654	956	1489
West Bengal	30.7	18.2	26.3	1543	960	1340
All India	25.9	18.5	23.4	2294	1151	1906

Role of NRIs

*340. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH :
SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to build a data bank of NRIs;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to utilise the services of influential NRIs in the furtherance of India's foreign policy; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Planning for undertaking this work has commenced.

(c) and (d) The Government regards the Non-Resident Indians as a significant factors in India's external relations with a number of countries. They are an important asset in presenting India in a proper perspective to the opinion-builders and decision-makers in the countries of their residence.

[Translation]

Development of Forests in UP

3322. SHRI JAI PRAKASH : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Vano ke vikas ke liye kendra rashi muheya karaye" appearing in the Dainik Jagaran dated June 7, 2000;

(b) if so, whether any request has been made by the U.P. Government to the Union Government regarding development of forests in the State;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Union Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) : (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. As per the State of Forests Report, 1997, the extent of forest cover in the hill districts of UP is 22,658 sq. km. which is 44.3% of its total geographical area of 51,125 sq. km. The Government have formulated the National Forestry Action Programme for the next 20 years for sustainable development of forests as also to bring 33% of the total geographical area of the country under forest/tree cover as stipulated in the National Forest Policy, 1988 based on the State Forestry Action Plans prepared by the States. The total requirement of funds for sustainable development of forests in Uttar Pradesh as per NFAP has been estimated at Rs. 32208.2 million for the next 20 years. However, the Government is implementing Centrally Sponsored Schemes on Integrated Afforestation and Eco Development Project Scheme, Area Oriented Fuel wood and Fodder Plantation Scheme, Non Timber Forest Product Scheme and Uttar Pradesh Forestry Projects (An Externally Aided Project funded by the World Bank) for development of forests in Uttar Pradesh.

Coastal Pollution

3323. KUMARI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up new projects to keep on monitoring the pollution level of ocean water so as to check the coastal pollution;

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

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

(d) the funds sanctioned for these projects, State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) : (a) to (d) Under the programme of Coastal Monitoring and Prediction System (COMAPS), coastal water quality is monitored at 82 locations in coastal States. The programme is sponsored by the Department of Ocean Development since 1990-91 and an amount of Rs. 504.80 lakhs has been so far spent. The programme is implemented through various agencies including Central and State Pollution Control Boards.

Child Health Programmes in Bihar

3324. SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have introduced Child Health Programme in Bihar;

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

(c) the details of amount allocated by the Government for the said programme ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (PROF. RITA VERMA) : (a) to (c) The Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) Programme is under the implementation in all States including all districts of Bihar. A number of Child Health interventions including immunization against six vaccine preventable diseases, management of acute respiratory infections and diarrhoeal diseases, essential new-born care and prophylaxis against nutritional anemia and vitamin A deficiency are under implementation in all districts of the State as part of the RCH programme.

Financial assistance of Rs. 11.97 crore and assistance in kind amounting to Rs. 47.04 crore was provided during 1999-2000 to Bihar for the RCH programme including Child Health interventions.

In addition to the interventions under the RCH Programme, Pulse Polio campaign is being conducted every year in all the districts of the State. Vaccine is being procured centrally and supplied to the State. Cash assistance to the tune of Rs. 1695.690 lakh was provided to the State for implementing Information, Education and Communication (IEC) Social Mobilization, Booth Management, transport, Mobility and contingencies. For Cold Chain Maintenance Rs. 17.29 lakh were provided to the State of Bihar during 1999-2000.

A UNICEF supported Project "Border Districts Cluster Strategy" has been introduced for providing focussed interventions and inputs for reducing the infant and maternal mortality rates by atleast half of the prevailing rates in the districts at present over a period of two to three years. From Bihar, West-Singhbhoum. East-Singhbhoum and Ranchi have been included under the Project.

[English]

Haj Pilgrims

3325. DR. S. JAGATHRAKSHAKAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether many Haj pilgrims were forced to wait at Jeddah Haj terminal for Air India flights for more than 48 hours for their return journey to India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for not taking appropriate action by the concerned authorities to avoid inconvenience to Haj pilgrims, especially when the same situation was experienced last years also; and

(d) the action proposed to be initiated for the lapse against the officials and measures to be taken to avoid recurrence of such incidents ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) to (d) Some of the flight during phase II (return journey) of Haj operations were delayed due to various reasons. As a result, haj pilgrims had to wait at Jeddah Haj terminal for Air India flights. The reasons for delay of the flights are as under :-

(i) The Charter Operator could not sustain the schedule due to an initial engineering snag.

(ii) Extreme congestion conditions at the Haj Terminal at Jeddah.

(iii) The directive of Saudi Authorities to use the Haj Terminal also for the departure of scheduled flights.

(iv) Only four counters were being allocated to Air India and that too intermittently four about two hours at a time.

(v) The complete contingent of support staff from India could not be put in position in time because of the delay in the issuance of visa by the Saudi Authorities.

(vi) A majority of Haj passengers report at the check-in counter with excess baggage which not only contributes to the congestion but also slows down the entire process of checking-in the passengers.

A review of the reasons has been taken and timely advance action is being undertaken to ensure improvement in services.

Optical Fibre Cables Line

3326. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Reliance group of India has decided to spend Rs. 550 crore to lay 3,500 km optical fibre lines all over the State of Andhra Pradesh to provide Internet facility to every village;

(b) if so, the time by which the work is likely to be commenced;

(c) whether the optical fibre network would be laid in the highdensity corridor of Hyderabad-Vijayawada-Visakhapatnam for a length of about 700 km in the first phase;

(d) if so, the time by which this work is likely to be completed; and

(e) the date on which the next phase of work is to be started and the districts covered thereunder ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) to (e) The information is being collected and shall be kept on the Table of the House.

Production/Consumption/Export of Mica

3327. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the production, internal consumption and export of mica in the country during each of the last three years;

(b) whether there has been a slump in the world trade on mica during this period;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) the contribution of MITCO in the process of production, trade and giving employment during the said period, year-wise;

(e) whether the policy of decanalisation adopted in 1990 for mica industry has failed to achieve the target; and

(f) if so, the steps taken in this direction ?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI SUKH DEV SINGH DHINDSA) : (a) As per information available, the production of mica during the last three years is given below :-

(Quantity in Tonnes)

Item	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
Production			
Mica (Crude)	1697	1484	1273
Mica (Waste and Scrap)	909	1067	1039

Production estimates of mica are made by the Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM), a subordinate organisation of the Ministry of Mines on the basis of the information furnished by the reporting mines. However, mica is also recovered from secondary sources and tailings, details of which are not maintained. The statistics on export of mica include export of mica in all forms. The export of mica during the years 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 was 47892 MT, 50245 MT and 40890 MT (provisional) respectively. Data regarding consumption of mica is not maintained centrally.

(b) Yes, Sir. There has been a slump in the mica trade on account of world-wide recessionary conditions.

(c) The main reasons for decline in mica trade are : (i) sheet mica, a high value added product has been replaced by products manufactured from cheaper mica scrap/waste; (ii) Substitution of mica and mica products by synthetic products; (iii) Collapse of market for mica in erstwhile USSR and other East European countries.

(d) As per information furnished by Ministry of Commerce, MITCO (now Mica Division of MMTC) has never been engaged in mining of mica, hence there is no contribution towards production. As far as trade is concerned, MITCO's turnover during the last three years is Rs. 1268 lacs in 1997-98, Rs. 1232 lacs in 1998-99 and 1333 lacs in 1999-2000. The number of manpower engaged in MITCO (now mica division of MMTC) during the last three years is 422 in 1997-98, 407 in 1998-99 and 400 in 1999-2000.

(e) The policy of decanalisation adopted in 1990 had not achieved its target. The export of decanalised items of mica has shown a declining trend due to reasons cited at (c) above.

(f) The Ministry of Commerce has initiated steps to get value added mica based products manufactured for exports and domestic consumption by asking MMTC to set up and upgrade industrial units in this field.

Improper Working of STD Line in West Bengal

3328. SHRI SUNIL KHAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the STD line of Maliara Telephone exchange in Bankura District in West Bengal has not been working properly;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have received any representations from the Public representative in this regard;

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

(e) the steps taken by the Government to make STD line functional ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) STD facility at Maliara in District Bankura is functioning properly.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Representation had been received regarding augmentation of STD junctions between Maliara and Megia exchanges.

(e) Exchange at Maliara has been provided with OFC connectivity with Bankura TAX.

[Translation]

Pending Road Projects in Vidharbha

3329. SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE :
KUMARI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI :

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether any proposal for road projects relating to Washim (Vidharbha) district of Maharashtra is pending with the Union Government for clearance;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Strike by Transporters

3330. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the details of Nation-wide strikes resorted to by transporters during the last three years;

(b) the demand raised by them;

(c) the estimated loss to economy as a result thereof; and

(d) the action taken by the Government of meet the genuine demands of the transporters ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) Transporters resorted to Nation-wide strike spearheaded by All India Motor Transport Congress from 21st October, 1999 to 27th October, 1999 during the stated period.

(b) Transporters demanded that the hike the diesel price w.e.f. 5th October, 1999 be rolled back.

(c) Loss to the economy can not be quantified.

(d) The Government made it clear that the hike in the price of diesel could not be rolled back.

Mineral Reserves

3331. SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the deposit of different minerals as per the latest study of Geological Survey of India, State-wise;

(b) the production and off take of minerals during each of last three years, State-wise;

(c) the Pit Mouth Value of each minerals at different points of time during the said period along with the criteria followed in fixation of price thereof;

(d) whether any world-side comparisons have been made with those of India both deposit-wise and quality-wise; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI SUKH DEV SINGH DHINDSA) : (a) The State-wise reserves of different mineral deposits as per the latest study (1996-97, 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000) of Geological Survey of India are furnished below :

Gold Ore :	5.57 MT...in...Madhya Pradesh
	0.07 MT...in...Kerala
	1.07 MT...in...Maharashtra
	7.20 MT...in...Rajasthan
	3.06 MT...in...Andhra Pradesh
	0.63 MT...in...Karnataka
Platinum Ore :	14.2 MT...in...Orissa
Molybdenum Ore :	0.484 MT...in...Tamil Nadu
Cesium Ore :	0.079 MT...in...West Bengal
Limestone and Dolomite :	79.5 MT...in...Arunachal Pradesh
	3585 MT...in...Meghalaya
Manganese Ore :	0.18 MT...in...Maharashtra
	1.60 MT...in...Orissa
Pb + Zn Ore :	22.11 MT...in...Rajasthan
Zn + Cu Ore :	3.15 MT...in...Madhya Pradesh
Clay :	310 MT...in...Kerala
Coal :	158.38 MT...in...West Bengal
	768.34 MT...in...Bihar
	579.59 MT...in...Madhya Pradesh
	120.71 MT...in...Maharashtra
	2274.08 MT...in...Orissa
	281.12 MT...in...Andhra Pradesh

(b) The production and off take (despatches) of minerals during each of the last three years, State-wise are given in enclosed Statement-I.

(c) The information is given in enclosed Statement-II.

(d) and (e) Mineral deposits are not distributed throughout the world, hence no country is endowed with rich deposits of all minerals. In terms of total resources and quality, India has world ranking deposits of the following minerals (the world ranking in terms of production is given in parenthesis). Mica (13th), Bauxite (6th), Chromite (2nd), Iron ore (5th), Manganese (6th), Barytes (4th), Kyanite- Andalusite-Sillimanite (5th). In case of individual deposit or deposit clusters, East-coast Bauxite deposits of Orissa and Andhra Pradesh, Iron ore deposits of Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Orissa, Karnataka and Goa; Lead-zinc deposits of Agucha, Raipura-Dariba, Jawar, Rajasthan and Copper in Malanjkhand in Madhya Pradesh. Rakha, Roam, Sideswar, Turamdih deposits in Bihar are of world Standard.

Statement-I

Mineral Production 1997-98 to 1999-2000 (State-wise)

Unit in tonnes

Mineral/State	1997-98 Quantity	1998-99 Quantity	1999-2000 Quantity
1	2	3	4
Bauxite			
Bihar	1118167	1309935	1227757

1	2	3	4
Goa	37679	54564	38645
Gujarat	563384	556505	952471
Karnataka	7969	21806	30177
Kerala	4764	7835	16320
Madhya Pradesh	651796	768866	685867
Maharashtra	822151	832664	899444
Orissa	2664251	2817819	2866032
Tamil Nadu	238053	239531	137712
Sub-total	6108214	6609525	6854425
Chromite			
Karnataka	35990	15200	12918
Maharashtra	2460	862	702
Manipur	68	0	0
Orissa	1476768	1402057	1682420
Sub-total	1515286	1418119	1696040
Copper conc.			
Bihar	33768	22319	12640
Madhya Pradesh	78703	75930	74172
Rajasthan	110066	99362	77569
Sikkim	791	899	620
Sub-total	223328	198510	165001
			In Kg
Gold			
Andhra Pradesh	193	225	177
Bihar	684	505	433
Karnataka	1969	1953	1832
Sub-total	2846	2683	2442
			In tonnes
Iron Ore			
Andhra Pradesh	227	318	340
Bihar	12502	12081	11913
Goa	16639	15796	15002
Haryana	1	1	1
Karnataka	16123	15024	15681
Madhya Pradesh	18255	17271	18582
Maharashtra	20	29	25
Orissa	11949	11701	11921
Rajasthan	7	9	10
Sub-total	75723	72230	73475
Lead Conc.			
Andhra Pradesh	5143	5225	5301
Orissa	6828	6805	6575
Rajasthan	48820	50697	50739
Sikkim	90	115	250
Sub-total	60881	62842	62865
Manganese Ore			
Andhra Pradesh	92560	84146	87646
Bihar	8132	13672	6125
Goa	16958	14736	13623
Karnataka	323988	272959	278056
Madhya Pradesh	387279	324651	325864
Maharashtra	302502	316933	353406
Orissa	510544	510596	500763
Sub-total	1641963	1537693	1565483
Zinc Conc.			
Rajasthan	292235	349890	359512
Sikkim	289	4	412
Sub-total	292524	349934	359924
Barytes			
Andhra Pradesh	449179	656122	199336
Himachal Pradesh	463	470	1065
Rajasthan	3431	4262	4168
Sub-total	453073	660854	204569
Dolomite			
Andhra Pradesh	393311	408113	409024
Bihar	288533	356548	262084
Gujarat	217935	212343	239772
Karnataka	58988	52180	48308

1	2	3	4
Madhya Pradesh	1047389	853713	776432
Maharashtra	46887	45996	48060
Orissa	914296	923492	972659
Rajasthan	7190	54264	104623
Uttar Pradesh	11579	15094	13725
West Bengal	4749	0	0
Sub-total	2990857	2921748	2874687
Gypsum			
Gujarat	185	222	313
Jammu and Kashmir	12850	24044	22557
Rajasthan	2179978	2242464	3264912
Tamil Nadu	2410	510	0
Sub-total	2195423	2267240	3287782
Lime Stone			
Andhra Pradesh	18589	19452	23360
Assam	438	459	402
Bihar	1354	1285	1140
Gujarat	13127	12526	12870
Haryana	13	5	3
Himachal Pradesh	5532	5668	6227
Jammu and Kashmir	99	77	66
Karnataka	9803	8775	9823
Kerala	336	386	447
Madhya Pradesh	27607	28877	34420
Maharashtra	6076	5989	6569
Meghalya	201	205	279
Orissa	1859	1803	1814
Rajasthan	15920	18240	20280
Tamilnadu	9158	9466	10191
Uttar Pradesh	330	0	0
Sub-total	110442	113213	127891
Magnesite			
Karnataka	35388	35107	36120
Rajasthan	6	578	573
Tamilnadu	274967	260101	245980
Uttar Pradesh	63159	54066	47117
Sub-total	373520	349852	329790
Mica (crude)			
Andhra Pradesh	787	890	902
Bihar	887	569	320
Rajasthan	23	25	51
Sub-total	1697	1484	1273
Phosphorite			
Madhya Pradesh	147431	161607	154785
Rajasthan	874978	1089716	980810
Uttar Pradesh	119262	10915	0
Sub-total	1141671	1262238	1135595

Despaches of Important Minerals from Mines during 1997-98 to 1999-2000

Mineral	Unit	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
Metallic Minerals :				
Bauxite	Tonne	5633042	6911172	6766432
Chromite	Tonne	906346	1427421	1659154
Copper Conc.	Tonne	270833	196313	159197
Gold	Kg.	2846	2683	2442
Iron Ore	'000 t	74605	71485	74614
Manganese Ore	Tonne	1559055	1549025	1495336
Lead Conc.	Tonne	28351	85693	54309
Zinc Conc.	Tonne	425747	319438	325093
Non-metallic Minerals :				
Phosphorite	Tonne	1398072	1278546	1164862
Barytes	Tonne	659158	665887	206337
Dolomite	Tonne	3086305	2991710	3017447
Gypsum	'000 t	2153748	2301184	3323046
Limestsone	Tonne	110678	112760	127617
Magnesite	Tonne	374337	332466	343022
Mica (Crude)	Tonne	1663	1512	1238

Statement-II

(Per Unit Value in Rs.)

Important Minerals	Unit	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
Metallic Minerals :				
Bauxite	Tonne	180.67	184.09	196.77
Chromite	Tonne	2009.87	1990.92	1973.50
Copper Conc.	Tonne	17282.87	17014.35	17925.51
Gold	Kg.	537509.14	643658.22	608739.56
Iron Ore	Tonne	240.31	256.95	267.48
Manganese Ore	Tonne	1082.72	1130.48	1156.22
Lead Conc.	Tonne	11308.04	11224.21	11120.26
Zinc Conc.	Tonne	7653.23	7188.33	6859.23
Non-metallic Minerals :				
Phosphorite	Tonne	1423.84	1519.26	1435.44
Barytes	Tonne	707.24	760.52	552.47
Dolomite	Tonne	241.11	245.47	236.36
Gypsum	Tonne	142.61	149.19	162.71
Limestone	Tonne	93.89	99.37	98.92
Magnesite	Tonne	1017.31	1103.69	1060.77
Mica (Crude)	Tonne	13995.29	15626.68	18174.39

Pit's Mouth Value :

As per the Mineral Concession and Development Rules, Pit's Mouth Value is arrived at, by the mine owners according to the following concept :-

1 The Pit's Mouth Value should represent the sale value of the mineral at the pit head. In case of sales effected on F.O.R. or F.O.B. or any other basis, pit head sale value should be arrived at after deducting all the expenses incurred from mine to railway station or port or other point of sale, as the case may be (such as expenses on transportation, loading and unloading charges, railway freight, sampling and analysis, port handling, export duty, cess etc.).

2. In case of captive mines, cost of production is considered to represent the Pit's Mouth Value.

Recognition to Cochin Airport as a Haj Empar Point

3332. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from the Government of Kerala to recognise the Cochin International Airport of Haj Empar Point to avoid the passengers going to Chennai which creates a lot of difficulties to passengers from Kerala; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Haj flights were operated from Cochin International Airport during the Haj-2000 season.

[Translation]

Blood Banks

3333. SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken fresh steps to streamline the functioning of blood banks in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any expert committee was constituted to review the functioning of private and Government blood banks of various States;

(d) if so, whether the said committee has submitted its report;

(e) the details of recommendations made by the said committee alongwith the action taken by the Government in this regard;

(f) the number of blood banks functioning alongwith the quantum of units blood stored by these blood banks and the actual requirement of the blood in each State;

(g) the details of the reforms proposed to be made for the scientific and effective functioning of these blood banks in the country; and

(h) the time by which these reforms are likely to be implemented ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (PROF. RITA VERMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Building up on the extensive infrastructure development in blood banking during Phase-I of National AIDS Control Programme, a number of steps have been taken recently to streamline functioning of blood banks in the country. Strengthening of regulatory mechanism, steps to promote voluntary donation and rational use of blood, attention on training and quality assurance, besides formulation of national blood policy are some of the important steps taken by the Government.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Does not arise.

(f) Two statements on number of blood banks licensed in the country and reported quantum of blood units collected State-wise are annexed (enclosed Statement-I and II). The requirement of blood varies from time to time and there is no overall shortage of blood in the country.

(g) and (h) The Government has already made an all out effort of revamp the blood banking services, under the blood safety component of the NACO. An HIV testing training is being provided to blood bank personnel, blood component separation facilities have been set up. Also a draft National Blood Policy has been formulated for the purpose of providing the necessary directions and guidelines for better management of blood transfusion services and improve the availability of safe and adequate blood and blood products and this draft policy is awaiting Cabinet approval.

Statement-I

State-wise list of licensed Blood Banks

State	No. of licensed Blood Banks
Andhra Pradesh	121
A and N Island	2
Assam	29
Arunachal Pradesh	3
Bihar	40
Chandigarh (UT)	3
Delhi	36
Goa	7
Gujarat	124
Haryana	26
Himachal Pradesh	12
Jammu and Kashmir	10
Karnataka	94
Kerala	105
Madhya Pradesh	68
Maharashtra + Mumbai	222
Meghalaya	3
Manipur	3
Mizoram	7
Nagaland	1
Orissa	48
Pondicherry	7
Punjab	50
Rajasthan	49
Sikkim	1
Tamilnadu	164
Tripura	5
Uttar Pradesh	128
West Bengal	87
Total	1455

Statement-II

Number of blood units collected during 1996-1998

Sl. No.	Name of the State	1998				1997				1996			
		Vol.	Prof.	Repl.	Total	Vol.	Prof.	Repl.	Total	Vol.	Prof.	Repl.	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1.	Andhra Pradesh	41728	Nil	73418	115146	28797	Nil	56757	85554	26011	Nil	46184	72195
2.	Nagaland	493	Nil	430	923	719	53	638	1510	408	200	192	800
3.	Uttar Pradesh	23597	Nil	73142	96739	40717	27879	37394	105990	13560	10285	16899	40744
4.	Delhi	53322	Nil	193456	246778	46281	58746	167399	272426	36150	77708	158170	272028
5.	Meghalaya	600	Nil	1850	2450	589	Nil	2184	2773	524	Nil	2262	2780
6.	A and N Islands	67	Nil	1549	1616	115	Nil	1143	1258	69	Nil	1115	1184
7.	Karnataka	70806	Nil	97274	168080	67807	Nil	56990	124797	Information not furnished			
8.	Tamil Nadu	77976	Nil	123606	201582	68642	5061	111277	203180	66935	12101	88712	167748
9.	Assam	16923	Nil	11528	28451	10235	Nil	10125	20360	7531	1231	9668	18430
10.	Kerala	27974	Nil	41960	69934	27422	Nil	41582	69304	26906	Nil	40359	67265
11.	Punjab	20092	Nil	64607	84699	19628	Nil	63328	83029	18434	Nil	54892	73416
12.	Sikkim	21	Nil	791	812	22	Nil	1027	1049	9	Nil	974	983
13.	Madhya Pradesh	18812	Nil	40222	59034	23494	390	27842	51726	26033	2177	25477	53687
14.	Maharashtra	202381	Nil	228598	430979	178886	237	238371	417494	141515	45	223776	565356
15.	Manipur	312	Nil	8353	8665	340	Nil	7505	7845	2682	106	4711	7499
16.	Chandigarh UT	21160	Nil	19276	40436	17608	Nil	19911	37519	16206	Nil	19369	35575
17.	Tripura	1211	Nil	9049	10260	559	Nil	7774	8333	324	Nil	6081	6405
18.	Goa	1964	Nil	5630	7594	1733	Nil	5184	6917	1144	Nil	5670	6814
19.	Orissa	21271	Nil	64364	85742	9834	Nil	59738	69677	15366	Nil	62455	77925
20.	Rajasthan	12814	Nil	99515	112329	10573	Nil	87428	98001	9359	Nil	73909	83268
21.	Gujarat	85308	Nil	167895	25203	78644	Nil	152231	230875	65998	71	130056	196125
22.	Himachal Pradesh	4514	Nil	7322	11836	4302	Nil	6041	10343	3483	Nil	5703	9186
23.	West Bengal	207201	Nil	102053	309254	189863	Nil	102233	292096	146812	Nil	97874	224686
24.	Pondicheery	135	Nil	1454	1643	190	Nil	1242	1501	152	Nil	1413	1565
	Total	910682	Nil	1437342	2438024	827000	92366	1265344	2184710	625611	103924	1075921	1505456

[English]

Gold Reserves

3334. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the gold deposit areas in the country and the approximate quantum of gold reserved in those areas, State-wise;

(b) the steps taken for the proper exploitation of gold reserved;

(c) whether the gold mining in all these areas would be economically viable;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the cost of gold mining in those areas ?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI SUK DEV SINGH DHINDSA) : (a) to (e) As per the information maintained by the Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM), a subordinate office of the Ministry of Mines, the estimated reserves of gold in the country as on 1.4.1995 are given in the following Statement:–

Recoverable Reserves (As on 1.4.1995)

(In tonnes)

State	Proved	Probable	Possible	Total	Ore/Metal
All India	4178910	10003179	3605886	17787975	Ore
	21	36	11	68	Metal
Andhra Pradesh	438446	456749	2896086	3791881	Ore
	1	1	9	11	Metal
Bihar	7200	–	–	7200	Ore
	negligible	–	–	negligible	Metal
Karnataka	3270984	8910250	682200	12863434	Ore
	20	33	1	54	Metal
Kerala	462280	96180	–	558460	Ore
	0.16	0.03	–	0.19	Metal
Madhya Pradesh	–	540000	27000	567000	Ore
	–	1.11	0.5	1.61	Metal

Prior to 1993, exploitation of gold was reserved for the public sector. Under the National Mineral Policy, 1993, the exploration and exploitation of gold has been de-reserved and thrown open to private sector. While private sector Companies have been granted large area prospecting licences for gold under the liberalised policy, gold mining in the country at present is being done only by the Public Sector Units viz. Bharat Gold Mines Limited (BGML), a Central Government Public Sector Enterprise and Hutti Gold Mines Limited (HGML), a public sector undertaking of State Government of Karnataka. The cost of production of 10 grams of gold by BGML during 1999-2000 was Rs. 20406 (provisional) while the price of 10 grams of gold ranges between Rs. 4300-4500.

Objection for Corporatisation of Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust

3335. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Maharashtra Government has lodged objection to the proposed corporatisation of Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust;

(b) if so, the details of the objection raised;

(c) whether the privatisation of JNPT would lead to large scale of retrenchment of workers; and

(d) if so, the measures proposed to safeguard the interest of workers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) and (b) Deputy Chief Minister of Maharashtra apprehending retrenchment of employees of Jawaharlal Nehru Port has requested not to corporatise the Port Trust in question.

(c) There is no proposal of privatisation of Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust.

(d) Does not arise.

Harbours in Country

3336. SHRI SAHIB SINGH : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the details of total harbours in the country, with physical and financial dimensions of each; and

(b) the share of public and private sector funds in each harbour ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) and (b) The Central Government is responsible for the harbours under the control of the Major Port in the Country. The physical dimensions of these harbours and the operating surpluses generated by the Trusts during 1996-99 (3 years) are given in the Statement attached. All the Port Trusts are autonomous bodies created under the Major Port Trusts Act, 1963 and harbours have been developed entirely from the public funds.

Statement

Port	Physical Dimensions		Operating Surplus (Rs. in crores)		
	Latitude	Longitude	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
Kandla	23 01' N	70 13' E	80.77	100.95	146.02
Mumbai	18 54' N	72 49' E	218.15	211.15	172.91
J.L. Nehru	18 56.43' N*	72 56.24' E*	106.25	150.33	196.22
Mormugao	15 25' N	73 48' E	21.83	27.16	20.47
New Mangalore	12 55' N	74 48' E	60.40	83.02	72.41
Cochin	9 58' N	76 14' E	43.17	44.19	33.41
Tuticorin	8 45' N	78 13' E	27.60	38.08	40.79
Chennai	13 06' N	80 18' E	109.15	101.87	94.78
Visakhapatnam	17 41' N	83 18' E	104.55	95.81	92.50
Paradip	20 16' N	86 40' E	63.60	73.41	59.36
Caluctta	22 32' 53" N	88 18' 05" E	213.99	275.55	242.61
Haldia	22 2' N	80 6' E			

*At South Corner of Bulk Berth.

Dietitions in Dr. R.M.L. Hospital

3337. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Central Government Hospital should have 50 dietitions as per DGHS guidelines;

(b) whether each hospital should have a least 12-16 dietitions as per DGHS guidelines whereas only one or two are managing the workload;

(c) whether it is a fact that out of 50 only 6 dietitions are managing Dietition Department without the post of Senior Dietition in Dr. R.M.L. Hospital; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (PROF. RITA VERMA) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. As per the Directorate General of Health Services guidelines, the number of posts of dietitions depends upon the number of beds in the hospital. The guidelines of Directorate General of Health Services are on suggestive and not mandatory.

(c) There are two sanctioned posts of dietitions in Dr. R.M.L. Hospital.

(d) The Dietitics Department of Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital has been included by the Internal Work Study Unit in the programme of current year for conducting works study.

[Translation]

Modernisation of Jaipur Airport

3338. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to modernise the Jaipur Airport and to make it of International Standard;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Jaipur airport is being upgraded to international standards in phases for which additional land measuring 299 acres has been acquired by Airports Authority of India (AAI) from Government of Rajasthan at a cost of Rs. 13.72 crores. Some pockets of this land are yet to be vacated by the erstwhile land owners. In the first phase AAI has plan to extend the runway from 7500 feet to 9000 feet. The work of construction of new technical block-cum-control tower at a cost of Rs. 4.92 crores is in progress and is likely to be completed by 31.12.2000.

Directives by TRAI

3339. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has issued short-term directives to the operators making available basic facilities;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which these orders are likely to be made effective;

(c) the details of the steps proposed to be taken in case of the violation of these directives; and

(d) the reasons for fixing the period of four years to implement these directives in toto by the TRAI ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) and (b) TRAI has issued a 'Regulation on Quality of Service for Basic and Cellular Mobile Telephone Services' which covers the parameters relating to provision of new telephone connection, fault incidence, fault repair, network performance, billing complaints and customer perception of service. This regulation has already been notified in the Gazette of India and has become effective from 5th July, 2000.

(c) Performance monitoring reports of various operators shall be periodically published by TRAI. Appropriate action shall be taken under the terms and conditions of provisions contained in the Licence Agreements.

(d) Taking into account the observations on quality of service of existing operators during the last two years, the status of their network and stabilizing period for the new entrants, the time limits as considered realistic, have been specified by TRAI.

[English]

Internet Dhabas

3340. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have decided to set up Internet Dhabas in all block Headquarters in the country by March, 2001;

(b) the number of block headquarters in Maharashtra where Internet Dhabas are to be set up during the current year; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to achieve the target of setting up of said Dhabas in all the block headquarters of the country by March, 2001 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 318.

(c) The thrust will be to franchise out the Internet Dhabas to unemployed persons by advertising in the newspapers. The Heads of Telecom Circles have been advised to interact with the State Governments in popularizing this venture. The franchisees will arrange for the necessary infrastructure for the Internet Dhabas on their own. If they require assistance in obtaining loan from Banks, etc., the requisite help will be provided by the field units of the Department of Telecom Operations. The franchisees will be provided with free internet access. In addition, an incentive of 25% of the PSTN dial up charges will be given to them. The internet usages charges leviable from the customers by the franchisees will be decided by the market forces.

[Translation]

PCOs in UP and Bihar

3341. SHRIMATI SUSHILA SAROJ : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the rural telephone system in various districts of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar has crippled;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of PCOs sanctioned and set up in various districts of these States during the last three years till date;

(d) the number out of them lying closed along with the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government propose to bring about improvement in the telephone services and make the said PCOs functional; and

(f) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) and (b) Sir, Rural telephone system in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar is generally satisfactory although at times faults do occur due to floods and other natural calamities. Sometimes manmade faults due to digging by other agencies have also been reported.

(c) to (f) The information is being collected and shall be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Procurement of Surplus Spares by Indian Airlines

3342. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the inquiry committee constituted by the Government to look into the surplus spares procured by Indian Airlines has submitted its report;

(b) if so, the details thereof and main findings of the committee;

(c) whether any new mechanism has been devised by the committee to purchase spares to minimise the losses of the Indian Airlines;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the number of recommendations accepted by the Government and implemented so far ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) to (e) The Government has directed Indian Airlines Ltd. to appoint Chief Vigilance Officer of the Company to look into the matter. An interim report has been received. Necessary action will be taken on receipt of the final report which is likely to be finalised shortly.

National Telecom Policy

3343. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have implemented all the provisions of National Telecom Policy, 1999 including introduction of multiple operators;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) to (c) The process of implementation of the National Telecom Policy' 99 (NTP'99) is ongoing one and the implementation status of NTP'99 is being continuously monitored. Some aspects have already been implemented. Some of these are as follows :

Existing licensees for Basic and Cellular Services were offered migration to NTP'99 regime under the migration package and all the existing licensees have since complied with the condition of migration package. The existing Cellular Mobile Service Providers (CMSPs) have also been given provisional permission for sharing of infrastructure with another Cellular Mobile Service Provider and any other telecom service provider in their area of operation. Permission for direct interconnectivity between licensed CMSPs and another telecom service provider including another CMSPs in the same service area for terminating traffic has also been granted provisionally. Existing CMSPs have also been permitted to provide mobile public telephones in the situation of inherent mobility by buses, trains/ running taxies etc. Department of Telecom Operations and MTNL have also been granted licences for the operation of Cellular Mobile Service in the country.

Internet Service Providers (ISPs) and VSAT Service Providers are being issued licenses on non-exclusive basis and multiple operators are permitted.

Regarding Restructuring of the Department of Telecom, Government has already appointed a consultant for assisting and advising the DoT on corporatisation of DTS.

Cancer Potency Level due to Exhaust from Diesel

3344. SHRI JITENDRA PRASADA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a new study conducted by the Government for Science and Environment (CSE) has revealed that the cancer potency level of the exhaust from diesel vehicles in India is double than that of petrol run vehicles;

(b) if so, whether the result of the Swedish Study is further supported by evidence from another study by German Federal Environment Agency, which has found diesel to be several dozen times more cancer causing than petrol; and

(c) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard and the remedial measures the Government propose to take in this direction ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) : (a) to (c) The Government is aware of the studies. However, the studies may not be sufficient to establish conclusively the relative cancer potency level of exhausts from diesel vehicles, compared to petrol driven vehicles. The measures taken/proposed to be taken to control the vehicular pollution includes the following :

- Stringent emission standards were notified for motor vehicles.
- Supply of better quality of fuel having low sulphur content.
- Adoption of Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) as auto fuel.
- Promotion of use of clean fuel and battery operated vehicles.
- Optimisation of traffic flow and development of road infrastructure.
- Commissioning of environmental epidemiological studies.
- Strengthening of air quality monitoring and surveillance system.

[Translation]

Allocation of Seats to Dayanand Ayurvedic Medical College and Hospital

3345. MODH. SHAHABUDDIN : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the basis on which the permission is given by the Indian Council of Medical Research, New Delhi for nomination against the nominated seats every year to the Dayanand Ayurvedic Medical College and Hospital;

(b) whether the said collage was given permission for nomination of 50 seats by the council after their visit in 1994-95;

(c) if so, whether the number of seats for nomination to the above college has been reduced by the Council from 50 to 40 from 1998-99;

(d) the reasons for reducing the seats of the above college by the visitors of the Central Council of India and the conditions laid down by the Central visitor's in this regard;

(e) whether the visitors have imposed the condition of one lakh rupees per seat or likely amount for nomination of five seats for maintaining the 1994-95 situation;

(f) if so, whether the Government have received any representation from the said college; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND WELFARE (PROF. RITA VERMA) : (a) Central Council of Indian Medicine permits number of seats on the basis of infrastructure available for imparting education and clinical exposure.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The number of seats was reduced from 50 to 40 from the academic year 1999-2000.

(d) The CCIM has reported that the College did not meet the requirement as prescribed in the regulations in respect of teaching staff and bed occupancy etc. for imparting education to 50 students.

(d) to (g) Allegations received in this regard are being examined by the Central Council of Indian Medicine.

Purchase of Planes by Taiwan Based Company

3346. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether a Taiwan based company was interested in purchasing 12 aircraft of Alliance-Air during the last year;

(b) if so, the name of the said company; and

(c) the reasons for not selling the planes to the said company ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) to (c) As per our available records, no such reference was received by Indian Airlines from any Taiwan based Company during the last year.

[English]

Memorandum of Understanding

3347. CAPT. JAI NARAIN PRASAD NISHAD : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the existing MoU between FLAG international carrier and VSNL is now being modified; and

(b) if so, details thereof alongwith the fields likely to be benefitted therefrom ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) No, Sir.

VSNL has a contract with FLAG termed as Construction and Maintenance Agreement (C and MA). There is no move to modify the agreement.

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

Facilities at Madurai and Trichurapalli Airport

3348. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal for upgrading the facilities at Madurai and Trichurapalli airports and to declare as international airports; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the progress of implementation of the project ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Airports Authority of India (AAI) has plans for the development/upgradation of Madurai and Trichy airports for operation of AB-320 class of aircraft. AAI has placed requisition of 60 acres of land for development of Madurai airport and 75 acres of land for development of Trichy airport with the State Government of Tamil Nadu.

Government has no proposal, at present, to declare Madurai and Trichy as international airports.

Mismanagement in District Telecom Office

3349. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the mismanagement prevailing in District Telecom Office, Faridabad;

(b) if so, the reasons for not improving the telephone services in the District Head Office and Telephone Exchanges;

(c) whether most of the officers are not accountable for subscribers' grievances and a large number of telephones do not work properly.

(d) if so, the remedial steps proposed to be taken in that regard;

(e) whether telephone bills paid at authorised Post Offices are not accounted for and are shown outstanding causing inconvenience and harassment to subscribers; and

(f) if so, the facts thereof and the action proposed to solve the problems of Telephone subscribers in Faridabad ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) There is no mismanagement prevailing in District Telecom Office, Faridabad.

(b) Not applicable in view of (a) above.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Not applicable in view of (c) above.

(e) Proper accounting is being done in regard to telephone bills paid at the various Post Offices. However, in some stray cases some telephones get disconnected inadvertently if there is delay in receiving the payment particulars from Post Offices. However, such telephones are restored immediately as and when they are noticed and Post Offices are pursued for reconciling corresponding Telecom Revenue Particulars.

(f) The Telecom Revenue Unit has been instructed to maintain regular liaison with Post Offices regarding receipt of payment particulars.

Reconstruction of Narrow Bridges on NH-208

3350. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to reconstruct narrow over bridge at Nedumbayikulam, Valeode in between Kollam to Schengottari on NH-208;

(b) if so, the time by which the work is likely to be completed; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) This work is having low intense priority on all India basis and as such, it is not included in current Annual Plan.

[English]

MARR Telephones

3351. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether most of the telephones installed under M.A.R.R. system in the rural areas of the country are out of order;

(b) if so, the number of such telephones in Himachal Pradesh lying out of order and since when; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to made these telephones functional ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) Out of a total number of 2,11,504 MARR VPTs installed in the country, 44,176 are reported faulty as on 30.6.2000. Apart from these 22,932 VPTs are disconnected due to nonpayment. Therefore, 20.88% of VPTs on MARR are out of service.

(b) In Himachal Pradesh, out of 2848 VPTs installed on MARR System, 791 are laying faulty. The details are given below :

93 VPTs are faulty since last week of July, 2000.

16 VPTs are faulty for more than one week but less than 30 days.

10 VPTs are faulty for more than 30 days but less than 6 months.

88 VPTs are faulty for more than 6 months but less than 1 year.

584 VPTs are faulty for more than 1 year due to faulty Base Stations.

(c) (i) Repairs to faulty VPTs is being undertaken through manufacturers on AMC.

(ii) Non repairable faulty VPTs are being replaced with WLL, PMP and Land Line Systems in a phased manner.

[English]

Civil Aviation in North East Region

3352. SHRI SAMAR CHOUDHURY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether some proposals for better schedule and augmented services of Civil Aviation in the North East region have been received by the Union Government from the States for the airports of Agartala, Dibrugarh, Lilabari (North Lakhimpur) Silchar and Dimapur;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the seat K.M. ratio maintained by the Indian Airlines for deployment of flights could not cope up with the passengers rush;

(d) if so, whether any study for including short take off and landing aircraft into the North East circuit has been made; and

(e) if not, the details of arrangement made to connect the remote hill areas ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Requests for augmentation of capacity/frequency and airlinking more places in the region have been received.

(c) Indian Airlines is currently deploying about 17.7% of its trunk route capacity on category-II routes as against the 10% prescribed under the Route Dispersal Guidelines. At present, Indian Airlines is, not in a position to increase the deployment further due to capacity and commercial constraints.

(d) and (e) A Committee set up by the Director General, Civil Aviation (DGCA) to study "Air Transport Operation in the North East" in its report of December, 1999 had, inter-alia, studied the generic viability of small aircraft and also reviewed the Indian Airlines project report on operation of ATR-42 aircraft.

Indian Airlines is carrying out further analysis of the project report in respect of acquisition of six 50 seater aircraft. With a view to encourage small aircraft (turbo-prop) operations to connect smaller and non-metro cities, it has been decided to provide Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) to such aircraft at international prices and notify ATF as a 'declared good' under the Central Sales Tax Act, 1956. The modalities of implementing these decisions are under examination.

[Translation]

Duration of Flights Undertaken by Aircrafts

3353. SHRI ASHOK ARGAL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the total hours of flight undertaken by the aircrafts of Airports Authority of India during the last one year alongwith the expenses incurred thereon; and

(b) the persons who used these flights and the purpose thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) and (b) The two Dornier-228 aircraft of Airports Authority of India (AAI) undertook 1316 hours and 50 minutes of flight during the last one year incurring an expenditure of Rs. 501.50 lakhs. These flights were undertaken by Flight Inspection Unit of AAI for caliberation

of navigational aids at various civil/defence airports in India and at some airports of neigbouring countries also.

[English]

Modernisation of Post Offices

3354. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of funds allocated for modernisation and upgradation of Post Offices in the country by introducing new technology during Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) the number of post offices modernised during 1998-99 and also the number of post offices modernised so far during the Ninth Five Year Plan period;

(c) whether in tune with the emphasis on modernisation and working facilities for the staff the Government propose to made the rural delivery staff more mobile with the provisions of new bicycles, weather-proof Uniforms/ Umbrellas and weather proof mail bags; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) and (b) The total financial outlay for the modernisation and upgradation of post offices in the country to the introduction of new technology during the 9th Five Year Plan is of the order of Rs. 133 crores. 102 post offices were modernised during the year 1998-99. The total number of post offices modernised during the 1st three years of the 9th Five Year Plan come to 506.

(c) As per existing orders bicycles, raincoats and umbrellas and supplied to the departmental staff working in rural areas and these are replaced within the prescribed time cycle. The jute unproofed canvas mail bags are provided which are semi weather proof bags. In addition nylon blue airmail bags are also provided which are fully weather proof. There is no proposal under consideration of the Department to replace the jute unproofed canvas mail bags. Uniforms to the staff are provided according to their entitlements which include umbrellas which are fully weather proof.

(d) Does not arise.

Exemption of Sales Tax from Hepatitis-B Vaccines

3355. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Hepatitis-B Virus is a very infectious and dangerous virus;

(b) if so, the details thereof, countries where Hepatitis-B vaccination is compulsory;

(c) whether his Ministry has taken up the matter of exempting Hepatitis-B vaccines from sales tax with the Ministry of Finance; and

(d) if so, the response received from the Ministry of Finance in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (PROF. RITA VERMA) : (a) and (b) Hepatitis-B Virus, which is a dangerous and infectious microorganism spreads through contaminated blood and blood products, unsterile needles, unsafe sex and from mother (if she is a carrier) to the unborn child. Hepatitis-B is now a vaccine-preventable disease.

Hepatitis-B Vaccine has been included in the National Immunisation Programme of DPR Korea, Indonesia, Maldives, Thailand and Bhutan in South East Asia Region countries.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Waiting List for Telephone Connections in Kerala

3356. SHRI SURESH KURUP : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of applicants waiting for telephone connections in the various exchanges in Kottayam district of Kerala, exchange-wise; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to clear the waiting lists ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) There are 41859 applicants in the waiting list for telephone connections in various exchanges in Kottayam district as on 1.7.2000. The exchange-wise waiting list is given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) 30000 new telephone connections are proposed to be provided at various exchanges in Kottayam district during the year 2000-2001. The remaining applicants are proposed to be provided with telephone connections during the year 2001-2002.

Statement

Exchange-wise Waiting List in Kottayam District as on 1.7.2000

Sl.No.	Name of Exchange	Waiting List
1	2	3
1.	Ayarkunnam	1153
2.	Aymanam	953
3.	Bharananganam	267
4.	Changanacherry	1065
5.	Chempu	780
6.	Chenappady	86
7.	Chengalam	88
8.	Chennad	43
9.	Chingavanam	1450
10.	Ettumanoor	1655
11.	Erattupetta	1620
12.	Erumeli	673
13.	Gandhinagar	859
14.	Kanjikuzhi	975
15.	Kottayam	1056
16.	Kaduthuruthy	964
17.	Kallara	200
18.	Kangazha	663
19.	Kanjirapally	422
20.	Karukachal	723
21.	Kidangoor	661
22.	Kollapally	463
23.	Kottikkal	661
24.	Koovappally	387
25.	Koruthode	343
26.	Kozhuvanal	741
27.	Kudavechoor	722
28.	Kumarakom	759
29.	Kunnonny	38
30.	Kurumannu	149
31.	Kuruppanthara	742
32.	Kuruvilangad	1127
33.	Mammood	921
34.	Manarcaud	1247
35.	Manimala	584
36.	Marangattupally	269
37.	Melukavumttom	199
38.	Mevallur	493
39.	Monipally	220
40.	Moonilavu	74
41.	Mukkoottuthara	902
42.	Mundakayam	777
43.	Neendoor	223
44.	Njeezhoor	751
45.	Palai	403
46.	Pallikkathodu	536
47.	Pampa	0
48.	Pampady	2285
49.	Pampavalley	122
50.	Pathampuzha	93
51.	Peringalam	67
52.	Peruva	515
53.	Pinnakkanadu	187
54.	Ponkunnam	1316
55.	Poovarani	209
56.	Ramapuram	677
57.	Sabarimala	0
58.	Talayolaparambu	1143
59.	Teekoy	56
60.	Thrikodithanam	1405
61.	Uzhavoor	444
62.	Vaikom	1299
63.	Vakathanam	1031
64.	Valavoor	113
65.	Vazhoor	522
66.	Velichiyani	244
67.	Vellikulam	44
	Total	41859

Representation on Road Safety

3357. SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received representations from social activists with road safety;

(b) if so, the action taken on such representations;

(c) whether Andhra Pradesh Government has also sent representation to the Union Government on road safety;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken by the Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) to (e) Some representations have been received from the social activists but no representation has been received from the Government of Andhra Pradesh. The suggestions and representations from social activists and people concerned with Road Safety and from State Governments are taken due note of. Necessary measures of Traffic Road Safety on all National Highways including in Andhra Pradesh are incorporated in the detailed project reports for the concerned Highways. Senior officers from Government of India undertake field visits as and when required, to ensure proper project preparation and thereafter smooth progress of works.

HIV-Virus

3385. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any scientific evidence of the existence of HIV-Virus; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (PROF. RITA VERMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Two of the Indian Council of Medical Research's (ICMR's) institutes namely National AIDS Research Institute (NARI), Pune and National Institute of Cholera and Enteric Diseases (NICED), Calcutta are working on HIV related research. Molicular epidemiological studies carried out by NARI on identification of HIV sub-types in India for the past 7 years have indicated predominance of HIV sub-type 'C'. Studies carried out at NICED have also shown the predominance of HIV sub-type 'C'.

HIV infection is identified in blood by detecting antibodies, gene sequencing or viral isolation. These facts are as reliable as any for detecting any other viral infections.

Tender Floated by DoT

3359. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether inordinate delay has taken place in the past in the finalisation of tenders resulting into wasteful expenditure of crores of rupees to the State;

(b) if so, the number of tenders floated by DoT between 1994 to date and when those were finalised giving the period of delay and the loss sustained by the State;

(c) whether the CAG has made any observations on this in their reports;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government thereon; and

(e) the number of the CAG reports in this behalf are still pending alongwith the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) Yes, Sir. Only in two cases for procurement of N.T. switches and DTAX(NT).

(b) (i) The year-wise number of tenders floated by DOT is given in enclosed Statement.

(ii) There are only 2 cases of New Technology (NT) tender where delay in finalisation of tender took place in the year 1997. As per C and AG Report there is a total loss of Rs. 75.57 crores in both the cases.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The details are given below:-

(i) C and AG Para No. 18 (No. 6/2000), a loss stressed by Audit = 63.92 crores.

(ii) C and AG Para No. 20 (No. 6/2000), loss stressed by Audit = 11.65 crores.

The procedure has been streamlined for procurement of equipment from the year 1999-2000 onwards.

(e) Nil.

Statement

Year-wise No. of Tenders Floated

Sl. No.	Year	No. of tender floated	Finalised after due Date i.e. period of delay
1	2	3	4
1.	1994	39	Nil

1	2	3	4
2.	1995	15	Nil
3.	1996	16	Nil
4.	1997	30	2 cases*
5.	1998	32	Nil
6.	1999	39	Nil
7.	2000	19 (upto 31.7.2000)	Nil
	Grant Total	189	

Note : 1st case : Procurement of NT Switches delay – 2 months.

2nd case : Procurement of DTAX (NT) – delay – 5 months.

Project Tiger

3360. SHRI KAMAL NATH : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the progress so far achieved in shifting of village from the Simlipal Tiger Reserve area;

(b) the total amount spent so far on rehabilitation of the tribals and total number of families shifted so far; and

(c) the time by which the prime aim of Project Tiger is likely to be achieved ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) : (a) and (b) It was decided to shift 4 Villages from the core area of Similipal Tiger Reserve. Out of these, 3 Villages namely Jenabil, Jamunagarh, Kabatghai having 120 families were taken up for relocation. 64 families have been shifted. Shifting of the 4th Village named Bakua has not started. A sum of Rs. 61,70,105/- has been spent so far for shifting.

(c) The objective of 'Project Tiger' is to conserve the Tiger and the ecosystem forming part of its habitat on a sustained basis for the benefit of the present generation and future generations of mankind.

Postal Facilities

3361. SHRI HASSAN KHAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the services of telegraph office and sub post office in Drass-Kargil are not satisfactory;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to improve and update these services in the area ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) to (c) The postal facilities at Drass-Kargil are generally satisfactory. However, there are instance of delay to postal mails due to various reasons which are beyond the control of Department like weather conditions, non-plying of mail carrying aeroplanes, buses, etc. During winter the road between Kashmir Valley and Ladakh becomes non-vehicular due to heavy snowfall in Jozilla pass. During this period, mails are sent by air from Delhi, Chandigarh, Srinagar and Jammu. In Srinagar-Jammu, the air schedules are limited to once or twice a week and there are frequent chances of cancellation of flights due to bad weather. However, between Leh and Kargil mails are exchanged in winter also through SRTC buses which are subject to weather conditions. The Department of Posts systematically monitors the delivery of mails in every part of the country especially remote and hilly areas. The Ministry of Defence has been requested to provide more capacity in their helicopters for conveyance of mail in this snow bound area.

Telegrams from Kargil combined P&T office has now a provision for transmission over reliable digital satellite media on Phonocom basis and from Drass, it will be transmitted over a STD telephone line for quicker disposal of telegrams. Instructions have been issued to the Telecom Circle authorities to keep a close watch on quality of telegraph service.

Internet Service Sector

3362. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has received the subscriber base in Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited (VSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) after opening up of the Internet service sector;

(b) if so, the details of comparative position in subscriber base earlier and now;

(c) the extent to which the subscriber base has been increased; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to expand the Internet Service Sector ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) :

Year	VSNL		MTNL	
	Customers	% growth	Year	Customers
Dec'96	21,547			
Dec'97	60,776	182%		
Dec'98	1,72,000	183%	Feb'99 to	40,713
Dec'99	2,95,000	71%	July, 2000	
July, 2000	4,46,000	51% for 7 months		

- VSNL had on annual growth rate of about 180%, before the sector opened and it dropped to about 71% later.
- MTNL started its Internet Services on 9th Feb. 1999, only after opening up of the Internet service Sector and therefore % growth year-wise not given.

(d) (i) Government is providing access to the nearest Internet Node on local call basis in all the District Headquarters of the country except Kargil and Poonch in Jammu and Kashmir State.

(ii) 20% concessions on rental for leased lines for Internet access is being given by Government at present.

(iii) Recognized Educational Institute/Government organisations/Newspapers and News Agencies are presently being given 50% concession on port charges by Government. 100% Export Oriented Units (having annual export turn over above US $ 1,00.000). Software exporters are also getting 20% concession on annual port charges.

(iv) It is proposed to open Internet Dhabas in all Block Headquarters of the country by March, 2001.

Reduction in Accounting Rates

3363. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government had given a commitment to the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) to reduce accounting rate to 69 cents per minute by the end of 2001;

if so, whether the Government propose to reduce VSNL's accounting rate with U.S. carriers to 85 cents from the current level of U.S. Dollar 1.08 w.e.f. April 1, 2000;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether India has recently been under intense pressure from the leading US telecom companies to reduce accounting rates between the US and India;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether as per the order of the Federal Communications Commission in 1998, the accounting rate for India would come down to only 23 cents by the end of 2002: and

(g) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) to (c) As an association of member countries, ITU takes up from time to time discussion on topics of mutual interest including international accounting rate issue. Deliberations relating to accounting rate have not yet taken a final shape. In any case, recommendations of ITU are in the nature of guidelines, which member countries may follow at their discretion. India, as a member country, has not given any commitment regarding reduction in Total Accounting Rate at any international forum.

(d) to (g) U.S. international traffic carriers have generally been putting pressure on their Indian counterpart, viz., VSNL for reduction of international accounting rate. But, it may be noted that order issued by the Federal Communications Commissions, USA, which inter alia, stipulate the settlement rate for international traffic, is applicable to US telecom companies and not to the Indian operator, VSNL. Decisions regarding accounting/settlement rate are taken bilaterally between the Indian operator and its international counterparts and Government of India does not have a role to play in this.

Cellular Service by MTNL

3364. SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI) and Telecom Regulatory Authority of India have once again raised objection pertaining to MTNL cellular telephone services;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal to find a remedy to rectify this draw back and start the already announced

project of providing cheaper cellular telephone services to the public of metros within the stipulated period;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) to (e) Sir, COAI have welcomed the entry of Department of Telecom Operations (DTO)/Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) into cellular services on level playing field conditions and have made a representation on TRAI against adoption of any discriminatory approach by DTO/ MTNL. However, MTNL's cellular service based on CDMA (Code Division Multiple Access) Technology is running successfully in Delhi and MTNL has further planned to launch its cellular services based on GSM (Global System for Mobile Communication) Technology during the current financial year in Delhi and Mumbai.

Donations for Admission in Medical Colleges

3365. VAIDYA VISHNU DATT SHARMA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of recognised private medical colleges functioning in the country;

(b) the number of candidates getting education in these colleges, subject wise and State-wise;

(c) whether the Union Government are aware about the very high donation taken by these Medical colleges which is impossible for a middle class efficient student to get admission in these colleges;

(d) if so, whether the Union Government have decided to check on such donation; and

(e) if so, the action taken by the Government in the matter and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (PROF. RITA VERMA) : (a) and (f) The details are given in enclosed statement.

(c) to (e) Admissions to medical colleges are done on academic merit. Many students are getting admissions in Govt. Medical Colleges where the fee is very low and also against merit seats in private medical colleges where fee is far below the fee structure fixed for payment seats. As per the judgement of the Supreme Court in Unnikrishnan case charging of capitation fee by private professional college has been abolished and fee structure for private colleges is being fixed by the Government.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of the College	Approved Intake
1	2	3
	Andhra Pradesh	
1.	Deccan College of Medical Sciences, Hyderabad.	150
	Gujarat	
2.	Pramukhswami Medical College, Karamsad.	100
	Karnataka	
3.	Kasturba Medical College, Manipal.	250
4.	Kasturba Medical College, Mangalore.	250
5.	St. John's Medical College, Bangalore.	60
6.	M.S. Ramaiah Medical College, Bangalore.	150
7.	Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Medical College, Bangalore.	100
8.	Kempegowda Instt. of Medical Sciences, Bangalore.	120
9.	Sidhartha Medical College, Tumkur.	130
10.	Sri Devraj Urs Medical College Tamka, Kolar.	150
11.	J.S.S. Medical College, Mysore.	150
12.	Adichunchanagiri Instt. of Medical Sciences, Bellur.	100
13.	J.J.M. Medical College, Davangere.	245
14.	J.N. Medical College, Belgaum.	150
15.	B.L.D.E.A's Sri B.M. Patil Medical College, Hospital and Research Centre, Bijapur.	150
16.	Al-Ameen Medical College, Bijapur.	100
17.	M.R. Medical College, Gulbarga.	100
	Maharashtra	
18.	Padmashree Dr. D.Y. Patil Medical College, New Bombay.	100
19.	Mahatma Gandhi Mission's Medical College, New Bombay.	100
20.	K.J. Somaiyya Medical College and Research Centre, Bombay (Sion).	100

1	2	3
21.	Terna Medical College, Terna, Navi Mumbai.	100
22.	Rural Medical College, Loni.	125
23.	N.D.M.V.P. Samaj's Medical College, Nasik.	120
24.	Bharati Vidyapeeth's Medical College, Pune.	120
25.	Jawahar Medical Foundation's ACPM Medical College, Dhule.	100
26.	Krishna Instt. of Medical Sicences, Karad.	100
27.	D.Y. Patil Education Society's D.Y. Patil Medical College, Kolhapur.	100
28.	Mahatma Gandhi Mission's Medical College, Aurangabad.	100
29.	Maharashtra Instt. of Medical Sciences and Research, Latur	100
30.	Mahatma Gandhi Instt. of Medical Sciences Sevagram, Wardha.	65
31.	J.N. Medical College Swangi, Wardha.	100
32.	N.K.P. Salve Instt. of Medical Sciences, Nagpur.	50
33.	Dr. Panjabrao alias Bhausaheb Deshmukh Memorial Medical College, Amrawati.	100
Punjab		
34.	Christian Medical College, Ludhiana.	50
35.	Dayanand Medical College, Ludhiana.	70
Tamilnadu		
36.	Christian Medical College, Vellore.	60
37.	P.S.G. Instt. of Medical Sciences, Coimbatore.	100
38.	Sri Ramachandra Medical College and Research Instt., Porur, Madras.	150
39.	Rajah Muthiah Medical College, Annamalainagar.	150

Assam Medical College

3366. SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to take-up the development of Assam Medical College under the Non-lapsable Centre Pool Fund;

(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 (PROF. RITA VERMA) : (a) No, such proposal is pending for consideration under the Non-lapsable Central Pool Fund in the Planning Commission.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The State Government has so far not forwarded any project proposal for development of Assam Medical College under the Non-Lapsable Central Pool Fund.

Intake Capacity of Medical Colleges in Karnataka

3367. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether management of medical colleges in Karnataka and Government of Karnataka have requested to the AICTE to increase the intake capacity of medical colleges located in the State;

(b) if so, the details of requests received by AICTE during each of the last three years in this regard separately;

(c) the present intake capacity in each medical college situated in Karnataka;

(d) the reservation quota of the Union Government in these colleges; and

(e) the action taken by the AICTE in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (PROF. RITA VERMA) : (a) and (b) As per the provisions of IMC Act and the Regulations made thereunder, the proposal for increase of seats in medical colleges are required to be submitted to the Central Government. The details of proposals received for increase in MBBS seats are given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(c) The details are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

(d) There is no quota reserved for Central Govt. However, the Govt. medical colleges in Karnataka are required to give 15% seats for All India entrance examination as per the directions of the Supreme Court.

(e) The proposals for increase of seats in medical colleges at Gulbarga and Bellur were disapproved for want of required facilities. The proposal for increase of seats at Karnataka Institute of Medical Sciences, Hubli has been referred to the Medical Council of India for evaluation. The clearance of the proposal depends upon the availability of infrastructural facilities and recommendations of the Council thereon.

Statement-I

Sl.No.	Name of the College	Date of receipt of proposal	Status of the proposal
1.	M.R. Medical College, Gulbarga	4.8.1998	Disapproved on 7.7.2000
2.	Adichunchanagiri Institute of Medical Sciences, Bellur	20.8.1998	Disapproved on 19.7.1999
3.	Karnataka Institute of Medical Sciences, Hubli	27.3.2000	The proposal has been referred to the Medical Council of India for evaluation.

Statement-II

Sl. No.	Name of the College	Approved Intake
1	2	3
1.	Kasturba Medical College, Manipal	250
2.	Kasturba Medical College, Bangalore	250
3.	Bangalore Medical College, Bangalore	150
4.	St. Jhon's Medical College, Bangalore	60
5.	M.S. Ramaiah Medical College, Bangalore	150
6.	Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Medical College, Bangalore	100
7.	Kempegowda Instt. of Medical Sciences, Bangalore	120
8.	Siddaratha Medical College, Tumkur	130
9.	Sri Devraj Urs Medical College, Tamaka, Kolar	150
10.	Mysore Medical College, Mysore	100
11.	J.S.S. Medical College, Mysore	150
12.	Adichunchanagiri Instt. of Medical Sciences, Bellur	100
13.	J.J.M. Medical College, Davangere (Karnataka)	245
14.	Karnataka Instt. of medical Sciences, Hubli	50
15.	J.N. Medical College, Belgaum	150
16.	B.L.D.E.A's Sri B.M. Patil Medical College, Hospital and Research Centre, Bijapur	150
17.	Al-Ameen Medical College, Bijapur	100
18.	M.R. Medical College, Gulbarga	100
19.	Vijayanagar Instt. of Medical Sciences, Bellary	100

New medical colleges permitted by the Central Govt. after amendment to Indian Medical Council Act, in 1993

1.	Yenepoya Medical College, Mangalore	100
2.	Father Muller Medical College, Mangalore	100
3.	H.S. Hegde Medical Academy, Mangalore	100
4.	Khaja Banda Nawaz Medical College, Gulbarga	100

Healthy Cities Programme

3368. SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated a proposal on 'Healthy Cities Programme' in the country with financial assistance from World Health Organisation;

(b) if so, whether the Government have received any assistance from the World Health Organisation; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (PROF. RITA VERMA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Under the Health Cities Programme World Health Organisation has approved an amount of US $ 125,000 for the biennium 1998-99 in order to promote and integrate the concepts of environment health and healthy cities in municipalities and communities of Mumbai, Calcutta, Bangalore and Kottayam. The projects are at various stages of implementation by the implementing agencies. For the biennium 2000-2001, World Health Organisation has allocated an amount of US $ 188,700 under this programme.

Funds for Afforestation

3369. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the names of projects, involving forest land, cleared by the Union Government under the Forest (Conservation) Act since 1980;

(b) the details of total forest land involved in such projects, State-wise;

(c) whether there is any provision in the Forest (Conservation) Act that the States concerned, whose projects are given clearance, have to surrender double land of the areas of forest land involved is such projects and also to provide funds for afforestation on that land;

(d) if so, the names of States which have already complied with this provision;

(e) the areas of land surrendered and the amount provided for afforestation on that land by each State;

(f) whether some States have not surrendered the required land and have also not provided funds to afforestation;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) the reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) : (a) to (h) The Union Government has approved 6046 projects involving 493806 ha. forest land under Forest (Conservation) Act since 1980. The number of projects approved by the Central Government, the forest area diverted, compensatory afforestation stipulated, compensatory afforestation actually done, the money realised from user agencies for compensatory afforestation and the realised money spent on compensatory afforestation by the States/UTs is given in the Statement attached.

The Rules and Guidelines framed under the forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 provides that user agencies carry out compensatory afforestation on equivalent non-forest land. Certain category of projects have been exempted from acquiring non-forest land and they are required to carry out compensatory afforestation on the degraded forest land. In Districts where area of forest exceeds 50% of geographical area the user agencies are required to carry out afforestation on forest land 2 times the area diverted for the project.

Statement

Projects Approved, Compensatory Afforestation Stipulated under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and Compensatory Afforestation Done, Funds to be realised/actually realised and spent in the States/UTs

Rs. in Lakhs (Area in ha) As on 30th June, 2000

Sl. No.	Name of State/ UTs	No. of cases approved	Forest area approved	Total Comm. Aff. Stipulated	Total Comm. Aff. Done	Funds to be realised from U.A.	Funds actually realised	Realised money spent
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Andhra Pradesh	149	19026	17397	12594	4333	4034	3204
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	40	919	1796	1452	430	411	230
3.	Assam	100	1614	2280	1364	459	459	103
4.	Bihar	102	5979	3819	72	175	32	3
5.	Goa	49	533	598	542	168	147	136
6.	Gujarat	355	30206	46216	30621	6896	6507	5086

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
7.	Haryana	201	1141	1632	1314	455	421	134
8.	Himachal Pradesh	267	4452	6974	5092	1145	1077	627
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	8	1286	1425	288	954	90	0
10.	Karnataka	248	30360	27707	26631	4449	4442	3789
11.	Kerala	103	30613	58507	35474	1291	4208	4071
12.	Madhya Pradesh	611	232492	256174	121260	7045	6106	2100
13.	Maharashtra	1103	43187	73385	65561	14895	10935	7169
14.	Manipur	8	247	1	0	0.05	0.05	0
15.	Meghalaya	37	182	258	240	2	1.5	0
16.	Mizoram	12	8616	8680	3463	1348	621	280
17.	Orissa	197	24333	28323	17601	3604	3231	1167
18.	Punjab	266	2122	2899	2339	1138	1135	652
19.	Rajasthan	184	10418	11735	7763	1522	1497	750
20.	Sikkim	37	432	1517	1517	257	255	240
21.	Tamil Nadu	163	4920	2055	1393	249	209	86
22.	Tripura	56	1984	1049	585	112	128.00	24
23.	Uttar Pradesh	1554	27148	16500	11346	2999	2833	1970
24.	West Bengal	73	9217	2571	2400	388	332	227
25.	A and N Island	36	2211	2047	2184	69	69	58
26.	D and N Haveli	87	168	262	262	118	102	0
	Total	6046	493806	575807	353358	54501.05	49282.55	32106

Sources : Quarterly progress report of State/UTs.

[Translation]

Telephone Calls Abroad by Anti-Social Elements

3370. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether complaints of making telephone calls abroad by anti-social elements from PCOs of some rural areas of Jodhpur and Jaisalmer districts in Rajasthan have been received by the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to close down such PCOs being misused for anti-national activities;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to check such activities in future ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) to (d) In this regard one complaint related to Jodhpur District was received and the said PCO was disconnected on 31.03.2000 on the recommendation of District Collector and Magistrate, Jodhpur. It is still under disconnection as on date.

(e) PCOs are allotted to all the eligible unemployed persons on first come first served basis. Complaint of misuse of PCOs are generally received in the field offices of the department which are attended to promptly. Telegraph Authority can reject any application. If it is satisfied that the person is engaged in activity pre-judicial to the public safety and interest, internal security of the country etc. However, it may not be possible to deny allotment to an eligible merely on the presumption that the PCO could be misused.

[English]

Institute for Research Development and Training on Aids

3371. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Kerala has submitted any proposal to the Union Government for setting up an "Institute for Research, Development and Training on Aids and Appliances for Disabled";

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (PROF. RITA VERMA) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir, the Government of Kerala has submitted a proposal to the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment for setting up an Institute for Research Development and Training on Aids and Appliances of Physically Handicapped persons for a total outlay of Rs. 1.5 crores of which the Central Government grant is estimated to be Rs. 1 crore. However, in view of constraint of funds, the Government is not in a position to extend the required financial assistance for approving this proposal.

[Translation]

Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund for Bihar

3372. DR. SANJAY PASWAN : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the funds received by the Bihar Government from Japanese Government under 'Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund' (OECF) during the last three years;

(b) whether the said amount is not being utilised properly as a result of which the road connecting two major pilgrimage of Budha circuit i.e. Bodhgaya and Rajgir is in dilapidated condition;

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government keeping in view the international tourists; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) No fund has been received during the last three years from OECF for development and maintenance of roads in Bihar.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

Malaria Cases

3373. SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 5676 on May 2, 2000 and to state :

(a) the reasons for not declining the number of Malaria deaths and the patients in the district of Palamu and Gadhwa of Bihar despite availability of so much resources and making efforts in this regard;

(b) the latest details of anti-malaria pills or medicines distributed in these districts or in various districts of other States under the Malaria eradication projects being run under World Bank assistance;

(c) the reasons for not constituting district Malaria Eradication Society in Gadhwa;

(d) the details of funds made available to various States in this regard after the directions issued by the Government in November, 1979;

(e) whether the utility certificate has been submitted by the State Governments to the Union Government; and

(f) if so, the details thereof, State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (PROF. RITA VERMA) : (a) As per reports available, there has been a decline in number of deaths due to Malaria in Palamu and Gadhwa Districts of Bihar during 1999 as compared to 1998. Decline in number of Malaria cases has also been recorded in Gadhwa District during 1999 as compared to 1998. Increase in Malaria cases in Palamu district in 1999 as compared to 1998 is attributable to poor surveillance, inadequate spray operations and under-utilisation of resources by the District Malaria Control Society.

(b) The quantity of medicines supplied to the States under the Enhanced Malaria Control Project (EMCP) with World Bank Support for distribution to District Malaria Control Societies (DMCS) during the last three years may be seen in Statement-I.

(c) It is understood that the Deputy Commissioner of Gadhwa has applied for registration of the District Malaria Control Society to the appropriate authority in the State of Bihar.

(d) The World Bank assisted Enhanced Malaria Control Project came into effect on 30.9.97. Funds released to various States on implementation of the Enhanced Malaria Control Project during the last three years may be seen at Statement-II

(e) and (f) Utilisation of Cash Grants released to the District Malaria Control Societies under the Project is monitored through Monthly Expenditure Statements received from the Societies.

Statement-I

Chloroquine Pills Supplied to States under Enhanced Malaria Control Project

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of State	1997-98		1998-99		1999-2000	
		Quantity	Cost	Quantity	Cost	Quantity	Cost
1.	Andhra Pradesh	300.00	99.00	500.00	122.18	251.19	76.69
2.	Bihar	50.00	16.50	200.00	61.06	150.00	45.79
3.	Gujarat	500.00	165.00	450.00	137.38	250.00	76.32
4.	Madhya Pradesh	300.00	99.00	400.00	122.12	300.00	91.59
5.	Maharashtra	225.00	74.25	604.41	184.40	100.00	30.53
6.	Orissa	200.00	66.00	340.32	106.55	445.00	135.00
7.	Rajasthan	250.00	82.50	305.00	93.11	100.00	30.53

Statement-II

Statewise Commodity and Cash Grant released under Enhanced Malaria Control Project during last three years

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of the State	1997-98			1998-99			1999-2000		
		Cash	Kind	Total	Cash	Kind	Total	Cash	Kind	Total
1.	Andhra Pradesh	–	38.00	38.00	123.34	176.26	229.60	60.00	623.27	693.27
2.	Bihar	–	11.50	11.50	55.00	98.19	153.19	40.00	–	40.00
3.	Gujarat	–	7.50	7.50	111.33	267.75	379.08	120.00	861.86	981.86
4.	Madhya Pradesh	–	52.00	52.00	260.73	117.08	446.81	155.00	967.34	1122.34
5.	Maharashtra	–	7.50	7.50	233.72	1244.99	1478.71	95.00	1794.84	1889.84
6.	Orissa	–	79.50	79.50	226.00	135.29	361.29	170.00	277.84	447.84
7.	Rajasthan	–	27.00	27.00	100.00	50.18	150.18	40.00	21.32	61.32
	Total	–	223.00	223.00	1119.12	2149.74	3268.86	680.00	4556.47	5236.47

[English]

Appointment of Chairman of MTNL

3374. SHRI NIKHILANANDA SAR :
SHRI SWADESH CHAKRABORTY :
SHRI AKHILESH YADAV :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the procedure laid down for appointment of Chairman in MTNL;

(b) whether the Government have received the recommendations of the Public Enterprises Selection Board with regard to the appointment of the next Chairman of the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited after the present Chairman retires;

(c) if so, the decision taken thereon;

(d) whether the Government have accepted the said recommendations;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether some multi-national companies are lobbying for choice of Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Chairman's post; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) The action for filling up the Board level posts in the various CPSUs including that of MTNL is initiated 12 months before the occurrence of the vacancy. Earlier this limit was 6 months before the date of vacancy. The job description indicating the required qualification/experience etc. for the post as also the various parameters/criteria relating to age, pay etc., for determining the eligibility of candidates are duly circulated amongst the various agencies including the Central PSUs. Based on the eligibility criteria and experience etc., a short list of candidates to be called for the interview is drawn up. After assessing the performance etc. of the candidates in the interview when other input like the view of the Secretary of the administrative ministry concerned and the CR dossiers are also available, recommendations are made by PESB keeping in view the guidelines laid down in the Govt. of India's resolution dated 3.3.87 as also other relevant instructions issued by DOPT from time to time. The post of CMD, MTNL was, accordingly, circulated by the PESB. The selection meeting was held in the PESB on 23.5.2000 and the Board's recommendations were received by the Department of Telecom Services on the same day.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) to (e) Requisite steps have been taken to finalise the Government decision in this regard.

(f) No, Sir. No multi-national companies are lobbying for choice of Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd. Chairman's post as no such instance/information has come to the notice of this office.

(g) In view of (f) above question does not arise.

[Translation]

Post Offices

3375. DR. M.P. JAISWAL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether post offices in several villages of the Bettiah region of Bihar have not been opened, so far;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of villages in the region and number of post offices provided there block-wise;

(d) the steps taken by the Government in this regard; and

(e) the time by which the one post office in every village is likely to be provided ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) There are some villages in Bettiah which do not have a post office located in the village itself. However all of them have daily mail delivery.

(b) Post offices are opened as per plan projection in the villages on norms based justification, availability of funds and subject to sanctioning of required posts by Ministry of Finance.

(c) There are 1505 villages in Bettiah district of Bihar out of which 283 are having Post office. The details are shown in enclosed Statement.

(d) and (e) No reply is called for in view of (b) above.

Statement

Number of villages in Bettia district Block-wise and villages having Post Offices

Sl. No.	Name of Block	Villages	No. of POs with villages
1.	Bettia	17	2
2.	Noutan	45	21
3.	Bairia	56	18
4.	Jogapak	105	14
5.	Chanopattia	72	28
6.	Sarkatia	163	26
7.	Mainatand	97	13
8.	Gaunaha	168	16
9.	Sikta	61	17
10.	Majhauli	78	26
11.	Bagcha	140	22
12.	Thakrahs	36	12
13.	Madhubani	33	11
14.	Sidhav	179	13
15.	Ramnagar	159	26
16.	Lauria	96	18
	Total	1505	283

[English]

NACO Report on HIV

3376. SHRI ARUN KUMAR : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether three E.R.S. (Elisa, Rapid and Simple) or one elisa followed by a western blot test in the criteria for diagnosing a person HIV infected as explained by NACO in its publication Country Scenario, 1998-1999;

(b) if so, whether in presence of conditions like weight loss, diarrhoea, fever, cough, T.B. etc. in cases of adults only two and in cases of children only one elisa test is the criteria for announcing a patients status as AIDS victim; and

(c) if so, the basis of this scientific rational in diagnosing the disease as weight loss, diarrhoea, fever, cough or T.B. as these are very common kind illness in India ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (PROF. RITA VERMA) : (a) According to the National HIV testing guidelines, a person is diagnosed as HIV positive if three ERS (either ELISA, Rapid or Simple) tests are found to be positive.

(b) For the diagnosis of AIDS cases, the following criteria is necessary – HIV antibody test positive by 2 ELISA, Rapid or Simple tests and the presence of any one of the AIDS – defining illness like weight loss of more than one month, fever of more than one month duration, diarrhoea of more than one month, extensive pulmonary Tuberculosis etc.

(c) Based on experience by clinicians all over India, the AIDS case definition for India was decided by inclusion of certain opportunistic infections which are commonly seen in HIV infected person as they progress to AIDS.

New Drug Policy

3377. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the New Drug Policy is aimed to improve Siddha and Ayurveda systems of medicine;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to promote these systems ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (PROF. RITA VERMA) : (a) and (b) No new drug policy has been announced for Ayurveda and Siddha systems of medicine. However, recently Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) have been notified under the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945 which lay down minimum standards in terms of space, equipment, manpower, hygiene and cleanliness.

(c) Steps have been taken to upgrade teaching institutes, augment research, drugs standardisation involvement of these systems in health care delivery system and national programmes and dissemination of information and propagation through Information Communication and Education (IEC) activities.

Re-Appointments in AIR India

3378. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI :
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :
SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL :
SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI :
SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that on one side Air India propose to reduce its staff strength and on the other side making appointments in the various departments and also sent VRS scheme to the Government for approval;

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

(c) the reaction of the Government on such action of Air India ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) to (c) While Air India has taken various measures to rationalise manpower including freeze on external recruitment in non-operational areas, abolition of some vacant posts, reduction in age of retirement from 60 to 58 years, during the last two years, Air India have also effected 68 recruitments in critical categories in operational areas viz Trainee Pilots, Graduate Engineer Trainees, Information technologists (Trainee) etc. Besides, Air India had to regularise 256 Contractual/Casual workmen in various categories such as Safai Kamgar, Suraksha Kamgar, Casual Labourers, Canteen vendors, Gardeners etc. since 1998, as per various Courts Judgements.

[Translation]

Telephone Services in Banaskantha

3379. SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of rural telephone exchanges functioning in Banaskantha region of Gujarat at present, block-wise;

(b) whether the condition of the telephone services and rural telephone exchanges in the region has been found unsatisfactory;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the efforts being made by the Government to improve the condition ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) There are 104 rural telephone exchanges functioning in Banaskantha region of Gujarat as on 31.03.2000. Block-wise details are given in enclosed Statement.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Question does not arise in view of (b) above.

(d) Improvement of telephone services is a continuous process. It is proposed to provide reliable transmission media to the remaining 61 exchanges in phased manner for further improvement during the financial year.

Statement

Block-wise details of rural telephone exchanges functioning in Banaskantha region of Gujarat

Name of Block (Taluka)	No. of Rural Exchanges
Amirgadh	03
Bhabhar	02
Danta	08
Dantiwada	03
Dhanera	06
Dessa	19
Deodar	09
Kankrej	06
Palanpur	12
Panthawada	02
Radhanpur	06
Santalpur	02
Tharad	15
Vadgam	09
Wav	02

ENT and Orthopaedic Wing for CGHS Beneficiaries in Dr. RML Hospital

3380. SHRI DHARM RAJ SINGH PATEL : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any separate CGHS wing is functioning in each department of Dr. RML Hospital for the CGHS beneficiaries;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to make separate arrangements in each department of the said hospital particularly, in ENT, orthopaedic and surgery department ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (PROF. RITA VERMA) : (a) to (c) The Directorate General of Health Services has informed that separate CGHS wings for the Department of Surgery and Department of Medicines are in existence in Dr. R.M.L. Hospital. At present there is no proposal for separate CGHS wings for other Departments due to paucity of space.

[English]

Grants to Rashtriya Sikh Sangat

3381. SHRI SIMRANJIT SINGH MANN : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have provided any grant-in-aid to Rashtriya Sikh Sangat an Non-Government Organisation under the National Leprosy Eradication Programme in Punjab during each of the last three years;

(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 (PROF. RITA VERMA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The said organisation has not made any application for Grant-in-Aid to the Government.

Project for Bajirout Setu

3382. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Orissa Government have submitted any project report for Bajirout Setu as an alternative road link from Bhubaneswar to Second Steel Complex Dhubri;

(b) if so, the salient features and cost involved therein; and

(c) the Government's response in this regard so far ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) No Project Report for Bajirout Setu as an alternative road link from Bhubaneswar to Second Complex, Dhubri has been sent by Government of Orissa. This alternative link is not a National Highway. This Ministry is primarily responsible for improvement and development of National Highways.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

ISP Licensee

3383. SHRI BHERULAL MEENA :
CAPT. JAI NARAIN PRASAD NISHAD :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether most of Internet Service Providers (ISP) licensees are not being granted approvals to lay fibre cables along the National Highway, despite the fact that the ISP licensees allow them to create their own backbone and infrastructure;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have taken any steps to ensure that the ROW's approvals are made easier and uniform;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Group on Telecom and IT (GoT-IT) has recommended that ISPs should be allowed to set up their own International Landing Station for submarine cables; and

(f) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) and (b) The Internet Service Providers (ISPs) are permitted only to provide 'last mile' linkage within local area either by fibre optic or radio communication where local area is the Short Distance Charging Area (SDCA) of Department of Telecommunication.

(c) and (d) Based on recommendations of Group on Telecom and IT Convergence, a committee was set up under the chairmanship of Secretary, Department of Telecommunications to streamline the provision of Right of Way (ROW) facility of Telecom licensees, to recommend measures for fast Right of Way clearance mechanism and also to devise a uniform model arrangement, which could be followed by all States in this regard.

This Committee has examined the various provisions, models followed by various States for development of telecom infrastructure/promotion of IT and has made recommendations along with model code/guidelines including agreement format regarding Right of Way to telecom service licensees as well as infrastructure providers for laying telecom cables/ducts.

(e) and (f) Group on Telecom and IT (GoT-IT) has recommended that ISPs should be allowed/encouraged to set up landing stations for optical fibre cable to increase international bandwidth connectivity for the country. Further, they should be allowed to enter into agreement with under-sea optic fibre providers on commercial terms. Also, there should not be any restriction on the number of such agreements.

Recommendations of Ramalingam Committee

3384. SHRI A. NARENDRA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the recommendations of the Ramalingam Committee have not been implemented in the case of workshop and R.C.D.U. employees; and

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) to (c) The recommendation made by Ramalingam Committee in the case of workshop employees of Airports Authority of India (AAI) have been broadly implemented. As regard Radio Construction Depot Unit (RCDU) employees the majority of the recommendations, which were found feasible have been accepted by the AAI management and implemented.

New Flights to Ahmedabad

3385. SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state the details of new flights proposed to be introduced to Ahmedabad and other cities in Gujarat during the current year ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : At present the following stations in Gujarat are airlinked by scheduled airlines :–

Ahmedabad, Bhavnagar, Bhuj, Rajkot and Vadodara – by Indian Airlines/Alliance Air and Jet Airways;

Jamnagar – by Alliance Air; and

Kashod, Porbandar – by Jet Airways.

Indian Airlines would also consider connections to more places as and when additional capacity is inducted into its fleet and subject to appraisal commercial viability.

Airlines are free to provide air services to specific places depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability subject of course to compliance with the Route Dispersal Guidelines, which provide for certain minimum operations in specified category of routes.

[Translation]

Medical Facility in Dental Department of Dr. R.M.L. Hospital

3386. SHRI SUNDER ALL TIWARI :
SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI :

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

(a) whether facility of artificial teeth/denture is available in Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government propose to provide this facility in this hospital in the interest of common man and particularly the senior citizens;

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

(e) whether CGHS beneficiaries could not get reimbursement for artificial teeth/denture; and

(f) if so, the time by which this facility is likely to be provided in the interest of low-paid employees and pensioners ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (PROF. RITA VERMA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The Directorate General of Health Services has informed that the proposal for providing artificial teeth/denture to the people is at primary stage of consideration.

(e) Artificial denture are not admissible for reimbursement as per existing policy under Central Government Health Scheme.

(f) There is no such proposal at present.

Shortage of Employees

3387. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of employees of various categories working in Gurgaon telephone exchange;

(b) whether it is as per the number of posts sanctioned;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Union Government to appoint employees in accordance with the number of posts sanctioned in the said telephone exchange ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) to (e) No. of Employees category-wise in Faridabad SSA including Gurgaon Exchanges is as follows :–

	Sanctioned	Working
Grp. A	36	28
Grp. B	162	117
Grp. C	709	574
Grp. D	275	226

Faridabad S.S.A. including Gurgaon Network has expended at a very fast pace and there is a general ban on recruitment since 1984 in all cadres in group 'C' and 'D' except J.T.Os. The ban on recruitment has been partinally lifted in respect of cadres of TTA's, Lorry Drivers and Regular Mazdoors and the Recruitment is under process in these cadres. The process for recruitment for JTO has also been initiated.

[English]

Medical Teachers

3388. SHRI TARACHAND BHAGORA :
SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA :

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

(a) whether the medical teachers employed for teaching, training, research and speciality patient care and posted at AIIMS, Post Graduate Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh, M.A. Medical College, New Delhi and Lady Hardinge Medical College, New Delhi are still clubbed together with general duty medical officers who are not required to teach, train and conduct research;

(b) if so, the reasons for a separate cadre of Medical Education, Training and Research (METAR) is not being made for medical teachers of these institutions;

(c) whether tne Government have received any representation for the CHS Doctors Association regarding policy issues relating to CHS medical teachers;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government have set up any committee to look into the grievances of CHS doctors;

(f) if so, the details of members of the said committee thereof and the time by which this committee is likely to submit its report; and

(g) if not, the action taken by the Government to redress the grievances of CHS doctors ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (PROF. RITA VERMA) : (a) No, Sir. The medical teachers employed in the Central Health Service, Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh and AIIMS are not clubbed together with General duty medical officers.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Government has received a representation from Faculty Association of Maulana Azad Medical College and associated Hospitals regarding CHS cadre review. The Association has inter alia represented for a separate identity for medical teachers; professional perquisites; creation of reserve posts for in-service training; correction of anomaly in pay vis-a-vis AIIMS faculty and transfer policy-stay at one place for longer period of time.

(e) to (g) A Consultant has been appointed to undertake cadre review of Central Health Service and prepare a report thereon. The report is awaited.

Customer Orientation Training Programmes

3389. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether regular customers orientation training programmes are conducted for officers and others at the various airports to bring about changes;

(b) if so, the number of such programmes conducted at different airports during the last one year; and

(c) whether the Government have received any feedback from these programmes and if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The number of customer orientation training conducted by Airports Authority of India (AAI) at five international airports during the last one year are given below :-

Name of airport		No. of Training Programme
Delhi	–	07
Mumbai	–	15
Calcutta	–	10
Chennai	–	12
Thiruvananthapuram	–	03

(c) Customer Orientation Training Programmes have brought about a positive degree of awareness among the

airport officials for better interaction with the airport customers. The customer satisfaction surveys conducted at the airports have also indicated increased customer satisfaction levels among the airport users, especially passengers.

Assistance for Kidwai Memorial Institute of Oncology, Bangalore

3390. SHRI KOLUR BASAVANAGOUD : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have released any fund to Kidwai Memorial Institute of Oncology, Bangalore during 1999-2000 towards purchase of equipments and for developmental programmes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount sought by the Karnataka Government for the above purpose during 2000-2001; and

(d) the amount released so far ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (PROF. RITA VERMA) : (a) and (b) Kidwai Memorial Institute of Oncology, Bangalore has been recognised as a Regional Cancer Centres under the scheme for upgradation of regional cancer centre available under the National Cancer Control Programme. As per the scheme Rs. 75.00 lakhs is provided for purchase of equipments for development of the institution as Regional Cancer Centre. The Institution is responsible for providing additional funds for the purpose. Besides the above an amount of Rs. 1.00 crore was released to Kidwai Memorial Institute of Oncology, Bangalore for purchase of Brachy-therapy during 1999-2000.

(c) and (d) No proposal for the year 2000-2001 has been received in this Ministry. Health being a State subject it is for the State Government to provide additional funds for the purpose.

Shimilipal Biosphere Reserve

3391. SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 7502 dated May 15, 2000 and state :

(a) whether the Government have sanctioned adequate funds to the various activities of Shimilipal Biosphere Reserve;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the activities are likely to be expanded in various villages under Biosphere project; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) : (a) and (b) Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Biosphere Reserve this ministry has sanctioned and released Rs. 71.61 lakhs to the Government of Orissa for undertaking various developmental activities in buffer zone villages of Shimilipal Biosphere reserve.

(c) and (d) Development activities undertaken by the State Government in 69 villages include eco-development programmes, irrigation, demonstration, training, education, awareness, social welfare activities, maintenance of Orchid centres and establishment of medicinal plant gardens. Expansion of activities may depend on availability of funds and progress by the State Government.

Corruption Cases Against DDG(TB)

3392. SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY :
DR. BALIRAM :

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

(a) whether DDG(TB) is an expert on Tuberculosis;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons for appointing him as DDG(TB) inspite of corruption cases pending against him;

(d) whether any investigation is going on against DDG(TB) for the purchases made of microscopes;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (PROF. RITA VERMA) : (a) and (b) DDG(TB) is an expert in Public Health/ Community Medicine. He has rich experience in management of various National health programmes. He has been the Programme Manager of National TB Control programme since July, 1996. He has also been an international consultant on TB Control. For his contribution in the fight against Tuberculosis in India, he has recently been awarded the 'Public Health, Karel Styblo Prize" by

International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Diseases, for year 2000.

(c) Does not arise as there are no corruption cases against him.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) and (f) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Post Offices

3393. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of head post offices and other post offices at present in Maharashtra, district-wise;

(b) whether every district has got its own head post office;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which head post offices are likely to be opened in every district ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) A list showing the number of Head Post Offices and Post Offices as on 31.3.2000 in Maharashtra, District-wise is given in enclosed Statement.

(b) Every District has got its own head post office except the following newly created four Districts :-

(i) Nandurbar

(ii) Hingoli

(ii) Washim

(iv) Gadchiroli

(c) and (d) According to departmental norms, a Head Post Office is provided in each district provided a minimum of 20 Sub Post Offices can be attached to it. A lower standard is permissible for backward areas or places where a Head Post Office can result in definite improvement in financing of Sub/Branch Post Offices. Existing norms also require that if an existing Head Post Office is bifurcated to open a new Head Post Office, neither the old nor the new Head Post Office should have less than 20 Sub Offices under it. Opening of any new Head Post Office is dependent on satisfaction of the departmental norms.

Statement

The number of Head Post Offices and Post Offices as on 31.03.2000 in Maharashtra, Districtwise are furnished below

Sl. No.	Name of District	No. of Head P.Os	No. of Other POs (s.O)/EDSO/EDBO
1	2	3	4
1.	Aurangabad	1	291
2.	Jalna	1	228
3.	Beed	1	319
4.	Nandurbar	0	198
5.	Dhule	1	261
6.	Nasik	3	659
7.	Nandeed	1	458
8.	Parbhani	1	159
9.	Hingoli	0	144
10.	Latur	1	286
11.	Jalgaon	3	514
12.	Osmanabad	1	280
13.	Ratnagiri	2	643
14.	Kolhapur	3	549
15.	Sangli	2	412
16.	Sindhudurg	2	362
17.	Thane	3	417
18.	Raigad	2	427
19.	Mumbai	11	261
20.	Satara	2	652
21.	Solapur	2	529
22.	Ahmednagar	2	643
23.	Pune	3	785
24.	Akola	1	231
25.	Washim	0	164
26.	Amravati	2	446
27.	Buldana	2	348
28.	Bhandara	1	131
29.	Gondia	1	167

1	2	3	4
30.	Chandarapur	1	325
31.	Gadchiroli	0	183
32.	Nagpur	3	341
33.	Wardha	1	184
34.	Yeotmal	1	367
	Total	61	12364

[English]

Telephone, STD/ISD/FAX Facility

3394. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Gram Panchayats in Orissa connected with telephone connections alongwith the Fax and STD/ISD facilities as on March 31, 2000, district-wise; and

(b) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to provide said facilities in all the Gram Panchayats of the State ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) 5,010 out of 5,254 gram panchayats in Orissa have been connected with telephone connections as on March 31, 2000. 2,840 out of 5,010 gram panchayats have been provided with STD/ISD/FAX facilities. District-wise details are given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) Following steps are being taken to provide telecom facilities in all the Gram Panchayats in the State :

- New exchanges are being opened in the rural areas;
- Satellite based terminals are planned for remote and isolated villages;
- New technology WLL systems have been planned for providing village public telephones and to meet the scattered demand.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of the District	No. of Gram Panchayats having STD/ISD/FAX Facility
1	2	3
1.	Angul	96
2.	Balasore	152
3.	Bhadrak	96
4.	Bargarh	132
5.	Bolangir	88
6.	Boudh	36
7.	Cuttack	140
8.	Dhenkanal	116
9.	Deogarh	12
10.	Ganjam	296
11.	Gajapati	44
12.	Jaipur	128
13.	Jagatsinghpur	108
14.	Jharsuguda	48
15.	Kalahandi	80
16.	Kendrapara	76
17.	Keonjhar	104
18.	Khurda	156
19.	Koraput	92
20.	Malkangiri	16
21.	Mayurbhanj	148
22.	Nowapara	32
23.	Nayagarh	52
24.	Nowrangpur	48
25.	Phulbani	92
26.	Puri	92
27.	Rayagada	84
28.	Sambalpur	80
29.	Sonepur	32
30.	Sundergarh	164
	Total	2840

[Translation]

Sandalwood Forests

3395. SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the present position of Sandalwood forests in the country especially in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) whether there is any scheme under the consideration of the Government for conservation and protection of Sandalwood forests;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) : (a) As per the available information, Sandalwood trees occur in around 6.40 lakh hectares in the country. In Madhya Pradesh, there are around 6000 hectares of Sandalwood forests.

(b) to (d) Raising Plantations of sandalwood on large scale has not been successful and the past experience in raising sandalwood artificially has not proved better than natural regeneration. At present, augmentation of sandal areas by promoting natural regeneration, tending works including bush sowing and protection of selected areas are being undertaken by the State Governments.

[English]

Direct Telephone Lines

3396. DR. N. VENKATASWAMY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of direct telephone lines treated as service lines working for officials and in the offices of the department;

(b) the details of percentage it constitutes to the total number of direct telephone exchange lines in the country, State-wise; and

(c) the total metered units for these service lines for the last three years and the proportion do they constitute to the total metered units ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) to (c) Sir, the information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Probationers of Indian Post and Telegraph Department

3397. SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL :
SHRI ASHOK KUMAR SINGH CHANDEL :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to corporatise the Indian Post and Telegraph Department though nothing has been mentioned in this regard in the selection procedure/service conditions for probationers of the Indian Post and Telegraph Department by the Union Public Service Commission;

(b) if so, the measures being taken by the Government to maintain Civil Service status of the probationers of the Indian Post and Telegraph Department who have been selected by the UPSC; and

(c) the job likely to be given to those who do not wish to join the proposed corporation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) Yes Sir, the Government is contemplating to corporatise the Department of Telecom Operations by 01.10.2000.

(b) Case is under consideration of Government and no final decision has been taken so far.

(c) As per present rules they will be referred to surplus cell for further deployment in other Government Departments.

Pollution in Yamuna River

3398. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA :
SHRI SURESH CHANDEL :
SHRI ZORA SINGH MANN :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Yamuna is still highly polluted despite expenditure of crores of rupees made under the Yamuna Action Plan for cleaning the river;

(b) if so, the amount spent thereon so far and the results achieved thereof;

(c) whether the Central Pollution Control Board has admitted that water of Yamuna river at several places is highly polluted and its quality is not in conformity with the prescribed norms; and

(d) if so, the steps being contemplated by the board to make the Yamuna water pollution free ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Yamuna is a polluted river along Delhi and downstream. A scheme of pollution abatement of Yamuna which is known as the Yamuna Action Plan was approved by the Government in April 1993. The present approved cost of the Action Plan is

Rs. 509.54 crore. Under this Plan, work have been taken up in 21 towns out of which 8 towns are in Uttar Pradesh and 12 towns in Haryana besides Delhi. The Delhi component of Yamuna Action Plan is small comprising 2 sewage treatment plants each of 10 million liters per day capacity and one electric crematorium. So far, an expenditure of Rs. 431.87 crore has been incurred on this Plan. The Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi is implementing the major part of pollution abatement programme of Yamuna out of their own plan funds. Under this programme, 14 additional sewage treatment plants along with allied works are to be constructed. Out of these, 7 treatment plants have already been completed and another 6 will be completed by March 2001 and tenders for the remaining one sewage treatment plant have been invited. An amount of Rs. 496 crore has been spent on this programme so far. In addition, Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi is also to construct 15 common effluent treatment plants to treat industrial effluents from 21 Industrial estates of Delhi at an estimated cost of Rs. 90 crore. This Project is under implementation. Despite this expenditure, the water quality of Yamuna river along Delhi and downstream is much below the desired standards. The Central Pollution Control Board have confirmed this fact in their monitoring reports which are filed regularly in the Supreme Court under a Public Interest Litigation.

(d) Following additional steps have been taken by the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi to minimize the pollution of river Yamuna :

(i) Water polluting industries have been directed vide public notice in the newspapers to stop discharging untreated industrial effluents directly or indirectly into river Yamuna with effect from 1.11.99.

(ii) A total of 3177 water polluting industries have been closed as on date.

(iii) A total of 1121 units have installed effluent treatment plants.

(iv) 550 water polluting units in non conforming areas have been allotted industrial plots in Narela Industrial complex.

(v) 8 Project Directors have been appointed for 8 major drains to supervise the work of identification of water polluting units and also cleaning operation of the drains.

(vi) 7 sewage treatment plants have been put into use out of 14 new sewage treatment plants. Of the remaining 7 treatment plants, 6 will be completed by March, 2001 and tenders for the remaining one sewage treatment plant have been invited. In addition, two sewage treatment plants each of 10 million litres per day capacity have already been completed under the Yamuna Action Plan of the Ministry of Environment and Forests.

(vii) The quantity of sewage undergoing treatment has been increased from about 1000 million litres per day to 1400 million litres per day. By December 2000, about 1730 million litres per day of sewage would be treated and by March 2001, this would increase to 1840 million litres per day.

(viii) 3 combined effluent treatment plants at Wazirpur, Mangolpuri and Mayapuri are being constructed expeditiously which are likely to be completed by May, 2001. For the remaining 12 combined effluent treatment plants, tenders have been invited and contracts are likely to be awarded by December 2000.

(ix) Due to the joint efforts by Municipal Corporation of Delhi, Delhi Jal Board and Irrigation and Flood Department, the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi have provided 258 mild steel gratings to remove and collect suspended solids.

(x) 75 baffle walls have been erected to ensure removal of suspended solids. The Municipal Corporation of Delhi and Irrigation and Flood Department have erected 19.5 kilometers of wire mesh barricades on the drains, bridges and on the bank of nallas where jhuggi clusters are existing.

(xi) Out of 1173 nallas, Municipal Corporation of Delhi have completed desilting of 1138 Nallas and work is in progress in 21 Nallas.

[English]

Spurious Drugs in CGHS Medical Store Depot

3399. DR. BALIRAM : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a lot of spurious drugs are found at CGHS Medical Store Depot;

(b) if so, whether various CGHS dispensaries have reimbursed to the approved chemists for local purchases of medicines;

(c) if so, the criteria for the purchase of CGHS medicines;

(d) whether CGHS formulary is finalised;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(g) the time by which it is likely to be finalised ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (PROF. RITA VERMA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) In view of (a), the questions do not arise.

(d) to (g) A combined CGHS/Medical Store Organisation formulary for generic items is available and is valid for a period of two years i.e. 1999-2001 whereas the CGHS formulary for proprietary drugs has not yet been finalised. Till such time the new formulary is finalised, the existing CGHS formulary for 1996-98 is being extended from time to time and the present extension of time is upto 30th September, 2000. A fresh committee for formulating a single comprehensive formulary for CGHS and MSO has been constituted. Report of the said Committee is still awaited.

[Translation]

Post Office

3400. SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that public telephones were installed in each post office of Muzaffarpur district of Bihar during the year 1997;

(b) whether these have been discontinued;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government propose to re-install these public telephones (PCOs) in the post offices; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) Sir, in Muzaffarpur Telecom District out of 722 post offices 230 have been provided with public telephone facility. However, during year 1997-98 total 60 post offices were provided with public telephone facility.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) to (e) Does not arise in view of above.

[English]

Recovery of Port Dues from Vessel Owners

3401. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Mumbai Port Trust has failed to recover port dues of Rs. 1.22 crore from vessel owners due to non-observance of standard norms;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to recover the dues;

(c) whether Mumbai Port Trust has no control on "in" and "out" of vessels from bunders; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) and (b) The port dues recoverable from vessel owners are to the extent of Rs. 78.12 lakhs (and not Rs. 1.22 crores) as on 31.7.1998. The dues are boat hard fees (for using the specified area for boat repair) and monthly licence fee under the Bunders Scale of Rates. In such cases, Mumbai Port Trust takes appropriate action including arrest of the vessel and auction thereof for recovery of the dues.

(c) The Bunders being open jetties along the shore line with very low draft, they are used generally by small vessels, mainly barges plying within the harbour of coastal trade in cheap items such as sand, salt etc. These bunders do not form part of the docks and entry/exit is not controlled.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Finalisation of National Postal Policy

3402. SHRI MANSINH PATEL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have finalised the National Postal Policy so far;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) to (c) The draft National Postal Policy is under formulation.

[English]

Functioning of Nursing Homes without Registration

3403. SHRI THIRUNAVUKARASU :
SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHRI :

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

(a) whether a large number of Nursing Homes/ private clinics are running in various parts of the country without any registration and are charging exorbitant fees from the people;

(b) if so, whether any action has been taken against such Nursing Homes/private clinics by the Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (PROF. RITA VERMA) : (a) to (d) 'Health' is a State subject under the Constitution. The functions of the Nursing Homes/Private clinics in the States are regulated by the respective State Governments according to the provisions of the rules/laws effective in the State concerned. This Ministry is not maintaining list of Nursing Homes/private clinics in the country.

The Government of NCT of Delhi has, however, informed that they are aware of the unregistered nursing homes in Delhi. Notices have been issued to such nursing homes directing them to fulfil the required standards as laid down in Delhi Nursing Homes Registration Act, 1953. Government of NCT of Delhi has constituted a committee for suggesting suitable amendments in the statute for empowering the Government so that effective and exemplary action could be taken to curb the menace.

Setting up of Ayurvedic Universities in States

3404. SHRI R.L. JALAPPA :
SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK :

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

(a) whether the Government propose to set up an Ayurvedic University in each State particularly in Maharashtra and Karnataka;

(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 (PROF. RITA VERMA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Such Universities are set up by the State Governments. Govt. of Gujarat has set up Gujarat Ayurved University.

[Translation]

New Mineral Reserves

3405. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of new mines (mineral reserves) identified in the country; and

(b) the time by which the Government are likely to undertake mining work there ?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI SUKH DEV SINGH DHINDSA) : (a) and (b) Mineral Concessions are granted by the respective State Governments who are the owners of the minerals in their territorial jurisdiction, as per the provisions of Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 and the Rules framed thereunder. The Central Government does not undertake any mining work directly. The number of new mines opened in the last three years upto 31.3.2000, State-wise is given in enclosed Statement.

Statement

State-wise details of Mines opened in the last three years upto 31.3.2000

Sl.No.	Name of the State	No. of Mines
1.	Andhra Pradesh	66
2.	Bihar	2
3.	Goa	1
4.	Gujarat	21
5.	Karnataka	8
6.	Kerala	13
7.	Madhya Pradesh	24
8.	Maharashtra	3
9.	Orissa	8
10.	Rajasthan	12
11.	Tamil Nadu	33
12.	Uttar Pradesh	02
	Total	193

[English]

AIDS Test Compulsory for Driving Licence

3406. DR. V. SAROJA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to make AIDS test compulsory before issuing driving licence to truck drivers in view of the fact that majority of AIDS patients are truck drivers;

(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 (PROF. RITA VERMA) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, if a truck driver wants to test his HIV status voluntarily, he can be tested with pre and post test counselling.

(c) India is a signatory to the joint declaration of the 45th World Health Assembly, which states that there is no public health rationale in mandatory screening of HIV infection for prevention and control of HIV/AIDS.

Fuel Subsidy for Airline Companies

3407. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to extend some sort of Air Fuel Subsidy for airline companies which uses small airports in the country such as Gannavaram in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether the cost of air fuel prevents Airlines from servicing small towns;

(c) if so, whether there is a proposal to reduce taxes on airplane fuel; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to ensure that small towns and airports like Gannavaram in Krishna district become commercially viable ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) to (d) Smaller capacity aircraft, in general, have limited range and require higher fare structure in order that their operations become viable.

To encourage small aircraft (turbo-prop) operations to connect smaller and non-metro cities, it has been decided to provide Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) to such aircraft at international prices and notify ATF as a 'declared good' under the Central Sales Tax Act, 1956, capping the levy of sales tax rate at 4%. The modalities of implementing these decisions are under examination.

[Translation]

Pollution in Industries

3408. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN :
DR. BALIRAM :
SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the names of industries in the country polluting the environment, State-wise and territory-wise;

(b) whether the Government propose to take any action against these units or to ask them to install treatment facilities; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the country would be made pollution free ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) : (a) The Government have identified 17 categories of highly polluting industries to control pollution from these industries. State-wise/territory-wise status of 17 categories of defaulting industrial units is given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) and (c) Out of a total of 1551 units, 1324 units have provided pollution control facilities, 165 units are closed and 62 units are defaulters. Action against the defaulting units has been initiated the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

Statement

Statewise Status of the Defaulting Industries of 17 Categories (As on June 30, 2000)

Sl.No.	Name and address of the Industry	Category of Industry
1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh		
1.	M/s N.V.R. Co-op. Sugars Ltd., Jampani Vemur Mandal. Guntur Distt., A.P.	Sugar

1	2	3
2.	M/s Kothagundam Thermal Power Station, Palondha, Khammam Distt., A.P.	Thermal Power Plant
Assam		
3.	M/s Hindustan Fertilizer Corpn. Ltd., Namrup Unit R&H, Parbatpur, Dibrugarh Distt., Assam	Fertilizer
4.	M/s Bongaigaon Thermal Power Station, Bongaigaon, Assam	Thermal Power Plant
Bihar		
5.	Hindustan Copper Ltd., Indian Copper Complex, P.O. Ghatsila-832 303, Distt. Singhbhum, Bihar	Copper
6.	M/s Bokaro Steel Plant, Bokaro, Bihar	Iron and Steel
7.	M/s Tata Iron and Steel Co. Ltd., Bihar	Iron and Steel
8.	M/s Bihar State Sugar Corporation Ltd., Sakri, Patna	Sugar
9.	M/s Bihar State Sugar Corporation Ltd. Motipur, Muzaffarpur Distt., Bihar	Sugar
10.	M/s Bihar State Sugar Corporation Ltd., Banmankhi, Purma Distt. Bihar	Sugar
11.	M/s Bihar State Sugar Corporation Ltd., Sugauli, East Champaran Distt., Bihar	Sugar
12.	M/s Patratu Thermal Power Station, Patratu, Hazaribagh, Bihar	Thermal Power Plant
13.	M/s Bokaro Thermal Power Plant (DVC) A, Bokaro, Bihar	Thermal Power Plant
14.	M/s Bokaro Thermal Power Plant (DVC) B, Bokaro, Bihar	Thermal Power Plant
Gujarat		
15.	M/s Yeast Alco Enzymes Ltd., Palitana Dem site, Bhavnagar Distt., Gujarat	Distillery
16.	M/s Charotar Sahakari Khand Udyog Ltd., P.O., Palaj-388 465 Tehsil Pedad, Distt. Kaira, Gujarat	Sugar
Haryana		
17.	M/s Haryana Breweries Ltd., Murthal, Sonepat, Haryara	Distillery
18.	M/s Haryana Distillery, Yamunanagar, Haryana	Distillery
19.	M/s Ashok Distillery and Chemicals, Hathin Fixl. Gahlab Road, Vill. Hathin Faridabad, Haryana	Distillery
Karnatak		
20.	M/s Dakshina Kannhada S.S.K. Ltd., Brahmvar Udupi, S.K. Distt., Karnataka	Sugar
21.	M/s Bidar S.S.K. Ltd., Bidar, Karnataka	Sugar
22.	M/s Sahakari Sakkare Karkhana Niyamit, Aland Taluk, Gulbarga Distt., Karnataka	Sugar
23.	M/s Siruguppa Sugars and Chemicals Ltd., Deshur Bellary, Bellary Distt., Karnataka	Sugar
Kerala		
24.	M/s The Co-operative Sugars Ltd., (Distillery Unit) Chittur, Palakkad, Kerala	Distillery
25.	M/s The Co-operative Sugars Ltd., (Sugar Unit) Chittur, Palakkad, Kerala	Sugar

1	2	3
	Madhya Pradesh	
26.	M/s Cox Distillery Naugaon, Chattarpur, Madhya Pradesh	Distillery
27.	M/s Chhatisgarh Distillery, Khapri, Kunhari Durg, Madhya Pradesh	Distillery
28.	M/s Kediya Distillery, Bhiliai, Durg, Madhya Pradesh	Distillery
29.	M/s Bhopal Distilleries, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh	Distillery
30.	M/s Bhilai Steel Plant, Bhilai, Madhya Pradesh	Iron and Steel
31.	M/s Orient Paper Mill, Amlai, Madhya Pradesh	Pulp and Paper
32.	M/s Naval Singh Ka Sahkari Shakkar Kharkhana, Borhanpur, Madhya Pradesh	Sugar
33.	M/s Gwalior Sugar Co., Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh	Sugar
34.	M/s Satpura Thermal Power Station, Betul, Madhya Pradesh	Thermal Power Plant
	Maharashtra	
35.	M/s Niphad S.S.K. Ltd., Bhausahenagar, Niphad Distt. Nasik, Maharashtra	Distillery
36.	M/s Panchaganga S.S.K. Ltd., Ganganagar, Maharashtra	Distillery
37.	M/s Karanveer Kakasaheb Wagh SSK Ltd., Kakasahebnagar Niphad Distt. Nasik, Maharashtra	Distillery
38.	M/s Terna Shetkari SSK Ltd., Terna Nagar Osmanabad Distt., Maharashtra	Distillery
39.	M/s Chandrapur Super Thermal Power Station Maharashtra State Electricity Board, Distt., Chandrapur, Maharashtra	Thermal Power Plant
40.	Koradi Thermal Power Station, Maharashtra State Electricity Board, Koradi-441 111, Distt. Nagpur, Maharashtra	Thermal Power Plant
41.	Paras Thermal Power Station, Maharashtra State Electricity Board, Vidyut Nagar, Paras, Distt. Akola-444 109, Maharashtra	Thermal Power Plant
42.	Nashik Thermal Power Station, Maharashtra State Electricity Board, P.O. Eklahare-422 105, Maharshtra	Thermal Power Plant
43.	Bhusawal Thermal Power Station, Maharashtra State Electricity Board, Deep Nagar-425 307, Maharashtra	Thermal Power Plant
44.	M/s Parli Vaijnath Thermal Power Station Beed, Maharashtra	Thermal Power Plant
	Orissa	
45.	Rourkela Steel Plant (Fertilizer Unit) Rourkela-769 011, Orissa	Fertilizer
46.	Paradeep Phosphates Ltd., P.O., PPL Township, Paradeep-754 145, Distt. Jagatsinghpur, Orissa	Fertilizer
47.	M/s Rourkela Steel Plant (Iron and Steel) Rourkela, Distt. Sundargarh, Orissa	Iron and Steel
48.	M/s Dharani Sugars and Chemcials Ltd., Aska, Orissa	Sugar
49.	M/s Aska Cooperative Sugar and Chemicals Ltd., Aska, Orissa	Sugar
50.	M/s Talcher Thermal Power Station, P.O., Talcher Thermal, Distt. Angul, Orissa-759 101	Thermal Power Plant
51.	M/s Rourkela Steel Plant (CPP-I&II), Rourkela, Sundergarh, Orissa	Thermal Power Plant

1	2	3
Uttar Pradesh		
52.	M/s Saravasti Kisan Sahakari Chini Mills, (Distillery Unit) Nanpara, Baharaich, Uttar Pradesh	Distillery
53.	M/s Captanganj Distilleries, Deoria, Uttar Pradesh	Distillery
54.	M/s Obra Thermal Power Station, Unit (B), Obra, Sonebhadra, Uttar Pradesh	Thermal Power Plant
55.	M/s Obra Thermal Power Station, Unit (A), Obra, Sonebhadra, Uttar Pradesh	Thermal Power Plant
56.	M/s Hardwarganj Thermal Power Project, Kasimpur, Aligarh, Uttar Pradesh	Thermal Power Plant
West Bengal		
57.	M/s Indian Iron and Steel Company, Burnpur, Burdwan, West Bengal	Iron and Steel
58.	M/s Durgapur Steel Plant, Durgapur, West Bengal	Iron and Steel
59.	M/s Shaw Wallace, Haldia, Midnapur, West Bengal	Pesticide
60.	M/s Santaldihi Thermal Power Station, Puralia, West Bengal	Thermal Power Plant
61.	M/s Durgapur Thermal Power Station, Damodar Valley Corpn. P.O., Durgapur-713 207, Distt. Burdwan, West Bengal	Thermal Power Plant
62.	M/s Durgapur Projects Ltd., Burdwan, West Bengal	Thermal Power Plant

[English]

WHO Report on Drugs

3409. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the recent World Health Organisation report, entitled "Overcoming Anti-microbial Resistance" on the resistance to drugs for illnesses such as kala azar, typhoid, tuberculosis and other infectious diseases;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government about ineffective drugs; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (PROF. RITA VERMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Report is under examination and the information will be laid on the table of the House.

Airports under State Governments Jurisdiction

3410. SHRI ANANT GUDHE : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether some airports in the country are under the jurisdiction of the State Governments;

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

(c) whether the Union Government have any scheme to introduce air services at those airports; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. There are 23 airports in Madhya Pradesh; 22 each in Bihar and Rajasthan; 19 in Orissa; 12 each in Gujarat and Maharashtra; 10 in Uttar Pradesh; 5 each in Arunachal Pradesh and Haryana; 4 in Karnataka; 3 each in Andhra Pradesh and Punjab; 2 each in Tamilnadu and West Bengal; and 1 each in Jammu Kashmir, Kerala, Meghalaya and Mizoram. Amongst the above airports, only 41 airports are operational.

(c) and (d) Government has laid down route dispersal guidelines with a view to achieve better regulation of air transport services talking into account the need for air transport services of different regions of the country including North-East region. Airlines are free to provide air services to specific places depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability subject to compliance of route dispersal guidelines issued by Government.

[Translation]

Agreement between India and America on Ayurvedic Information Centre

3411. SHRI SURESH PASI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any agreement has been reached between India and America with regard to setting up an Ayurvedic Information Centre in New York under an important agreement with a view to popularise Ayurvedic system of medicine and to provide international recognition to it;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the said Ayurvedic information centre is likely to be set up ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (PROF. RITA VERMA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

WHO Report on AIDS/HIV

3412. SHRI P.D. ELANGOVAN : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the survey reports of WHO warns India, that India has the largest, AIDS/HIV patients in the world;

(b) if so, whether the Indian Government have done any scientific and systematic survey to record the number of HIV patients in the country;

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

(d) the steps taken by the NACO to combat this grey situation;

(e) whether the funds allocated by NACO are properly used/utilised; and

(f) if so, the details of the utilisation/release of funds to each of the States by NACO and the target fixed and performance made during each of the last two years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (PROF. RITA VERMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government of India is conducting a Sentinel Surveillance every year, in 180 sites all over the country. Based on data collected from sentinel surveillance, it is estimated that 3.5 million people are HIV infected in India.

(c) A State-wise details of the previous round of sentinel surveillance is given in enclosed Statement-I.

(d) In order to prevent and control the spread of HIV/AIDS in India, a comprehensive Programme is currently under implementation throughout the country as a centrally sponsored scheme. The main components consist of :-

- Reducing the spread of HIV in groups at high risk by identification of target populations and providing peer counseling, condom promotion, treatment of sexually transmitted infections.
- Preventive intervention for the general population by Information, Education and Communication (IEC) and awareness campaign, provision of voluntary testing and counseling, safe blood transfusion services and prevention of occupational exposure.
- Providing financial assistance for opportunistic infections, home and community based care to people living with HIV/AIDS.
- Strengthening effectiveness and technical, managerial, financial sustainability at national, State and Municipal levels.
- Promoting collaboration amongst public private and voluntary sector.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) The details of the utilisation/release of funds to each State by NACO during last 3 years are given in enclosed Statement-II.

Statement-I

HIV Estimates of India 1998 (Figures in thousands)

Sl.No.	State/UT	Number of HIV Infections
1	2	3
1.	Maharashtra	747.049
2.	Karnataka	309.772
3.	Andhra Pradesh	567.078
4.	Tamil Nadu	307.994
5.	Manipur	4.079
6.	Goa	9.440
7.	Delhi	19.412
8.	Himachal	3.318

1	2	3
9.	Gujarat	81.873
10.	West Bengal	117.081
11.	Nagaland	3.264
12.	Mizoram	1.644
13.	Pondicherry	3.431
14.	Andaman and Nicobar	0.594
15.	Arunachal Pradesh	1.020
16.	Assam	29.153
17.	Chandigarh	4.286
18.	Daman and Diu	0.079
19.	Haryana	34.287
20.	Kerala	169.34
21.	Madhya Pradesh	137.814
22.	Meghalaya	0.781
23.	Orissa	44.775
24.	Punjab	43.734
25.	Rajasthan	50.470
26.	Sikkim	0.136
27.	Tripura	4.214
28.	Uttar Pradesh	108.631
29.	Bihar	114.012
30.	Jammu and Kashmir	14.589
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.157
32.	Lakshadweep	0.230
	Total	2933.736
	Total as above	2933.735
	HIV among IVDU*	36.061
	Grant Total	2969.796

*Intravenous drug user

Note : Applying a range of 20%, the estimate ranges from 2.3 to 3.5 million. However, in view of the fact that all risk groups are not adequately represented, an working estimate of 3.5 million was agreed upon as in mid 1998.

Statement-II

National AIDS Control Organisation Utilisation of Funds

(Rupees in lakh)

Sl.No.	State/UT	1998-99		1999-2000	
		Grants Released	Expdr. Reported	Grants Released	Expdr. Reported
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	650.00	843.51	1219.67	1024.99
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	30.00	4.78	159.00	103.07
3.	Assam	100.00	155.60	322.00	314.78
4.	Bihar	110.00	60.37	55.00	124.03
5.	Goa	35.00	28.00	98.00	69.11
6.	Gujarat	230.00	333.66	721.00	673.46
7.	Haryana	160.00	73.62	270.00	194.29
8.	Himachal Pradesh	115.00	58.24	318.00	210.38
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	25.00		25.00	0.00
10.	Karnataka	335.00	391.94	801.67	555.03

1	2	3	4	5	6
11.	Kerala	65.00	233.97	280.00	301.65
12.	Madhya Pradesh	315.00	147.28	352.31	335.50
13.	Maharashtra	800.00	439.15	998.35	1111.33
14.	Manipur	245.00	212.84	352.38	567.33
15.	Meghalaya	30.00	17.35	70.14	43.88
16.	Mizoram	100.00	115.99	168.00	170.55
17.	Nagaland	227.00	251.96	380.00	379.07
18.	Orissa	100.00		200.00	34.47
19.	Punjab	150.00	150.91	312.39	258.26
20.	Rajasthan	100.00	133.85	150.00	120.91
21.	Sikkim	50.00	36.71	25.00	44.37
22.	Tamil Nadu	800.00	1642.37	883.09	1762.32
23.	Tripura	20.00	20.09	50.00	36.60
24.	Uttar Pradesh	200.00	192.47	851.00	992.23
25.	West Bengal	350.00	354.20	425.00	581.00
26.	Delhi	110.00	144.12	283.00	369.54
27.	Pondicherry	40.00	14.14	25.00	46.96
28.	A and N Islands	20.00	13.38	50.00	64.84
29.	Chandigarh	60.00	48.90	115.00	122.02
30.	D and N Haveli		5.25	25.00	25.00
31.	Daman and Diu	15.00	14.98	95.00	26.02
32.	Lakshadweep			25.00	25.00
33.	MDACS, Mumbai	350.00	110.12	670.00	728.92
34.	Ahemdabad	5.00		75.00	37.43
35.	Chennai MC			125.00	43.65
	Total	5942.00	6249.75	10975.00	11498.03

[Translation]

Bird Sanctuary in MP

3413. SHRI JAIBHAN SINGH PAWAIYA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a son chiraiyya bird sanctuary has been developed in Shivpuri district in Gwalior Parliamentary Constituency in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether several villages are likely to be displaced in Shivpuri district account of this;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the compensation paid to affected families ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) : (a) Yes, Sir. Karera Wildlife Sanctuary was

notified in Shivpuri District to protect Great Indian Bustard by the Government of Madhya Pradesh.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

[English]

Widening of National Highways

3414. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received a representation from Solapur Chamber of Commerce and Industries for widening four or six laning on NH-9, 13 and 211 passing through Solapur and connecting it with Pune-Hyderabad, Bijapur-Chitradurga, Tuljapur-Osmanabad-Aurangabad-Dhule;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any survey for such diversions have since been made;

(d) if so, the progress made in this regard;

(e) the estimated cost of each of said projects; and

(f) the steps taken to take up the same as per policy ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Solapur Chamber of Commerce and Industries have proposed for widening of National Highway 9, 13 and 211 passing through Solapur town into 4 lane/6 lane NH standards within a periphery of 20 kms from the city.

(c) to (f) The Government at present is emphasizing on improvement of the riding quality of the National Highway network in the country. As such, the work of widening of National Highways has been not included in the current Annual Plan.

[Translation]

Shortage of Post Offices in Rural Areas

3415. SHRI ASHOK KUMAR SINGH CHANDEL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is shortage of post offices in the rural areas of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the number of Gram Panchayats where post offices are available in the various districts of State particularly in Hamirpur and Mahoba districts;

(c) the time limit fixed for providing this facility in every Gram Panchayat of the state; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to speed up delivery of posts in rural areas ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) and (b) There are 18136 villages in Uttar Pradesh with a Post Office and 94668 villages without a Post Office. The number of Gram Panchayat Villages where Post Office are available in the districts of Hamirpur and Mahoba are given below :

No. of Gram Panchayat Villages	
Uttar Pradesh	17640
Hamirpur	132
Mahoba	78

(c) Expansion of Postal Network is taken up as a Plan activity under the Five-Year Plans. Each year Post Offices are opened as per the Annual Plan at places where they are justified according to departmental norms. This is further subject to availability of funds and sanctioning of required of Posts by the Ministry of Finance.

(d) To ensure timely delivery of mail in rural areas close monitoring of delivery in rural areas is done. Wherever necessary, review of mail arrangement in rural areas is done. Live Mail Survey is conducted to assess efficiency. Corrective steps are taken to remove any deficiency noticed. Proper co-ordination with State Road Transport Authority is maintained for smooth carriage of mails.

[English]

Cases of Misbehaviour Reported at Delhi Airport

3416. SHRI CHANDRA VIJAY SINGH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the number of cases reported relating to misbehaviour and rudeness with passengers and visitors at airports in Delhi during the past two years; and

(b) the action taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) Indian Airlines have reported 34 cases of such nature during the last two years.

(b) Amongst the reported 34 cases, 1 official was transferred, 13 were issued warning/caution letters and 20 were subjected to counselling.

[Translation]

Steamer Service from Allahabad to Haldia

3417. SHRI J.S. BRAR :
DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH :
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the water-way from Allahabad to Haldia in river Ganga is being used by steamers and boats for sailing;

(b) if so, whether Government have formulated any scheme excavate this river to deeper and increase the flowing capacity of the river;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor alongwith the average depth of river Ganga from Allahabad to Haldia; and

(d) the depth required for smooth sailing of big boats and steamers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Mechanically propelled vessels of Central Inland Water Transport Corporation Limited and the Inland Waterways Authority of India and sailing boats operate in the river Ganga. From Haldia to Allahabad, river Ganga has been declared as National Waterway No. 1. Between Haldia and Farakka, Least Available Depth (LAD) of 2 meters is maintained and vessels of 1.8 meters draft (about 600 Tonnes capacity) can operate in this stretch round the year. Similarly, between Farakka and Patna, LAD of 2 meters is maintained for about 300-330 days in a year. The stretch between Patna and Allahabad is navigable for about 5 months of the year. Schemes have been formulated for conducting bandalling and dredging to provide the required 2 meters LAD for 330 days in navigational channel upto Allahabad.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Taking into account the available discharge of water and hydromorphological conditions and the dredging volume, the required depth for operation of vessels of 600T capacity and 1.8 meters draft upto Allahabad is 2 meters.

[English]

Post Office and Telegraph Office in Dahod

3418. SHRI BABUBHAI K. KATARA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of post offices and telegraph offices opened in Dahod region of Gujarat during the last three years;

(b) the number of such offices proposed to be set up in the said region during 2000-2001 and 2001-2002; and

(c) the funds allocated for the purpose ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) The number of Post Offices and Telegraph Offices opened during last three years in Dahod region are as under :-

Year	No. of Post Offices opened	No. of Telegraph Offices opened
1997-98	01	–
1998-99	14	–
1999-2000	04	–

(b) and (c) One Post office is proposed to be opened in the said region during 2000-2001. The targets for opening of new post offices during 2001-2002 will be finalised in next financial year. With the expansion of telecom network and introduction of STD and FAX facilities, the demand for telegraph is steadily reducing. Therefore, no specific targets have been fixed. Telegraph facility is provided as per demand and justification. A sum of Rs. 7.740 Crores has been allocated for opening new post offices in the country during current financial year.

[Translation]

Telephone Service in Bihar

3419. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the scheme to provide telephone services in all the villages of Muzaffarpur, Vaishali and Sitamarhi districts of Bihar;

(b) the names of villages in the said districts where more than ten persons have applied for telephone connections;

(c) the number of telephone exchanges proposed to be set up in the said districts; and

(d) the time by which these exchanges are likely to be set up ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) As per the objectives of the 9th Plan and NTP-99 (National Telecom. Policy-1999), telephones will be provided on

demand by the year 2002 in all the urban and rural areas including all the villages. In order to achieve this objective, new technologies like WLL systems and C-DOT TDMA PMP are being inducted in the rural network.

(b) The names of villages in the said districts where more than ten persons have applied for telephone connections are as under :–

1. MUZAFFARPUR : Kharaunadih, Pear/Mutlupur, Marichbaghi, Panapur-Nariyar, Jajuar, Tangraha, Siho, Dubha, Phulwaria/Birhimabazar, Bakhra, Basantpur, Jafarpur, Panapur-Karat and Rasulpur-bazar.

2. SITAMARHI : Nanpur, Belasantipkutir, Janipur, Baribehto, Pokharbhinda, Piprahi, Mahuawa, Bathnah, Athari and Kumbha.

3. VAISHALI : Madarna, Raghopur, Chakausan, Murtazapur, Simarwara, Agrail Khurad, Husepur, Bahunara, Sahawajpur Puraina, Chiknauta and Bakhridua.

(c) and (d) It is proposed to set up about 36 exchanges in these three districts. Of these, 20 exchanges are expected to be commissioned during current financial year and the remaining 16 exchanges during the next financial year.

Expenditure by Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan in Bihar

3420. SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV : Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state the amount spent on organisation of youth programmes in Bihar especially in Saharsa and Madhepura districts by the Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan out of the funds sanctioned by this Sangathan on its own during the last three years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN) : The information is as under :–

Year	Amount spent on organisation of youth programmes in			
	Saharsa	Madhepura	Rest of Bihar (Excluding Saharsa and Madhepura)	Total
1997-98	75,000	63,625	36,07,609	37,6,234
1998-99	199,673	1,58,330	89,74,988	93,32,991
1999-2000	197,686	1,94,044	88,16,134	92,07,864

[English]

Death of Tigers

3421. SHRI JAI BHADRA SINGH :
SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI :
SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any interim report on the death of tigers at the Nandankanan Zoological Park in Orissa;

(b) if so, the action taken thereon;

(c) whether the Government have sought suggestions from experts concerning zoo regarding captive inbreeding; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) : (a) and (b) The Ministry of Environment and Forest appointed an Expert Committee to find out the causes of death and to suggest ways and means to prevent recurrence of such happenings on 6th July, 2000. The Committee has submitted its report to the Ministry. The Ministry has also obtained inputs and opinion of experts from all over the country. The officials of the Ministry after a meeting with senior officers of Govt. of Orissa have drawn up a plan of action so that such incidence does not reoccur. The action plan will be monitored by a high level committee of the Union Government.

(c) and (d) it is established fact that inbreeding reduces the resistance of the animals against diseases. In the instant case, Center for Cellular and Molecular Biology, Hyderabad, has opined that the loss of heterozygousity in captive bred tigers due to inbreeding is only marginal. Therefore, the chances of white tigers being more prone to disease are minimal.

Implementation of Family Planning Programme

3422. SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to involve the corporate sector in implementing family planning and welfare programmes in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the areas of preference in the States where these programmes are likely to be implemented, State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (PROF. RITA VERMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The National Population Policy adopted by the Government in February, 2000 envisages collaboration and commitments from Industry and Corporate Sector.

The following are some of the interventions contemplated :

1. Strengthening the management information systems in the seven most deficient states, at primary health centre and sub-centre levels.

2. Collaborating with non-government sectors in running professionally sound advertisement and marketing campaigns for products and services, targeting all segments of the population, from the village level upwards, in other words, strengthen advocacy and IEC, including social marketing of contraceptives.

3. Providing markets to sustain the income-generating activities from village levels upwards. In turn, this will ensure consistent motivation among the community for pursuing health and education-related community activities.

4. Help promote transportation to remote and inaccessible areas up to village levels. This will greatly assist the coverage and outreach of social marketing of products and services.

5. Providing preventive reproductive and child health care for its own employees (if > 100 workers are engaged).

6. Creating a national network consisting of voluntary, public, private and non-government health centres, identified by a common logo, for delivering reproductive and child health services, free to any client.

7. Forming a consortium of the voluntary sector, the non-government sector and the private corporate sector to aid government in the provision and outreach of basic reproductive and child health care and basic education.

Unregistered Children

3423. DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR :
SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH :

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

(a) whether nearly 40 percent child births in the country go unregistered annually;

(b) if so, whether the State Governments are not taking concrete steps to get registration of all the child births;

(c) if so, whether due to unregistered births, the exact position of population growth have been in abeyance; and

(d) if so, whether the Union Government have taken any steps in consultation with the State Governments to make it mandatory for registration of births in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (PROF. RITA VERMA) : (a) As per the latest reports available from the States it is estimated that out of approximately 25 million births in the country in a year around 13.5 million births are registered. Therefore, as estimated 11.5 million births do not get registered.

(b) Some of the States in the country have already achieved 100% registration in births. However, there are States like Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Meghalaya, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh which have very low levels of registration of births. Administrative weaknesses and lack of commitment on the part of the State Governments are among the main reasons for low levels of registration in these States.

(c) The annual population growth in the country is not estimated through the data obtained from the Civil Registration System as it is not complete. However, annual population growth is estimated from the birth and death rates obtained from the Sample Registration Scheme.

(d) Registration of births and deaths has already been made mandatory in the entire country with the enforcement of the Registration of Birth and Deaths Act, 1969. State Government have been advised time and again to tone up the vital registration system of births and deaths.

[Translation]

Foetal Deaths

3424. DR. ASHOK PATEL : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to launch campaign to check the foetal deaths in the country;

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

(c) the comprehensive datas in regard to foetal deaths committed in the country during each of the last three years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (PROF. RITA VERMA) : (a) and (b) With a view to regulate and prevent the misuse of modern pre-natal diagnostic techniques, which often follows detection and selective abortion of female foetus, the Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act, 1994 has been enacted, in the country, with effect from 1st January, 1996. Disclosure of the sex of the foetus is strictly prohibited under this Act. The implementation of the Act, rests with the State Government and Union Territory Administration, concerned.

Creating awareness about the provisions of the Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act, has been included as one of the IEC activities. Non-Governmental organisations are also being involved to create awareness about the provisions of the said Act through workshops and seminars in various States.

(c) The details of State and UT wise incidence of foeticides registered during 1997 to 1999 is given in enclosed Statement.

Statement

Incidence of Foeticide during 1997 to 1999

Sl.No.	State/UT	1997	1998	1999
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0	0	3
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1	0	0
3.	Assam	0	0	0
4.	Bihar	1	2	4
5.	Goa	0	0	0
6.	Gujarat	0	1	7
7.	Haryana	3	12	9
8.	Himachal Pradesh	1	1	1
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	0	1	1
10.	Karnataka	0	0	0
11.	Kerala	0	0	0
12.	Madhya Pradesh	21	12	17
13.	Maharashtra	19	25	13
14.	Manipur	0	0	0
15.	Meghalaya	0	0	0
16.	Mizoram	0	0	0
17.	Nagaland	0	0	0
18.	Orissa	0	0	0
19.	Punjab	0	2	3
20.	Rajasthan	3	4	3
21.	Sikkim	0	0	0
22.	Tamil Nadu	0	0	0
23.	Tripura	0	0	0
24.	Uttar Pradesh	0	0	0
25.	West Bengal	0	0	0
	Total (States)	52	60	61
26.	A and N Islands	0	0	0
27.	Chandigarh	2	0	0
28.	D and N Haveli	0	0	0
29.	Daman and Diu	0	0	0
30.	Delhi	3	2	0
31.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0
32.	Pondicherry	0	0	0
	Total (UTS)	5	2	0
	Total (All India)	57	62	61

Source : Monthly Crime Statistics, (NCRB)
Note : Fig. are provisional

[English]

Violation of Anti-Pollution Laws

3425. SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of violations of anti-pollution laws made and the actual number of prosecution launched so far by the Government for habitual offenders under anti-pollution laws against public sector undertakings and private industrial houses during the last five years; and

(b) the details thereof with year-wise breakup ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) : (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Misuse of Funds Allocated for Malaria Kala-azar and AIDS

3426. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH :
SHRI RAMANAND SINGH :

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

(a) whether the Government are aware that Malaria, Kala-azar and AIDS have posed serious challenge to policy makers and implementing authorities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total fund allocated to each States for the eradication of malaria, small-pox, diarrhoea, leprosy, kala-azar and AIDS programmes during each of the last three years;

(d) the total funds spent by each State on each programme out of the total funds allocated during the above period;

(e) whether the State Government have grossly misused the funds allocated to them for Malaria. Kala-azar and AIDS diseases during each of the last three years;

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

(g) the steps contemplated by the Government to check spread of these diseases in future ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (PROF. RITA VERMA) : (a) and (b) **Malaria** : Malaria is one of the public health problems in some parts of the country. However, with the launching of Modified Plan of Operations (MPO) for control of malaria since April. 1977, the incidence of malaria has been brought down to 2.18 million cases in 1984 against 6.4 million cases recorded in 1976. Since then the incidents of malaria has been contained between 2-3 million cases annually.

Kala-azar : Kala-azar is mainly prevalent in some parts of Bihar and West Bengal. Decline in incidence of Kala-azar was recorded from 1992 to 1995. However, due to operational problems like untimely spray of DDT for interruption of transmission, shortage of staff for search of hidden cases of Kala-azar, these has been increase in incidence of Kala-azar.

AIDS : AIDS is a serious disease. HIV infected persons remain asymptomatic for 5-7 years during which they spread infection. Besides, there is no cure for HIV AIDS, which can eliminate the infection from the body of the infected person.

(c) and (d) Small pox has been eradicated from the country.

There is no specific national programme for eradication of diarrhoea.

Allocation of Central assistance, state-wise and expenditure incurred thereof by the States under National Anti Malaria Programme (NAMP), Kala-azar Control Programme, National Leprosy Eradication Programme and National AIDS Control Programme during the last 3 years may be seen at Statement-I, II, III and IV respectively.

(e) and (f) Information about misutilisation of Central funds by the States under these Programmes is not available.

However, a recent report of C and AG refers to a few cases of diversion of funds from designated activities for Malaria control to other forms of expenditure in some States/UTs.

(g) The steps taken to control Malaria in the States include :-

- Intensification of early detection and prompt treatment of malaria, including complicated cases by newer drugs.
- Intensification of vector control measures through prioritization of areas for selective spray with appropriate insecticides and alternative and integrated vector control methods.
- Introduction of newer insecticides like Synthetic Pyrethroids for selective use as per technical requirements.

- Intensification of Information Education and Communication (IEC) activities for public awareness and community participation.
- Institutional and management capacity building, manpower development through intensive reorientation programme at all levels and efficient Management Information System (MIS).
- Implementation of an Enhance Malaria Control Project (EMCP) with World Bank support under the National Anti Malaria Programme (NAMP) since September, 1997 covering 1045 Primary Health Centres (PHCs) in 100 predominantly tribal highly Malaria endemic districts of 7 peninsular States namely Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Orissa, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan and 19 cities towns having high endemicity of malaria in these States and the States of Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal for intensification of Malaria Control activities by way of additional inputs through a mix of interventions.
- Providing 100% Central assistance to the 7 North Eastern States since December, 1994 under NMEP.

Kala-azar :

The steps taken to containment of Kala-azar include :–

- Supply of anti Kala-azar drug free of cost through the State Governments.
- Interruption of transmission through vector control by undertaking residual spray of DDT in affected areas.
- Early diagnosis and complete treatment through Primary Health Care System.
- Health education and community participation.
- Organisation of Orientation Training for the Officers involved in implementation of the Kala-azar Control Programme.

Leprosy :

In the project plan for the next 3 years to check spread of the disease major thrust is proposed to be given on 5 endemic States of Bihar, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and West Bengal, besides, integration of leprosy in general health care.

AIDS :

In order to prevent and control the spread of HIV AIDS in India, a comprehensive programme is currently under implementation throughout the country as a Centrally sponsored scheme. The main components consist of :–

- Reducing the spread of HIV in groups at high risk by identification of target populations and providing peer counseling, condom promotion, treatment of sexually transmitted infections.
- Preventive interventions for the general populations by Information, Eduction and Communication (IEC) and awareness campaign, provision of voluntary testing and counseling, safe blood transfusion services and prevention of occupational exposure.
- Providing financial assistance for opportunistic infections, home and community based care to people living with HIV AIDS.
- Strengthening effectiveness and technical, managerial, financial sustainability at National. State and Municipal levels.
- Promoting collaboration amongst public, private and voluntary sector.

Statement-I

Statewise Central Allocation (Cash and Kind) and Expenditure under NAMP for the year 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000

(Rs. in lakhs)

Name of State	1997-98 Expenditure	1998-99 Expenditure	1999-2000 Expenditure
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	617	482.93	663.5
Arunachal Pradesh	297.5	186.61	229.22
Assam	2618	2170.42	2616.72
Bihar	348.98	403.05	578.66
Goa	5.18	7.72	4.54
Gujarat	726.77	611.11	349.95
Haryana	291.08	260.39	160.95
Himachal Pradesh	90.84	51.47	92.45
Jammu and Kashmir	78.62	72.57	103.39
Karnataka	568.62	264.47	229.29
Kerala	63.6	102.73	49.63

1	2	3	4
Madhya Pradesh	1072.77	454.49	443.28
Maharashtra	1028.44	260.26	181.51
Manipur	273.91	377.34	219.53
Meghalaya	196.96	231.55	212.27
Mizoram	132	172.53	190.05
Nagaland	212.62	183.34	308.33
Orissa	233.43	385.14	436.17
Punjab	183.26	290.67	148.45
Rajasthan	1799.74	1994.15	1075.71
Sikkim	1.77	8.47	7.9
Tamil Nadu	204.88	240.72	114.19
Tripura	414.05	356.97	379.31
Uttar Pradesh	505.73	1121.92	527.8
West Bengal	125.71	330.9	501.99
A and N Island	93.83	155.68	111.28
Chandigarh	48.53	44.3	34.35
D and N Haveli	24.75	24.9	34.85
Daman and Diu	12.37	10.08	12.97
Delhi	66.04	37.21	20.1
Lakshadweep	3.48	5.24	5.82
Pondicherry	12.48	6.15	11.28
Total	12352.94	11305.48	10055.44

Statement-II

Central Allocation of Funds and Expenditure Incurred thereof under Kala-azar Control Programme for the year 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of the State	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
1.	Bihar	880.91	806.22	875.29
2.	West Bengal	89.82	193.78	124.71
	Total	970.73	1000.00	1000.00

Statement-III

State-wise Allocation and Expenditure for Last 3 years under NLEP

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	States	1997-98		1998-99		1999-2000	
		All.	Exp.	All.	Exp.	All.	Exp.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	539.07	391.83	291.10	538.63	374.11	334.31
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	47.00	57.85	163.09	132.35	59.86	97.24
3.	Assam	292.65	252.87	240.50	245.96	194.30	188.84
4.	Bihar	455.21	335.25	493.70	707.76	844.44	821.52
5.	Goa	8.80	4.22	10.00	1.94	0.49	6.28
6.	Gujarat	196.27	197.47	120.15	153.85	119.14	209.20
7.	Haryana	22.57	16.66	20.00	53.73	38.35	36.86
8.	Himachal Pradesh	18.00	46.18	101.77	90.72	54.34	70.81
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	49.95	46.30	141.00	92.51	54.79	47.25
10.	Karnataka	379.01	245.56	284.50	349.86	226.44	157.95
11.	Kerala	199.24	210.39	231.40	226.63	130.41	122.61

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
12.	Madhya Pradesh	649.77	350.68	597.13	1210.57	643.54	527.15
13.	Maharashtra	391.15	447.22	398.50	284.77	312.44	290.03
14.	Manipur	35.22	45.47	129.86	137.61	95.71	332.51
15.	Meghalaya	19.00	42.55	69.72	62.84	40.84	46.68
16.	Mizoram	61.00	62.93	75.43	91.81	49.60	17.64
17.	Nagaland	128.49	139.28	48.50	70.38	106.09	78.53
18.	Orissa	444.65	411.94	322.10	420.30	447.67	271.73
19.	Punjab	37.00	96.04	131.00	117.32	98.46	238.81
20.	Rajasthan	35.00	233.30	485.51	263.37	148.37	116.88
21.	Sikkim	48.40	49.99	64.00	94.58	71.36	22.82
22.	Tamil Nadu	117.00	179.22	285.00	635.76	231.18	147.31
23.	Tripura	20.00	9.90	74.35	39.41	47.98	18.23
24.	Uttar Pradesh	779.95	414.01	608.00	1110.29	1311.54	884.79
25.	West Bengal	397.81	185.91	252.80	724.07	444.33	713.55
26.	A and N Islands	6.50	8.88	6.50	6.47	2.00	4.46
27.	Chandigarh	0.50	3.01	6.00	6.79	9.21	3.00
28.	D and N Haveli	6.46	0.50	1.00	7.47	1.00	4.52
29.	Daman and Diu	4.50	13.73	9.50	15.63	0.50	1.93
30.	Delhi	0.50	0.11	52.65	8.12	11.00	37.87
31.	Lakshadweep	2.00	0.00	11.53	54.29	1.00	0.00
32.	Pondicherry	16.45	8.40	1.85	4.42	9.50	3.01
	Total	5449.00	4507.65	5728.14	7960.21	6179.99	5854.32

Note : Amount allocated also includes funds released to District Leprosy Societies. In addition anti leprosy drugs are provided free of cost.

Statement-IV

National AIDS Control Programme Allocation Utilisation of Funds to States and UTs

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	State/UT	1997-98 Grants Released	1998-99 Grants Released	1999-2000 Grants Released
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	425.00	650.00	1219.67
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	25.00	30.00	159.00
3.	Assam	100.00	100.00	322.00
4.	Bihar	50.00	110.00	55.00
5.	Goa	50.00	35.00	98.00
6.	Gujarat	250.00	230.00	721.00
7.	Haryana	75.00	160.00	270.00
8.	Himachal Pradesh	225.00	115.00	318.00
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	25.00	25.00	25.00
10.	Karnataka	175.00	335.00	801.67
11.	Kerala	100.00	65.00	280.00

1	2	3	4	5
12.	Madhya Pradesh	150.00	315.00	352.31
13.	Maharashtra	950.00	800.00	998.35
14.	Manipur	150.00	245.00	352.38
15.	Meghalaya	25.00	30.00	70.14
16.	Mizoram	100.00	100.00	168.00
17.	Nagaland	155.00	227.00	380.00
18.	Orissa	75.00	100.00	200.00
19.	Punjab	75.00	150.00	312.39
20.	Rajasthan	225.00	100.00	150.00
21.	Sikkim	50.00	50.00	25.00
22.	Tamil Nadu	2000.00	800.00	883.09
23.	Tripura	50.00	20.00	50.00
24.	Uttar Pradesh	495.00	200.00	851.00
25.	West Bengal	100.00	350.00	425.00
26.	Delhi	25.00	110.00	283.00
27.	Pondicherry	0.00	40.00	25.00
28.	A and N Islands	31.09	20.00	50.00
29.	Chandigarh	28.00	60.00	115.00
30.	D and N Haveli	6.00		25.00
31.	Daman and Diu	24.22	15.00	95.00
32.	Lakshadweep	15.42		25.00
33.	MDACS, Mumbai		350.00	670.00
34.	Ahemdabad MC		5.00	75.00
35.	Chennai MC			125.00
	Total	6239.73	5942.00	10975.00

Medicinal Plants

3427. MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated any plan to harness and utilise the richest and unlimited potential of medicinal plants in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons for neglecting this ancient and traditional system of health cases;

(d) whether the Government are aware of the immense reservoir of medicinal plants in Garhwal Region of Uttar Pradesh particular in district Chamoli and Rudraprayag; and

(e) if so, the steps taken by the Government to harness and develop this immense potential medicinal plants ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (PROF. RITA VERMA) : (a) and (b) Steps are being initiated for development and sustainable utilization of medicinal plants. A proposal is also being processed for setting up of Medicinal Plants Board for this purpose.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) This area is rich in medicinal plants. One High Altitude Plant Physiology Research Centre of HNB Garhwal University at Srinagar, Garhwal (UP) is working on various developmental activities involving medicinal plants. Central assistance has also been provided to this organisation for Cultivation and Development of Agro-techniques of medicinal plants.

Mosquitoes Spread AIDS

3428. SHRI SUBODH ROY : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether mosquitoes can spread the dreaded AIDS diseases;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, whether any research work exists about the resistance power of mosquitoes on which a further research is done to develop medicines;

(d) if so, whether sun-rays, atmosphere, heat kills the AIDS germs;

(e) if so, the salient features of studies so far made in this regard; and

(f) if not, the steps taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (PROF. RITA VERMA) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), the causative organism of AIDS multiplies in the CD4T lymphocytes in the blood. In the mosquitoes, this multiplication is not possible and the virus dies in the mosquito body.

(d) to (f) Yes, Sir. Studies carried world wide have shown that the HIV is a very fragile virus. Exposure to sun rays, heat and external environment destroys the virus.

Health Care Facilities for Elders and Weaker Sections

3429. SHRI R.L. BHATIA :
SHRI DHARM RAJ SINGH PATEL :
SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA :

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

(a) whether health care facilities for elders and the weaker sections of society in the country are insufficient;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have formulated any scheme recently to improve and provide free medical facilities to the elders and the people of weaker sections of society particularly in the State of Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir;

(d) if so, the details of the scheme alongwith the fund allocated for this purpose thereof during the current year, State-wise;

(e) if not, whether the Government contemplate to take some measures to provide adequate health care facilities to elders and people of weaker sections; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (PROF. RITA VERMA) : (a) to (f) No, Sir. Do not arise.

Security Survey Conducted by CISF and BCAS

3430. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether certain agencies namely the Central Industrial Security Force and the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security had jointly conducted security survey of some airports of the country;

(b) if so, the airports covered under the survey along with observations made by each agency;

(c) the steps to be taken to ensure proper security of all airports ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) and (b) As on date, survey of the following 46 airports has been conducted jointly by Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) and Airports Authority of India (AAI) in order to assess the manpower and requirements for deployment of CISF, in place of State Police personnel, for security related functions at these airports :-

Jaipur, Patna, Port Blair, Vadodara, Guwahati, Agartala, Ranchi, Rajkot, Bhopal, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad, Cochin, Lucknow, Bagdogra, Bangalore, Visakhapatnam, Chandigarh, Mangalore, Udaipur, Shimla, Amritsar, Bhuvaneshwar, Jorhat, Dibrugarh, Goa, Raipur, Indore, Jamnagar, Porbandar, Calcutta, Chennai, Bhuntar, Gwalior, Jodhpur, Agra, Nagpur, Pune, Aurangabad, Khajuraho, Bhavnagar, Madurai, Tiruchi, Calicut, Coimbatore, Imphal and Silchar.

(c) In addition to the deployment of CISF at the airports in a phased manner, the steps taken to strengthen security at airports in the country include tightening of the frisking of passengers and hand baggage; deployment of Sky Marshals on flights on a random basis; raising of the perimeter wall at the operational airports; and installation of new colour X-ray machines, wherever necessary.

Developmental Works at Air-Strips in North-East Region

3431. SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether developmental works at air-strips in North-East region have made slow progress;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Airports Authority of India is the Nodal construction authority of the airports; and

(d) if so, their role in North-East Council in the development programme of airports of North-East region ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, due to long rainy season, difficult terrain and non availability of construction materials, there are occasional delays in some of the projects.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Airports Authority of India (AAI) provides technical assistance and consultancy to North-East Council and undertakes execution of works for the development of airports infrastructure in North-East Region.

Availability of Gem Stones in Orissa

3432. SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether huge tracts of Gem Stones (Precious and Semi precious) are abundantly available in Orissa;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to regulate the mining of these areas properly;

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

(d) whether the Government propose to formulate a proper policy for exploiting this rich natural resources and getting the entire area of Orissa surveyed and mapped by the Geological Survey of India alongwith satellite survey and if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI SUKH DEV SINGH DHINDSA) : (a) As per information available with Indian Bureau of Mines, a Subordinate Office of the Ministry of Mines, 28 gem bearing tracts have been identified in Angul/ Dhenkanal, Sambalpur, Deogarh, Jharsuguda, Bolangir, Subarnapur, Boudh, Kalahandi, Nuapada, Rayagada and Phulbani districts of Orissa.

(b) to (d) Mineral concessions are granted by the State Governments as per the provisions of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 and Rules framed thereunder. State Government of Orissa has informed that of the 28 gem bearing tracts identified in Orissa, prospecting has been completed in 23 by the Directorate of Mining and Geology, Orissa and M/s Orissa Mining Corporation, a State Government of Orissa enterprise. In accordance with its Gem Stone Policy of 1998, the State Government has decided to undertake expeditious prospecting in the balance 5 tracks and the State Government is taking expeditious steps to grant mining leases in the prospected or otherwise proved gemstone areas, so as to exploit the gemstone reserves systematically and scientifically. Geological Survey of India has conducted investigation for diamond in parts of Bargarh, Bolangir, Nuapara, Nawarangpur, Soneput and Sundargarh districts of Orissa. Geological Survey of India has also carried out investigation for other precious and semi-precious stones like garnet, Aquamarine, Sapphire, Ruby, Apatite, Corundum and Zircon etc. in Kalahandi, Sambalpur, Bolangir and Koraput districts in Orissa. Basic geological mapping in the State of Orissa has been done by Geological Survey of India.

[Translation]

Land Acquired under Forest Conservation Act

3433. SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the land of the villages of many States has been acquired under the Forest (Conservation) Act;

(b) if so, the number of villages in Rajasthan particularly in Swai Madhopur where the land has been acquired;

(c) the number of persons rehabilitated by the Government; and

(d) the amount of compensation paid to them ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI (BABU LAL MARANDI) : (a) There is no provision for acquisition of land of villages under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

SC/ST Posts Lying Vacant

3434. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to refer to the reply given to the Unstarred Question No. 4421 on April 24, 2000 and state :

(a) whether the Government have collected the information regarding some posts of SCs/STs under various categories lying vacant in various department and undertakings under his Ministry;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the time by which the information is likely to be collected ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details are given below :

Department of Telecommunications, Department of Telecom Services and Department of Telecom Operations

Category	SC	ST
Group A	260	187
Group B	1100	1925
Group C	1353	1321
Group D	52	115

Department of Posts

Category	SC	ST
Group A	–	–
Group B	4	4
Group C	476	1075
Group D	72	263

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Opening of Post Offices

3435. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH :
SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR :
SHRI SAHIB SINGH :
SHRI JITENDRA PRASADA :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large number of villages in the country are without Post Office particularly in rural areas;

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

(c) whether the Government have formulated any plan to cover all such villages under postal services during 2000-2001;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) and (b) The details in respect of number of villages in the country with and without a Post Office is given in enclosed Statement-I.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) It is proposed to open 500 Branch Post Offices, 50 Departmental Sub Post Offices and 1000 Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendras during the year 2000-2001. Post Offices are opened as per the prescribed norms laid down by the Department. This is further subject to sanctioning of posts by the Ministry of Finance. The details are given in enclosed Statement-II.

(e) No reply called for in view of (d) above.

Statement

Number of Villages without Post Office as on 31.3.2000

Sl. No.	Name of Circle	No. of villages with a Post Office	No. of villages without a Post Office
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh*	14771	12278
2.	Assam	3627	21058
3.	Bihar	11218	56295
4.	Delhi	99	100
5.	Gujarat	8090	9935
	Dadara N. Haveli	33	38
	Daman and Diu	15	11
6.	Haryana	2318	4441
7.	Himachal Pradesh	2646	14351
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	1469	5007
9.	Karnataka*	8299	19725
10.	Kerala	1452	Nil
	Lakshadweep	11	Nil
11.	Madhya Pradesh	10240	61286
12.	Maharashtra	11337	29075
	Goa	204	156
13.	North East		
	Arunachal Pradesh	301	3348
	Manipur	637	1545
	Meghalaya	451	5038
	Mizoram	400	312
	Nagaland	322	896
	Tripura	695	4055
14.	Orissa	7533	39456
15.	Punjab	3405	9023
	Chandigarh	7	17
16.	Rajasthan	9581	29902
17.	Tamil Nadu	10396	6984
	Pondicherry	59	233
18.	Uttar Pradesh	18136	94668
19.	West Bengal	7553	33559
20.	Sikkim	86	118
21.	A and N Islands	193	234
	Total	135584	463144

*Figures as on 31.3.1999.

Statement-II

Targets for Opening of Post Offices and PSSKs for the year 2000-2001

Sl. No.	Name of Circle	EDNOs	DSOs	PSSKs
1.	Andhra Pradesh	15	2	55
2.	Assam	30	3	40
3.	Bihar	75	7	55
4.	Delhi	04	2	Nil
5.	Gujarat	20	3	55
6.	Haryana	15	2	35
7.	Himachal Pradesh	07	1	20
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	05	1	10
9.	Karnataka	21	2	55
10.	Kerala	04	2	Nil
11.	Madhya Pradesh	40	3	85
12.	Maharashtra	60	2	85
13.	North East	40	2	60
14.	Orissa	10	2	60
15.	Punjab	14	2	45
16.	Rajasthan	20	2	75
17.	Tamil Nadu	15	2	80
18.	Uttar Pradesh	50	7	85
19.	West Bengal	55	7	85
	Total	500	50	1000

[Translation]

Telephone Facility

3436. SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Panchayats to which telephone facility has been provided under District Telecom General Manager, Jabalpur;

(b) the number out of them functioning properly;

(c) whether the Government propose to provide latest model technology based telephones to the Panchayats; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government for their maintenance ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) and (b) 777 Panchayats under District Telecom General Manager, Jabalpur have been provided with telephone facility. Out of these, 528 telephones are functioning properly.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Govt. proposes to provide latest technology based telephones on WLL, CDOT TDMA/PMP and Satellite systems in the Panchayats. The following steps are being taken for their maintenance :

- Repair centres are proposed to be set up.
- AMC is being entered with suppliers.

Postal Network

3437. PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the performance of postal network in rural areas is unsatisfactory;

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

(c) the details of its functioning in rural areas during the last three years, State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) The performance of the Postal Network is measured by the efficiency of mail delivery. The delivery of mails in the rural areas of the country is satisfactory. As per the All India Live Mail Survey results 77.7% of the mails in the rural areas are delivered within prescribed norms.

(b) No reply called for in view of (a) above.

(c) The percentage of mails delivered on time in the rural areas of the country during the last three years in given, circle-wise, in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Percentage of Mail Delivered as per Norms in Rural Areas during the last three years

Name of the Circle	1997	1998	1999
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	94.7	69.8	82.4
Assam	42.3	48.4	53.7
Bihar	N.A.	65.0	84.0
Delhi	49.7	47.2	70.4
Gujarat	96.7	92.1	89.9

1	2	3	4
Haryana	95.8	95.6	97.3
Himachal Pradesh	35.0	94.0	80.4
Jammu and Kashmir	60.0	36.0	86.9
Karnataka	87.0	87.8	87.5
Kerala	86.3	77.3	86.0
Madhya Pradesh	84.7	51.8	62.8
Maharashtra	82.3	79.6	83.4
North East	58.7	75.8	74.2
Orissa	63.4	68.7	85.4
Punjab	85.0	82.0	83.0
Rajasthan	94.0	81.0	88.0
Tamil Nadu	91.4	86.6	90.9
Uttar Pradesh	66.0	15.7	03.1
West Bengal	26.2	66.2	87.4
Average	65.7	69.5	77.7

Plight of Telecom Sector

3438. SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that India is far behind the other countries in telecom sector; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to bring India in a comparative position of other countries ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) and (b) The teledensity of India as on 31.7.2000 was 2.99 per 100 persons including Mobile phones which is less than the world average of 14.26 as per World Telecommunication Development Report 1999. However, the Government is continuing to improve the teledensity in the country by making telephone available on demand progressively by 31st March 2002 and sustain it thereafter. As per the New Telecom Policy 1999 telephone density of the country is expected to improve to 7 per 100 persons by the year 2005 and 15 by the year 2010.

Steps in this regard include opening of new exchanges, introduction of new technologies and speedly implementation of New Telecom Policy.

[English]

National Long Distance Telephone

3439. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has made any recommendations allowing private sector in the field of National Long Distance Telephone;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith its terms and conditions;

(c) whether any member of the TRAI has opposed the recommendations;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Summary of TRAI final recommendations are given in Statement-I attached.

(c) One of the TRAI members has given his dissenting views.

(d) Summary of the views of dissenting member are given in Statement-Ii attached.

(e) Recommendation of TRAI are the basis for deciding the terms and conditions for opening up of National Long Distance Operators.

Statement-I

Summary of TRAI Final Recommendations

National Long Distance operators to carry only inter-circle long distance traffic.

Limited competition with five operators [one existing Department of Telecom Services (now Department of Telecom Operations) and four new entrants].

One time Entry Fee of Rs. 500 Crores. Out of this Rs. 100 crores will be non-refundable and Rs. 400 crores to be refunded on the basis of fulfillment of network roll out obligations in three phases.

Bidding on revenue share with a prescribed floor of 7% (5% USO fund and 2% for meeting administrative costs).

Net worth of only those promoters to be counted who have atleast 10% equity.

Experience in the Telecom Sector is essential. The joint venture constituents representing 30% equity should bring in their telecom experience as a service provider.

The network roll out obligation will be acceptable even if the long distance operator does not establish network for 80% of the Points of Presence (POPs) coverage but attain the desired level of coverage by picking up traffic from 80% Short Distance Charging Areas (SDCAs) by having lesser number of POPs and by making suitable arrangement with the Access Providers.

The Department of Telecom Services (DTS) (now Department of Telecom Operations) may not be asked to pay Entry Fee but submit to the revenue sharing like other service providers.

Statement-II

Summary of Dissent Note by Shri Rakesh Mohan

NLDOs should be allowed to carry both intra-circle and inter-circle traffic.

There should be no limit to the number of entrants after specified pre-qualifying criteria are met.

The revenue sharing proportion should be specified ex ante and then should be the same for all licensees including incumbent.

The roll out obligations should be the same as originally recommended by the TRAI i.e. providing Points of Presence in at least 80% of the Long Distance Charging Areas by the end of the 4th year.

There should be no bidding procedure for selecting new licensees. In case bidding is absolutely necessary it should be a two stage procedure as follows :-

(i) In the first instance there be no bidding procedure and potential licenses be selected subject to the Rs. 500 crore entry fee as envisaged (Rs. 100 crore – non refundable + Rs. 400 crore Refundable) alongwith the other pre-qualification conditions.

(ii) If after this procedure is undertaken the number of potential licenses exceeds 5, then bidding can be resorted to on the entry fee, with the proviso that the minimum would have to be Rs. 500 crore, and that 20% of the bid amount would have to be non refundable. The rest would be refundable on the same roll out basis as is currently envisaged for the Rs. 400 crore. All the 5 licenses selected would have to pay the highest amount bid and if necessary through a re-bid.

Eradication of Malaria in Maharashtra

3440. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether under the existing policy of the Government Malaria has since been eradicated in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof with the amount spent so far;

(c) if not, the time by which the same is likely to be eradicated alongwith the estimated amount to be spent in future;

(d) whether the Government have some more programmes to eradicate other diseases in Maharashtra during the current year and the next financial year of the Ninth Plan; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (PROF. RITA VERMA) : (a) and (b) Under the National Anti Malaria Programme, thrust is given for control of Malaria rather than eradication. Malaria has been on the decline in Maharashtra since 1997.

Amount spent for control of Malaria in Maharashtra during the last 3 years under National Anti Malaria Programme including Enhanced Malaria Control Project with World Bank support is as under :-

(Rs. in lakhs)

Year	Govt. of India	State Government	Total
1997-98	1035.94	1852.68	2888.62
1998-99	1738.97	2120.28	3859.25
1999-2000	2132.89	1119.21	3252.10

(c) Globally, the thrust is for Malaria control and nor for eradication. The objective of national Anti Malaria Programme is also to control Malaria effectively. The amount to be spent in the State in future would be on the basis of the need and available resources.

(d) and (e) Guinea Worm disease has been eradicated from the country including Maharashtra. Last reported case of Guinea Worm disease in Maharashtra was in the year 1992.

The goal of Polio eradication in the country including Maharashtra is expected to be achieved by the winter of 2000-2001.

[Translation]

Fault Repair of Telephone in Gurgaon

3441. SHRI TILAKDHARI PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of complaints registered on an average for fault repair of telephone in Gurgaon, Haryana daily;

(b) the time limit prescribed for rectifying the faults in telephones;

(c) whether complaints are disposed of within the stipulated time;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Union Government are taking any concrete steps for timely disposal of complaints relating to telephones in Gurgaon city; and

(f) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) On an average 385 complaints are registered daily for fault repair of telephone in Gurgaon, Haryana.

(b) The faults in telephones are usually rectified within 24 hours.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Complaints are usually disposed off within the stipulated time. However, sometimes there is delay in rectification of faults due to shortage of staff in Gurgaon District.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) For timely disposal of complaints relating to telephones in Gurgaon city, following steps have been taken :–

(i) Augmentation of manpower is in progress.

(ii) Interactive Voice Recording system is installed for fault booking.

(iii) Pagers have been provided to line staff for prompt disposal of complaints.

Post Office

3442. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 3646 on April 17, 2000 and state :

(a) whether the Government propose to construct post office buildings in Gulganj of Chhattarpur district and Jatara of Tikamgarh district of Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the work is likely to be started; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) At present, there is no proposal to construct post office buildings in Gulganj of Chhattarpur district and Jatara of Tikamgarh district of Madhya Pradesh.

(b) Not applicable.

(c) Construction of Post office buildings is a Planned activity, which is subject to availability of sufficient Plan funds for construction and operational priority.

[English]

Modernisation of Post Offices

3443. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to computerise/modernise/expand the existing post offices in West Bengal during 2000-2001;

(b) if so, the details thereof location-wise and the funds allocated for the purpose;

(c) the time by which the said facilities are likely to be provided in the said post offices; and

(d) the number of computerised post offices in the State at present, district-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Department plans to fully computerise all branches in the following post offices in West Bengal during 2000-2001 :–

(i) Alipore Head Post Office

(ii) Burdwan Head Post Office

(iii) Cossipore Head Post Office

(iv) Midnapur Head Post Office

(v) Purulia Head Post Office

(vi) Serampore Head Post Office

(vii) Tollygunge Head Post Office

A total of 139 computers will be installed at these post offices including 7 servers in a network environment.

The funds allocated for the above computerisation are Rs. 84.4 Lakhs.

(c) The facilities are likely to be provided by April, 2001.

(d) The number of computerised post offices in the State at present district-wise are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of District	No. of post offices computerised
1.	Calcutta	21
2.	24-Parganas (South)	6
3.	24-Parganas (North)	7
4	Burdwan	7
5.	Bankura	1
6.	Birbhum	4
7.	Darjeeling	4
8.	Dinajpur North	1
9.	Howrah	1
10.	Jalpaiguri	2
11.	Midnapore	4
12.	Murshidabad	1
13.	Malda	1
14.	Nadia	2
15.	Hooghly	6
16.	Purulia	1
17.	Dinajpur South	1
18.	Cooch Behar	2

Collection of Fee at Calicut Airport

3444. SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the details of user's fee collected at Calicut Airport during the past three years, year-wise;

(b) whether the Government propose to stop the collection of user's fee at Calicut Airport; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) The details of User's Development Additional Fee (UDAF) collected by Malabar International Airport Development Society (MIADS) from embarking internationals passengers @ Rs. 500/- per passenger at Calicut airport during the last three years are as under :-

Year	Rs. in crores
1997-98	7.31
1998-99	7.02
1999-2000	8.17
Total	22.50

(b) and (c) This matter is sub-judice in the Division Bench of Kerala High Court.

Reimbursement of Arrears

3445. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received a proposal from Bihar Government regarding reimbursement of arrears against expenditure incurred upto the year 1999-2000 under the family welfare programme in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Union Government thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (PROF. RITA VERMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The arrears of expenditure due to the States are reimbursed by Government of India after receiving utilisation certificate and audit certificate from the State. Audit Certificate from Bihar has been received for the period upto 1997-98 only and Rs. 165.71 crore has been released during last year and Rs. 9.81 crore this year for settlement of entire arrears due to the State till 1997-98. Arrears for 1998-99 onwards will be reimbursed as soon as audited figures are received from the State.

Forest Conservation in Manipur

3446. SHRI HOLKHOMANG HAOKIP : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the areas in Manipur selected for Forest Conservation;

(b) the details of land brought under forest land during the last three years in Manipur, district-wise;

(c) the target fixed for the purpose and the progress made in this regard, district-wise; and

(d) the concrete steps being taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) : (a) The Government of Manipur have declared following wildlife sanctuaries and national park under Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 :

Sl.No.	National Parks/Sanctuary	Area in Sq. Km
1.	Yangoupokpi Lokchao Sanctuary	184.85
2.	Zeilad Sanctuary	21.00
3.	Jiri Makru Sanctuary	198.00
4.	Kaihlam Sanctuary	151.80
5.	Bunning Sanctuary	150.85
6.	Keibul Lamjao National Park	40.00
	Total	746.50

In addition to national parks and sanctuaries approximately 16600 sq. km area under forests also function as conservation area.

(b) As per the State of Forest Report 1999 there is no increase in forest cover in Manipur during the period 1995 to 1998.

(c) and (d) Achievements of afforestation carried out in Manipur during 1997-98 and 1998-99 are 4403 and 6197 hectare respectively. The targets for afforestation in Manipur during 1999-2000 was 12,000 hectare.

[Translation]

Basic Facilities for Promotion of Sports

3447. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA : Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state :

(a) the scheme formulated by the Government to provide basic facilities for development of sports in the country;

(b) the number and names of basic facilities already provided to the States out of the Central assistance provided and the amount of Central assistance likely to be provided to the States during the current year, State-wise;

(c) whether the Union Government propose to provide financial assistance to the States for participating in the 6th National Games in the year 2000; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN) : (a) Central assistance, on matching basis subject to prescribed ceilings, for the approved sports projects is provided under the schemes of (i) Grants for Creation of Sports Infrastructure and (ii) Grant for Installation of Synthetic Playing Surfaces. Finance assistance of upto Rs. 1.50 lakh, without any matching contribution, is also provided to Rural Schools for development of play field and purchase of sports equipment under the Scheme of Grants to Rural Schools.

(b) State-wise details of assistance provided the last three years under the above schemes are placed at Statement-I, II and III. No State-wise earmarking of outlay is made and the budget provision of Rs. 18.50 crore for these schemes during 2000-2001 is expected to be released to the States/UTs for the approved projects.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Statement-I

Sl. No.	State/UT	No./details of projects for which Central assistance provided during the last 3 years viz 1997-98 to 1999-2000			
		Sports Complex	Stadia	Swimming Pool	Play-field
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1	–	–	–
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	–	1	–	–
3.	Assam	1	2	–	1
4.	Bihar	1	–	–	1
5.	Delhi	–	2	–	–
6.	Gujarat	–	3	1	2
7.	Haryana	–	2	3	–
8.	Himachal Pradesh	1	3	2	7

1	2	3	4	5	6
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	–	2	–	1
10.	Karnataka	–	16	–	10
11.	Kerala	–	4	1	9
12.	Madhya Pradesh	1	6	–	–
13.	Maharashtra	–	6	3	1
14.	Manipur	–	1	–	–
15.	Mizoram	–	9	–	–
16.	Nagaland	3	2	–	–
17.	Punjab	–	5	1	–
18.	Rajasthan	–	4	1	6
19.	Sikkim	–	1	–	4
20.	Tripura	1	1	1	–
21.	Tamilnadu	1	1	2	7
22.	Uttar Pradesh	1	1	1	–
23.	West Bengal	–	–	–	1
24.	Chandigarh	1	–	–	–
25.	Daman and Diu	–	1	–	–
	Total	12	73	16	48

Statement-II

Sl. No.	State/UT	No. of Synthetic Track/Surfaces for which Central assistance released		
		1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Delhi	2	–	3
2.	Himachal Pradesh	–	1	–
3.	Jammu & Kashmir	1	–	–
4.	Karnataka	4	2	–
5.	Madhya Pradesh	–	1	–
6.	Maharashtra	–	2	–
7.	Manipur	2	–	–
8.	Punjab	1	–	3
9.	Tamilnadu	1	–	–
10.	Uttar Pradesh	2	–	1
11.	West Bengal	–	1	–
12.	Chandigarh	–	–	1
	Total	13	7	8

Statement-III

Sl. No.	State/UT	No. of Schools provided Central assistance for basic Sports facilities		
		1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	–	–	1
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	–	8	1
3.	Assam	7	7	8
4.	Bihar	–	–	–
5.	Goa	–	–	5
6.	Gujarat	3	–	4
7.	Haryana	–	2	2
8.	Himachal Pradesh	5	1	1
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	2	1	5
10.	Karnataka	1	1	2
11.	Kerala	–	11	7
12.	Madhya Pradesh	–	6	12
13.	Maharashtra	–	–	2
14.	Manipur	–	5	6
15.	Meghalaya	–	–	–
16.	Mizoram	–	–	–
17.	Nagaland	1	12	6
18.	Orissa	6	2	2
19.	Punjab	–	–	3
20.	Rajasthan	1	2	2
21.	Sikkim	–	–	–
22.	Tamilnadu	–	9	11
23.	Tripura	5	6	5
24.	Uttar Pradesh	1	5	24

1	2	3	4	5
25.	West Bengal	–	1	42
26.	Delhi	–	–	1
UTs				
1.	A and N Islands	–	–	–
2.	Chandigarh	–	–	–
3.	Dadar and Nagar Haveli	–	–	–
4.	Daman and Diu	–	–	–
5.	Pondicherry	–	–	–
6.	Lakshadweep	–	–	–
	Total	33	79	152

Rabies Cases

3448. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE :
SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE :
SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI :
SHRI A. NARENDRA :
SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE :
SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL :
DR. SANJAY PASWAN :
SHRI SHIVAJI MANE :
DR. S. JAGATHRAKSHAKAN :

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

(a) whether rabies are becoming a major health problem in the country;

(b) if so, the number of persons died and undergone post exposure treatment during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(c) the total demand and supply of rabies vaccine in the country at present;

(d) whether there are shortage of rabies vaccine (Immunoglobulin) in the country;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether CRI, Kasauli is the only institute for producing two vaccines;

(g) if so, the details of vaccines produced by CRI alongwith the total quantity proposed every year separately; and

(h) the further steps taken by the Government to provide and ensure adequate supply of these vaccines as per demand in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (PROF. RITA VERMA) : (a) to (h) Central Bureau of Health Intelligence is compiling the reported cases of rabies/dog bites and deaths due to rabies. A statement furnished by them indicating the reported cases of rabies/dog bites and death due to rabies for the past three years is enclosed.

The demand of anti-rabies vaccine is based on the indents placed by the States/Union Territories to the different vaccine production institutions. The production is regulated accordingly. An average of 35 million ml of the nervous tissue vaccine (NTV) is being produced in 10 public sector institutions in the country. About 30 lakh doses of purified chick embryo cell vaccine (tissue culture anti-rabies vaccine) are produced in private sector institute. Nervous tissue vaccine (NTV) is available free of cost in anti-rabies treatment centres in the Government set up throughout the country.

Tissue Culture Anti Rabies Vaccine (TCARV) based on newer technology is being manufactured in the public sector unit of National Dairy Development Board (Deptt. of Animal Husbandary and Dairying) at Udagamandalam. It is likely to be manufactured at Pasteur Institute of India, Coonoor, public sector unit under Ministry of Health and Family Welfare shortly.

At present Anti Rabies Serum (Immunoglobulin) is being produced only at Central Research Institute, Kasuali. All indentors have been supplied ARV/ARS by the institute. Imported purified equine rabies immunoglobulins (ERIG) and human rabies immunoglobulin (HRIG) are also available but not used in all cases because of their high cost and erratic supply.

The production of Anti Rabies Vaccine and Anti Rabies Serum at Central Research Institute, Kasauli is as under :–

	Actual Production (in millilitres)		Proposed Production (in millilitres)	
	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002
Anti Rabies Vaccine (NTV)	63,69,500	63,64,400	75,00,000	75,00,000
Anti Rabies Serum	1,29,000	2,22,800	2,50,000	2,50,000

Statement

Statement showing dog bite cases and deaths due to RABIES during 1997

Sl. No.	State/UT	Rabies/Dog-Bites	
		Cases	Deaths
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	375	78
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0
3.	Assam	148	4
4.	Bihar		
5.	Goa	1	2
6.	Gujarat	31	2
7.	Haryana	3	0
8.	Himachal Pradesh	0	0
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	479	@
10.	Karnataka	7125	34
11.	Kerala	62	5
12.	Madhya Pradesh	596	4
13.	Maharashtra	130	130
14.	Manipur	0	0
15.	Meghalaya	264	0
16.	Mizoram	0	0
17.	Nagaland	66	0
18.	Orissa	160	8
19.	Punjab		
20.	Rajasthan	1953	5
21.	Sikkim	0	0
22.	Tamil Nadu	111	5
23.	Tripura	0	0
24.	Uttar Pradesh	95	93
25.	West Bengal	262	262
26.	A and N Islands	0	0
27.	Chandigarh	1	0
28.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0	0
29.	Daman and Diu	0	0
30.	Delhi	198	48
31.	Lakshadweep	0	0
32.	Pondicherry	11	5
	Total (All India)	12071	655

@ Data not reported.

.. Data not received.

Data is provisional and not comparable due to ill - defined coverage.

Source : Monthly Health Condition Reports of States/UTs (Dis of Health Services) as reported by CBHI.

Note : The figures represent updated data by CBHI as on 7/8/2000.

Statement showing dog bite cases and deaths due to RABIES during 1998

Sl. No.	State/UT	Rabies/Dog-Bites	
		Cases	Deaths
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	377	104
2.	Arunachal Pradesh		
3.	Assam	36	0
4.	Bihar		
5.	Goa	0	7
6.	Gujarat	5	1
7.	Haryana	1	0
8.	Himachal Pradesh	2	1
9.	Jammu and Kashmir*	142	@
10.	Karnataka	9205	36
11.	Kerala	106	16
12.	Madhya Pradesh$	423	0
13.	Maharashtra	69	69
14.	Manipur	0	0
15.	Meghalaya	398	0
16.	Mizoram	1	0
17.	Nagaland**	210	2
18.	Orissa	159	9

1	2	3	4
19.	Punjab	0	0
20.	Rajasthan	722	3
21.	Sikkim	50	0
22.	Tamil Nadu	70	13
23.	Tripura	21	2
24.	Uttar Pradesh	245	91
25.	West Bengal	188	188
26.	A and N Islands	0	0
27.	Chandigarh	..	
28.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli$$	1	0
29.	Daman and Diu	0	0
30.	Delhi	138	18
31.	Lakshadweep	0	0
32.	Pondicherry	6	6
	Total (All India)	12575	566

@ Data not reported.

.. Data not received.

Data is provisional and not comparable due to ill - defined coverage.

* Only Kashmir Div.

** Data for Aug. 1998 not received.

$ Data for Oct. 98 not received.

$$ Data for July and Aug. 98 not received.

Source : Monthly Health Condition Reports of States/UTs (Dis of Health Services) as reported by CBHI.

Note : The figures represent updated data by CBHI as on 7/8/2000.

Statement showing dog bite cases and deaths due to RABIES during 1999

Sl. No.	State/UT	Ref. Period from Jan.	Rabies/Dog Bites					
			Cases			Deaths		
			Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Andhra Pradesh	November		..	577		..	70
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	N.R.						
3.	Assam	N.R.						
4.	Bihar	N.R.						
5.	Goa	December	0	0	0	1	1	2
6.	Gujarat	December (Except Mar. to June)	21	5	29	5	3	8
7.	Haryana	N.R.						
8.	Himachal Pradesh	November	0	0	0	0	0	0
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	September	..	..	271	0	0	0
10.	Karnataka	August	644	388	1032	26	8	34
11.	Kerala	December	146	103	249	14	4	18
12.	Madhya Pradesh	Jan., March, April	17	12	29	0	0	0
13.	Maharashtra	December	51	22	73	51	22	73
14.	Manipur	December	0	0	0	0	0	0
15.	Meghalaya	December	44	10	251	0	0	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
16.	Mizoram	October	..	..	1	0	0	0
17.	Nagaland	January to November (Except Feb)	4	0	62	0	0	0
18.	Orissa	N.R.						
19.	Punjab	N.R.						
20.	Rajasthan	Dec. (Except Sep.)	212	134	346	2	2	4
21.	Sikkim	N.R.			31	0	0	0
22.	Tamil Nadu	November			66			9
23.	Tripura	December	8	7	15	2	0	2
24.	Uttar Pradesh	August			48		..	2
25.	West Bengal	N.R.	0	0	0	0	0	0
26.	A and N Islands	December	0	0	0	0	0	0
27.	Chandigarh	N.R.	0	0	0	0	0	0
28.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	January	0	0	0	0	0	0
29.	Daman and Diu	December	0	0	0	0	0	0
30.	Delhi	September	4	0	4	1	0	1
31.	Lakshadweep	December	0	0	0	0	0	0
32.	Pondicherry	December	1	0	1	1	0	1
	Total (All India)		1152	681	3085	103	40	224

The sum of male and female may not tally with the total figure as some State/UTs have not reported genderwise information separately.

NR = Not Reported.

.. = Male/Female breakup is not available.

Data is provisional as reported by CBHI.

Note : The figures represent updated data by CBHI as on 7/8/2000.

Ointment for Wound

3449. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that Indian researchers have prepared an ointment from the formulation of synthetic polymer and Chittojhan which not only heals a wound but also removes the scar; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (PROF. RITA VERMA) : (a) and (b) Government is aware of any specific ointment of synthetic polymer and chittojhan formulation which heals wounds and also removes scars. However, an application was received by the Drug Controller (G)'s Office from M/s FDC Ltd., Mumbai in June, 1993, seeking marketing permission for Chitosan formulation but necessary clarifications/information sought from the party have not been received so far.

Effect of Cancer on Children

3450. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether about two lakhs children are affected by cancer every year in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the preventive steps taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (PROF. RITA VERMA) : (a) and (b) No reliable nation wide data on occurrence of paediatric cancer is available.

The major paediatric cancers includes leukemias, Wilm's tumors, retinoblastoma, brain cancer, lymphomas etc. The exact etiology of these cancers is not known. However, family history is important in retinoblastoma and leukemia. Down's syndrome and other chromosomal abnormalities, exposure to radiation are also important etiological factors for development of leukemias. AIDS and some other immunodeficiency states have been found to increase the risk of Hodgkins lymphoma. Epsterin-Barr virus infection is considered to be a risk factor for development of Hodgkin's disease.

(c) In order to combat this problem, the Government of India has launched the following scheme under national Cancer Control Programme for early detection, creating awareness and treatment of cancer :-

1. Upgradation of Regional Cancer Centres in various States/UTs.
2. Development of Oncology Wing in identified Medical Colleges/Hospitals.
3 Setting up of Cobalt Therapy facilities in various parts of the country.
4. District Cancer Control Programme
5. Financial assistance to NGOs for early detection and awareness activities.

Formulation of Scheme for Expansion of National Highways

3451. SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA :
SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA :
SHRI RAM SINGH KASWAN :
SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VERMA :

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated a scheme for expansion of National Highways in the country;

(b) if so, the extent to which the National Highways are likely to be expanded, State-wise;

(c) the funds allocated for the implementation of this scheme;

(d) whether the Government have also decided to link up the Sawai Madhopur in Rajasthan with the National Highway;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) and (b) Expansion of National Highways is a continuous process. Proposals received from various States are considered depending upon traffic needs, inter-se priority and availability of resources.

(c) Funds for the development of National Highways are provided as and when required depending on overall availability of resources.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) The proposal for new National Highways are considered keeping in view the traffic needs, their inter-se priority and overall availability of funds.

[English]

ACP for CGHS Pharmacists of Allopathic System of Medicine

3452. SHRI AKHILESH YADAV :
MOHAMMAD ANWARUL HAQUE :

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

(a) whether 1st and IInd ACP are granted on completion of 12 years and 24 years of regular service, to the CGHS Pharmacists of Allopathic System of Medicine in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) the reasons for the grant of 1st and IInd ACP to Ayurvedic Pharmacists and 1st ACP to Homoeopathic and Unani Pharmacists of CGHS;

(d) whether any proposal is under consideration of the Government to finalise the ACP of the CGHS Pharmacists;

(e) if so, the time by which it is likely to be finalised; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (PROF. RITA VERMA) : (a) and (b) Ist and IInd Assured Career Progression has not been granted to allopathic Pharmacists working under CGHS as certain clarification is awaited from the Department of Personnel and Training.

(c) In the cadre of the Ayurvedic, Homeopathic and Unani Pharmacists in CGHS, Assured Career Progression has been granted in these cadres as they fulfilled all the criteria prescribed under the scheme.

(d) to (f) Information has been furnished vide reply to (a) and (b) above.

Fungus in Unani Medicines

3453. DR. (SHRIMATI) SUDHA YADAV :
SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI :
SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI :

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

(a) whether the Government have received complaints regarding fungus in Unani medicines and excess of Unani medicines from Purchase Advisory Committee and the Inspection Committee of Unani medicines;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the matter has been investigated;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (PROF. RITA VERMA) : (a) No, Sir. No complaints have been received from Purchase Advisory Committee and the Inspection Committee of the Unani medicines regarding fungus in Unani medicines and excess of Unani medicines.

(b) to (f) In view of (a) above, the questions do not arise.

Post Offices in Orissa

3454. SHRI JAGANNATH MALLIK : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of new branch post offices/sub-post offices proposed to be opened in Orissa particularly in Jaipur and Kendrapara district during 2000-2001, district-wise; and

(b) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for improvement in postal services including modernisation of postal/mail offices in the State ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) The number of new branch post offices/sub-post offices proposed to be opened in Orissa particularly in Jaipur and Kendrapara districts during 2000-2001 are given district-wise in Statement-I attached.

(b) The steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for improvement in postal services including modernisation of postal/mail offices in the State are given in Statement-II attached.

Statement-I

District-wise details of New Branch Post Offices/ Sub-Post Offices proposed to be opened in Orissa particularly in Jajpur and Kendrapara Districts during 2000-2001

Sl. No.	Name of Division	District/s Covered	Branch Post Office	Sub Post Office
1.	Bolangir	Bolangir, Sonepur	1	–
2.	Dhenkanal	Dhenkanal, Angul	1	–
3.	Sundargarh	Sundargarh	1	–
4.	Kalahandi	Kalahandi, Naupara	2	–
5.	Korapur	Korapur, Rayagada Malkangiri, Nowrangpur	1	–
6.	Balasore	Balasore	1	–
7.	Cuttack North	Kendrapara, Jajpur	1	–
8.	Cuttack South	Cuttack, Jajpur Jaisinghpur	1	–
9.	Puri	Puri, Nayagarh, Khurda	1	–
10.	Bhubaneswar	Khurda, Puri	–	2
		Total	10	2

Statement-II

Steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for improvement in Postal Services including modernisation of Postal/Mail Offices in Orissa

(a) **Steps Taken to Modernise the Offices :**

1. 46 Post Offices and 7 Mail offices have been modernised upto 31.3.2000.
2. 32 Extended Satellite Money Order Stations have been installed upto 31.3.2000.
3. 6 VSATs have been installed upto 31.2.2000.
4. 3 Computerised Registration Centres and one Transit Mail Office have been computerised upto 31.2.2000.

(b) **Steps Proposed to be taken during Current Financial Year :**

1. Bolangir, Keonjhar, Korapur, Khurda and Sundargarh Head Post Offices and Bhadrak RMS and Jajpur Road RMS have been proposed for modernisation during the current financial year.
2. 46 multi purpose counter Machines are proposed to be installed in post offices in Orissa.
3. 6 Offices are proposed for total computerisation.

Monitoring of Pollution

3455. SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH :
SHRI RAMCHANDRA PASWAN :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of existing Boards/committeè/panels to monitor the pollution situation in Delhi;

(b) their respective areas of functioning;

(c) whether the Goverment have made any reivew of multiple authority system to assess the achievement of the objective or otherwise; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) : (a) and (b) In order to implement the various provisions relating to prevention and control of pollution in Delhi, the Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) has been constituted and is working under the administrative control of Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi. The Central Pollution Control Board primarily is a National Level Organisation, monitoring the pollution level in Delhi also. To monitor implementation of the action plan for pollution control, the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India has constituted the Environment Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority for National Capital Region. The Authority has been empowered to perform functions which include :-

(i) exercise powers under section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 in respect of standards for the quality of environment, standards for emissions of environment pollutants from various sources, etc.;

(ii) verification and remedy of complaints relating to environmental pollution; and

(iii) take necessary steps for controlling vehicular pollution particularly to ensure complaints of specified emission standards by vehicles.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Korean Ship at Kandla Port

3456. SHRI RAMCHANDRA PASWAN : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether any decision has been taken by the Government with regard to the Korean Ship detained at Kandla Port last year alleged to be carrying missile manufacturing equipment; and

(b) if so, the details thereof stating the destination towards the ship was heading ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) and (b) A North Korean ship "M.V. kuwolson" was detained by Customs authorities, Kandla on 1st July, 1999 for security reasons. The vessel was arrested by the Mercantile Marine Department on 2nd July, 1999 for rectification of certain deficiencies. After its release by the Customs and Mercantile Marine Department authorities, the vessel was released from Port on 4.2.2000. As per the NOC issued, the next Port of call of the ship was Singapore.

Programmes for Eradication of Malaria

3457. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the programmes launched by the Government for the eradication of malaria in the country;

(b) the details of programmes that are cent percent Centrally financed; and

(c) the amount spent for malaria eradication in the country during the last three years, State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (PROF. RITA VERMA) : (a) and (b) For control of malaria, a National Programme namely National Anti Malaria Programme (NAMP) is being implemented in the country generally as a category-II Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Cost sharing basis between the Centre and the States. Under the Programme, the Central Govt. provides assistance in kind in the form of drugs, insecticides, larvicides, equipments etc. The States are to meet the operational cost and other expenses. However, for the North Eastern States, this Programme is 100% centrally funded since December, 1994.

In addition, an Enhanced Malaria Control Project (EMCP) with World Bank support, essentially covering 100 predominantly tribal highly malaria endemic districts of 7 peninsular States, namely Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Orissa, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan and 19 cities/towns (having high endemicity of Malaria in these States and in the State of Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal) is being implemented since September, 1997. This Project aims at intensifying malaria control activities by way of additional inputs through a mix of interventions.

The specific strategy adopted for control of Malaria under the NAMP incldues :-

- Early Case Detection and Prompt Treatment (EDPT) through use of newer drugs and Rapid Diagnostic Kits.
- Selective Vector control including use of Synthetic Pyrethroids in rural areas and Biolarvicides in urban areas.
- Promotion of personal protection methods by use of Medicated Mosquito Nets (MMNs).
- Early detection and containment of epidemics.
- Information, Education and Communication for active community mobilization and participation.
- Institutional Management and Capacity Building, manpower development throguh intensive re-orientation training programmes at all levels and efficient Management Information System (MIS).

(c) The requisite information is given in enclosed Statement.

Statement

Expenditure Incurred by Central Government under National Anti Malaria Programme (NAMP) during 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Name of State	1997-98 Expenditure	1998-99 Expenditure	1999-2000 Expenditure
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	617	482.93	663.5
Arunachal Pradesh	297.5	186.61	229.22
Assam	2618	2170.42	2616.72
Bihar	348.98	403.05	578.66
Goa	5.18	7.72	4.54
Gujarat	726.77	611.11	349.95
Haryana	291.08	260.39	160.95
Himachal Pradesh	90.84	51.47	92.45
Jammu and Kashmir	78.62	72.57	103.39
Karnataka	568.62	264.47	229.29
Kerala	63.6	102.73	49.63
Madhya Pradesh	1072.77	454.49	443.28
Maharashtra	1028.44	260.26	181.51
Manipur	273.91	377.34	219.53
Meghalaya	196.96	231.55	212.27
Mizoram	132	172.53	190.05
Nagaland	212.62	183.34	308.33
Orissa	233.43	385.14	436.17
Punjab	183.26	290.67	148.45
Rajasthan	1799.74	1994.15	1075.71
Sikkim	1.77	8.47	7.9
Tamil Nadu	204.88	240.72	114.19
Tripura	414.05	356.97	379.31
Uttar Pradesh	505.73	1121.92	527.8

1	2	3	4
West Bengal	125.71	330.9	501.99
A and N Island	93.83	155.68	111.28
Chandigarh	48.53	44.3	34.35
D and N Haveli	24.75	24.9	34.85
Daman and Diu	12.37	10.08	12.97
Delhi	66.04	37.21	20.1
Lakshadweep	3.48	5.24	5.82
Pondicherry	12.48	6.15	11.28
Total	12352.94	11305.48	10055.44

Aluva-Angamali included in Expressways Programme

3458. SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has included Aluva-Angamali stretch into four lane under phase-II programme of Expressways;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to start its work; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

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

(b) to (d) The project will cover a length of 16.60 km and is estimated to cost Rs. 66.40 crores. The work is likely to be awarded during the current financial year.

Environment Protection Project

3459. SHRI C.P. RADHAKRISHNAN : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state the total funds allocated for "Environment Conservation/ Protection Project" to various States during the last two years and current year, State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) : Funds released to various States for protection/conservation of Environment and Forests during the last two years and current year is given in the Statement attached.

Statement

Funds released to various States for protection/ conservation of Environment and Forests

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Sl.No.	States	Financial Achievement		
		1998-99	1999-2000	2000-2001
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	422.38	1221.16	483.99
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	146.76	198.44	30.40
3.	Assam	331.84	364.57	0.00
4.	Bihar	356.23	683.82	131.96
5.	Delhi	200.00	125.00	0.00
6.	Goa	33.89	48.28	36.38
7.	Gujarat	637.60	2837.61	730.05
8.	Haryana	3096.38	1879.97	278.12
9.	Himachal Pradesh	177.04	386.19	121.09
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	547.06	587.19	288.42
11.	Karnataka	894.27	1924.62	423.29
12.	Kerala	872.55	751.02	403.83
13.	Madhya Pradesh	2392.40	3017.17	688.43
14.	Maharashtra	346.25	772.54	344.08
15.	Manipur	566.59	797.21	302.81
16.	Meghalaya	12.00	22.21	20.00
17.	Mizoram	359.82	490.53	188.91
18.	Nagaland	34.23	67.17	125.64
19.	Orissa	535.19	741.52	918.07
20.	Punjab	581.66	1355.49	126.80
21.	Rajasthan	1436.31	1226.98	581.75
22.	Sikkim	359.93	325.97	145.20
23.	Tamil Nadu	401.04	948.72	127.63
24.	Tripura	155.86	97.99	75.41
25	Uttar Pradesh	6358.25	8011.77	287.38
26	West Bengal	1601.94	1468.22	418.39
27	A and N Islands	14.98	44.42	13.00
28	Chandigarh	0.00	28.00	0.00

1	2	3	4	5
29	Lakhsadweep	0.00	13.00	12.00
30	Pondicherry	0.00	0.00	20.12

Post Offices in Buldhana

3460. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of post offices functioning in Buldhana district;

(b) whether these post offices are sufficient to meet the requirement of local people;

(c) if not, whether the Government have received any proposal for opening of new post office in the district; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) There are 351 Post Offices functioning in Buldhana District, details of which are given below :

1.	Head Post Offices	2
2.	Departmental Sub Post Offices	36
3.	Extra Deptt. Sub Post Offices	8
4.	Extra-Deptt. Branch Post Offices	305

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) Two proposals for opening of Departmental Sub Offices have been received, one for Malkapur MIDC and the other for Khamgaon MIDC in Buldhana District. Post offices are opened as and when found justified as per departmental norms. This is further subject to availability of funds and sanctioning of posts by Ministry of Finance.

Proposal from Singapore Airlines

3461. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE :
SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI :
SHRI SHIVAJI MANE :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Singapore Airlines has submitted a proposal to the Government to direct flights to and from Hyderabad and Bangalore;

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

(c) whether Singapore Airlines also propose to increase flights from Delhi and Mumbai;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) and (b) During the last round of bilateral talks at Government level held in July, 1997, the Government of Singapore had sought Thiruvananthapuram, Bangalore and Hyderabad as additional points of call to their designated airlines. As a part of the overall package agreed at these talks, Thiruvananthapuram was granted as an additional point of call to the designated airline of Singapore.

(c) to (e) The Government of Singapore has requested for bilateral discussions for enhancement of existing air traffic rights between India and Singapore. These discussions are yet to be held.

[Translation]

Death of Children Due to AIDS

3462. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of children died due to AIDS/HIV during the last two years, State-wise; and

(b) the measures being contemplated by the Government to save the children from AIDS/HIV infection ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (PROF. RITA VERMA) : (a) The number of adults and children reported to have died due to AIDS/HIV is given in enclosed Statement. However, age wise deaths report is not maintained so far.

(b) Besides, the comprehenisve Nation wide AIDS Control Programme being implemented in the country, the following specific measures have been taken by the Government :-

- Government of India has initiated a pilot project for prevention of mother to child transmission of HIV infection (MTCT) in 11 centres spread over 5 high HIV prevalent States in the country, namely, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Manipur.

- The Street children have been identified as one of the major groups to be targeted for preventing the spread of HIV infection. A comprehensive strategy of Behaviour change communication,

counselling provision of health services and empowering them by creating an enabling environment for sustained change of behaviour is being implemented.

Statement

Death Due to HIV/AIDS

Sl.No.	State/UT	1998	1999
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	6	–
2.	Assam	1	–
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	–	–
4.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	–	–
5.	Bihar	–	–
6.	Chandigarh	12	5
7.	Punjab	–	–
8.	Delhi	4	–
9.	Daman and Diu	–	–
10.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	–	–
11.	Goa	1	2
12.	Gujarat	4	–
13.	Haryana	–	–
14.	Himachal Pradesh	–	–
15.	Jammu and Kashmir	–	–
16.	Karnataka	34	6
17.	Kerala	4	–
18.	Lakshadweep	–	–
19.	Madhya Pradesh	12	9
20.	Maharashtra	82	13
21.	Manipur	–	4
22.	Mizoram	–	–
23.	Meghalaya	–	–
24.	Nagaland	–	2
25.	Orissa	–	–
26.	Pondicherry	4	1
27.	Rajasthan	1	–
28.	Sikkim	–	–
29.	Tamil Nadu	18	71
30.	Tripura	–	–
31.	Uttar Pradesh	–	1
32.	West Bengal	2	–
	Total	217	114

[English]

Setting up of a Centre of Naturopathy at Kanyakumari

3463. DR. A.D.K. JAYASEELAN : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a centre for naturopathy at Kanyakumari;

(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 (PROF. RITA VERMA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Health being a State subject, it is for the State Government of Tamil Nadu to set up such an Institute. However, the Central Council for Research in Yoga and Naturopathy, New Delhi, an autonomous organisation under this Ministry has schemes for providing grant-in-aid to Naturopathy Centres.

Ganga Action Plan

3464. SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether major amount remained unspent due to slow progress in the execution under MH-3435 Ganga Action Plan Phase-I;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(c) the measures taken by the Government to implement the schemes under Ganga Action Plan Phase-I to make Ganga clean ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. Against the approved cost

of Rs. 462.04 crore of the Ganga Action Plan Phase-I, an expenditure of Rs. 451.70 crore has been incurred. The Ganga Action Plan Phase-I has been declared closed since 31.3.2000.

(c) To implement the scheme of Ganga Action Plan Phase-I, 261 Schemes of pollution abatement concerning municipal activities were taken up. These include 88 schemes of interception and diversion to capture the raw sewage flowing into the river through open drains, 35 schemes of sewage treatment plants for treatment of 873 million litres of captured sewage per day, 43 schemes of low cost toilets to prevent open defecation on river banks, 28 schemes of electric crematorium, 35 river front development schemes for improvement of bathing ghats and 32 other miscellaneous schemes. Of these, 258 schemes have been completed. Of the remaining 3 schemes of sewage treatment plants, two are Bihar and one in West Bengal. The schemes are likely to be completed by December, 2000. A sewage treatment capacity of 835 million litres per day has been created under the programme so far with the setting up of 32 sewage treatment plants.

[Translation]

Forest Destroyed by Illegal Mining

3465. SHRI RAMANAND SINGH : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether illegal mining of Bauxite oakar and Stones are goint on in the forest range of Majhgawan, Barondha and Chitrakuta and Parasmania in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether illegal mining has destroyed the forest considerably and the environment of the region is being polluted;

(d) the number of incidents of illegal mining detected during the year 1999-2000 and 2000-2001; and

(e) the steps taken to check the illegal mining by the environment and forest department ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) : (a) to (e) The responsibility of protecting the forests against illegal mining and other prohibitive activities under the Indian Forest Act vests with the State Government. The cases of illegal mining, illegal felling and encroachment are also dealt by the State Government. The Ministry has received 23 complaints regarding illegal mining in Satna District of Madhya Pradesh where the forest range of Majhgawan, Barondha and Chitrkuta and Parasmania are situated. These complaints have been referred to the State Government for action.

[English]

Marine Engineering and Research Institute, Calcutta

3466. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any representation from MPs regarding the Marine Engineering and Research Institute, Calcutta;

(b) if so, the issue involved therein and demands made thereof; and

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

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

(b) and (c) Details of issues/demands raised by the Hon'ble Members of Parliament and action taken thereon are given in enclosed Statement.

Statement

Sl.No.	Issues/Demands raised by the MPs	Action taken by the Government
1	2	3
1.	The proposal of setting up of Indian Maritime University be transferred to the Ministry of Human Resources Development.	The Committee on Maritime Education and Training (COMET) appointed in 1991 had recommended establishment of an autonomous body – Indian Maritime University (IMU). Thereafter, the Promoters Committee examined the feasibility of formation of the proposed – Indian Maritime Unverisity and recommended formation of a Society under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 as a first step and
2.	MERI, Calcutta should be covered to a "Deemed University".	

1	2	3
3.	The entire scheme including the fate and future of the staff should be provided to Marine Engineering and Research Institute Employees Association, Calcutta and its point of view obtained through formal meeting by the Govt.	bring all the existing Government maritime training institutes within its purview. Accordingly, 'in principle' approval has been accorded by the Government to establish an Indian Institute of Maritime Studies at Mumbai. However, before taking any decision on issues relating to transfer of employees to the proposed Society or Surplus Cell, a Committee has been set up to formulate the detailed terms and conditions of employment in the proposed society so as to facilitate option to the employees to join the proposed society.
4.	Imparting training to Private Ship owners organisation officials in MERI and depositing fees charged from them to the Consolidated Fund of India ?	The training to Apprentice Trainee Engineeers of M/s Essar Sisco Shipmanagement Co. Ltd., Chennai, was imparted at MERI with the approval of the Government and the component of fees was remitted to the Consolidated Fund of India.

International Carriers

3467. SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether International carriers have to take permission from the Director-General of Civil Aviation for giving any discounts to the passengers; and

(b) if so, the reasons for having such a control in a liberalized eoncomy?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) and (b) International airlines are permitted to file special discounted fares with the Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), which will be deemed to be approved if not rejected within 48 hours by the DGCA. The existing procedure is therefore sufficiently liberal.

Achievements of Health Programmes

3468. SHRI G.J. JAVIYA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the target fixed for the health programmes has been achieved;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have formulated any plan to make the health programmes successful;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the steps taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (PROF. RITA VERMA) : (a) to (e) There have been significant achievements as a result of implementation of different health programmes. Guineaworm has been eradicated; prevalence of leprosy brought down from 57/10,000 population in 1981 to 5.28/10,000 in March, 2000; morbidity and mortality on account of malaria contained; cure rate under Revised National Tuberculosis Programme significantly improved; polio virtually eradicated; and coverage of mother and children with Reporductive and Child Health Programme expanded in a substantial manner.

The non-achievement of desired levels of success in some cases can be attributed to lack of awareness among the people in availing of health services particularly the preventive measures, remoteness of certain areas, illiteracy, poverty etc.

Central Government has been making every effort to augment the resources for the health sector by mobilising external assistance from bilateral and multilateral agencies for implementation of National Health Programmes for Malaria, TB, Leprosy, Blindness and AIDS.

The programmes are being constantly reviewed to improve implementation. Attention is also being given to increasing public awareness through information, education and communication activities.

AIDS Cases

3469. SHRI C. KUPPUSAMI :
SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU :
DR. S. JAGATHRAKSHAKAN :

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

(a) whether any perspective integrated plan for fighting and controlling the AIDS menace has been prepared involving the NGOs;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, whether the Government propose to formulate any plan involving all the agencies concerned to control HIV/AIDS in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government have also provided adequate funds separately for this purpose during each of the last three years alongwith its target and the achievement made so far in this regard;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (PROF. RITA VERMA) : (a) to (g) A comprehensive programme to prevent and control the spread of HIV/AIDS in India is currently under implementation throughout the country as a centrally sponsored scheme. The main components of the Programme are :-

(i) Reducing the spread of HIV in groups at high risk by identification of target population and providing peer counselling, condom promotion, treatment of sexually transmitted infections.

(ii) Preventive intervention for the general population by Information, Education and Communication (IEC) and awareness compaign, provision of voluntary testing and counselling safe blood transfusion services and prevention of occupational exposure.

(iii) Providing financial assistance for opportunistic infections, home and community based care.

(iv) Strengthening effectiveness and technical managerial, financial sustainability at National, State and Municipal levels.

A number of NGOs from all over the country are being associated in the programme, wherever required. Financial assistance for some model/pilot project is being provided to the NGOs directly by National AIDS Control Organisation. Similar assistance is also being made available at State/Regional levels through State AIDS Control Societies.

A Statement-I indicating fund sanctioned to NGOs from 1997-98 directly by NACO and another Statement-II indicating funds released to State AIDS Control Societies for taking up targetted interventions are enclosed.

The various activities taken by the NACO have resulted in raising the awareness level among general population thereby reducing the spread of the infection. According to a recent survey, the awareness levels have gone up from 68% to 94% in some of the urban areas and 9% to 35% in rural areas.

Statement-I

Grant-in-aid released to NGOs during 1997-98 by NACO

Sl. No.	Name of the Organisation	Area of Work	Amount Released (In Rs.)
1	2	3	4
1.	Bhoruka Pubic Welfare Trust, Futani Chambers, Gate no. 5, Corporation Place, Calcutta-700087	Intervention programme with truck drivers	10,92,332
2.	Vivekanada Education Society, 13/3, Kalicharan Dutta Road, Calcutta-700061	Telephonic counselling serivces	4,20,000
3.	Child in Need Institute, Calcutta	Telephonic counselling serivces	2,20,500

1	2	3	4
4.	Durbar Mahila Samanvaya Committee, 8/2, Bhawani Dutta Lane, Calcutta-700073	Naitonal Workshop for sex workers	50,000
5.	Rajasthan, U.P., Catholic Health Association, CHAI, Zonal Office, CBCI Center, Gole Dakhana, New Delhi	Wokshop on AIDS awareness	30,000
6.	Inner Wheel Club, A/310, Defence Colony, New Delhi	Wokshop on AIDS awareness	15,000
7.	TORCH, Flat No. 45, Friends Colony East, New Delhi-110065	Intervention programme with taxi drivers	1,40,000
8.	Jan Shakti Vahini, A/139, Shivalika, Malviya Nagar, New Delhi	Workshop on AIDS awareness with college students	5,000
9.	Jan Shakti Vahini	Awareness programme in slum areas of NCT of Delhi	2,40,000
10	Mirage Gallery of Arts, 155, Defence Colony Flyover Market, New Delhi	Exhibition cum sale, 'Art for AIDS'	1,87,500
11.	Mirage Gallery of Arts	Exhibition cum sale, 'Art for AIDS'	1,87,500
12.	Rajiv Gandhi Foundation, Jawahar Bhawan, Dr. Rajindra Prasad Road, New Delhi	Mobile counselling service on HIV/AIDS	2,94,000
13.	Rajiv Gandhi Foundation	Workshop with practitioners of Indigenous System of Medicine	1,76,000
14.	TORCH, Flat No. 45, Friends Colony	Telephonic	6,31,500

Grant-in-aid released to NGOs during 1998-99 by NACO

Sl. No.	Name and Address of the Organisation	Area of Work	Amount Released (In Rs.)
1	2	3	4
1.	Model Counselling Center, Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi	Provision of counselling services in the Department of Skin and STDs in the Safdarjung Hospital	3,70,200
2.	CINI, Vill. Daulatpur, South 24 Paraganas, West Bengal	Telephone counselling services	2,20,500
3.	TORCH, 45, Frends Colony, East, Flat No. 2, New Delhi-65	Telephone counselling services	2,19,500
4.	Sulabh International Institute of Health and Hygiene, Sulabh Bhawan, Mahavir Encalve, Palam Dabri Road, New Delhi	Distribution of condoms through Sulabh Toilet Complexes	5,05,000

1	2	3	4
5.	OSERD, North Patel Nagar, Patna	Telephonic Counselling Services	4,94,000
6.	Prayas, D-1/1017, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi	Comprehensive AIDS Prevention Programme through awareness, counselling and treatment of STDs with street children	4,49,944
7.	Voluntary Health Association of India, 40 Institutional Area, New Delhi	Distribution of Ananth-Video film on AIDS and educational material on HIV/AIDS to NGOs across the country	1,43,360
8.	Drishtikon, 1207, Sector-D, Pocket-I, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi-70	Provision of Reproductive health care services to migrant workers and their wives in Sagarpur, West Delhi	5,01,500
	Total		29,04,004

Funds Sanctioned to NGOs Directly by NACO in 1999-2000

Sl.No.	Name of the NGO	1999-2000 (Rs. in lakhs)
1.	Prayas, Delhi	7,07,044
2.	Sulabh International Delhi	51,000
3.	Drishtikon, Delhi	9,47,500
4.	TORCH, Delhi	2,85,100
5.	NGO AIDS Forum, Delhi (Safdarjung Counselling Centre)	6,36,000
6.	OSERD, Patna	51,036
	Total	26,77,680

Funds Sanctioned to NGOs by NACO for Setting up Community Care Centres

Sl.No.	Name of the NGO	1999-2000 (Rs. in lakhs)
1.	Ms. Sahara, Delhi	19,48,000
2.	Ms. Freedon Foundation, Bangalore	19,48,000
3.	SHALOM, Churachandpur, Manipur	19,48,740
4.	Leprosy Patients Welfare Society, Imphal	19,48,740
5.	Bel-Air Hopsital Panchaghani, Maharashtra State	40,23,800
6.	SXEHADAAN, Bangalore	19,48,740
	Total	1,37,65,020

Statement-II

Statement of Number of Targeted Intervention Projects and Estimated Expenditure

State	No. of Targeted Interventions	Total Amount Sanctioned in Rs. in lakhs
1	2	3
Andaman and Nicobar	Nil	
Ahmedabad	8 DFID Funded	59.60
Andhra Pradesh	31 NACO Funded	200.50
	22 DFID Funded	128.22
Arunachal Pradesh	Nil	
Assam	7	37.97
Bihar	Nil	
Chandigarh	7	31.72
Chennai	5 NACO Funded	25.58
	7 APAC Funded	46.82
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	Nil	
Daman and Diu	Nil	
Delhi	Nil	
Goa	4	19.274
Gujarat	35 DFID Funded	244.81
Haryana	9	64.27
Himachal Pradesh	4	11.63
Jammu and Kashmir	Nil	

1	2	3
Karnataka	12	85.46
Kerala	2 NACO Funded	17.33
	36 DFID Funded	299.50
Lakshadweep	Nil	
Madhya Pradesh	7	26.66
Maharashtra	21	89.67
Manipur	15	176.47
Meghalaya	Nil	
Mizoram	11	66.54
Mumbai	23	120.68
Nagaland	10	31.24
Orissa	7	53.77
Pondicherry	Nil	
Punjab	4	31.77
Rajasthan	11	59.57
Sikkim	2	3.89
Tripura	8	12.76
Tamil Nadu	39 NACO Funded	99.84
	24 APAC Funded	134.18
Uttar Pradesh	Nil	
West Bengal	9 NACO Funded	42.60
	17 DFID Funded	400.00
Total	397	1309.14

Funding Organisation	No. of Projects	Total Amount Rs. in lakhs
NACO Funded	248 Projects	1309.14
DFID Funded	118 Projects	1132.13
APAC Funded	31 Projects	181.00
Total Targeted Intervention Projects	397 Projects	2622.27

[Translation]

Telephone Facility in Villages

3470. SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHARI : Will the Minister of COMMUICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to provide telephone facility in the villages of the Bulsar district of Gujarat;

(b) if so, the names of these villages alongwith the time by which it is likely to be provided; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) The Government proposes to provide telephone facility in all the villages of the country, including Bulsar district of Gujarat by March, 2002 with the joint efforts of private fixed services providers.

(b) and (c) 37 villages are proposed to be provided with telephone facility by the Department by 31st March, 2001 in Bulsar district of Gujarat as per details given in the Statement. Remaining villages are planned to be covered by private fixed service provider.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of place where new exchange is proposed	Village likely to be covered
1.	Eklera	Nahuli, Punat, Jamburi, Mohan, Karambeli
2.	Zaroli	Ankles, Nagwas, Mandigam, Talwada, Dhanoli
3.	Kalwada	Algam, Segva, Pitha, Sarangpur, Marla, Thakkarwada, Khochwadi
4.	Faldhara	Faldhara, Vankal, Kachigam, Kosamkuva Velvach, Chinchai, Kardmati
5.	Kaprada	Dabakhel, Dinbari, Dipsi, Bilonria, Dabadi
6.	Motapondha	Ambheti, Sukhala, Chogadkuva, Vejvad, Kakadkoper, Ojar, Nimalo, Dunger

[English]

Rural Telephone Exchanges in Gulbarga

3471. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether many rural telephone exchanges in Gulbarga distirct (Karnataka) are not functioning properly because of very old equipments being in use;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to upgrade and modernise the said exchange in the district;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) All the rural telephone exchanges in Gulbarga district are state of art electronic exchanges and are working satisfactorily.

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

Upgradation of CGHS Infrastructure Network in Maharashtra

3472. SHRI NAMDEO HARBAJI DIWATHE :
SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK :

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

(a) whether the Government have recently reviewed the performance of CGHS in terms of physcial and financial targets fixed and achieved during the each three years in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the Government have formulated any action plan for the expansion strengthening and upgradation of CGHS infrastructure network in Maharashtra for the current year and the Ninth Plan period; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (PROF. RITA VERMA) : (a) No, Sir.

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

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. There is a proposal to open one Allopathic Dispensary at Wanorie range, Pune, one Allopathic Dispensary, one Ayurvedic Unit and one Homoeopathic Unit in Mumbai during 9th Five Year Plan yet due to constraints of resources and pending implementation of work study of ISM&h Dispensaries/Units by SIU, it will not be feasible to open any new Dispensary/ Unit for the present.

Ganga Action Plan

3473. SHRI SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the time by which the second phase of Ganga Action Plan in Varansi is likely to be commenced;

(b) whether necessary fund has also been sanctioned by the Government for the second phase;

(c) if so, the amount allocated therefor; and

(d) the details in regard to non-utilization of allocated fund ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) : (a) Differing views have been expressed by the Government of Uttar Pradesh and the Varanasi Nagar Nigam in the technological approach to the plan of implemenation of sewage diversion and treatment works in the second phase of Ganga Action Plan at Varansi. The State Government and the Varanasi Nagar Nigam are to finalise the choice of technology and sites for sewage treatment plants. Hence the implementation of the plan has not yet started.

(b) to (d) A provision of Rs. 45.06 crores has been made for works under the second phase of Ganga Action Plan at Varanasi. The provision includes allocations for works relating to (i) Sewage interception and diversion – Rs. 17.76 crores, (ii) river front development – Rs. 3.68 crores, (iii) improved and crematoria – Rs. 1.22 crores, (iv) sewage treatment plants – Rs. 11.27 crores and (v) minor miscellaneous works – Rs. 1.13 crores. Owing to delay in commencement of works and on account of sewage treatment being made more rigorous to ensure micorbial pollution control, it is expected that the requirement of funds may go up. No works have been sanctioned so far by the Ministry of Environment and Forests since the finalisation of detailed projects reports is yet to be completed by the State Government. This is the main reason for funds remaining unutilized in Varanasi.

[Translation]

Cargo and Passenger Ships

3474. SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of cargo and passenger ships in the cuontry;

(b) whether these are sufficient to cater the needs of the passengers going abroad and coming in the country and cargo related needs;

(c) if not, whether the Government are manufacturing and purchasing more ships; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) to (d) There are about 426 cargo vessels in Merchant fleet as on 1.7.2000 which includes 12 passenger-cum-cargo and 11 passenger ships. There is no passenger ship going abroad. The passenger ships and passenger-cum-cargo ships are plying on the Island Sectors of Andaman and Nicobar and Lakshadweep. These two Union Territories purchase passenger as well as passenger-cum-cargo vessels as per their requirement. Union Territory of Lakshadweep has placed an order with Cochin Shipyard Limited for the construction of two (2 No.) 150 passenger vessels and action has already been initiated to place another order for a 700 passenger-cum-cargo vessel with Hindustan Shipyard Limited. The Andaman and Nicobar Administration has placed orders for the construction of two 400 passenger vessels and 18 passenger vessels of 100 passenger capacity with Indian Shipyards.

[English]

Recovery from Shops by PGI, Chandigarh

3475. SHRI C.N. SINGH : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether PGI, Chandigarh has failed to recover water and electricity charges from the leased shops situated at its premises;

(b) if so, the total amount involved therein and the reasons for not recovering the same; and

(c) the steps taken to recover the outstanding amount from these shops ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (PROF. RITA VERMA) : (a) and (b) There are some outstanding dues from the licencees of the commercial sites/shops of the PGIMER on account of electricity charges. In cost of the cases, the amount charged has been disputed by the licencees. The outstanding amount, after re-assessment and taking into account recoveries made, works out to Rs. 14.66 lakhs in respect of 8 licencees, out of which Rs. 8.35 lakhs is outstanding from the Super Bazar.

(c) Individual electricity meters have been installed in each leased commerical site/shop of the Institute and the licencees are paying the electricity bills regularly. The actual outstanding amount raised against each commercial site has been recovered/is being recovered on the basis of average consumption as per new meters/sub-meters installed. In certain cases, notices under Public Premises, Act, 1971 are being issued for recovery of outstanding amounts.

[Translation]

Opening of Private Medical/ Dental Colleges

3476. YOGI ADITYA NATH : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to encourage private institutions to open medical/dental colleges in the country;

(b) if so, the details of policy guidelines formulated for this purpose thereof; and

(c) the details of private institutions permitted to open medical dental colleges during 1998-99 and 1999-2000, State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (PROF. RITA VERMA) : (a) The Central Government have been permitting opening of new medical dental colleges under the provisions of Indian Medical Council Act, 1956 and the Dentists Act, 1948 and the Regulations made thereunder. Under these provisions private sector is also eligible to apply for permission to open medical dental colleges in any State/ U.T.

(b) The detailed eligibility and qualifying criteria for seeking permission of the Central Government has been prescribed in the Regulations of Medical Counil of India Dental Council of India.

(c) Details are given in the enclosed Statement I and II.

Statement-I

Sl. No.	Name and Address of the Medical College	Date of Permission
1	2	3
1.	Mamtha Medical College, Khammam, A.P.	19.5.98
2.	Kamineni Medical College, Nalgunda, A.P.	23.4.99
3.	S.V.S. Society Medical College, Mahboobnagar, A.P.	30.11.99

1	2	3
4.	Narayana Medical College, Nellore, A.P.	17.4.2000
5.	Yenepoyo Medical College, Mangalore, Karnataka	6.5.99
6.	Fr. Muller's Medical College, Mangalore, Karnataka	1.7.99
7.	K.S. Hegde Academy Medical College, Mangalore, Karnataka	8.7.99
8.	Khaja Bandanawaj Medical College, Gulbarga, Karnataka	17.2.2000

Statement-II

Sl. No.	Name and Address of the Medical College	Date of Permission
1	2	3
1.	SRM Dental College, Chennai, Tamil Nadu	29.1.1998
2.	Sri Mookambika Institute of Dental Sciences, Kulsekhran, Kanayakumari, Tamil Nadu	17.2.2000
3.	Maratha Mandal's Dental College, Belgaum, Karnataka	17.2.1998
4.	Maaruthi College of Dental Sciences and Research Centre, Bangalore, Karnataka	30.7.1998
5.	Sri Venkateshwar Dental College, Bangalore, Karnatka	30.121998
6.	Coorg Institute of Dental Sciences, Virajpet, Karnataka	21.6.1999
7.	Saraswati Dental College, Lucknow, U.P.	31.7.1998
8.	Chaudhary Multan Singh Dental College Tundla, U.P.	17.2.2000
9.	Kothiwal Dental College and Research Centre, Moradabad, U.P.	30.12.1999
10.	D.J. College of Dental Sciences, Modinagar, U.P.	24.3.2000
11.	Avadh Institute of Dental Sciences, Lucknow, U.P.	2.5.2000
12.	Khalsa Dental College, Nangal Kalan, Punjab	19.8.1998
13.	BJS Dental College, Ludhiana, Punjab	2.9.1998
14.	Desh Bhagat Dental College, Muktsar, Punjab	5.4.2000
15.	MN DAV Dental College, Solan, H.P.	27.11.1998
16.	Bhojia Dental College, Nalagarh, H.P.	5.10.1999
17.	K.M. Shah Charitable Turst Dental College, Baroda, Gujarat	4.10.1999
18.	YMT Dental College, Navi Mumbai, Maharshtra	23.12.1999
19.	C.V.S. Krishnamurthy Teja Institute, Tirupati, A.P.	17.2.2000
20.	Modern Dental College, Indore, M.P.	6.3.2000
21.	Vazdi Educational Society's Dental College, Indore, M.P.	7.3.2000
22.	Darshan Dental College, Udaipur, Rajasthan	17.4.2000

Helicopter Services to Vaishno Devi and Amarnath

3477. SHRIMATI REENA CHOUDHARY :
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether helicopter service has been introduced for pilgrimage to Vaishno Devi and Amarnath through Pawan Hans Ltd.;

(b) it so, the date from which such services introduced;

(c) the fare proposed to be charged from the general passengers and foreigners for the said service; and

(d) the starting point and destination for which the said service is proposed to be provided ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SARAD YADAV) : (a) to (d) The helicopter services by Pawan Hans Helicopters Limited have been introduced on Jamu-Sanjichhat-Jammu and Katra-Sanjichhat-Katra sectors with effect from 09.04.2000. However, no such services could be introduced for Amarnath for want of security clearance. The details of fares charged from ali passengers are as under :-

Jammu-Sanjichhat-Jammu	Rs. 5000
Jammu-Sanjichhat	Rs. 4100
Sanjichhat-Jammu	Rs. 1400
Katra-Sanjichhat-Katra	Rs. 2000
Katra-Sanjichhat	Rs. 1650
Sanjichhat-Katra	Rs. 600

[English]

Flying Hours of Boeing

3478. SHRI A.P. ABDULLAKUTTY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether flying hours in a life span of Boeing 737 is either 75,000 flying hours or 51,000 flying circle;

(b) if so, whether the Boeing planes in the country are strictly following these conditions;

(c) if so, whether the modernisation of these planes are taking place from time to time; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) The manufacturer has not stipulated life span of Boeing 737 aircraft. However, manufacturer has stipulated only Design Economic life. The Design Economic life of Boeing 737-200 aircraft is 20 years or 75,000 cycles or 51,000 flight hours.

(b) On attaining Design Economic life, the maintenance and operation of an aircraft may be economical. To take care of the problem associated with ageing of aircraft, the manufacturer has introduced special maintenance programmes/checks such as supplemental Structural Inspection Document (SSID), Corrosion Prevention and Control Programme (CPCP) and Ageing aircraft repair/replacement modification programme, the compliance of which ensures the continued airworthiness of the aircraft and safe operations. These programmes have been mandated by DGCA.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) To ensure continuous airworthiness of ageing aeroplane, Boeing Company as per FAA guidelines, have evolved a comprehensive maintenance programme. The programme is as below :–

(i) Some aircraft modifications have been declared mandatory for compliance before 20 years of age (ii) Some modifications are mandatory to be complied before aircraft reaches 75,000 operating cycles (iii) A comprehensive corrosion prevention and control programme has been issued, which is required to be implemented at prescribed threshold (iv) Boeing also constituted a structural task group to periodically review the various modifications and also in service problems on ageing aircraft. The structure tasks group consists of members from Boeing Company, FAA and operators using ageing aircraft. Indian Airlines is also a member of the structural task group.

New Population Policy

3479. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to inforce the new population policy more vigorously in BIMARU states in the North;

(b) if so, the special incentives reserved for states which have shown good results on population control policy measures so that they are encouraged to contain the population growth in future; and

(c) the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE iN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (PROF. RITA VERMA) : (a) Yes, Sir. To facilitate the attainment of the goals envisaged under the National Population Policy, Prime Minister has announced formation of an Empowered Action Group in the first meeting of the National Commission on Population held on 22nd July, 2000. the Group will be charged with the responsibility of preparing area-specific programmes, with special emphasis on the States of Assam, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh, that have been lagging behind in containing population growth, to the manageable limits and will count for nearly half of country's population in the next two decades.

(b) and (c) A number of promotional and motivational measures are envisaged in the National Population Policy, 2000. Panchayats and Zila Parishads will be rewarded and honoured for their exemplary performance in universalizing the small family norms, achieving reduction in infant mortality rate and birth rate, and promoting literacy; with completion of primary schooling.

Further, it has recommended that under the 42nd Constitution Amendment freeze of the number of seats to the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, based on the 1971 Census till 2000, to be extended upto 2026 as a motivational measure, in order to enable all State governments to fearlessly and effectively pursue the agenda for population stabilisation contained in the Policy.

Dal and Nageen Lakes as Central Projects

3480. SHRI ALI MOHD. NAIK : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether both the projects for Dal and Nageen lakes have been approved to be taken up as Central Projects and also the improvement of navigation of the river Jhelhum on the lines of the Ganga Action Plan;

(b) if so, the progress made so far;

(c) the estimated expenditure likely to be incurred thereon; and

(d) the time by which it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) : (a) The Conservation Plan of Dal and Nageen Lakes has been approved, 'in principle' by Government to be taken as a Centrally Sponsored Project. However, the pollution abatement programme of Jhelum river on the lines of Ganga Action Plan has not been approved so far.

(b) A detailed project report on the conservation plan of Dal and Nageen lakes is under preparation by the Roorkee University and is likely to be submitted by 31.8.2000.

(c) and (d) The estimated cost of the project and the time of completion will be known only after the detailed project report is received.

Assistance for Health and Medical Facilities to Assam

3481. SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have contemplated a Policy to sanction a special central fund of adequate amount ranging from minimum of Rs. 1000 crore to Rs. 2000 crore including externally aided funding for the construction of necessary health and medical infrastructure including construction of Medical Hospitals, Medical Health Centres, Dispensaries and Blood Banks within the Bodoland Asutonomous Territory in the Northern bank of the river Brahmaputra so as to provide better health and medical service facilities to the Tribal people of Bodoland Region;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken to save the parennial of hundreds poor tribal people of the region in question due to the poor medical facilities prevailing in the region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (PROF. RITA VERMA) : (a) to (c) Central Government has sanctioned Rs. 12.5 crores to the Government of Assam for construction of Primary Health Centres in the Bodoland Autonomous Council (BAC) area from non-lapsable central pool in the year 1999-2000.

(d) Various Public Health Programmes for malaria, tuberculosis, Leprosy, Blindness, AIDS and Reproductive and Child Health Programmes are being implemented all over the country including the State of Assam. The Programme Officers have also been directed to ensure that Plan funds to the extent of 8.1% for Tribal Sub-Plan are allocated in proportion to ST population as per 1991 Census. Further, a vast network of rural health infrastructure has been established throughout the country under the Basic Minimum Services to provide preventive, promotive, curative and rehabilitative services to ensure a basic minimum standard of life for all sections of people living in the remote and backward areas. In order to improve health care delivery system, the population norms for establishment of primary health care institutions have been relaxed for hilly/tribal areas i.e. a Sub-centre for 3,000, a PHC for 20,000 and CHC for 80,000 population as against a Sub-centre for 5,000, a PHC for 30,000 and a CHC for 1,20,000 population in plain area.

Anomaly in the Pay Scale of Pharmacists

3482. SHRI RAJESH VERMA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the pay scales of the Radiographers and the Pharmacists serving in CGHS before implementation of Fifth Pay Commission;

(b) whether pay scale of the Pharmacists was higher than the pay scales of Radiographer and if so, the comparative details thereof;

(c) the details of qualification/experience/diploma prescribed for the post of pharmacists;

(d) whether the radiographer serving under CGHS which bears the minimum qualification 10+2 pass and two years technical qualification only have been given higher pay scale with initial basis pay of Rs. 5000-8000 than the Pharmacists which were drawing more pay before pre-revised scales;

(e) if so, the reason and the jurisdiction thereof;

(f) whether the Government have received any representations from M.Ps for upgrading the pay structure and promotion avenues of Pharmacists:

(g) if so, the action taken by the Government thereon; and

(h) the steps taken by the Government to remove the anomalies in the pay scales of pharmacists and giving them pay scales at par with radiographers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (PROF. RITA VERMA) : (a) The pay scale of Radiographers and Pharmacists employed in CGHS was Rs. 1350-2200 before implementation of the recommendations of the Fifth Pay Commission.

(b) No, Sir,

(c) The requisite information is indicated below :

Pharmacist :

Essential : (a) Matriculation or Equivalent and

(b) Registration as Pharmacist under Section 31 or 32 of the Pharmacy Act, 1948 but excluding clause (d) of Section 31 of the said act.

Desirable : One-year experience as Pharmacist or Compounder.

(d) and (e) The Pay scale of the Radiographers working under CGHS has been revised to Rs. 5000-8000 by the Government. However, the pay scale of Radiographers and the Pharmacists, before implementation of the recommendations of the Fifth Pay Commission was same i.e. Rs. 1350-2200.

(f) to (h) No such representation has been received from the Members of Parliament in this regard. However, the Pharmacists of CGHS had sent representations to the Anomaly Committee requesting for upgradation of their pay scale to Rs. 5000-8000. However, the Government has not agreed to their demand for upgradation of pay scale as it would create further anomaly in the promotional posts.

Revenue Earned by Mormugao Port Trust

3483. SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the details of total revenue earned by Mormugao Port Trust for loading and unloading the goods during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether there is any proposal to modernise or upgrade this port in near future; and

(c) the total expenditure incurred on this port for the renovation and modernisation in the past during the above period, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) Total revenue earned by Mormugao Port Trust for loading and unloading the goods during the last three years in as under :

Year	(Rupees in crores)
1997-98	81.88
1998-99	84.60
1999-2000	90.11

(b) Modernization and upgradation of the facilities at the port in question has been taken up from time to time as a continuous process of development.

(c) Expenditure incurred on renovation and modernisation during the past three years is as under :

Year	(Rupees in crores)
1997-98	14.85
1998-99	37.28
1999-2000	36.16

[Translation]

Population in Maharashra

3484. SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE :
KUMARI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI :

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

(a) whether Maharashtra is the fifth most populous State in the country;

(b) if so, the per second birth rate in the State at present;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to bring down the birth rate in the State; and

(d) if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (PROF. RITA VERMA) : (a) As per 1991 census, Maharashtra ranks third in the population in the county.

(b) As per estimates of Samples Registration System of Registrar General, India, the Crude Birth Rate of Maharasthra is 22.5 for the year 1998.

(c) and (d) Following steps have been taken to tackle the population problem in all the State including Maharashtra :–

(i) An integrated and holistic programme of Reproductive and Child Health that includes Meternal Health, Child Health and Contraception issues was launched in October, 1997.

(ii) Information, Education and Communication Programme is an ongoing programme to increase awareness about the benefits of small family.

(iii) Assistance to States/UTs continues, towards maintenance of family welfare infrastructure.

(iv) Assistance to Voluntary Organizations and NGOs for creating awareness about schemes under family welfare programmes.

In order to speed up the efforts of population stabilization in all the States including Maharashtra, Government has adopted the National Population Policy, 2000 in February, 2000, which provides a holistic approach to the programme. It enumerates various Strategies and Action Plan to achieve immediate, medium and long-term objectives. The Policy lists national socio-demographic goals for 2010 leading to population stabilization by 2045.

[English]

Environmental Clearance to Projects in Maharashtra

3484. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether number of projects of Maharashtra Government are lying pending for environmental clearance with the Union Government;

(b) if so, the details of such projects indicating the date since when these projects are lying pending;

(c) the reason for their tendency;

(d) whether some of these projects have been returned to State Government for further modifications;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the time by which all these remaining projects are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) : (a) to (c) Only one project of Maharashtra Government namely Talamba irrigation project is pending with this Ministry for environmental clearance. The proposal was received on 6.4.2000. Forestry clearance is awaited.

(d) and (e) Does not arise.

(f) Decision on proposals for environmental clearance is taken within ninety (90) days of receipt of complete information.

Conversion of Roads into New National Highway

3486. SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any suggestion for conversion of Fulnakhara-Madhab-puri road connecting two National Highways (N.H. 5 and N.H. 203) with places of National Tourist importance like Madhab and Konark and Cuttack-Paradeep Road connecting National Highway No. 5 with the major port at Paradeep into new National Highways;

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

(c) whether these two roads are favourably considered for declaration as new National Highways; and

(d) if so, the time by which the said roads are likely to be constructed ?

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

(b) to (d) No details/time frame can be given since the proposals for declaration of new National Highways received from various State Governments including Orissa are considered from time to time keeping in view the traffic needs, their inter-se priority and availability of funds.

Responsibility of Aviation Administration

3487. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to make the aviation administration answerable to the public to avoid alliance accidents;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) to (c) Accountability of Airlines/Airport operators to ensure complete adherence to the safety standards set by International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) is already being enforced by the Government through the Director General of Civil Aviation, who performs his statutory functions in this regard through a well-defined system.

Alternate Systems in CGHS Dispensaries

3488. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government propose to start CGHS dispensaries of alternate systems in the country especially in Kerala during 2000-2001;

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

(c) if not, reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (PROF. RITA VERMA) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. There is a proposal to open one Ayurvedic dispensary and One Homoeopathic Unit in Trivandrum (Kerala) and 9 Ayurvedic Units, 9 Homoeopathic Units, 2 Unani Units and one Siddha Unit during 9th Five Year Plan in other states of the country. However, due to constraints of resources and pending implementation of work study of ISM&H Dispensaries/Units by SIU, it will not be feasible to open any new Dispensary/Unit for the present.

[Translation]

Special Recruitment Drive

3489. SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to fill up reserved posts lying vacant in the Scheduled Tribe areas through a "special recruitment drive";

(b) if so, whether the Department of Posts have made recruitments in the tribal areas of Himachal Pradesh, but the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) could not do so as yet;

(c) if so, the reasons for not launching such drive by the DoT; and

(d) the time by which the reserved vacancies are likely to be filled up through the special drive by DoT in the State ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Does not arise.

Road from Sitapur to Nepal via Lakhimpur Khiri as National Highway

3490. SHRI JAI PRAKASH : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from the Uttar Pradesh Government for upgrading the road from Sitapur to Nepal via Lakhimpur Khiri as a National Highway;

(b) if so, the date on which the proposal was received; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) No, Sir

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Postal Stamps

3491. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government had taken a decision to release a postal stamp to keep the memories of the bravery of the Prithviraj Chauhan still a fresh; and

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be issued?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The release of the stamp has been included in this year's programme.

[English]

World Bank Aid for Health Services in Andhra Pradesh

3492. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Bank is considering the cancellation of a part of loans sanctioned for two major schemes in the State of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the total fund loan provided by the World Bank so far; and

(d) the time by which the work on the said schemes is likely to be completed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (PROF. RITA VERMA) : (a) and (b) No, Sir

(c) and (d) A statement is enclosed.

Statement

State Health System Development Project

State Health System Development Project with World Bank Assistance aiming at improving/upgrading the Secondary level Health facilities is under implementation in the State of Andhra Pradesh w.e.f. 1.3.95 for a period of 6½ years at total outlay of Rs. 608.00 crores.

World Bank Assisted IPP-VIII Project

Andhra Pradesh is one of the states where the World Bank assisted Eighth India Population Project is under implementation with a total World Bank credit of US $ 79 M. The cost of the project is Andhra Pradesh is Rs. 100.80 crores and is being implemented w.e.f. August, 1993. The project will terminate on 30.6.2001 and aims at improving the Health and Family Welfare status of slum population in Hyderabad and 73 other cities and towns in the state. The State Government is expected to fully utilize the sanctioned project cost within the project closing date. As no savings is anticipated in the project expenditure, no cancellation of World Bank assistance is envisaged.

RCH Sub-Project

The World Bank assisted Reproductive and Child Health Sub-projects are under implementation in Mehaboobnagar district and Hyderabad city (seven municipalities) of Andhra Pradesh at a total cost of Rs. 18.96 crores and Rs. 7.72 crores respectively since October, 1997 to improve access to essential RCH services to Address the needs of women and men in reproductive age and children particularly among disadvantaged groups and areas; focus on safe motherhood, child survival and prevention of RTI/STI and establishment of effective referral services. The project is still in progress, and no saving is expected in the project. Hence no cost cancellation of World Bank credit for the RCH Sub-Project programme is anticipated.

National AIDS Control Programme

World Bank has provided fund/loan for implementation of second phase of National AIDS Control Programme for prevention and control of AIDS in India. Outlay for NACP phase-II is as under :

(Rs. in million)

IDA credit (1999-2004)	–	11550
USAID assistance for AVERT Project in Maharashtra	–	1660
DFID assistance for sexual health projects for the states of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat Kerala and Orissa.	–	1040
Total	–	14250

Cataract Blindness Control Project

World Bank Assisted Cataract Blindness Control Project is under implementation since 1994-95 in seven states including Andhra Pradesh. The proposed expenditure of the project is Rs. 554 crores during the project period of seven years (1994-2001). There is no move for cancellation of funds allocated for the project.

[Translation]

Opening of Telephone Exchanges and Post Offices in Bihar

3493. SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of telephone exchanges, post offices and sub-post offices set up in Shekhpura, Lakhisarai, Begusarai and Jamui districts of Bihar during the last three years; and

(b) the places where telephone exchanges, post offices and sub-post offices are proposed to be set up during 2000-2001 in the State particularly in the said districts ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) The details of number of telephone exchanges, post offices and sub-post offices set up in Shekhpura, Lakhisarai, Begusarai and Jumui districts of Bihar during the last three years are given below :

Sl. No.	Name of District	No. of Ex-changes	No.of extra Deptt. Post Offices	No. of Depart-mental Sub-post offices
1.	Shekhupura	1	4	–
2.	Lakhisarai	2	–	–
3.	Begusarai	4	1	–
4.	Jamui 1	2	–	

(b) There is a plan to set up 75 new telephone exchanges in Bihar during 2000-01 wherein details for districts mentioned are given below :

Sl.No.	Name of Districts	Location
1.	Shekhpura	1. Ariary 2. Ghatkushumba 3. Keoti 4. Katari 5. Lohan 6. Lutoush 7. Ghuskuri
2.	Lakhisarai	1. Piperia 2. Nihjai 3. Naum
3.	Begusarai	1. Dandari 2. Nawakothi 3. Chaurahi 4. Harripur 5. Barauni-Zeromile 6. Lakho 7. Teghra 8. Chandpura
4.	Jamui	1. Mangobandar 2. Mahadeosimaria 3. Nabinagar 4. Garhi 5. Manapur

Post Offices are opened subject to availability of resources, norms based justification and sanctioning of Extra-Departmental agent posts by Ministry of Finance for 2000-01.

[English]

Infrastructure at Village Level

3494. SHRI JITENDRA PRASADA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a special scheme drawn by the Government to revamp the health infrastructure at the village level is gathering dust for lack of response from the States;

(b) if so, whether the scheme assumes urgency in the context of the population crossing the billion mark, as it is aimed at strengthening the rural health sub-centres which are the main delivery points for family planning and other maternal and child health services at the Panchayat level and the success or failure of the national family welfare programme depends much on the way they function; and

(c) if so, the steps the Government propose to take to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (PROF. RITA VERMA) : (a) The proposed scheme "Strengthening of rural sub-centre under National Human Development Initiative Measures" was announced in Budget speech 1999-2000. It has not been operationalised as comments of states are awaited before finalising the scheme.

(b) and (d) The success of family welfare programme in India will definitely be augmented through provision of effective health care delivery at sub-centres and Primary Health centres in rural areas. The Government is taking several steps to strengthen sub-centres and other primary health care facilities as follows :

(i) To accelerate performance in promoting basic minimum services under Prime Minister's Gramodya Yojna, an allocation of Rs. 375 crores has been earmaked during 2000-2001 as Additional Central Assistance for Primary Health Care.

(ii) To improve drug availability at sub-centres, drugs are being provided on the form of Drug kits such as Drug Kit A. Drug Kit-B. Midwifery kit and Sub-centres Equipment kits.

(iii) To improve Maternal and Child Health Care Additional ANMs at Sub-centres in the selected Districts are being provided.

(iv) To ensure rapid transport of emergencies from sub-centres, funds for Referral Transport for pregnant women are being provided.

(v) To ensure availability of ANM's at odd hours, funds for Rental facility to contractual ANM's (not provided Govt. accommodation) is being provided.

(vi) To ensure participatory planning and effective monitoring, Sub-centre. Action Plan based on Community Need Assessment Approach are being prepared.

(vii) Health functionaries at sub-centres are being provided awareness generation training.

(viii) For capacity buildings of ANM's and other functionaries at sub-centres, skill-based In-service Training in Reproductive and Child Health is being provided.

(ix) To reduce to gaps of trained manpower, the Population Policy envisages integration of health functionaries in vertical national programme and in Indian System of Medicine.

(x) Population policy also envisages establishment of Maternity Huts extension of sub-centres in difficult inaccessible areas.

Ozone Depleting

3495. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY :
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FOREST be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to come out with notifying the Ozone Depleting Substances (Regulation) Rules;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the international convention signed in this regard; and

(d) the reasons for the inordinate delay ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) : (a) to (c) India ratified the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer on June 19, 1991 and the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer on September 17, 1992. The Ozone Depleting Substances (Regulation and Control) Rules, 2000 have been notified in the Gazette of India on 19th July, 2000. Important provisions of these Rules are given as under :

(i) The Rules prohibit the use of chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) in manufacturing various products beyond 1.1.2003 except for use in metered dose inhaler and other medical uses. Similarly use of halons are prohibited after 1.1.2001 except for essential use. Other Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS) such as carbon tetrachloride, methyl chloroform and CFC (in metered dose inhalers) can be used for manufacture of products upto 1.1.2010. Further, the use of methyl bromide has been allowed utpo 1.1.2015. Since hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs) are used as interim substitute to replace CFCs these are allowed to be used upto 1.1.2040.

(ii) Rules also regulate production of Ozone Depleting Substances. They are to be phased out by 2010.

(iii) The Rules have provisions for compulsory registration of ODS producers, manufacturers of ODS based products, importers, exporters, stockist and sellers, and the same provision is applicable to manufacturers, importers and exporters of compressors.

(iv) The Rules provide for maintaining records and filing of periodic reports for monitoring production and use of ODS.

(v) Rules also mandate that enterprises which have received financial assistance from Multilateral Fund have to register the date of completion of their project and to declare that the equipment used for ODS has been destroyed.

(vi) Rules prohibit creation of new capacity or expansion of capacity of manufacturing facilities of ODS and ODS based equipment.

(vii) Purchasers of ODS for manufacturing products containing ODS, have to declare the purpose for which ODS is purchased.

(viii) Trade in ODS with non Parties to the Montreal Protocol is prohibited.

(ix) Authority has been specified to issue licence for all imports and exports of ODS and products containing ODS.

(d) The gradual phaseout strategy for production of CFCs in India was approved by the Executive Committee of the Montreal Protocol in November, 1999. The draft notification published in April 1998 has been updated by incorporating the provisions to regulate and control the production of CFCs. The revised draft rules were published in the Gazette of India 25th Jan, 2000 for public comments. The final notification has been published in the Gazette of India on 19th July, 2000.

Touts at IGIA

3496. SHRI SAHIB SINGH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that IGIA is a sea of touts specially in terms of creating nuisance to the passengers coming out of arrival lounge;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to prevent entry of such touts in and around IGIA?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) to (c) There have been complaints about touting at Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA). However, the issue is reviewed on a regular basis in the Airport Facilitation Committee. Regular action is undertaken by the local police in liaison with airport security. During this year, 514 touts have been apprehended by police. Information Boards have been placed at prominent places in the Terminal building requesting passengers to contact airport police or "Help Desk" of Airports Authority of India in case of any harassment by he touts.

Linking of Telephone Exchanges with Internet NOD

3497. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Department of Telecommunications had drawn up ambitious scheme to link the telephone exchanges with internet NOD for providing uninterrupted high speed service; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) and (b) The Department of Telecom Operations has planned to set up a National Internet Backbone (NIB). This backbone, to start with, will have a capacity of 8 Mega bits per second (Mbps) and go upto 155 Mbps. Initially 34 Mbps connectivity is planned to the International Gateways at Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Calcutta, Bangalore and Pune. National Internet Backbone, to start with, will cover 45 stations for which equipment has been received and installed. It will be progressively extended to cover all the Secondary Switching Areas. The Internet nodes under NIB will support dial-up connectivity from the telephone exchanges.

[Translation]

Aircraft Maintenance Engineering Course

3498. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether 3 or 4 years Basic Aircraft Maintenance Engineering Course is conducted by the various recognised institutions in the country and the examination for the said course is conducted by the Director General Civil Aviation;

(b) if so, whether the said course is recognised by the Director General Civil Aviation but the degree level recognition has not been given to the said advance course;

(c) if so, whether the candidates holding the above mentioned course are not given any preference in Indian Airlines, Alliance Air and other Government departments of aviation sector while the candidates having engineering degree in the field of electronics Computers etc. and those who are not properly qualified are recruited therein;

(d) whether the candidates having passed the above course are given priority in the recruitment in Indian Airlines, Air India and other Government departments;

(e) if so, whether any efforts are to be made to recognise this course at par with degree course; and

(f) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) Aircraft Maintenance Engineers (AME) both in Air India Limited and Indian Airlines Limited are considered for recruitment through two different schemes, namely, 'Graduate Engineer Trainee' and 'Aircraft Maintenance Engineer Trainee'.

(e) and (f) At present, there is no proposal to consider AME training at par with Engineering course.

[English]

Four Laning of Quilon-Trivandrum Section of NH-47

3499. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to construct four lane road on National Highway-47 in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have considered to Quilon-Trivandrum Section in NH-47 for four laning; and

(d) if so, the time by which the said work is likely to be taken up for execution?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) and (b) Out of 373 Km. length of NH-47, about 44 Km. length is already four laned. Cochin-Salem Spur in length of about 150 Km. has already been accepted as a part of National Highway Development Programme, which is proposed to be developed to four lane in phases, subject to availability of funds.

(c) and (d) In Quilon-Trivandrum Section stretch only the stretch from Km. 541 to Km. 551 has been included in the current Annual Plan for feasibility study/detailed engineering. Construction works will be taken up in phases depending upon the availability of funds after the completion of feasibility study/detailed engineering and land acquisition.

[Translation]

Use of Single Engine Planes for Unscheduled Operations

3500. SHRI ASHOK ARGAL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to refer to Unstarred Question No. 3351 dated March 16, 2000 and state :

(a) the competent authority for granting permission for the use of single engine planes for unscheduled operations by some flying clubs and the rules under which such permission has been given;

(b) the eligibility required for this;

(c) whether information about specific companies has since been collected; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) With the approval of the Ministry of Civil Aviation the requirements for grant of permission for use of single engine aircraft for non-scheduled operations have been issued vide Civil Aviation Requirements (CAR) Section C Part V on 17th May, 2000.

(b) An operator having a single engine aircraft fitted with piston engine and having a maximum passenger seating capacity of 4 or single turbine engined aircraft having a maximum passenger seating capacity of 9 is eligible to carry out charter operations.

(c) and (d) Information from specific companies is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

[English]

Campaign for Sports Training to Youth

3501. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any media campaign has been launched in the country to enthuse youth to take sports training;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Sports Authority of India has sent delegations or teams to universities and schools to encourage the youth of the country to participate in sports; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN) : (a) and (b) No, Sir.

However, Sports Authority of India (SAI) has on several occasions brought out advertisements/advertorials in leading national dailies and regional newspapers detailing the activities of SAI along with sports facilities available at its Delhi Stadia and Regional Centres to encourage the youth of the country to come forth and participate in sports and utilise these facilities. In addition, press releases have been issued in national and regional newspapers informing the readers of the sports facilities available and further facilities being developed in different disciplines.

In the process of selection and induction of talented sportspersons in SAI schemes, broad publicity is done in the States through the help of the State Governments as also through press media.

(c) and (d) No, Sir.

However, in order to encourage youth of schools and universities, SAI provides the services of its coaches. The coaches are deputed to the schools/universities based on the sports facilities available and interest shown by the institution in developing a particular sports discipline.

Electronic Telephone Exchanges in Haryana

3502. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of telephone exchanges in Haryana as on June 30, 2000 district-wise;

(b) the number out of them converted into electronic exchanges, district-wise; and

(c) the time by which all the remaining exchanges are likely to be converted into electronic ones in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) As on June 30, 2000, 870 telephone exchanges are functioning in Haryana. District-wise details are given in enclosed statement.

(b) All the exchanges in Haryana are of electronic type.

(c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

Statement

District-wise details of Telephone Exchanges functioning in Haryana as on 30.6.2000

Sl. No.	District	No. of Electronic Exchanges as on 30.6.2000
1	2	3
1.	Ambala	80
2.	Panchkula	18
3.	Yamuna Nagar	55

1	2	3
4.	Faridabad	33
5.	Gurgaon	40
6.	Kaithal	31
7.	Panipat	20
8.	Kurukshetra	48
9.	Karnal	40
10.	Sirsa	63
11.	Hisar	61
12.	Fatehabad	44
13.	Rohtak	49
14.	Jhajjar	33
15.	Bhiwani	59
16.	Jind	88
17.	Sonepat	51
18.	Mohindergarh	25
19.	Rewari	32
	Total	870

Telephone Connection in Tamil Nadu

3503. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the target set and achievement made for telephone connections provided in rural and urban areas of Tamil Nadu during the Eighth Five Year Plan, year-wise;

(b) whether the Government have achieved the target;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the steps taken by the Government in this regard;

(e) the number of persons on the waiting list for telephone connections in the State at present, district-wise;

(f) the number of telephone connections provided in the state during the last three years and till date, district-wise;

(g) the number of telephone connections proposed to be provided during the current financial year; and

(h) the time by which the remaining connections are likely to be provided ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) to (d) The Government has achieved the target set for new telephone connections in Tamil Nadu State during Eighth Five Year Plan. The Circlewise and yearwise targets for urban and rural areas are not fixed separately as it depends upon demand for telephone. A total target of Direct Exchange Lines is fixed for the State which includes both rural and urban places.

The yearwise target and achievement of new telephone connections during Eighth Five Year Plan for Tamil Nadu State are given below :

Year	Target	Achievement		
	Urban+ Rural	Urban	Rural	Total
1992-93	51000	52384	10911	63295
1993-94	96700	82190	11926	94116
1994-95	129000	138986	10913	149899
1995-96	175000	185957	21495	207452
1996-97	263000	265536	24546	290082
Total	714700	725053	79791	804844

(g) Districtwise waiting list for telephone connections as on 31.7.2000 in the State is given in enclosed Statement-I.

(f) The telephone connections provided during last three years and upto July-2000 (Year-wise) are given in enclosed Statement-II.

(g) 7,00,000 new telephone connections are proposed to be provided during the current financial year.

(h) The remaining connections are likely to be provided progressively by 31.3.2002 in Tamil Nadu Circle and by 31.3.2001 in Chennai Telephone District.

Statement-I

District-wise Waiting List as on 31-7-2000 in Tamil Nadu State

S.No.	Name of District	Waiting List
1	2	3
1.	Coimbatore	65324
2.	Cuddalore	27556
3.	Dharmapuri	24696

1	2	3
4.	Dindigul	18958
5.	Erode	21553
6.	Kancheepuram	24491
7.	Karur	8764
8.	Madurai	22535
9.	Nagapattinam	17150
10.	Kanyakumari	14249
11.	Namakkal	12548
12.	Perambalur	10641
13.	Pudukkottai	12703
14.	Ramanathapuram	8924
15.	Salem	24491
16.	Sivaganga	10688
17.	Thanjavur	18789
18.	The Nilgiris	7891
19.	Theni	7041
20.	Thiruvarur	13773
21.	Tirunelveli	11660
22.	Tiruvannamalai	19086
23.	Tiruvellore	13590
24.	Trichy	20177
25.	Tuticorin	13915
26.	Vellore	38966
27.	Villupuram	23337
28.	Virudhunagar	16560
29.	Pondicherry	22562
30.	Chennai	82127
	Total	634745

Statement-II

District-wise Telephone Connections provided during last three years and upto July-2000 in Tamil Nadu State

Sl. No.	Name of District	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	Upto July-2000
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Combatore	39101	34034	51251	8470
2.	Cuddalore	11744	15858	9568	628
3.	Dharmapuri	10548	15021	16180	2718
4.	Dindigul	9742	8097	9849	2505
5.	Erode	16740	25139	23504	4362
6.	Kancheepuram	8798	7751	7011	1726
7.	Karur	8419	8029	9382	2152
8.	Madurai	17662	21032	19601	5272
9.	Nagapattinam	5619	8945	11941	1669
10.	Kanyakumari	12010	13013	13016	2690
11.	Namakkal	12556	13527	17456	3925
12.	Perambalur	2677	2862	4922	992
13.	Pudukkottai	3993	6347	6974	2394
14.	Ramanathapuram	3981	6263	8490	2540
15.	Salem	18678	26478	27049	5394
16.	Sivaganga	5354	6238	6661	2331
17.	Thanjavur	8986	20530	23760	4533
18.	The Nilgiris	4047	4292	7012	1357
19.	Theni	3830	7368	4856	1102
20.	Thiruvarur	2653	6321	8392	1647
21.	Tirunelveli	11045	15200	15020	4289
22.	Tiruvannamalai	3326	5114	5567	754
23.	Tiruvellore	5216	5252	4334	1355
24.	Trichy	17697	20428	25924	5465
25.	Tuticorin	8875	11008	14567	2506
26.	Vellore	12527	17993	21008	1512
27.	Villupuram	6519	5447	7987	774
28.	Virudhunagar	5555	10002	11592	1416
29.	Pondicherry	6480	10020	10678	2959
30.	Chennai	80168	122629	142618	35594
	Total	364546	480238	546170	115031

Competition Post Card

3504. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to reassess the cost of services for major postal delivery modes due to decreasing volume of mail traffic;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are incurring a subsidy of more than Rs. 3.00 on service of a Post Card;

(d) if so, the quantum of subsidy incurred on service of a competition/business post card;

(e) whether the new scheme of printing commercial advertisements in postal stationery is bringing in adequate revenue to off-set the subsidy factor; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) No. Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of the reply to part (a) above.

(c) The cost of providing Post Card service was Rs. 4.53 (as per 1999-2000 Projection) as against the postal tariff of Rs. 0.25 per card. The subsidy involved was Rs. 4.28 per Post Card.

(d) The cost of providing Competition Post Card service and Printed Postcard service was Rs. 4.63 and Rs. 4.53 (as per 1999-2000 Projection) as against average revenue realised of Rs. 3.83 and Rs. 1.92 per card respectively. The subsidy involved was Rs. 0.80 in the case of Competition Post card and Rs. 2.61 in the case of Printed Post card.

(e) and (f) No, Sir. The scheme of printing commercial advertisements on postal stationery has brought a revenue of Rs. 5.77 crores during the year 1999-2000.

Kargil Airport

3505. SHRI SAMAR CHOUDHURY :
SHRI ALI MOHD. NAIK :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the construction work at Kargil Airport has since commenced; and

(b) if so, the expected date of its completion ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The expected date of its completion is 31st December, 2000.

[Translation]

Use of Obsolete Methods by Pharmaceutical Factories

3506. MOHD. SHAHABUDDIN : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether two major pharmaceutical factories are still adopting obsolete methods despite negligible production in them following which the Government have to suffer loss worth crores of rupees every year;

(b) whether the Government have got conducted a study by the Tata Consultancy Services regardings the functioning of their medical stores in 1986;

(c) if so, whether the Tata Consultancy Services has recommended for immediate closure of these factories for lack of their proper existing infrastructure;

(d) if so, whether the Comptroller and Auditor General had also recommended for immediate closure of these two factories in 1998 after absorbing their employees in some other factories;

(e) if so, whether the Government have taken any action in this regard till January, 2000;

(f) if not, the reasons therefor and officers found guilty for not taking necessary action in this regard; and

(g) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (PROF. RITA VERMA) : (a) No, Sir. The two pharmaceutical factories attached to Government Medical Store Depots at Mumbai and Chennai have stopped production.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The Tata Consultancy Services report of 1986 pertained to Management Information system in Medical Store Organisation. It was the 1996 report, observed that these factories are hardly productive and are not serving any purpose.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) These two pharmaceutical factories have been closed since 1-6-1999 and their staff redeployed to other Sections.

(f) and (g) Do not arise.

[English]

Private Medical Colleges in Maharashtra

3507. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any proposals from the private organisations and the Government of Maharashtra to grant permission to open new medical colleges and increase the intaken capacity in some existing colleges in Maharashtra during each of the last three years till June, 2000;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the criteria fixed for granting permission for opening a medical college;

(d) the present status of these proposals; and

(e) 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 (PROF. RITA VERMA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A Statement is enclosed.

(c) The detailed criteria for grant of Central Government has been prescribed in the Regulations of Medical Council of India.

(d) and (e) the proposals for establishment of medical colleges at Kolhapur and Ahmednagar have been referred to Medical Council of India for evaluation. The clearance of these proposals depends upon the availability of infrastructural facilities and recommendations of Medical Council of India thereon. The proposal for establishment of new medical college at Akola has, however, not been recommended by Medical Council of India and is, therefore, liable to be disapproved. The proposal for establishment of new medical college at Sholapur, Mumbai and Pune were returned as incomplete. Regarding increase of seats, a proposal from N.K.P. Salve Institute of Medical Sciences, Nagpur has been disapproved. K.J. Somaiyya Medical College, Mumbai has been permitted to increase the seats on 21.4.99 from 50 to 100.

Statement

The following proposals received from Maharashtra State between 1998 to June, 2000 by the Govt.

I. Opening of new medical colleges

Sl. No.	Name of the College	Date of receipt of proposal	Present Status
1.	Establishment of new medical college by N.M. Wadia Charitable Trust, Sholapur	18.5.98	24.12.98 (Returns)
2.	New Medical College at Mumbai by Vivekanand Educational Society	29.6.99	13.7.99 (Returns)
3.	New Medical College at Pune by Bharati Vidyapeeth, Pune	23.6.2000	21.7.2000 (Returns)
4.	New Medical College at Akola by Rashtriya Vaidyak Prasarak Mandal, Akola	14.7.99	MCI has not recommended
5.	New Medical College at Kolhapur by Govt. of Maharashtra	28.1.2000	MCI recommendations awaited
6.	New Medical College at Ahmednagar by Padamshri Dr. Vithal Rao Vikhe Patel Foundation	8.6.2000	MCI recommendations awaited
II.	**Increase of seat in MBBS course**		
1.	N.K.P. Salve Instt. of Medical Sciences, Nagpur	28.9.98	Disapproved on 24.4.2000
2.	K.J. Somaiyya Medical College, Mumbai	3.11.98	Increase of seat from 50 to 100 permitted on 21.4.99.

[Translation]

Special Mining Projects for Hilly Areas

3508. KUMARI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce a special mining project for hilly area;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether unexpected metals, minerals and many other resources have been found in and around the Jawahar tunnel in Jammu and Kashmir;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for not introducing such a project to explore the hidden wealth in the country; and

(e) the details of new mines found in the country during the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI SHKU DEV SINGH DHINDSA): (a) No, Sir.

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

(c) No significant metal deposits have been found around the Jawahar Tunnel. However, to the north of the Jawahar Tunnel, reserves of limestone have been found at Verinag area and to the south of the Jawahar Tunnel, reserves of Gypsum have been found in Ramban area.

(d) Since no metal deposit of economic significance has been found, the question of mining of metal deposits does not arise.

The gypsum and limestone deposits around the Jawahar Tunnel are being exploited by State public sector and private companies.

(e) As per information furnished by Indian Bureau of Mines, a subordinate office of Ministry of Mines, details of mines opened during the last three years state-wise upto 31.3.2000 are given in enclosed statement.

Statement

State-wise Details of Mines opened in the Last three years upto 31.3.2000

Sl.No.	Name of the State	No. of Mines
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	66
2.	Bihar	2
3.	Goa	1
4.	Gujarat	21
5.	Karnataka	8
6.	Kerala	13
7.	Madhya Pradesh	24
8.	Maharashtra	3
9.	Orissa	8
10.	Rajasthan	12
11.	Tamil Nadu	33
12.	Uttar Pradesh	2
	Total	193

[English]

Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules, 1955

3509. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of cases regarding adulteration in milk has come to the notice of the Government recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government have issued any guidelines to amend the Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules, 1955;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the extent to which these guidelines have been implemented;

(f) whether the Government also propose to stipulate the conditions that preparations of other patent gradients will be sold by the chemists on the basis of prescription of proper guidance of a Registered Medical Practitioner; and

(g) if so, the extent to which these measures are likely to curb the indiscriminate use of such formulations by the consumers and check on adulteration in milk ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (PROF. RITA VERMA) : (a) and (b) As per the information made available so far by the Food (Health) Authorities of States/Union Territories

in their Annual Reports on the work done under the Prevention of Food Adulteration (PFA) Act, 1954 for the calendar year 1999 the number of samples of milk examined and found adulterated during the year is given in enclosed statement.

(c) to (e) The PFA Act is a Central enactment and its implementation/enforcement is done mainly by the State/ UT Governments. The objective of the legislation is to ensure pure and wholesome food to the consumers and also to prevent deception or fraud. The provisions of the PFA Act and the Rules made thereunder are amended from time to time in order to make them more effective keeping in view the emerging needs and the concerns of the various stockholders.

(f) and (g) No, Sir. Products fortified with Vitamins and minerals including milk products which are listed in Schedule K of the Drugs & Cosmetics (D&C) Rules, 1945 are exempted from the provisions of the D&C Act, 1940 relating to manufacturer, sale and distribution of drugs. However, such fortification does not constitute adulteration of milk.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of the State/ U.T.	Number of milk samples examined during the calendar year 1999	Number of milk samples found adulterated during the year 1999
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	10	07
2.	Chandigarh	32	05
3.	Daman and Diu	Nil	–
4.	Delhi	305	50
5.	Manipur	01	Nil
6.	Mizoram	Nil	–
7.	Nagaland	09	03
8.	Rajasthan	466	151
9.	West Bengal	36	30

[Translation]

Pollution in Rivers

3510. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have cleared any scheme for the cleansing of Shipra and Chambal rivers of Ujjain district in Madhya Pradesh under the National River Water Conservation scheme;

(b) if so, whether the said scheme is meant for purification of water for the domestic use only;

(c) if so, whether there is no provision in the scheme to purify the poisonous water released by the industries located in Nagda and to release the same in the Chambal river;

(d) if so, whether the Chambal river would not get polluted again due to the poisonous water released by the industries;

(e) if so, whether the Government propose to include the scheme to release the purified water of the industries in the Chambal river in the original scheme; and

(f) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government have sanctioned pollution abatement works at Ujjain for an amount of Rs. 24.92 crore and at Nagda for an amount of Rs. 3.72 crore for improvement of river water quality of Kshipra and Chambal respectively under the National River Conservation Plan. The objective of the scheme is to improve the river water quality by preventing the discharge of untreated domestic sewage into the rivers and diverting the untreated sewage for treatment.

(c) to (f) Monitoring and control of industrial pollution is also part of the National River Conservation Plan. But, it is done under the existing environmental laws. Each polluting industry is required to set up effluent treatment plant to ensure that the effluents are discharged only after treatment to the prescribed standards. The defaulting industires are liable for action under the law by the State Pollution Control Board.

Investment by Malaysian Companies In Road Sector

3511. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH :
SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL :

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have invited Malaysian Companies for investment in the road sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some Malaysian Companies are already engaged in the road construction work in India;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the name of the companies alongwith the names of the States in which road construction work is likely to be assigned to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) to (e) The Government of Malaysia appointed Construction Industry Development Board of Malaysia (CIDB) for the Government to Government cooperation between Malaysia and India. The details of the Malaysian Companies engaged at present in road construction work in India are given in enclosed statement. Further, the CIDB, Malaysia has recently submitted a proposal for upgradation of Tada-Nellore section of NH-5 and Vijayawada-Nandigama section of NH-9 in Andhra Pradesh on BOT basis. The project is estimated to cost about Rs. 700 crores. The proposal of CIDB, Malaysia has been examined in NHAI. In addition to above two projects, a Malaysian Consortium has been awarded BOT concession for construction of Nellore bypass on NH-5. The project is to cost about Rs. 80 crores.

Statement

The Details of Malaysian Companies engaged in NHAI Projects

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Details of Malaysian Companies engaged
1.	4 laning NH-8 from km. 36.63 to km. 162.5 in Haryana & Rajasthan	The Contractor is a Joint Venture of an Indian Co. (M/s. B. Seenaiah and Co. Hyderabad) and two Malaysian Companies viz., M/s. Road Builder (M) Sdn. Bhd., Kualalumpur and M/s. Paving Automation Technology International, Sdn. Bhd., Kualalumpur.
2.	4 laning of NH-2 from km. 474 to km. 515.2 in West Bengal	-do-
3.	4 laning of NH-2 from km. 398.75 to km. 441.44 in Bihar	-do-
4.	4 laning of NH-5 from km. 3.4 to km in Andhra Pradesh	The Contractor is a Joint Venture of an Indian Co., M/s. Madhucon Projects Ltd., Hyderabad and a Malaysian Co., M/s. Binapuri Holdings, Bhd., Kualalumpur.
5.	4 laning of NH-5; from km. 355 to 420.495 and Krishna bridge approaches (10.8 km.) in Andhra Pradesh	The Contractor is a Joint Venture of an Indian Co., M/s. Gayatri Projects Ltd., Hyderabad and a Malaysian Co., M/s. IJM Coproration Berhad, Malaysia.
6.	Construction of Chennai Bypass connecting NH-45 and NH-4	The Contractors M/s. IJM (Malaysian) are in Joint Venture with M/s. SCL (Hyderabad) for the construction of 19 km. by-pass near Chennai.

Construction of International Passenger Terminals

3512. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN :
DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the international passenger terminals constructed in Delhi and Mumbai resulted in time cost overrun against the originally stipulated time, period and cost;

(b) if so, the original cost and time period prescribed for both these terminals;

(c) the extent of time and cost overrun accrued in completion thereof;

(d) whether a study conducted by the Government in this regard has revealed that the time and cost overrun

resulted thereunder due to lack of mutual coordination in the Airports Authority of India;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the further reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The original cost of the International Passenger and Cargo Terminal Complex at Delhi was Rs. 63.95 crores and it was scheduled to be completed by March, 1985. However, it had a cost over-run of Rs. 32.07 crores and time over-run of 13 months. The original cost of the International Passenger Terminal Complex (phase-III) at Mumbai was Rs. 84.12 crores and was scheduled to be completed by October 1996. However, it had a cost over-run of Rs. 58.20 crores and time over-run of 34 months.

(d) to (f) A Committee was constituted under the Chairmanship of Shri R.C. Jain to make a study on airport functioning. The Committee has submitted its report on airport functioning on 14.7.2000, which, inter-alia, has examined this issue also. The report is under examination.

[English]

Appointment of Consultant in Air India

3513. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 5058 and 6961 dated April 27 and May 11, 2000 respectively and state :

(a) whether the prior approval of the Appointments Committee of Cabinet is necessary for any appointment above 58 years of age; and

(b) if so, the reasons for not conducting such formality in the case of the said consultant?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) The approval of the Government is required for employment of any person in a Public Sector Undertaking, who has attained the age of 58 years where the pay (including pension and pensionary equivalent of retirement benefits) proposed to be fixed for such person exceeds 6700 rupees per mensem or where the pay scale proposed to be given to such person is 6700 rupees or more.

(b) In view of the position explained above in response to part (a), question does not arise.

Annual Surplus Revenue of Department of Telecommunications

3514. SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the annual surplus revenue of the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) was Rs. 10,000 crores during 1998-99; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to enlarge it so that the funds could be used for rural telecommunications?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) The Department of Telecommunications generates an operating surplus which is excess of income over working expenses, dividend etc. During 1998-99 the operating surplus was Rs. 7646.10 crores.

(b) The Department improves this surplus by better realization of revenues and strict control on expenditure. Department's development plan, including rural sector, are funded by this surplus supplemented by market borrowings, if necessary.

[Translation]

Opening of Post Offices

3515. SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 4393 on April 24, 2000 and state :

(a) whether the approval for opening of additional 500 Department Branch Post Offices and 50 Departmental Sub Post Offices during the current financial year has been cleared by the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of allocation made proposed to be made for the said purpose during the current financial year, State-wise and U.T. wise; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) Yes Sir, a target for opening of 500 Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices and 50 Departmental Sub Post Offices has been fixed during the current financial year. However, the opening of post offices in subject to sanctioning of the required number of posts by the Ministry of Finance.

(b) and (c) The details of targets are given in enclosed statement.

(d) No reply called for in view of (b) and (c) above.

Statement

Targets for Opening of Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices and Sub Post Offices during Annual Plan 2000-2001

Sl.No.	Name of Circle	EDBOs	DSOs
1.	Andhra Pradesh	15	2
2.	Assam	30	3
3.	Bihar	75	7
4.	Delhi	04	2
5.	Gujarat	20	3
6.	Harayana	15	2
7.	Himachal Pradesh	07	1
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	05	1
9.	Karnataka	21	2
10.	Kerala	04	2
11.	Madhya Pradesh	40	3
12.	Maharashtra	60	2
13.	North East	40	2
14.	Orissa	10	2
15.	Punjab	14	2
16.	Rajasthan	20	2
17.	Tamil Nadu	15	2
18.	Uttar Pradesh	50	3
19.	West Bengal	55	7
	Total	500	50

[English]

Development of Airports in Karnataka

3516. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of CIVIAL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to develop and upgrade the small airports at Mysore, Hubli, Belgaum and Bellary in Karnataka;

(b) if so, whether some foreign companies are also very keen to develop these airports;

(c) if not, whether the Government propose to extend financial assistance for the development of these airports; and

(d) if so, the provision made, if any, for Ninth Plan and also for the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) No, Sir. There was a request from the State Government of Karnataka for developing the airports at Mysore, Hubli, Belgaum and Bellary in Karnataka. However, due to lack of demand from scheduled airlines, Airports Authority of India has no plan at present, to develop these airports.

(b) No such proposal has been received by Government.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

TERI Report on Air Quality in Delhi

3517. SHRI RASHID ALVI : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received that Tata Energy Research Institute (TERI) reports on air quality in Delhi;

(b) if so, the findings thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to ensure that Central Pollution Control Board acts with independence and scientific facts without recourse to avoidable misleading deductions aimed at self praise resulting in misguiding the public?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) : (a) and (b) The findings of the Tata Energy Research Institute (TERI) in respect of air pollution is based on monitoring done in limited area. The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has been monitoring air quality at a number of locations through a network of ambient air quality monitoring stations in Delhi. The air quality data of Delhi, as being monitored by CPCB, has indicated a downward trend in comparison to 1998 air quality data.

(c) The Central Pollution Control Board constituted under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, has a strong complement of scientific and technical personnel. It is equipped with the requisite infrastructural

facilities for pollution monitoring including continuous automatic stations. The monitoring reports are widely disseminated including electronic media (Internet).

Profit of Kandla Port Trust

3518. SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the total profit of Kandla Port Trust during the last three years;

(b) the details of the total amount spent by the Kandla Port Trust on welfare activities among workers and residents in the vicinity of Ports during the above period year-wise;

(c) whether the Kandla Port Trust workers are not provided with minimum basic amenities at work site; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) and (b) The net surplus (profit) of Kandla Port Trust for the last three years and the year-wise amount spent for the welfare among the workers and residents in the vicinity is as under :-

Year	Net Surplus (profit) Rs. (in crores)	Amount spent on welfare of workers/ residents of the vicinity (Rs. in lakhs)
1997-98	190.20	43.96
1998-99	246.20	214.74
1999-2000	214.92	370.90

(c) Kandla Port Trust workers are provided with all basic amenities at the work site.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Cabinet Sub Committee for C.R.F.

3519. DR. M.P. JAISWAL : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Cabinet Sub Committee constituted for the Central Road Fund by the Government has submitted its report;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the date on which the report was submitted;

(c) whether any action has been taken by the Government in this regard; and

(d) it not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) No Cabinet Sub Committee has been constituted for the Central Road Fund.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[English]

Non-Operational Airports

3520. SHRIMATI SHEELA GUATAM :
SHRI JAIBHAN SINGH PAWAIYA :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the amount spent by the Government on the maintenance of non-operational Airports during the last two years;

(b) the annual amount being spent on maintenance of each of these Airports; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to make up the losses as a result thereof particularly in view of shortage of funds?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIAL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) to (c) The amount spent on maintenance of non-operational airports and Civil Enclaves (CE) during 1998-99 and 1999-2000 was Rs. 239.45 lakhs and Rs. 284.11 lakhs respectively. The amount spent on maintenance of these airports for the last two years is as under :-

(Rs. in lakhs)

Airport	1998-99	1999-2000
1	2	3
Gorakhpur-CE	6.34	8.27
Jaisalmer-CE	8.76	16.85
Bikaner-CE	22.78	22.86
Chakri-CE	6.29	7.15
Behala	44.11	51.16
Belurghat	2.63	2.84
Coochbehar	52.44	56.70
Malda	7.49	8.30
Donakonda	0.35	0.35

1	2	3
Cuddapah	6.72	8.66
Kailashahar	29.92	44.40
Khowai	2.58	3.03
Kamalpur	1.09	1.28
Rupsi	7.67	0.61

This minimum maintenance is required so that these airports can be made operational at a short notice as they are required for chartered or nonscheduled flights.

Amendment in Indian Port Act, 1908

3521. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to enact amendment in Indian Port Act, 1908 to authorise companies setting up private ports in the country to act as conservators;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the private ports coming up in the country, location-wise;

(d) the recommendation made by Maritime States Development Council in this regard; and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Central Government is concerned with the Major Ports. There is no proposal at this stage to establish any private Major Port.

(d) No recommendations have been made by Maritime States Development Council in this regard.

(e) Does not arise.

Centre for Eco-Friendly Technologies

3522. SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL :
SHRI DAHYABHAI VALLABHBHAI PATEL :
SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY :
SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK :
SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR :
SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a centre to impart training in environment friendly technologies in various sectors such as energy, mining, construction and transport;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of grants sanctioned and released to various States and Union Territories for the implementation of said technologies during the last one year, till-date;

(d) whether the Government have received and complaints for misuse of funds by any State;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

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

(g) whether there is a need for improving environment governance and using market based instruments for green choices in order to provide solutions to the environment problems in future; and

(h) if so, the main action programmes that are being considered in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) : (a) No such Centre is contemplated to be set up.

(b) to (f) Does not arise.

(g) and (h) The Government of India have pursued a regulatory regime for the prevention and control of pollution. However market based instrument in the form of water cess, and other management tools like ecolabelling, ISO Certification and green rating of industry have also been introduced. A mix of regulatory regime and market based instruments would be a suitable strategy for improved environmental governance in future.

Acquisition of Barren Land in Maharashtra

3523. SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether large area of forest barren land has been acquired in Maharashtra for Central projects during the last ten years;

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

(c) whether afforestation have been carried out in Maharashtra in lieu of forest and barren land during the said period; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, district-wise with progress made in this regard, year-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) : (a) Under the provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 State/UT Governments are required to seek prior approval of the Central Government if any forest land is to be diverted for any non-forestry activity.

(b) to (d) As far as Maharashtra is concerned, Ministry has given approval to 1103 projects involving diversion of 43187.583 ha. of forest land for all the projects including Central Sector projects since enactment of the Forest (Conservation) Act in the year 1980. Against the above mentioned diversion of forest land, compensatory afforestation has been stipulated over 73384.730 ha. of forest/ non-forest land and the progress made till March, 2000 is over 65560.635 ha.

[Translation]

Sale of Blood by Red Cross

3524. SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN :
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY :
DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA :
SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH :

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 "Red Cross to make money from its blood" appearing in the 'Pioneer' dated July 14, 2000;

(b) if so, whether Indian Red Cross Society have decided to sell the blood from its bank;

(c) if so, the reason therefor and the rate at which the blood is likely to be sold by Indian Red Cross Society;

(d) the total blood units required to meet the demand particularly for road accidental cases at present in the country, State-wise;

(e) whether there are irregularities in the distribution of blood and the functioning of IRCS;

(f) if so, whether the Government propose to probe through some independent agency;

(g) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(h) the steps taken by the Government to streamline the functioning of IRCS and provide blood at free of cost to the needy persons ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (PROF. RITA VERMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The indian Red Cross Society has not decided to sell the blood from its blood bank. The blood is collected by IRCS on voluntary and replacement basis and there is no charge for the blood. However before a safe blood unit is issued to patient, a number of tests and processes have to be carried out. The IRCS in the first instance, proposes to levy a service charge of Rs. 350 on this account only from private hospitals and nursing homes.

(d) No separate information is collected on blood requirements for accident victims, however overall requirement of blood in the country is being met.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) and (g) In view of reply to (e), question does not arise.

(h) The IRCS is a non-Governmental organisation which receives a small grant-in-aid from the Government The requirement of the needy like the Thalasaemia and Haemophilia patients, who require repeated blood transfusion are being met by IRCS free of charge.

[English]

Kapilas Development Project

3525. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Kapila's Zoo in Orissa is part of the Kapilas Development Project;

(b) if so, whether Orissa Government has submitted any proposal to the Government for the implementation of Kapilas Development Project;

(c) if so, the salient feature thereof; and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) : (a) to (d) Central Zoo Authority has received a proposal from the Forest and Environment Department,

Government of Orissa dated 18th May, 2000 for Rs. 31.95 lakhs for reconstruction/renovation of Kapilas Zoo. This proposal is not part of Kapilas Development Project. With the point of view of optimum utilisation of resources, the Central Zoo Authority, at present is concentrating on the development of large, medium and small zoos. Kapilas Zoo does not qualify for financial assistance being a mini zoo.

Rain Repellent System in Aircraft

3526. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA :
SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "No rain repellent system in I.A's 300 aircraft" appearing in the 'Pioneer' dated July 19, 2000;

(b) if so, whether rain repellent systems do not exist in Airbus 300 aircraft making it impossible for pilots to manoeuvre the aircraft during monsoon;

(c) if so, the reasons for not providing this system in Airbus 300 aircraft;

(d) whether there are chances of mishaps due to non-availability of such systems in the said Airbus; and

(e) if so, the time by which such systems are likely to be available in all the aircrafts?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Rain repellent system exists on Airbus A-300 aircraft but the manufacturer, M/s. Airbus Industries, with the permission of their regulatory authority of DGAC, France, allowed deactivation of the rain repellent system, but made it mandatory that both windshield wipers should be serviceable all the time.

(c) Rain repellent system on A-300 aircraft of Indian Airlines was discontinued due to non-availability of rain repellent which was environment friendly as per the recommendation of Airbus Industires. However, environment friendly rain repellent is now available in the market and the systems are being progressively re-activated during major checks of A-300 aircraft.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise

Disparity in Pay Structure of CHS Doctors/AIIMS/PGI Chandigarh

3527. SHRI BHERULAL MEENA :
SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA :

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

(a) whether prior to 1983, the pay structure of teaching faculty in various institutions under his Ministry were similar and after 1983, there was disparity created between the pay structure of faculty under CHS and faculty under autonomous institutions like AIIMS, PGI, Chandigarh;

(b) whether the provision in AIIMS Act and PGI Act provide guidelines for pay structure similar to the employees of Central Government having identical duties;

(c) whether the teaching cadre under CHS has to perform teaching, research and patient care and all the duties as assigned to the Faculty of autonomous institutions like AIIMS and PGI;

(d) if so, the reasons for disparity in the pay structure of above mentioned two groups; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to redress the disparity in the pay structure for CHS doctors ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (PROF. RITA VERMA) : (a) to (e) In view of the differences in categorisation and nomenclature of post of the teaching staff in CHS and AIIMS and PGI, Chandigarh, it is not possible to make a comparison of pay scales prior to May, 1983. The faculty of AIIMS always enjoyed better pay scales as compared to teachers of CHS after May, 1983. This relativity in pay scales as well as the relative professional standing of AIIMS, has since been maintained in subsequent pay revisions reflecting the standard of AIIMs as an institute of national importance. AIIMS Act and PGI Act have specific provision for their pay structure. Although teaching cadre of CHS and faculty of AIIMS/PGI perform teaching, research and patient care, both are not comparable. While the standard of the teaching sub-cadre of CHS is good, the standard of similar personnel in AIIMS is much superior. This is reflected in the emoluments difference in AIIMS vis-à-vis CHS.

Allotment of Land of APEDA by AAI

3528. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Airport Authority of India allotted land to Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) for setting up the facility of cold storage at Hyderabad airport;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the said work has since been completed;

(d) if so, whether the APEDA has handed over the building to AAI for operation;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether cold storage facility has not become operational at Hyderabad airport; and

(g) if so, the details thereof and the capacity of the cold storage ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) and (b) Airports Authority of India (AAI) has allotted 500 sq. mts. of land to Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) for setting up a state-of-the-art centre for perishable cargo.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. The facility has handed over by APEDA to AAI on 3rd March, 2000.

(f) and (g) In order to encourage private participation in operation and maintenance of Centres for Perishable Cargo at the airports, offers/competitive bids for selection of a suitable agency of the management, operation and maintenance of the Centres of Perishable Cargo have been invited through press advertisements. Depending on the response, the facility is likely to be commissioned by October, 2000.

[Translation]

Percentage Length of National Highway in M.P.

3529. SHRI SUNDAR LAL TIWARI : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the percentage length of National Highways in Madhya Pradesh which are single lane or double lane National Highways;

(b) whether the Government are contemplating to upgrade the National Highways to meet the increasing demand of road transport;

(c) whether the Government are contemplating to get cooperation of private sector keeping in view its own limited sources; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) Total length of National Highways in Madhya Pradesh is 5209 Kilometers. Out of which, 22.90% length is single lane and 77.10% is two lane.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Construction of 8 bypasses and 9 major bridges widening to 4 lanes in a length of 381 KM on National Highways in Madhya Pradesh are contemplated for being taken up on BOT basis through private participation. One project of Durg Bypass on National Highway-6 is already under implementation on BOT basis.

Re-Constitution of Hindi Advisory Committee

3530. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Hindi Advisory Committee have been constituted or re-constituted in his Ministry and other concerned departments under his Ministry;

(b) if so, the composition thereof;

(c) whether the meeting of the Committee has been held or is to be held;

(d) if so, the terms of reference of the Committee;

(e) the arrangement made with regard to convening and organising the regular meetings of the Committee;

(f) the reasons for the delay in organising the meetings; and

(g) the steps proposed to be taken to avoid delay in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (PROF. RITA VERMA) : (a) to (g) The Hindi Advisory Committee of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is under the process of being reconstituted. All other actions will be taken after its reconstitution.

Reopening of Marble Mines in Rajasthan

3531. SHRI TARACHAND BHAGORA : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to grant its approval to reopen the marble mines in the forest region of Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the time by which the approval is likely to be granted;

(c) if not, whether the Government have chalked out any programme for rehabilitation of workers in these mines who have been rendered jobless because of the ban imposed by the Union Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORT AND MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI SUKH DEV SINGH DHINDSA) : (a) and (b) Marble is a minor mineral defined under section 3(e) of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 and therefore granting of mineral concessions for the mineral are governed by the Minor Mineral Concession Rules of the State Government concerned. The State Government of Rajasthan has informed that there are 522 leases of marble in Rajasthan which fall in the forest area. Ministry of Environment and Forests (MOEF) has granted approval for 197 marble mining leases which fall in the forest region, 28 marble mining leases have been accorded first stage clearance. Temporary working permission was accorded to 35 marble mines in Andhi area of Jaipur District. Proposals for reopening of 44 marble mining leases have been rejected by MOEF. For the remaining mining leases also proposals have been processed by the State Government as per law.

(c) and (d) The State Government of Rajasthan has stated that a number of workers who were rendered jobless due to closure of mines have found employment in the mines which are working at present. Besides this, a number of persons have been provided gainful employment by the State Government of Rajasthan under the Poverty Alleviation Programmes and Self-employment Schemes.

[English]

Construction of Airports in Gujarat

3532. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVAITION be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of airports are being constructed at different parts of Gujarat;

(b) if so, the places where such airports are likely to be constructed with cost of each airport;

(c) whether Government have plans to link Bhuj with other cities in Gujarat by small aircrafts; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVAITION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Airline operators are free to operate services from any airport including Bhuj airport depending upon traffic potential, commercial viability and availability of aircraft.

Projects/Proposals Regarding Family Welfare from Karnataka

3533. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received some projects/proposals in regard to family welfare and rural health scheme from State Government of Karnataka during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the present position of these proposals;

(d) whether any proposal/project out of these are for external assistance;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) whether the said proposal has been forwarded for foreign assistance ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (PROF. RITA VERMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The details are given in the enclosed statement.

(d) to (f) None of these proposals requires fresh external assistance. Many of these proposals are however, already covered by existing externally aided projects as clarified in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Details of Project/Proposal Received from Karnataka during last three years

Sl.No.	Proposals Received	Status/Remarks
1.	Project proposal for Vanaspati Van Scheme of Deptt. of Family Welfare for raising medicinal plants at Chikamangalore and Bangalore Districts	An Expert team visited the proposed site from 23-26 Nov., 1998 but since the proposed site did not meet the basis requirements, the Govt. of Karnataka was requested to identify alternate site with a revised proposal. No revised proposal has been received.
2.*	Proposals for according Mother Non Governmental Organisation (MNGOs) Status from SOSVA, Bangalore St. John Medical College, Bangalore, RPES, Bidar and Karnataka Voluntarty Health Association, Bangalore	All the four organisations have been accorded Mother Non Governmental Organisations (MNGOs) Status. Assistance of Rs. 75.00 lakhs to SOSVA, Bangalore, Rs. 10.00 lakhs to St. JMC, Bangalore, Rs. 4.00 lakhs to RPES, Bidar and Rs. 25.00 lakhs to KVHA, Bangalore was provided during last three years.
3.*	Proposal for release of funds Rs. 883.00 lakhs for Major Civil Works under RCH Programme	Proposal considered and entire amount of proposal already released.
4.*	Proposal for IEC activities through ZSS (Zila Saksharta Samiti) in respect of following distircts under RCH Project : Mysore, Bangalore (V), Kodagu (Coorg), Bidar, Dakshin Kannad, Tumkur, Kolar, Bagalkot, Belgaum, Hassan, Chitradurga, Koopal, Devengere, Mandya, Haveli, Raichur, Bellary Chikmanglur	All the proposal have been approved except for the district of Haveli, Raichur, Bellary and Chikmanglur which are under process.
5.*	Creation of additional posts for newly created Seven Districts (Bagalkot, Udupi, Haveri, Chamarjanagara, Koopal Gadag and Davangere).	Additional posts have not been approved under RCH Programme, therefore, the inability of Govt. of India for approval has been conveyed.
6.*	Proposal for release of funds for Auxillary Midwife (ANM)	As per RCH Scheme, provision of additional ANMs is not applicable to Karnataka. State informed accordingly.
7.*	Proposal for release of funds of Rs. 185.00 lakhs for Staff Nurse.	Proposal considered. Funds released.
8.*	Proposal for release of funds of Rs. 8.00 lakhs for engaging Safe Motherhood Consultant	Proposal considered. Funds released.
9.*	Proposal for release of funds for integrated financial envelope	Proposal considered and Rs. 209.00 lakhs released to the State for the purpose.
10.*	Proposal for release of funds of Rs. 3.43 lakhs for 24 hour delivery services	Proposal considered. Fund released.
11.**	Coverage of 11 additional cities under World Bank Assisted India Population Project-VIII	Proposal approval at a cost of Rs. 26.64 crores.
12.**	Revision of cost of India Population Project-IX activities in the State.	Revise cost at Rs. 150.84 crores approved.

* Sl. No. 2 to 10 are funded under the World Bank aided RCH Programme.

** Sl. No. 11 to 12 are funded under World Bank aided IPP-VII and IPP-IX respectively.

Assistance for National T.B. Control Programme to Karnataka

3534. SHRI KOLUR BASAVANAGOUD :
SHRI R.L. JALAPPA :
SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA :

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

(a) whether National Tuberculosis Control Programme and revised National Tuberculosis Control Programme have been implemented in Karnataka during 1999-2000;

(b) if so, the details of district covered under the above programmes alongwith the infrastructure provided under the above programme in each district;

(c) the amount proposed to be released to Karnataka under the above Tuberculosis programmes during 1999-2000;

(d) the actual amount released to the State so far for each programme;

(e) whether Karnataka Government has sought additional budget allocation to combat and control the problem of tuberculosis in the State;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the action taken by the Government to release the additional fund to the State ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (PROF. RITA VERMA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The districts in Karnataka included under Revised National TB Control Programme (RNTCP) are as under :-

1st Year	Bangalore City, Bangalore Urban.
2nd Year	Bellary, Bijapur, Bagalkot, Chitradurga, Davangere, Raichur and Koppal.
3rd Year	Mandya.

Rests of the districts are covered under National TB Control programme (NTCP). NTCP is integrated with primary health care services and administered by DTO/ STO at district and State levels respectively. Under RNTCP, for increased supervision and monitoring, contractual staff like STS and STLS are engaged.

(c) and (d) Under RNTCP, grant is given to State/ District TB Societies for implementation of programme in RNTCP districts. Besides, commodity grant in the form of drugs is also given for sputum positive cases in all other districts. For purchase of drugs for sputum negative cases in the districts, cash grant is given to States under NTCP.

Amount released to Karnataka is given in enclosed statement.

(e) to (g) Additional funds can be allocated after a decision on additional coverage is taken. The State Government is submitting an Action Plan for expansion.

Statement

I. Funds released to Karnataka under NTCP

Year	Amount released (Rs. in lakhs)	
	GC	EAC
1997-1998	102.93	-
1998-1999	118.85	95.150
1999-2000	130.44	184.570

GC = For anti TB drugs for sputum negative cases (Cash assistance).

EAC = For anti TB drugs for microscopes (Commodity grant).

II. Funds released to District/State TB Societies under World Bank aided Revised National TB Control Programme (RNTCP) for Karnataka

Year	Funds released to State and District TB Societie	Cost of Commodity grant in form of anti-TB drugs & Microscopes under EAC	Total (Rs in lakhs)
1998-1999	215.162	95.150	310.312
1999-2000	37.960	184.570	222.530

[Translation]

Programme on Environment

3535. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to broadcast any special programme on environment regularly; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. It is proposed to broadcast environmental messages on All India Radio regularly.

[English]

World Bank Aid to Hospitals/ Dispensaries

3536 SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether some hospitals/dispensaries are being set up in the country with World Bank aid;

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

(c) whether any such world bank aided hospital or dispensary is being set up in Orissa; and

(d) if so, the details alongwith locations and the progress made in these hospitals and dispensaries thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (PROF. RITA VERMA) : (a) to (c) World bank Assistance is being received to renovate, extend and modernize the secondary level Health Care facilities in seven states, including Orissa. The details of state-wise outlay and the health facilities are given in the enclosed statement.

(d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

Existing Projects

PHASE-I

Andhra Pradesh w.e.f. 1.3.95

Cost : Rs. 608.00 crores (US $ 158.9 million)

Duration : 6½ Years

Coverage : Extending/Renovating-21 District Hospitals, 47 Area Hospitals, 25 Sub-Community/Taluk Hospital, 49 Community/Taluk Hospital, Add Three New MCH Units.

PHASE-II

West Bengal w.e.f. 27.6.96

Cost : Rs. 698.00 crores (US $ 174.2 million)

Duration : 5½ Years

Coverage : Extending/Renovating-15 District Hospitals, 60 Sub-Community Hospitals, 95 Rural Hospitals, Upgrading 28 Primary Health Centres, 8 Block PHCs in the Sunderban Areas.

Kanataka w.e.f. 27.6.96

Cost : Rs. 546 Crores (US $ 136.4 million)

Duration : 5½ Years

Coverage : Exending/Renovating-21 District Hospitals, 107 Sub-Divisional Hospitals and 74 Community Hospitals.

Punjab w.e.f. 27.6.96

Cost : Rs. 425.00 Crore (US $ 106.1 million)

Duration : 5½ Years

Coverage : Extending/Renovating-13 District Hospitals, 46 Sub-Divisional Hospitals and 91 Community Hospitals.

PHASE-III

Orissa Project w.e.f. Sept. 1998

Cost : Rs. 415.57 Crores (US $ 90.7 million)

Duration : 5 years commencing September, 1998

Coverage : 1. District Head Qrs. Hospitals (30 + 2 : Capital Hospital and RGH Rourkela)

2. Sub-Divisional Hospitals (20)

3. Area Hospitals (19)

4. Community Health Centres – 1 (CHC-I) (37)

5. Community Health Centres – 2 (CHC-II) (48)

6. Blood Banks (30+21)

7. Training building – SIHFW annexe (1)

Maharashtra Project w.e.f. 14.2.1999

Cost : Rs. 727.00 crores (US $ 158.1 million)

Duration : 5½ Years

Coverage : The project which seeks to help deliver a package of health services based on revised service norms and consistent with needs in the community world include :

– Management Development and Institutional Strengthening by : (a) improving the institutional framework for policy development; (b) strengthening the management and implementation capacity at the state, divisional, district and facility levels; and (c)

developing surveillance capacity for major communicable diseases and strengthening Health Management Information System.

- Improving Service Quality and Effectiveness at 25 District Hospitals, 23-100 bedded and 53-50 bedded Sub-Divisional Hospitals by (a) renovating/extending district hopsitals upgrading selected CHCs to sub-divisional hospitals and constructing training centres at 4 remaining district hospitals; and (b) upgrading effectiveness of clinical, managerial and support services at all district and sub-divisional hospitals.

- Improving Access and Innovative Schemes by (a) renovating/extending and upgrading clinical effectiveness at 35 CHCs and enhancing their outreach functions; (b) improving the referral mechanisms with the primary and tertiary levels and with private health care; (c) promoting health services in tribal areas and for disadvantaged groups; and (d) developing a superspeciality hospital as an innovative scheme for closer co-operation beween the public and private sectors through the adoption of modern management practices.

Uttar Pradesh w.e.f. 1.7.2000

Cost : US $ 110 Million (Rs. 495 crores approx.)

Duration : 5½ Years

Coverage :

Renovation of PMU and 5 Regional Offices	– 6
Strengthening of Block PHC	– 50
Strengthening of CHC	– 35
Strengthening of District Hospital (Main Facility)	– 29
Strengthening of District Hospital (>250 Bed Main Facility)	– 03
Strengthening of District Hospital (Combined Men and Female on Single Site)	– 03
Strengthening of District Hospital (Female Facility)	– 32
Trauma Care Centres	– 04
Strengthening of Existing Diseases Surveillance Labs	– 68
Construction of New Surveillance Labs	– 15
Strengthening of Drug and Food Control Labs	– 05
Construction of Electro-Medical Workshops (Central and Regional)	– 06
Total	– 256

[Translation]

Production of BCG Vaccine in the Country

3537.SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of B.C.G. vaccines produced in the country during the last two years alongwith the laboratory-wise number thereof;

(b) whether the production is less in comparison to consumption thereof;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the manner in which the Gcvernment propose to overcome the shortage thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (PROF. RITA VERMA) : (a) to (d) BCG Vaccine Laboratory, Guindy, Chennai (a public sector unit under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare) is the only institute engaged in the production of BCG Vaccine. The production of BCG Vaccine during the last two years is as under :–

Year	Quantity Produced
1998-99	249.63 lakh doses
1999-2000	542.86 lakh doses

The total requirement of this vaccine for the National Immunization Programme is 608 lakh doses during the current financial year. After commissioning of two freeze driers, the Laboratory is expected to produce about 800 lakh doses of BCG vaccine during the year 2000-2001. This world more than meet the country's requirement or this vaccine.

[English]

Concession to Private Telecom Operators

3538.SHRI SURESH KURUP : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government allowed several concessions to private telecom operators to make their business viable while signing the licences;

(b) if so, whether these private operators are now refusing to deliver the goods as promised by them by asking more concessions; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) No, Sir. The licences for operation of various Telecom Services were signed with private telecom operators on mutually agreed terms and conditions; no concessions were allowed.

It was only after signing the licences that the Government while approving the New Telecom Policy-1999 (NTP-99) noted that it will be in public interest for the NTP to be uniformly applicable all over the country; NTP-99 also stated the Government's intention to satisfactorily resolve the problems being faced by the existing operators in a manner which is consistent with the contractual obilgations and is legally tenable. In this background, the Government approved migration of the existing licensees to the revenue sharing regime of NTP-99 under a Migration Package.

However, the following fiscal benefit are available to telecom service projects :

- amortization of license fee
- tax holiday
- enhanced limit of external commercial borrowings rebate on subscription to shares/debentures scope for tax exemption on financing through venture capital

(b) and (c) The operators have not refused so far to deliver the goods as promised by them but some operators like Basic Service Licensees are now seeking concession for dilution of their obligations, inter-alia, towards provision of VPTs (Village Panchayat Telephones) and DELs (Direct Exchange Lines). Government have not agreed to such requests. As regards the action taken by Government for non-fulfilment of the obligations by the private telecom operators, penalty as liquidated damages have been imposed as prescribed in the licence agreements.

Conversion of State Highways Into National Highways

3539.COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have drawn up any plan to convert some of important State Highways into National Highways;

(b) if so. the details thereof, especially those State Highways in Rajasthan;

(c) whether expansion work on such proposed Highways have started; and

(d) if not, likely date by which expansion/conversion work on this Highway is likely to commence and completed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) to (d) Conversion of State Highways/other roads into National Highways is a continuous process. Proposals received from various States are considered depending upon traffic needs, inter-se priority and availability of resources.

[Translation]

Vehicles on Roads

3540.DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA :
SHRI J.S. BRAR :

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the estimated number of vehicles plying at present on the National Highways in the country;

(b) the number out of them which are highspeed for wheelers;

(c) whether most of the road accidents are caused by these highspeed four wheelers;

(d) if so, the percentage out of the total number of accidents caused by these vehicles annually;

(e) whether the Government have paid special attention to check the rising number of road accidents; and

(f) if so, the steps taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) to (d) As per available data, the total number of motor vehicles registered in the country has been estimated at 3.72 crore for the year 1997. The annual average number of road accidents in the country is approximately three lakh per year, out of which as per information available, the total number of accidents on

National Highways is 81806 during 1997 and 84858 during 1998. No data pertaining to the number of vehicles or highspeed four wheeler vehicles plying on National Highways only is available.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. The steps taken are :

(i) Widening of 2-lane sections to 4-lane sections

(ii) Single lane to two lanes

(iii) Providing raised shoulders

(iv) Strengthening weak pavements

(v) Reconstruction of weak and narrow bridges and culverts

(vi) Replacement of level crossing by road over-bridges

(vii) Provision of retro-reflective road signs

(viii) Thermoplastic road markings

(ix) Lay byes and

(x) Wayside amenities on high traffic density corridors, etc.

Blindness

3541. SHRI MANSINH PATEL : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of blind persons at present in the country;

(b) whether the blindness cases are increasing during each of the last three years in the country;

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

(d) the steps taken by the Government to check blindness completely ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (PROF. RITA VERMA) : (a) There are an estimated 1.2 crores blind persons in the country.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. Do not arise.

(d) Blindness cannot be eliminated completely as the major cause of blindness is age related Cataract, which will continue in view of the increasing longevity of life. However, to bring down the level of prevalence of blindness, important activities such as the development of eye care infrastructure, training of manpower, financial assistance to NGOs to organize screening and surgical eye camps, promoting public awareness etc. are being undertaken under the National programme for Control of Blindness.

[English]

Optical Fibre in Tamil Nadu

3542. SHRI THIRUNAVUKARASU : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the length of optical fibre used in Tamil Nadu for laying cable lines for telephone connections;

(b) whether the Government propose to replace the existing cables with optical fibre;

(c) if so, the time by which the work is likely to be started; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) Nil.

(b) No, Sir. Optical fibre is not being proposed for replacing the existing cables. However, optical fibre cables are being laid mostly to inter-connect different towns for long distance transmission and also to connect different exchanges in the same city.

(c) and (d) Not applicable in view of reply as above.

Mobile Health Facility

3543. SHRI R.L. JALAPPA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have sanctioned financial assistance to Karnataka for setting up of mobile health check-up units for elderly, people as part of the national policy; and

(b) if so, the amount released so far in 1999-2000 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (PROF. RITA VERMA) : (a) and (b) Mobile Medicare Unit is covered under the scheme of Integrated Programme for older persons under the purview of Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

Help Age India, New Delhi has been sanctioned a Mobile Medicare Unit in Bangalore, Karnataka under the scheme of Integrated Programme for Older Persons. An amount of Rs. 1.368 lakhs has been released during 1999-

[Translation]

Cutting of Trees

3544. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE :
SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that timber trees are being cut illegally on large scale each year from the forests in the country, particularly Madhya Pradesh and timber mafias are operating in the forest areas;

(b) if so, the value of forest wood cut and sold illegally during the last three years and the number of timber mafias operating, State-wise; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to check the siad deforestation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) Major steps taken by the Government to check deforestation are :

1. Government of India is biennially assessing the forest cover of the country through Forest Survey of India since 1987. As per 1999 assessment overall 3896 sq. km. of forest cover has increased as compared to 1997 assessment.

2. Guidelines have been issued to involve village communities in protection and regeneration of forests through Joint Forest Management.

3. Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 has been enacted to regulate diversion of forest land.

4. A centrally sponsored scheme Modern Forest Fire Control Methods is being implemented to protect and conserve the forests from fire.

5. Special measures for protection and conservation of tigers and elephants and their habitat are being implemented.

6. A network of Wildlife Sanctuaries and National Parks has been set up for conservation of wild flora and fauna.

7. Afforestation programme are being undertaken by states as well as under Centrally Sponsored Scheme.

[English]

Improvements of Small Airports

3545. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Directorate General of Civil Aviation has made any recommendations for the improvements of small airports in the country particularly Gannanvaran airport in Krishna District and Rajahmundry airport in East Godavari district in Andhra Pradesh;

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

(c) the action Government propose to ensure that such airports do not lose their value to civil aviation;

(d) the funds required for this purpose;

(e) whether the improvements at small airports are to be made for the sake of safety and utility of the airport; and

(f) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) No recommendation has been made by Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) for improvements of small airports in the country particularly Gannanvaram airport in Krishna district and Rajahmundry airport in East Godavari in Andhra Pradesh in the recent past.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (f) Upgradation of airports by Airports Authority of India is a continuous process depending upon the traffic potential economic viability of such investment and safety of aircraft operations.

Development of Telecommunication in Rural Areas in Maharashtra

3546. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK :
SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE :
SHRI NAMDEO HARBAJI DIWATHE :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated comprehensive action plan for developing telecommunication in rural areas of Maharashtra;

(b) if so, details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for inefficient and ineffective telecommunication facilities in rural areas in Maharashtra

particularly in western part of Maharashtra and the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to strengthen, expand and upgrade communication in rural areas of the State ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As per the objectives of 9th Plan and NTP-1999 (National Telecom Policy, 1999), telephones will be provided on demand in all the rural and urban areas progressively by the year 2002. Opening of new telephone exchanges and expansion of existing exchanges have been planned to achieve this objective. During the year 2000-2001, it has been planned to open about 800 new exchanges and provide 1.5 lakh DELs in the rural areas of Maharashtra Circle.

(c) The telecommunication facilities available in the rural areas in Maharashtra including the Western part are generally satisfactory. However, due to the presence of ghat sections, backwater stream etc. there are some areas which are inaccessible. Following activities are planned in the rural areas to strengthen the Telecom Network :

(1) Set up about 800 new rural exchanges in Maharashtra Circle.

(2) Provide reliable transmission media in all the rural telephone exchanges by the year 2002.

(3) Introduce new technology WLL rural system to replace existing MARR VPTs and to meet the scattered telephone demand.

(4) To install and commission more and more RSU type equipments instead of SBM equipments.

Plan for Mobilisation of Huge Resources for National Highway

3547. SHRI ANANT GUDHE : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have drawn out a plan for mobilisation of huge resources recognised for proposed National Highways Development Projects during the current year and Ninth Plan period; and

(b) if so, the details of the projects launched with estimated provision of funds and physical targets set in general and for projects in Maharashtra, State-wise and project-wise during 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 and the Ninth Plan period; and

(c) the details of the action plan drawn for the current year-project-wise ?

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

(b) and (c) Thirty-Eight projects on National Highway Development Project covering a length of 1,088 km are under implementation at a cost of approximately Rs. 4,400 crores. Of these, three projects covering a length of 117 km at an estimated cost of Rs. 448 crores are under implementation by the Central Government in the State of Maharashtra. The Golden Quadrilateral component (5,952 km length) of National Highway Development Project covering 13,250 km will be completed by 2003 and the entire project by 2009.

Policy of Registration for Doctors by MCI

3548. SHRI SHIVAJI MANE : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Medical Council of India has formulated any policy for the registration of Doctors who got their degrees from India and USSR separately;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of applications of doctors received by MCI seeking registration during each of the last three years;

(d) the number of those doctors got registration alongwith the time taken by MCI for such registration;

(e) the number of cases received alongwith the reasons for delay and the number of pending application of such doctors as on date in both categories; and

(f) the time by which all the pending applications are likely to be cleared ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (PROF. RITA VERMA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. On applications made in a prescribed manner, the Medical Council of India register names of doctors with medical qualifications from India and former U.S.S.R. as per the provisions of section 15, 23 and 25 of the Indian Medical Council Act. 1956 after satisfying itself that the person concerned possess a recognised medical qualification and fulfils Council norms.

(c) to (f) A detailed statement is enclosed.

Statement

For the year 1997

No. of applications received with Indian qualification as well as foreign qualification	Provisional Registration issued with Indian qualification as well as foreign qualification	Total no. of pending cases with reasons Indian qualification as well as foreign qualification
934	934	Nil

For the year 1998 (March, 1998)

481	481	Nil

For the year 1998 (31.12.98) with Indian Qualifications

No. of applications received with only Indian qualification	Provisional Registration issued with only Indian qualification	Total no. of pending cases with reasons Indian qualification
273	273	Nil

For the year 1998 (31.12.1998) with Foreign Qualifications

No. of applications received with only foreign qualification	Provisional Registration issued with only foreign qualification	Total no. of pending cases with reasons foreign qualification
636	515	121*

*(A)	Unrecognised to recognised	39
(B)	5½ years course	78
(C)	Clarification from the Concerned Board of 10+2 regarding grace marks etc.	04
		121

For the year 1998 with Indian Qualification

No. of applications received with only Indian qualification	Provisional Registration issued with only Indian qualification	Total no. of pending cases with reasons Indian qualification
741	737	4 For want of Submission of Provisional Registration Certificate (in original) issued by the State Medical Council.

For the year 1999 Foreign Medical Qualification

No. of applications received with only foreign qualification	Provisional Registration issued with only foreign qualification	Total no. of pending cases with reasons foreign qualification
708	685	*23

*(A)	Unrecognised to recognised	–	07
(B)	For Eligibility criteria (Candidates have secured less than 50% marks in Physics, Chemistry and Biology)	–	16
			23

No. of application received for Permanent Registration Foreign medical qualifications (USSR) during the year **1997**	Approx.	57
No. of cases pending for incomplete application/documents		6
No. of case pending for verification of document from the concerned authorities i.e., either the concerned board of the institution awarding the degree etc. through Indian Embassy		1
	Total	7
No. of application received for Permanent Registration Foreign medical qualifications (USSR) during the year **1998**	Approx.	248
No. of cases pending for incomplete application/documents		2
No. of case pending for verification of document from the concerned authorities i.e., either the concerned board of the institution awarding the degree etc. through Indian Embassy		1
	Total	3
No. of application received for Permanent Registration Foreign medical qualifications (USSR) during the year 1999	Approx.	353
No. of cases pending for incomplete application/documents		6
No. of case pending for clarification from the Hospital regarding internship training (candidate) has-produced the certificate of Having done house job rather than Internship).		1
No. of cases pending for verification of document from the concerned authorities i.e., either the concerned board of the institution awarding the degree etc. through Indian Embassy		26
No. of case pending for notification of amendment in the Undergraduate recommendations (B.Sc. qualification)		1
No. of cases pending for clarification regarding eligibility criteria		3
	Total	37
Requests pending for Permanent registration of Indian qualifications for required information during the year 1997. (In complete application)		3
Requests pending for Permanent registration of Indian qualifications for required information during the year 1998. (In complete application)		6
Requests pending for Permanent registration of Indian qualifications for required information during the year 1999. (In complete application)		6

WLL Telephone Facility in Tamil Nadu

3549. SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the name of major cities where Wireless in Local Loop facility (WLL) provided in Tamil Nadu at present;

(b) whether the Government propose to provide that said facility in Kanyakumari district;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the said facility is likely to be provided; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) There is no city in Tamil Nadu at present provided with Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) facility.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) It is planned to provide WLL facility in Kanyakumari during 2001-2002.

(d) Not applicable in view of (b) above.

Functioning of Airports

3550. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI :
SHRI SHIVAJI MANE :
SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the four member committee which went into the functioning of airports in India had observed that the Airports Authority of India the regulatory body suffers from lack of coordination and that projects are not managed properly;

(b) if so, the details of the projects which were not managed properly as pointed by the committee;

(c) the overall observations of the committee; and

(d) the reaction of the Government on the observation made by the committee and further action taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) to (d) A Committee under the chairmanship of Shri R.C. Jain was constituted by the Government to inquire into the accident that occurred at IGI Airport, New Delhi on 13th December, 1999. The Committee was also asked to study the various aspects of airports functioning.

The Committee has submitted its report on 14-07-2000 which is under consideration.

Corruption in MCI

3551. SHRI SHIVAJI MANE : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware about the rampant corruption prevailing in the Medical Council of India in the matter of registration of Doctors who got their degrees from USSR increasing the seats of students in Medical Colleges and purchase of stores;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to hold a CBI enquiry to book the guilty officers in the above matters;

(c) if so, the time by which such an enquiry is proposed to be conducted; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (PROF. RITA VERMA) : (a) to (d) There were complaints against Medical Council of India regarding registration of doctors with degree obtained from instructions in erstwhile U.S.S.R. The complaints were from Dr. R.N. Pathak and one Public Redressal Forum. The latter had made complaints against Secretary M.C.I. The complaint was got inquired into by CBI and the CBI has concluded the complaint as being baseless. The increase of seats are being permitted by Central Government as per provisions of Indian Council Act, 1956 and the regulations framed thereunder. All purchases of Council are made through Super Bazar, Kendriya Bhandar or from Cooperative Stores. In case of non-availability of items from these sources the Council purchases items from open market.

Buyback of Shares

3552. SHRI JITENDRA PRASADA : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have approved a bunch of proposals including buyback of shares by Power Finance Corporation (P.F.C.) and Rural Electrification Corporation as well as creation of a Rs. 125 crore Credit Guarantee Fund for Small Industries (C.G.F.S.I.); and

(b) if so, the main features and their 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) Government has recently approved a proposal for buyback of 21,30,000 shares of Power Finance corporation (Face Value of Rs. 1000/-) at a buyback rate of Rs. 2710/- per share. The scheme would make available Rs. 577.25 crores to Government of India.

A Credit Guarantee Fund Scheme for Small Scale Industries has also been approved by the Government. Under this scheme, guarantee will be given for 75% of the loan (term loan as well as working capital) amount upto Rs. 10 lakhs extended by the commercial banks and well performing regional rural banks to the small scale industrial (SSI) units without collaterals including third party guarantee.

Loan by KVIC

3553.SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is fact that KVIC sanctioned loan to its aided institutions;

(b) if so, the details of loans sanctioned and distributed in the last three years alongwith list of its aided institutions;

(c) the amount of loans yet to be recovered; and

(d) the measures taken by KVIC to recover the same ?

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. However, since the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has not been conceived as a financial institution, the institutions are encouraged to take new loans from the Banks.

(b) The details of loans disbursed to various States/ Union Territories by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) during last three years i.e., 1996-97 to 1998-99 are given in the Statement.

(c) As on 31.3.2000 an amount of Rs. 223.84 crores under CBC fund and an amount of Rs. 438.41 crores under budgetary source are due for recovery from the KVIC's directly aided Institutions.

(d) The Commission has established recovery cells of in head office as well as at its field offices for monitoring the recovery of outstanding dues. Further, recovery notices are sent to loanees to remit dues. In addition to this, the outstanding dues are also recovered from the outgo, if any, to the Institutions.

Statement

Disbursement of Loans to Various State/Union Territories by KVIC during the years 1996-97 to 1998-99

(Rupees in lakhs)

Sl. No.	State/U.T.	1996-97		1997-98		1998-99	
		Khadi	V.I.	Khadi	V.I.	Khadi	V.I.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	383.16	258.90	63.02	17.68	19.76	31.10
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	14.33	29.42	–	–	–	–
3.	Assam	61.43	4.68	19.43	0.37	0.79	2.00
4.	Bihar	144.81	56.34	30.17	0.14	53.83	7.02
5.	Goa	36.65	11.30	–	31.32	–	1.55
6.	Gujarat	61.64	30.41	7.00	13.37	43.34	29.13
7.	Haryana	74.67	65.72	18.75	219.36	2.10	8.88
8.	Himachal Pradesh	11.97	31.03	–	–	6.52	4.33
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	35.97	4.51	0.38	–	6.61	0.52
10.	Karnataka	170.98	56.66	170.75	68.05	102.75	61.58
11.	Kerala	108.82	21.87	3.15	1.46	35.48	13.68
12.	Madhya Pradesh	153.26	49.27	1.21	48.88	8.18	12.11
13.	Maharashtra	87.68	220.24	10.84	48.68	7.62	41.96

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
14.	Manipur	7.42	2.84	–	–	–	0.34
15.	Meghalaya	6.75	36.04	–	–	–	0.86
16.	Mizoram	1.62	–	–	–	0.10	–
17.	Nagaland	16.78	2.73	–	2.00	–	–
18.	Orissa	116.46	9.52	18.95	3.87	6.10	8.34
19.	Punjab	72.00	6.10	–	2.50	11.45	1.21
20.	Rajasthan	218.24	18.79	28.59	26.21	19.70	23.60
21.	Sikkim	3.90	–	–	–	–	–
22.	Tamilnadu	446.80	43.07	0.25	26.57	42.27	37.41
23.	Tripura	21.99	4.61	–	–	–	–
24.	Uttar Pradesh	492.82	241.38	61.81	135.90	332.88	191.10
25.	West Bengal	138.32	69.55	43.15	4.97	36.28	48.54
26.	Andaman and Nicobar	–	–	–	–	–	–
27.	Chandigarh	–	–	–	–	–	–
28.	Dadar and Nagar Haveli	–	–	–	–	–	–
29.	NCT of Delhi	13.69	3.38	–	–	1.65	10.11
30.	Daman and Diu	–	–	–	–	–	–
31.	Pondicherry	2.06	–	–	–	–	1.29
32.	Lakshadweep	–	5.10	–	–	–	–
33.	Departmental	–	–	–	–	–	7.67
34.	Other Schemes	–	–	–	–	–	–
	Total	2904.22	1283.46	477.45	651.33	737.41	544.33

Purchase by KVIC

3554.SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) the methods adopted by Khadi and Village Industries Commission for making purchases;

(b) whether Khadi and Village Industries Commission purchased cotton worth Rs. 18 crore during 1993-1997;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether that was lying in their various godowns unsold; and

(e) if so, the reasons for making such heavy purchases ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN 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 Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) purchased cotton through Regional Cotton Purchase Committees. These Committees negotiate the rates and purchase cotton in accordance with the indents communicated by the Directorate of Cotton.

(b) and (c) The details of purchase of cotton made during the period 1993-1997 by the KVIC are as follows :

Year	Value (Rs. in crores)
1993-94	19.23
1994-95	18.96
1995-96	58.81
1996-97	30.28

(d) Yes, Sir. Some of the stock was lying unsold.

(e) Cotton was purchased in accordance with the indents placed by the khadi institutions with the KVIC.

Allocation to KVIC

3555. SHRI C.N. SINGH : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) the financial allocations by the Government to Khadi and Village Industries Commission during each of the last three years;

(b) whether these allocations are not adequate to meet the requirement of KVIC; and

(c) if so, the manner in which the Government propose to protect the adverse affects on the functioning of the KVIC ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN 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 net budgetary allocations made by the Government to the Khadi and Village Industries Commission during each of the last three years is given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) The allocations are adequate.

(c) Does not arise.

Statement

Funds Allocated to KVIC

(Rupees in lakhs)

S.No	Sub-Head	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
1	2	3	4	5
	Plan			
1.	Khadi Grant	19655*	15960*	9470
2.	Khadi Loan	2098	2098	1500
3.	V.I. Grant	8400	8400	5400
4.	V.I. Loan	900	900	250
5.	S and T (Khadi)	30	30	–
6.	S and T (V.I.)	95	170	70
7.	Interest Subsidy (Khadi)	1900	1900	1900
8.	Interest Subsidy (V.I.)	500	500	500
9.	REGP	10500	4665	1103 **
	Sub-Total	44078	34623	20193
	Non-Plan			
10.	Khadi Grant	2400	2400	2400
11.	Admn. Expenditure	2400	2560	2410
12.	HBA Loan	30	30	30
	Sub Total	4830	4990	4840
	Grand Total	48908	39613	25033

* Extra allocation for clearance of arrears of rebate claims.

** Funds were pending unutilized with the banks, hence net release was less.

Use of Nuclear Weapons by Pak

3556. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have noticed the recent statement of the Pakistan Deputy Foreign Minister that Islamabad could consider using nuclear weapons first, if attacked by conventional weapons; and

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

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

(b) Government remains committed to a policy of 'no-first-use' and to taking all necessary steps to safeguard the nation's security in accordance with its own assessment of threats to our security.

[Translation]

Changes in Kailash Manasarovar Journey Package

3557. SHRI JAI PRAKASH : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any report recommending several wide ranging changes in the Kailash Manasarovar journey package;

(b) if so, the salient features of this report;

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken thereon; and

(d) the efforts being made to make this journey more comfortable ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) to (d) Government attaches importance to improving and upgrading facilities for the Kailash Manasarovar Yatra. Based on the Information received from the Yatris and reports of the Government appointed Liaison Officers, Government has, from time to time, raised with the Chinese Government the issue of further improving the facilities on their side. Most recently, Government had discussed this issue during the visit of a delegation from the Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR) of China in June 2000. The Chinese side stated that their efforts to upgrade the facilities for the Yatra were limited by financial constraints on account of the freeze in charges, in place since 1995, at US $ 500 per Yatri. They emphasized the need for upward revision of charges to facilitate further improvements.

[English]

Poultry Farms

3558. SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of poultry farms opened and proposed to be opened in the country during the current Five Year Plan period, State-wise;

(b) the allocation of funds for the current financial year;

(c) whether the special attention is being given to the areas of SC/ST dominated for opening of poultry farms; and

(d) if so, the places which have been given priority particularly in the State of Uttar Pradesh in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) This Department has neither opened nor there is any proposal to open new poultry farms during the current 9th Five Year Plan.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Funds for Horticulture Research

3559. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL :
SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government provide funds to be States for the setting up of Horticulture/Floriculture Research institutes;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise during the last three years;

(c) the number of Horticulture/Floriculture Research Centres set up during the said period, State-wise and location-wise;

(d) whether the Government propose to setup new Horticulture/Floriculture Research Centres; and

(e) if so, the details thereof, State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Indian Council of Agricultural Research has set up the following Research Centre during the last three years :-

1. National Research Centre for Seed Spices at Tabiji Farm, Ajmer (Rajasthan).

(d) and (e) The Indian Council of Agricultural Research propose to set up the following new Horticulture/Floriculture Centre :

1. National Research Centre for Litchi in Bihar.
2. National Research Centre for Makhana in Bihar.
3. National Research Centre for Pomegranate in Maharashtra.

[English]

Proposal for Drip Irrigation (A.P.)

3560. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any proposals of Andhra Pradesh are pending with the Union Government to provide additional funds for setting up of Drip Irrigation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) action taken by the Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO) : (a) to (c) The Government of Andhra Pradesh indicated an additional requirement of funds to the tune of Rs. 10.00 crores under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Use of Plastics in Agriculture during the year 1999-2000. However, within the funds available under the Scheme, the entire allocation of Rs. 12.77 crores allocated to the Government of Andhra Pradesh was released to them during 1999-2000. The State Government has an unspent balance of Rs. 7.74 crores as on 1.4.2000 under the Scheme.

Cine Workers

3561. SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the number of families paid compensation under the Group Insurance Scheme for Cine Workers in case of death due to natural cause or due to accident, during the last three years;

(b) the number of such cases of claims pending, till date and time by which these cases are pending;

(c) the efforts made by the Government for expeditious payment;

(d) the total corpus funds available in the Cine Workers Welfare Fund and the income and expenditure thereof during the last three years;

(e) whether medical benefit is likely to be extended to Cine Workers under this scheme;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) Fifty families have been paid compensation under Group Insurance Scheme for Cine Workers in case of death due to natural cause or due to accident during the last three years.

(b) As on date, 21 cases of claims are pending with LIC and period of pendency ranges from one month to 5 months.

(c) LIC has been requested to settle the cases expeditiously.

(d) A Statement-I is enclosed.

(e) to (g) A list of Schemes for Medical Benefits provided to the Cine Workers is given in enclosed Statement-II.

Statement-I

Income and Expenditure During the Last Three Years in respect of Cine Workers Welfare Fund

(Rupees in Lakhs)

Year	Opening Balance	Income	Expenditure	Closing Balance
1997-98	104	49	13	140
1998-99	140	20	19	141
1999-2000	141	50	21	170

Statement-II

List of Schemes for Medical Benefits Provided to the Cine Workers

(1) Re-imbursement of expenditure as Financial Assistance to Cine Workers suffering from Heart Diseases.

(2) Re-imbursement of expenditure as Financial Assistance to Cine Workers for Kidney Transplantation.

(3) Re-imbursement of expenditure as Financial Assistance to Cine Workers suffering from Cancer.

(4) A Static-cum-mobile dispensary has been set up in Mumbai for providing health care facilities to cine workers and their family members.

[Translation]

Massani Dam

3562. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that a huge quantity of water goes waste due to absence of the sluice gate in the Massani dam at Rajasthan-Haryana border;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to check the wastage of water therefrom; and

(d) the time by which the gate is likely to be installed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (d) Irrigation being a state subject, maintenance of irrigation projects and regulation of water release from the dams is done by the concerned state government. The required information is being obtained from the concerned State Government.

[English]

Skilled and Unskilled Workers

3563. SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large number of immigrants are working in the informal and domestic help as skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled in foreign countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the names of the countries they are serving in during the last three years;

(c) whether the Government are aware of illegal human trafficking in such immigrants;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) and (b) All intending emigrants whose passports have the endorsement of 'Emigration Check Required', are required, under the Emigration Act, 1983, to obtain emigration clearance from the Offices of Protectors of Emigrants before they leave for employment with any foreign employer. During the last 3 years, 416424, 355164 and 199552 workers, mostly of semi-skilled and unskilled categories left for other countries for work after obtaining such emigration clearance during the years 1997, 1998 and 1999 (upto 30.9.99) respectively. The important countries to which these workers emigrated for work are Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Singapore, Malaysia and Libya. No record in respect of such persons whose passports carry the endorsement of 'Emigration Check Not Required' and who emigrate to other countries for work, is maintained.

(c) to (e) Sporadic complaints relating to cheating of job seekers by registered and unregistered recruiting agents are brought to the notice of the Government. The complaints mainly relate to collection of money in excess of the service charges prescribed by the Government, sending of workers to other countries against non existent jobs, non-payment/delayed payment of salaries, non-availability of accommodation and other facilities and changing of the work agreement to the disadvantage of the workers. In the case of workers deployed by the registered recruiting agents, the matter is immediately taken up with the concerned Indian Mission abroad and the grievances of the workers are redressed in the majority of the cases. Simultaneously, the registered recruiting agents are also directed to get in touch with the foreign sponsor and redress the grievances of the workers. While in majority of the cases such grievances are redressed, in the event of the registered recruiting agents not cooperating in the matter, action is taken to suspend/cancel the registration certificates. During the last three years, registration certificates of 32 agents were suspended and two registration certificates were cancelled. In the event of the complaint being against the unregistered recruiting agents, the matter is immediately brought to the notice of concerned police authorities for investigation and taking appropriate legal action against them. With a view to curbing the activities of such unregistered recruiting agents, detailed guidelines have also been issued to the State Governments/UTs for issue of necessary instructions right up to the police station level for keeping a strict vigil on the activities of such agents and registering cases against them. On the basis of the action taken by the police authorities, cases have been registered against many such unregistered recruiting agents in various states.

[Translation]

Gurjar Community in OBC List

3564. SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the names of States where the Gurjar community has been included in the OBC category and those where this community has been included in the Scheduled Tribes category;

(b) the category in which the Union Government has included this community; and

(c) the States in the country which are extending facilities of both OBCs and BCs (backward classes) category to this community ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) and (b) The Gujjar Community is included in the list of Scheduled Tribes in respect of the State of Jammu and Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh [excluding the territories specified in sub-section 1(i) of section 5 of the Punjab reorganisation act 1996 (31 of 1966)]. Gujjar to gujar community is also included in the Central List of Other Backward Classes (OBCs) in the State of Himachal Pradesh (in merged area only).

Gurjar, Gujjar and Gujar communities are also included in the Central List of OBCs in the following States/Union Territories :-

(i) Chandigarh – Gujjar

(ii) Delhi – Gujar, Gurjar

(iii) Haryana – Gujjar

(iv) Punjab – Gujjar

(v) Rajasthan – Gujar, Gurjar

(vi) Uttar Pradesh – Gujar

(c) Persons belonging to above mentioned communities of Scheduled Tribes and Backward Classes (in the Central List) are getting benefits as admissible as per the guidelines laid down.

[English]

Pending Cases at Dhanbad

3565. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large number of cases are pending before two Central Industrial Tribunals at Dhanbad;

(b) if so, the details thereof tribunal-wise, as on March 31, 2000;

(c) whether it is a fact that there is no Judge in the Tribunal II for a long time resulting delay in the disposal of the cases; and

(d) if so, steps taken to appoint judge to the Tribunal II ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) and (b) Number of cases pending in the two Central Government Industrial Tribunal-cum-Labour Courts at Dhanbad as on 31.3.2000 is :–

Name of the CGIT-cum-Labour Court	No. of Pending cases
Dhanbad No. 1	1417
Dhanbad No. 2	1220
Total	2637

(c) and (d) The post of Presiding Officer CGIT-cum-Labour Court No. II Dhanbad fell vacant on 1.12.1999. The competent authority has been approached for a panel of names and their vigilance clearances and confidential report dossiers.

[Translation]

Flood Control

3566. SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have set up a flood control commission to control the flood in the country, particularly in Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the commission has submitted any report to the Government recently; and

(d) if so, the recommendations made by the commission alongwith the action taken by the Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) Ganga Flood Control Commission (GFCC) was set up in the year 1972 for dealing with the flood problem of river Ganga and its tributaries passing through the States of Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh and Delhi. The functions of the GFCC inter-alia included preparation of comprehensive plans and examination of the schemes prepared by states of tackle the problems of food, erosion and drainage in the Ganga Basin.

(c) and (d) No report has recently been submitted by GFCC. However, the GFCC prepared comprehensive plans for flood management for all the river systems for the Ganga basin by the end of the year 1990 and circulated them to all concerned States for taking up follow up actions on the recommendations made in these plans. Both long term and short term measures have been suggested for tackling the flood problems in these river systems. These mainly included measures like flood moderation reservoirs, construction of embankments along the banks of rivers in the spilling reaches, improvement of drainage system, anti-erosion works for protection of important towns, villages and other vital installations and communication lines against erosion, watershed management and non-structural measures like flood proofing, flood plain zoning and flood forecasting etc. The detailed investigation and framing of the individual schemes and its execution based on the recommendation made in these plans are the responsibility of the concerned State Government. The State Governments are taking action/ implementing the schemes as per their priority and availability of funds for the purpose.

[English]

Construction of a Dam

3567. SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the State Government of Assam have sent any proposal to the Union Government to construct a dam across the river to Pagladiya to control the flood furry in the State;

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

(c) the time by which the work on the dam is likely to commence ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) The Brahmaputra Board has prepared and submitted a Detailed Project Report for construction of a Dam on river Pagladiya to the Union Government in the year 1990.

(b) and (c) The Pagladiya Dam Project is a multipurpose project with an estimated cost of about Rs. 543 crore. It envisages construction of a rolled filled earth dam 26.20 meter high and 23 kilometer long at Thalkuchi village at a distance of 26 kilometer from Nalbari. Besides providing flood benefit to an area of 40,000 hectare, the project will also provide irrigation to a Gross Command Area of 54,160 hectare and generate 3 Mega Watt hydro power as incidental benefit. The Brahmaputra Board is to take up the construction of this project with Central funds. An amount of Rs. 81.29 crore has been provided for this Project in the budget of this Ministry for the remaining period of 9th Plan.

Relations with Asian Countries

3568. SHRI NAMDEO HARBAJI DIWATHE : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have recently reviewed bilateral economic cooperation between India and other Asian countries;

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

(c) the details of fresh policy and ministrative initiatives taken/proposed to be taken to strengthen bilateral economic cooperation between India and other Asian countries during the current year and Ninth plan period ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) to (c) Bilateral economic cooperation between India and several Asian countries has been reviewed during the last year. These reviews took place during high level visits from Singapore, Indonesia, Vietnam, Brunei, Cambodia, China, Nepal, etc. and during visits from India to China, Japan, Iran, Syria and other Asian countries. High – level visits from India to other Asian countries are also being considered. Bilateral economic cooperation has also been reviewed during official level talks.

During these interactions, measures to increase trade and investment, technical cooperation, cooperation in tourism, human resource development, science and technology etc. have been discussed. Close interaction with Asian countries on economic matters is an important plank of Government of India's international economic relations.

[Translation]

Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme

3569. SHRI P.R. KHUNTE : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether several schemes from the State Government of Madhya Pradesh for enhancing the irrigation capacity are under consideration of the Union Government;

(b) if so, the details of such schemes alongwith the time by which these schemes are likely to be approved;

(c) the funds proposed to be provided to the State Government of Madhya Pradesh under the Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme during the current year; and

(d) the number of schemes are under construction in the State at present ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) Of the 11 Major/Multipurpose Irrigation Schemes received from Government of Madhya Pradesh for clearance, 8 schemes have already been accepted by the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). The clearance of the remaining schemes is linked with the compliance of the observations of the central appraising agencies by the state government. The details of these schemes is given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) Planning Commission has provisionally allocated, an amount of Rs. 200 crore to Madhya Pradesh under Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme during the current year.

(d) There are 55 Medium/Major ongoing irrigation project with have spilled over from VIII Plan into IX Plan.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of Project	Estimated Cost (Rs. in Crore)	Irrigation Benefits in Thousand Hactares
(A)	**Projects accepted by Technical Advisory Committee of Ministry of Water Resources**		
1.	Bansagar Unit-II (Canal)	344.68	249.36
2.	Bargi Multipurpose	566.34	219.80
3.	Kolar Project	139.14	60.87
4.	Thanwar Tank	24.38	18.21
5.	Pench Diversion	184.04	96.52
6.	Mahan	39.00	19.04
7.	Omkareshwar Multipurpose	1784.29	283.32
8.	Rajghat Canal	309.21	121.45
(B)	**Projects under Appraisal**		
1.	Upper Narmada	211.92	18.61
2.	Halon Irrigation Project	193.01	11.736
3.	Madhya Pradesh Water Resources Consolidation Project	441.90	751.70

Bhartiya Nidhi Adalat

3570. SHRIMATI SUSHILA SAROJ : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to start open session of Bhartiya Nidhi Adalat in the Provident Fund Office in various States, particularly in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar;

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

(c) whether the Government have received complaints pertaining to delay in the payment of provident fund caused by the Provident Fund Offices located in Lucknow and Patna;

(d) if so, the details alongwith the action taken thereon, State-wise; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to bring improvement in the performance of Provident Fund Offices ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) and (b) All regional Employees' Provident Fund Offices including offices in U.P. and Bihar are required to hold Lok Adalats on 10th of every month for resolving grievances and disputes of a complex nature.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) In the Regional Office Patna there were 366 complaints out of which 359 have been settled. In the Sub Regional Office Lucknow 73 complaints were received and disposed of.

(e) In order to provide prompt service to the subscribers, a massive computerization programme has been launched in the EPF Organisation. A Central action Plan has also been formulated for regular monitoring of settlement of PF claims. The grievance redressal machinery in the EPF Organisation has been strengthened and activated so as to ensure early settlement of PF claims. A statutory time limit of 30 days has been fixed for settlement of EPF claims complete in all respects. Facilitation centers have also been set-up in EPF offices to provide, inter-alia, to subscribers information in respect of their pending claims/complaints.

Khadi and Gramodyog Sector

3571. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to hand over Khadi and Village Industries Commission to multi-national companies; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and 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.

[English]

Setting up of SSIs within Bodoland Territory

3572. SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have prepared any action-plan to set up some agro and forest based rural and small scale industries on the northern bank of the river Brahmaputra with special reference to most backward and deprived and neglected Bodoland Territory in order to create more employment opportunities and jobs so as to absorb thousands of unemployed Bodo Tribal youths of the concerned region in question;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the quantum of proposed investment for the above action plan;

(e) the quantum of investment in the rest of area of Assam as on today; and

(f) the quantum of total investment in the North-Eastern Region in the method of taking all-out efforts to uplift the N.E. Region on the sector of Small Scale Industries on today ?

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. The Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has prepared an Action Plan.

(b) As per the Action Plan employment opportunities for about 26000 persons are expected to be generated under various KVI programmes. The industries/activities identified under this Action Plan are :

(i) Traditional Silk Spinning and Weaving,

(ii) Bee-Keeping,

(iii) Paddy Processing,

(iv) Carpentry Blacksmithy,

(v) Vegetable Oil,

(vi) Cane and Bamboo, etc.

(c) In view of above, does not arise.

(d) An amount of Rs. 200 lakhs has been earmarked.

(e) During 1999-2000 financial year, the KVIC disbursed Rs. 0.77 lakhs as grant and Rs. 14.51 lakhs as loan to the State of Assam.

(f) The following table indicates the State-wise grant and loan released to 7 States of North Eastern region during the year 1999-2000 :-

(Rs. in lakhs)

Name of State	Grant	Loan
Arunachal Pradesh	0.50	-
Assam	0.77	14.51
Manipur	169.70	255.62
Meghalaya	6.50	-
Mizoram	155.74	142.82
Nagaland	5.38	4.17
Tripura	1.91	3.05

[Translation]

Per Capita Income and Expenditure

3573. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the per capita income during the last two years, State-wise;

(b) whether the per capita income and in Maharashtra is below the national average; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to increase the same ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE) : (a) The State-wise estimates of per capita Net State Domestic Product (state income) during the latest two years for which data are available are given in the statement enclosed.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Not applicable.

Statement

Per Capita Net State Domestic Product (State Income) at Current and Constant (1993-94) Prices

(Rupees)

Sl. No.	State/UT	at current prices		at constant (1993-94) prices	
		1997-98(P)	1998-99(Q)	1997 98(P)	1998-99(Q)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	11701	13853	8246	9118
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	11738	12929	8741	8979
3.	Assam	8026	8700	5919	5942
4.	Bihar	5531	5923	4365	4411
5.	Goa	24309	NA	18122	NA
6.	Gujarat	16998	18792	13286	13709
7.	Haryana	17426	19773	12539	13084
8.	Himachal Pradesh	11451	12692	8498	8864
9.	J and K	9116	NA	NA	NA
10.	Karnataka	13621	15889	10200	11153
11.	Kerala	15195	17756	9381	9807
12.	Madhya Pradesh	9209	10147	7013	7350
13.	Maharashtra	20521	23849	14943	16217
14.	Manipur	9793	10599	NA	NA
15.	Meghalaya	10287	11382	7951	8252
16.	Mizoram	11667	NA	NA	NA
17.	Nagaland	NA	NA	NA	NA
18.	Orissa	8103	8719	5475	5648
19.	Punjab	18865	20834	13962	14457
20.	Rajasthan	10189	11045	7811	7694
21.	Sikkim	NA	NA	NA	NA
22.	Tamil Nadu	15798	17525	11897	12287
23.	Tripura	8166	8669	6251	6637
24.	Uttar Pradesh	8273	9261	5808	5890
25.	West Bengal	11464	12961	8168	8622
26.	A and N Islands	NA	NA	NA	NA
27.	Chandigarh	NA	NA	NA	NA
28.	Delhi	25534	27693	18849	19091
29.	Pondicherry	18795	22956	12145	13111
	All-India Per Capita NNP	12729	14682	9271	9739

Source : For Sl.No. 1-29 – Directorate of Economics and Statistics of respective State Governments and for All-India — Central Statisfical Organisation

P : Provisional Estimates. Q : Quick Estimates.

NA : Not Available.

NNP : Net National Product.

[English]

D.M.S.

3574.DR. S. VENUGOPAL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that transport branch of Delhi Milk Scheme is incurring heavy losses due to non-utilization of the capacity of milk vans fully;

(b) if so, the details of monthly losses during the last one year on this account;

(c) the steps taken to minimise the transportation costs;

(d) whether the Government are aware that the maintenance of staff cars is done through private workshops for the last one year inspite of the fact that Delhi Milk Scheme has its own workshops and experts team;

(e) the reasons to get maintenance work and from private workshops; and

(f) the details of total monthly expenditure on each staff car for the last one year ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURAL (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) to (c) Delhi Milk Scheme is not incurring heavy losses in transport Branch. Total transport cost has not increased after the price hike. On the contrary, before the price hike 99 DMS vans were carrying the milk to 1436 points/depots daily; and after the price hike 96 DMS vans are supplying milk to 1564 points/depots daily in Delhi. Necessary nationalization/re-organisation of Distribution routes is undertaken continuously to keep the transport cost to bare minimum.

(d) and (e) Major maintenance work of the DMS Staff cars is done through the workshop owned/run by the manufacturer of the vehicles i.e. Hindustan Motors and Maruti Udyog as is the case with other Central Government Departments based in Delhi. However the minor repair works are done in the DMS workshop itself which is basically meant for the maintenance of heavy vehicles (milk vans) inspite of the fact that the DMS does not have any experts team for the maintenance of its staff cars.

(f) The average monthly maintenance expenditure on one staff car for the last year was Rs. 2,759/- only.

Market Intervention Programme

3575. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Coconut Development Board has indicated its readiness for a market intervention programme to support coconut prices;

(b) whether the Coconut Development Board has started such operation in Andhra Pradesh;

(c) if so, the quantum of coconut or coconut products purchased from Andhra Pradesh; and

(d) the plan for market intervention in other parts of the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO) : (a) to (d) The Coconut Development Board does not implement market intervention programme to support coconut prices. The Board's mandate is to increase production and productivity of coconuts, product diversification and by-product utilisation. Ministry of Agriculture, however, implements price support scheme for milling and ball copra through the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation (NAFED) as central nodal agency. In Andhra Pradesh, a quantity of 3110 metric tonnes of copra has been procured under this scheme as on 7th August, 2000. The total quantity of milling copra procured by National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation (NAFED) under this scheme is 78,260 metric tonnes as on 8.8.2000.

Increase in Investment Limit

3576. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government has increased the investment limit to Rs. 5 crores for 41 items in the Small Scale Sector;

(b) if so, which are the 41 items for whom the investment limit has been raised;

(c) was there any rationale behind selecting these particular 41 items for increasing the investment limit; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) to (d) The matter is under examination.

[Translation]

Withdrawal of Centrally Sponsored Schemes

3577. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :
SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to reduce the number of centrally sponsored schemes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have laid down criteria for continuance of the ongoing schemes in the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(d) if so, the details of the guidelines issued in this regard;

(e) whether the Government have reviewed the impact on the development of rural and backward areas after winding up these schemes; and

(f) if so, the outcome thereof ?

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

DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE) : *(a) Yes, Sir. A Committee of the National Development Council (NDC)* on transfer of Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS), has been set up under the chairmanship of the Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission with members from both the Centre and State Government. The Planning Commission has also been laying emphasis on the need to converge and weed out related/similar Schemes (including Centrally Sponsored Schemes) in each sector and across sectors. This will improve the effectiveness of the Scheme, avoid duplication of effort and thin spread of resources, as also reduce the overhead costs of programmes.

(b) The Planning Commission has given its approval to the closure of one CSS in the Environment and Forests Sector. Under the Macro-Management Programme for Agriculture Sector, 27 ongoing schemes in the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation are proposed to be integrated to reduce the number of CSS. The Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying has proposed to discontinue four schemes and merger of three schemes into one. In the case of the Rural Development Sector, no scheme is proposed to be withdrawn during the Ninth Plan. However, the exact position in this regard would be known in the course of finalising the Tenth Five Year Plan, when proposals of Central Ministries/Departments would be reviewed inter alia, for continuation of ongoing schemes.

(c) and (d) The exercise for the formulation of the Tenth Five Year Plan has just been initiated and the detailed guidelines for continuance of the ongoing schemes would be issued after its finalisation in due course. Meanwhile, all the Central Departments have been asked, to begin a review of all their schemes, on a zero-based budget methodology, before deciding about their continuation in the Tenth Plan.

(e) and (f) Does not arise at this stage.

New Scheme for Poor Farmers

3578. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to formulate any new scheme for upliftment of the poor farmers and providing them jobs;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any such scheme has been recently formulated;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the number of the poor farmers provided jobs in Jamnagar and other districts of Gujarat in 1999 and 2000 till date and whether the said scheme proved beneficial to them;

(f) the number of such farmers proposed to be benefited through this scheme in future; and

(g) the amount of payment fixed for the poor farmers in rural areas alongwith the nature of work and the actual amount given to 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) No, Sir.

(b) to (g) Does not arise.

[English]

Lift Irrigation Project

3579. SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government are contemplating to approve all irrigation projects of Andhra Pradesh and also propose to provide more Central assistance for lift irrigation projects to increase the irrigation potentiality in the State;

(b) if so, the total number of proposals are pending with the Union Government; and

(c) the time by which such proposals are likely to be cleared ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (c) Of the 19 irrigation projects received from the Government of Andhra Pradesh for clearance, 14 projects have already been accepted by the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) with certain observations. The acceptance of the remaining projects by TAC is linked with the compliance of comments/observations of the various central appraising agencies by the state government. Ministry of Water Resources has been providing Central Loan Assistance (CLA) under the Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) since 1996-97 for completion

of ongoing irrigation projects which are in advance stage of construction and the projects which are beyond the resource capability of the state governments. However, proposals of such projects are required to be submitted by the concerned state government for inclusion under the AIBP.

Implementation of Recommendations of Sub-Committee

3580. SHRI SURESH KURUP : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the recommendations of the Sub-committee to review the Khadi-Gramodyog sector had been implemented;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which all recommendations 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) to (d) In order to prepare an action plan based on the recommendations of the High Power Committee (HPC) on the Khadi and Village Industry Sector, a Sub-Committee was constituted under the Chairmanship of Shri Pranab Mukherjee. Action plan based on the recommendations of the Sub-Committee has largely been implemented except the action on replacement of the Rebate by Market Development Assistance (MDA). Due to stiff resistance by the Khadi Institutions the scheme of MDA could not be implemented so far.

[Translation]

Appointments in Mission Abroad

3581. SHRI AKHILESH YADAV : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the prescribed rules are followed while making appointments in Indian High Commissions and Embassies;

(b) if so, whether the approval of the Ministry of External Affairs was sought in regard to certain appointments made in the Indian High Commission, at London and Consulate General of India at Birmingham;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor including the action taken by the Government in this regard by fixing responsibility; and

(d) the economic losses suffered by the Government as a result thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) and (b) The officials of the Ministry are posted to our Missions/Posts abroad in accordance with the Rules and on the basis of a number of considerations which include, inter-alia, their seniority, suitability and experience for a particular assignment, keeping in mind also the principle of rotation. 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). The approval of the Ministry was duly obtained for appointments made in the Indian High Commission, at London and Consulate General of India, at Birmingham.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Human Development Index

3582. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether according to the Human Development Report, 2000 of the UNDP, India figures of 128th place among the 174 nations of the world as per Human Development Index (HDI) and at 108th place as per Gender Development Index (GDI);

(b) if so, the parameters used for gauging the Human Development Index and Gender Development Index position;

(c) whether Government have taken any steps to prepare its own Human Development Report, as recommended by a Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance;

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

(e) whether States like Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka and Rajasthan have already come up with their State development reports ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The parameters used for measuring the Human Development Index are life expectancy at birth, adult literacy rate, combined enrolment ratio for primary, secondary and tertiary levels of education and adjusted per capita income in purchasing power parity US dollars. The parameters used for Gender Development Index are the same as the Human Development Index, but taking account of inequality in achievement between men and women.

(c) Yes, Sir. As recommended by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance of the Ministry of Planning, it has been decided that Planning Commission would undertake the preparation of the National Human Development Report for India within the fiscal year 2000-2001.

(d) Planning Commission has constituted a Steering Committee under Secretary, Planning Commission, with the concerned Social Sector Advisers as Members to oversee the exercise and monitor the progress of preparation of the National Human Development Report. However, the actual task of preparation of the Report has been entrusted to a Project Team comprising of selected officers of Planning Commission. So far, the progress in preparation of the Report is as per schedule.

(e) Yes, Sir. The State Government of Madhya Pradesh has prepared two State Human Development Reports. The first Report was produced in 1995, the second Report was produced in 1998. The State Government of Karnataka has also prepared its first Human Development Report. The State Government of Rajasthan has also produced a Draft Human Development Report.

UN Summit

3583. SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the issue of nuclear weapons is likely to be included in the agenda of UN Summit slated for September, 2000;

(b) if so, whether India has strongly supported this item of the agenda;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the other items proposed by India to be included in the agenda ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) to (c) The 55th Session of the UN General Assembly scheduled to begin on September 5, 2000 has been designated as the "Millenium Assembly of the United Nations". A "Millenium Summit" will be held from September 6-8, 2000 under the overall theme of "The role of the United Nations in the twenty-first century". There is no specific item on nuclear weapons on the agenda of the Summit. India strongly supports the UN's efforts for global nuclear disarmament.

(d) No items have been proposed for inclusion on the agenda of the Summit.

Post Based Rosters

3584. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether DoPT has introduced 'Post Based Rosters' in place of 'Vacancy Based Rosters' for implementing reservation 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 identifying excesses/shortages if any in Class I, II, III and IV category of services under the Ministry of External Affairs and all the Autonomous/Statutory Organisations, 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 02.07.1997;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the excesses/shortages found in all the above categories of services as on July 2, 1997 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Consequent on Supreme Court judgement in the case of R.K. Sabharwal Vs. State of Punjab, Government of India decided to replace vacancy based reservation rosters by post based reservation rosters and circulated model reservation rosters vide Department of Personnel and Training's O.M. No. 36012/2/96-Estt. (Res.) dated 2nd July, 1997 for implementation.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. The information in respect of Ministry of External Affairs and the Indian Council for Cultural

Relations is placed below in tabulated Statement-I and II respectively. The information in respect of Central Passport Organisation is being collected and shall be laid on the Table of the House.

Statement-I

Ministry of External Affairs

Excesses/shortages in reservations as on 02.07.97

Class	SC		ST		OBC	
	Excess	Short-age	Excess	Short-age	Excess	Short-age
Class I	05	Nil	Nil	13	Nil	01
Class II	08	Nil	Nil	64	Nil	145
Class III	19	Nil	06	Nil	Nil	51
Class IV	57	Nil	Nil	16	Nil	76

Statement-II

Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR)

Excesses/shortages in reservations as on 02.07.97

Class	SC		ST		OBC	
	Excess	Short-age	Excess	Short-age	Excess	Short-age
Class I	Nil	01	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Class II	Nil	01	Nil	03	Nil	Nil
Class III	03	Nil	01	Nil	Nil	Nil
Class IV	08	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil.

Consultative Status to VHP

3585. SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN :
SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE :
SHRI SHIVAJI MANE :
SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) has applied for grant of consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council as a Non-Governmental Organisation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Pakistan representative in NGO Committee has raised objections for giving consultative status of VHP; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) to (d) Yes Sir; it is understood that the Vishwa Parishad has applied for grant of consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) as a Non-Government Organisation. In accordance with the established procedure, the application of VHP for grant of consultative status is being considered by the Committee on Non-Governmental Organisations set up by the ECOSOC. Clarifications sought by members of the NGO Committee have been provided by the organisation.

[Translation]

Disappearance of Vessel

3586. SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHRI : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether M.V. Golden Harvest vessel carrying goods from Jordan to Bhavnagar in Gujarat disappeared 50 miles away from Gujarat-coast on June 9, 1998;

(b) is so, the number of crew members on board and the number of Indian crew members out of them;

(c) whether apprehension has been raised that crew members might in Pak captivity;

(d) if so, whether the Government have taken any action in this regard so far;

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the assistance the Government are rendering to the families of crew members ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) to (f) M.V. Golden Harvest, a vessel, owned by a Sharjah (UAE) based company was caught in a cyclone on 9.6.1998 while on its way to India from Jordan. According to the owner of the vessel, 24 crew members including 12 Indian nationals were on board. Inspite of repeated searches carried out by our Coast Guard, neither the vessel not the crew members could be traced.

The Government of Pakistan was requested to ascertain if its concerned agencies had any information relating to the vessel. Pakistan informed us that the last known position of the vessel was 21° 21' North, 68° 18' East, which was outside the search and rescue area of Pakistan, as delegated by the International Maritime Organisation.

[English]

Death Incidents

3587. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether incidents of death among the workers of Oswal Fertilizer Plant at Paradip, in Orissa is on the increase;

(b) if so, the number of deaths took place during the last one year; and

(c) the reasons for their untimely death ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) to (c) As per the information received from the State Government of Orissa, the incidents of death among the workers of M/s. Oswal Fertilizers Plant at Paradip are not on the increase. After a few accidents, now the trend has been controlled.

The Unit was registered under the Factories Act, 1948 on 20.1.2000. Since then there have been six deaths due to accidents. The causes of the death included road accident, falling down on conveyor belt of bagging plant while cleaning, fire due to morpholine vapour burning in sulphuric acid plant and serious burn injury in sulphur fire inside sulphur conveyor gallery.

Contract Labour

3588. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the decision and observations made by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India with regard to contract workers in the judgement relating to Gujarat State Electricity Board and Air Corporation Limited will be incorporated in the Contract Labour (Abolition and Regulation) Act;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the other amendments proposed to be effected in the said Act ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) to (c) In the wake of the two landmark judgements of the Supreme Court in the cases of Gujarat State Electricity Board and Air India Statutory Corporation Ltd. Vs. United Labour Union, representations have been received both from the employers' as well as from the employees' organisations. The changes or amendments to be made in the existing law, if any, after taking into consideration all relevant factors, have not yet been finalised.

Creation of Posts by KVIC

3589. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact the KVIC created and filled 88 posts in various cadres in violation of the orders of the Government in 1991;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of the authorities responsible for creating and filling up the posts; and

(d) how much amount has been spent on their salary and other expenses so far ?

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 KVIC created 88 posts in various categories during the year 1990-91 to 1992-93, and while doing so the KVIC also abolished certain posts to match savings in non-plan expenditure.

(c) The KVIC is responsible for creating and filling up the posts. But since they are dependent on budgetary support, they have to take prior approval of Government before creating new posts.

(d) The total expenditure incurred for the above posts upto 31st December, 1999 was approximately, Rs. 1.12 crores.

[Translation]

Problems of Farmers

3590. MOHD. SHAHABUDDIN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the farmers of the country are facing lot of difficulties due to the present policies of the Government like reduction in the subsidy on fertilizers, increasing the support price for crops comparatively less than the cost incurred thereon and giving exemption on imports of agricultural products;

(b) if so, whether the Government have received any representation regarding these problem of farmers;

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

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO) : (a) to (d) Government has received number of representations regarding problems faced by the farmers due to reduction of subsidy on fertilizers, increasing the support price of crops comparatively less than the cost incurred thereon and giving exemption on imports of agricultural products.

According to estimates, the impact of the increase in price of fertilizers on the cost of cultivation is likely to be less than 1.5 percent.

The Government decides on the minimum support price for various agricultural commodities taking into account the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Cost and Prices (CACP), the views of the State Governments and Central Ministries as well as such other relevant factors, which in the opinion of the Government, are important for fixation of support prices. The minimum support prices fixed by the Government not only cover cost of production, but also a reasonable margin of profit as an incentive to the farmers to invest and improve the production and productivity.

On removal of restriction on imports of agricultural products, imports are being regulated through imposition of appropriate import tariffs. Import tariffs have been raised on several agricultural commodities recently like wheat, rice, maize, millets, arecanut, apple and sugar etc., for protecting the farmer's interests.

[English]

Export by I.T. Industry

3591. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY :
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) the total exports of Information Technology (I.T.) industry, software and services and electronics during 1999-2000 and the previous year;

(b) the comparative relevant figures of exports during 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000; and

(c) the major importers of these items, indicating the break up of exports to each country and the foreign exchange earned therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : (a) and (b) The exports figures for the last three years are as below :-

Year	Value (Rs. Crore)
1997-98	9,500
1998-99	12,740
1999-2000	18,550 (Estimated)

(c) The details in this regards are given in enclosed Statement.

Statement

Major Destinations for Electronics and Computer Software/Services (1997-98 to 1999-2000)

Destination	% of Exports (Sectoral Total)		
	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
USA and Canada	49.88	56.11	60.07
Latin America	0.09	0.17	0.19
Europe (EC Countries)	25.14	25.75	20.79
Europe (Non EC Countries)	0.15	0.26	2.13
Russia and C.I.S. Countries	0.15	0.23	0.45
African Countries	1.27	1.80	2.02
Middle East Countries	2.93	3.01	2.03
Singapore, Hongkong and Other South Asian Countries	12.08	6.81	7.86
Japan, Korea and Other Far East Countries	6.61	4.99	3.25
Australia and other Oceanic Countries	1.69	0.87	1.20
Total	100.00	100.00	100.00

Hijacker of IA Plane

3592. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a hijacker who had hijacked an IA Plane to Pakistan in 1971 has been allowed to come back to the country this year; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) The Ministry of External Affairs is not aware of the return to India of any hijacker of an IA plane in 1971.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Special Employment Exchange for Handicapped

3593. SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Bihar Government has sought any financial assistance from the Union Government to set up a special employment exchange and also to create a Special Fund for other employment exchanges for the centrally sponsored schemes;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the said amount is likely to be provided ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) Yes, Sir. A proposal was sent by the Government of Bihar, vide their letter dated 28.10.1999 for setting up 11 Special Cells within the Normal Employment Exchanges at a total cost of Rs. 37,88,400/-. Neither a proposal has been received from Government of Bihar to create a Special fund for other Employment Exchanges for the handicapped persons nor there is any provision for creation of such a fund under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Employment of the Handicapped.

(b) and (c) A reply was sent to the Government of Bihar on 31.1.2000 stating that their proposal for setting up Special Cells could not be considered in view of the Government of India's decision conveyed to all the State Governments/UT Administrations on 17.5.1994 that no new Special Cells are to be set up. They were also advised that they would have to meet 20% of the expenses in case they propose to set up Special Employment Exchanges. In their reply dated 15.03.2000, the State Government stated that they have a proposal to set up Special Employment Exchanges at Ranchi and Dumka at a cost of Rs. 6.56 lakhs and that they would meet their share of 20%. They further stated that a proposal would be sent after approval by the State Government. No such proposal has been received so far. The State Government has been reminded on 11.4.2000 and 19.7.2000.

Dependence of Land on Rains for Irrigation

3594. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN :
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :
DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the land dependent on rains for irrigation can be classified in different categories in the country;

(b) if so, the different categories in which it can be divided on the basis of availability of rain water in the country;

(c) whether the Government have estimated the average agriculture production in the above said categories of agricultural land; and

(d) if so, the per hectare production in each category, alongwith the names of the States in which this land exists ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The land dependent on rains for irrigation in the country can be broadly classified into four regions : (i) Arid, (ii) Dry semi-arid, (iii) Wet semi-arid, and (iv) Dry sub-humid.

(c) and (d) The regions where the above categories of land exit are as under :

Category of Rainfed land	Region
Arid	Western Himalayas, Parts of U.P., Jammu and Kashmir, Western Plains, Kutch Peninsula and parts of Deccan Plateau.
Dry Semi-arid	Parts of Deccan Plateau, Northern Plains, Central highlands including parts of Gujarat Plains, Central (Malwa) highlands and Gujarat Plains.
Wet Semi-arid (Moist)	Kathiawar Peninsula, eastern ghats and Tamil Nadu uplands.
Dry Sub-humid	Northern Plains, Central highlands (Malwa and Bundelkhand), Eastern plateau (Chattisgarh region and Chota Nagpur), parts of western Himalayas, eastern ghats and plains and parts of western Himalayas.

Information on per hectare production as per the above categorisation is not maintained.

[English]

UN Contingent Operation in Sierra Leone

3595. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE :
SHRI JAI BHADRA SINGH :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indian peacekeepers detained by RUF rebels in Sierra Leone were rescued recently by a mixed UN contingent; and

(b) if so, the details of the operation organised by it ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) and (b) The rescue operation to secure the freedom of movement of 221 Indian troops and 11 military observers held under siege by the RUF rebels in Kailahun (Sierra Leone) was launched by the UN Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL), under the command of Force Commander Major General V.K. Jetley on July 15 and successfully completed on July 16, 2000.

The operation was mainly conducted by the Indian troops, with the help of troops from Ghana and Nigeria and with logistic support provided by UK. The operation was decisive and all the UN peacekeepers were extricated. There was unfortunately one fatal casualty of an Indian soldier, Havildar Krishan Kumar. 7 Indian soldiers received minor injuries during the operation.

Cyber Crime by ISI

3596. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH : Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Pakistan ISI hacked vital data of Indian Statistical Institute, Calcutta to erase vital data on July 10, 2000;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the corrective action taken/proposed to be taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : (a) The computer system at Indian Statistical Institute, Calcutta was hacked and the incident was detected at about 9.00 a.m. on July 10, 2000. The details of the hackers are not known and so far it has not been possible to ascertain whether the hacking has been done by Pakistan ISI.

(b) The hacking incident affected only the main server and the home page of the Indian Statistical Institute. The servers which the Institution uses for computation purposes were not hacked and there were no loss of data and programmes. The system was restored around 1 p.m. on the same day.

(c) Some preventive measures have been taken by the Institute. Faculty members who go abroad/visit other institutions in India are given the permission to access the e-mail server from outside. This practice has since been stopped. For preventing of recurrence of such hacking, suitable security facilities are being installed.

Statistical Data

3597. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the statistics recorded and available relating to various categories are not as per actuals;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to have the statistics as per actuals;

(c) whether the Government propose to take up a massive project for modernisation of Indian Statistical System with the World Bank assistance;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government have received any report on re-structuring of National Sample Survey Organisation; and

(f) if so, the steps taken by the Government to implement the recommendations made in the said report ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE) : (a) and (b) India has a decentralised statistical system and different Ministries, Departments and other agencies of both Central and State Governments compile statistics as per requirement either from administrative records or through censuses and sample surveys. These statistics are subject to sampling and/or non-sampling errors. There are, however, several statistical techniques

and other measures to control such errors and the improvement of statistical system is a continuous process.

(c) and (d) The Government has provided an enabling provision of Rs. 120 crores in the plan budget for the year 2000-01 pending formal approval of the project to modernise Indian Statistical system with the assistance of World Bank.

(e) Yes, Sir. The Government has received the report of the Expert Committee appointed to review the functioning of National Sample Survey Organisation.

(f) The project proposal for the modernisation of Statistical System of India with the assistance of World Bank has been formulated after taking into account the recommendations of the Expert Committee.

Poultry Farming

3598. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether poultry farmers are currently facing a severe crisis with dwindling sales and mounting losses;

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

(c) whether the Government propose to provide subsidy to promote exports;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to check the falling egg prices in the domestic market ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) and (b) Representations have been received from Poultry Federations that poultry farmers are facing dwindling sales. Poultry is a State subject and egg and poultry products are freely marketed commodities.

(c) and (d) Air freight subsidy is being given on the export of hatching eggs. The rate of subsidy would be Rs. 6 per kg. Or 25% of air freight approved by IATA or 30% of FOB value whichever is less for Export to West Asia, South East Asia and CIS countries.

(e) The following major steps have been taken to check the falling egg prices :

(i) Financial assistance is provided to NGOs, Cooperatives, Public and Private Sector organisation for the development of poultry and egg products for domestic and export market.

(ii) National Egg Coordination Committee is declaring egg prices.

[Translation]

Below Poverty Line

3599. SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of people living below the poverty line in various States during the Eighth Five Year Plan;

(b) the details of the areas where more than 40 per cent people are living below the poverty line, State-wise; and

(c) the guidelines proposed in the Ninth Five Year Plan for development of these areas on priority basis ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE) : (a) 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. During the period of the Eighth Five Year Plan (1992 to 1997), the estimates of poverty are available only for the year 1993-94 based on the National Sample Survey data on consumer expenditure of the 50th Round. These are given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) In rural areas, the states which have more than 40% of their population below poverty line in 1993-94 are : Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Orissa, Sikkim, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Dadra and Nagar Haveli. In urban areas, the states which have more than 40% of their population below poverty line in 1993-94 are : Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and Orissa.

(c) No separate guidelines have been prepared for the States/UTs with more than 40% people living below the poverty line. However, the Ninth Plan has adopted a three-pronged action to alleviate and reduce the poverty in the country. These are : (i) acceleration of economic growth, (ii) 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 (iii) direct attack on poverty through employment and income generating programmes and assets-building for the poor. These plans are implemented for all the states.

Statement

Number and Percentage of Population Below Poverty Line by States – 1993-94

Sl.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.	Arunchal 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	34.5	493.35	54.96
5.	Goa	0.36	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	15.4	30.34	0.46	9.18	15.86	28.44
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	19.05	30.34	1.86	9.18	20.92	25.17
10.	Karnataka	95.99	29 88	60.46	40.14	156.46	33.16
11.	Kerala	55.95	25.76	20.46	24.55	76.41	25.43
12.	Madhya Pradesh	216.19	40.64	82.33	48.38	298.52	42.52
13.	Maharashtra	193.33	37.93	111.9	35.15	305.22	36.86
14.	Manipur	6.33	45.01	0.47	7.73	6.8	33.78
15.	Meghalaya	7.09	45.01	0.29	7.73	7.38	37.92
16.	Mizoram	1.64	45.01	0.3	7.73	1.94	25.66
17.	Nagaland	4.85	45.01	0.2	7.73	6.05	37.92
18.	Orissa	140.9	49.72	19.7	41.64	160.6	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	128.5	27.41
21.	Sikkim	1.81	45.01	0.03	7.73	1.84	41.43
22.	Tamil Nadu	121.7	32.48	80.4	39.77	202.1	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	209.9	40.8	44.66	22.41	254.56	35.66
26.	Andaman and 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 and Nagar Haveli	0.72	51.95	0.06	39.93	0.77	50.84

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
29.	Daman and Diu	0.03	5.34	0.15	27.03	0.18	15.8
30.	Delhi	0.19	1.9	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	37.4
	All India	2440.31	37.27	763.37	32.36	3203.63	35.97

1. Poverty Ratio of Assam is used for Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Manipur, Nagaland and Tripura.
2. Poverty Ratio of Tamil Nadu is used for Pondicherry and Andaman and Nicobar Island.
3. Poverty Ratio of Kerala is used for Lakshadweep
4. Poverty Ratio of Goa is used for Daman and 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 and Nagar Haveli is used to estimate poverty ratio of Dadra and Nagar Haveli.
8. Poverty Ratio of Himachal Pradesh is used for Jammu and Kashmir.

[English]

Translation of Speeches of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar

3600. SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the object of the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Foundation was to translate English Volumes of "Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Speeches and Writing" as published by the Government of Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the number of English Volumes translated and published till date in regional languages;

(c) the number of Volumes translated from English to Marathi, Hindi and Gujarati languages; and

(d) the action taken to expedite the work ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) and (d) Translation and Publication of the Speeches and Writings of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar from English to regional languages have been taken up by the Ambedkar Foundation. So far translation and publication of 15 Volumes in Hindi, 17 in Gujarati, 17 in Bangali, 17 in Tamil, 14 in Malayalam, 5 in Oriya, 2 in Urdu, 5 in Punjabi, 10 in Telugu and 5 in Kannada have been done and work in respect of other volumes/languages are under process.

(c) and (d) 34 volumes in Hindi and 34 volumes in Gujarati have been translated. Work in respect of translation to Marathi is under progress.

[Translation]

Decline in Fertility of Land

3601. SHRI MANSINH PATEL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have conducted any survey to ascertain the total measurement of land in hectares out of the total land of which fertility has deteriorated; and

(b) if so, the measures taken to retain the fertility of land ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO) : (a) Yes, Sir. As per the surveys conducted by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research about 187.7 m.ha. of the total land in the country is suffering from various kinds of degradation resulting in loss of soil fertility.

(b) Generally, the fertility of soils improves with improvement in moisture availability in the soil. The Department of Agriculture and Cooperation is advocating soil and water conservation measures and Integrated Nutrient Management with greater recycling of organic resources to build up soil fertility.

The Department of Agriculture and Cooperation is implementing various land based programmes namely :

(i) Soil Conservation in the catchments of River Valley Projects (RVP) and Flood Prone Rivers (FPR)

(ii) National Watershed Development Project in Rainfed Areas

(iii) Watershed Development Project in Shifting Cultivation Areas and

(iv) Reclamation of Alkali Soils, to minimise soil erosion/land degradation which ultimately result into enhanced fertility/productivity in the rainfed/ catchment areas of the country. In addition to the above, the State Government implement their own Plan Schemes for retaining/improving fertility of such areas in their States.

[English]

SSI Open for MNC

3602. SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH
SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV :

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

(a) whether the Government intends to open up the Small Scale Sector to foreign investments and multi-national corporations;

(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) 24% foreign equity is already permitted in the small scale sector to encourage modernisation and technology upgradation and provide a boost to ancillarisation and sub-contracting.

[Translation]

Additional Water Supply to Delhi

3603. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether he had a joint meeting with the Chief Ministers of Haryana and Delhi on April 27, 2000 to resolve the issue of release of additional water of Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the progress made in this regard so far ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) Yes Sir, supply of raw water, through the carrier system of Haryana, for Nangloi Water Treatment Plant, Delhi was one of the items of discussion during the meeting.

(b) It was decided to seek legal opinion on the feasibility of filing a petition in the Supreme Court for review of its order of February 1996, before Haryana could consider the request of Delhi.

(c) Advice of Attorney General of India has since been obtained. Meanwhile, Supreme Court have separately passed in interim order on 10.5.2000, operative till 1st August 2000, in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 537 of 1992, directing supply of 125 cusecs of additional water to Delhi by Bhakra Beas Management Board, to be carried through the States of Punjab and Haryana, for Nagloi Water Treatment Plant.

Sharing of Water

3604. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Water Resources Council has constituted a working group to formulate the guidelines in regard to sharing of river water in the country;

(b) if so, the composition thereof alongwith the time by which the report is likely to be submitted to the Government by the working group; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to conserve rain water in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) The Council in its Fourth Meeting held on 7th July 2000, decided to constitute a working group headed by Union Minister of Water Resources for harmonizing views of all the State Governments and bringing a consensual draft for the consideration of the Council at its next meeting. The Working Group consists of Ministers of all the States/UTs, claimed by Hon'ble Minister of Water Resources. The time by which the report is to be submitted by the Working Group has not been prescribed.

(c) To harness the available water resources and augment water supplies, about 3600 large dams and

reservoirs and 250 barrages have been constructed with a total live storage capacity of about 177 BCM. An additional live storage capacity of 75 BCM will be created on completion of the dams, which are under various stages of construction. Proposals to take up additional dams to create a live storage of 132 BCM are also under formulation/consideration. Government of India is also promoting Rainwater Harvesting through Watershed Management Programme, Artificial Recharge of Ground Water and Roof-top Rainwater Harvesting for which technical and financial assistance is provided to the State Governments and other implementing agencies.

Employment Through KVIC

3605. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to provide employment to the rural people of Rajasthan through Khadi and Village Industries Commission;

(b) if so, the names of the villages where employment has been provided to the people during the last three years;

(c) whether the people of desert prone villages are provided employment under this scheme; and

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

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

(b) All Districts are covered under the Rural Employment Generation Programme under which financial assistance is provided for khadi and village industrial units.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) In order to promote the village industries projects, the Khadi and Village Industries Commission is implementing the Margin Money Scheme in all the States. Under the Scheme, 25% of the cost of the project upto Rs. 10 lakhs and additional 10% of the cost of the project above Rs. 10 lakhs but upto Rs. 25 lakhs is provided as Margin Money. For khadi units, the financial assistance is given in the form of interest subsidy and rebate.

[English]

Dimensions of Informal Sector

3606. SHRI SAHIB SINGH : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the differences between formal and informal sector labour;

(b) whether Government keep records to differentiate and register informal sector labour also;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the contribution of informal sector in the economy of Metropolitical Cities;

(e) whether the Government are making losses due to non-recognition of this sector; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to improve the situation of informal sector labour ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) to (f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

New Varieties of Paddy

3607. SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the new paddy strains released by the IARI in the country during the last two years;

(b) the varieties which Krishi Vigyan Kendra have been identified for the drought prone areas in the State of Orissa;

(c) whether these have been released to the farmers of Orissa; and

(d) if so, at what rate ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) During last two years, one paddy variety developed by the Indian Agricultural Research Institute was released. It is PNR 519 released by the State Varietal Release Committee of West Bengal.

(b) Multi-location testing of experimental varieties for their farm worthiness is undertaken and based on their performance varieties are identified and released at State/ Regional/National level. As such Krishi Vigyan Kendras do not identify varieties for release.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

Dairies in Karnataka

3608. SHRI R.L. JALAPPA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka has requested the Union Government not to give permission to multi-national companies and private people to set up dairies in Karnataka; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) and (b) Government of Karnataka had requested the Union Government in 1997, not to allow any private sector participation in the dairy field without specific recommendations of the State Government. It is stated that all cases regarding grant of registration under the Milk and Milk Product Order, 1992 are referred to the concerned State Government for consultation. The views of State Government are considered in all cases.

[Translation]

Amount Released for Bihar under PMRY

3609. SHRI ARUN KUMAR : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) the amount released by the Government under the PMRY, State-wise, particularly in Jahanabad and Patna districts of Bihar during the last three years;

(b) whether some irregularities committed in the implementation of the said scheme;

(c) whether educated unemployed persons are not getting the benefits of the said scheme;

(d) the number of applications pending in both districts so far for the said scheme; and

(e) the steps being taken or proposed to be taken by the Government for early disposal of these pending 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) Under the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY), the Central Government release the funds for Subsidy as well as for Training and Entrepreneurial development, etc. The funds for subsidy are, however, authorised to the Reserve Bank of India for passing on to the individual beneficiary through the implementing banks and are not released to the States. Funds for Training and Entrepreneurial development, etc. are released directly to the States, and a statement showing State-wise amount released for Training and Entrepreneurial Development, etc., under the PMRY, during the last three years i.e. 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 is enclosed. These funds are released in turn by the State Governments to the Districts at their own level.

(b) No irregularity has been reported by the State Government of Bihar.

(c) No, Sir; educated unemployed persons are getting benefits from the scheme.

(d) As reported by the State Government, the number of applications pending in Patna and Jahanabad districts were 3850 and 237, respectively, as on 31.3.2000.

(e) The Government of Bihar has informed that steps are being taken to dispose of the pending applications of both these districts in the current financial year.

Statement

State/UT wise funds released for Training and Entrepreneurial Development, etc. by the Central Govt. under the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana during the last three years i.e. 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000

(Rs. in thousands)

Sl.No.	State/UTs	Funds Released during		
		1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	18247.50	16050.50	15297.95
2.	Assam	5717.00	13872.27	5387.60
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	342.65	473.85	303.00
4.	Bihar	3395.00	1726.00	1374.25
5.	Delhi	0.00	126.00	0.00
6.	Goa	180.00	175.77	199.55
7.	Gujarat	1957.50	6750.75	1434.50
8.	Haryana	4204.25	3059.05	0.00

1	2	3	4	5
9.	Himachal Pradesh	484.00	653.00	1030.30
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	186.50	71.65	763.55
11.	Karnataka	11985.25	10239.62	13860.25
12.	Kerala	3125.25	11059.60	10247.35
13.	Madhya Pradesh	17199.09	13255.38	14233.95
14.	Maharashtra	6934.75	12105.85	27268.60
15.	Manipur	536.75	598.70	101.75
16.	Meghalaya	420.75	320.50	461.12
17.	Mizoram	312.42	254.70	261.10
18.	Nagaland	282.00	407.05	146.90
19.	Orissa	6850.40	6211.35	6772.05
20.	Punjab	8613.10	6237.75	5869.25
21.	Rajasthan	8196.50	9644.50	9413.80
22.	Tamil Nadu	11806.50	6597.75	9428.90
23.	Tripura	680.25	210.75	578.60
24.	Uttar Pradesh	36894.91	36788.85	33040.70
25.	West Bengal	8095.75	727.50	436.00
26.	Andaman and Nicobar	83.25	226.50	113.70
27.	Chandigarh	91.00	179.50	83.40
28.	Daman and Diu	190.50	31.00	21.25
29.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	48.75	22.50	37.60
30.	Lakshadweep	37.25	24.00	24.25
31.	Pondicherry	266.47	355.30	203.55
32.	Sikkim	57.50	107.50	105.20
	Total	157422.79	158569.99	158499.97

[English]

Subscribing to UN Conventions/ Charters/Documents

3610. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there are any Conventions, Charters or Documents of the United Nations to which India has not subscribed or is not a signatory or which has not been ratified by India, either in full or in part;

(b) if so, the details of such Documents and their subject-matters;

(c) the reasons in each case, for not subscribing, signing or ratifying these Documents;

(d) whether there is any proposal to subscribe to sign or ratify any such Documents; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. There are a large number of multilateral treaties to which the Secretary General of the United Nations is a depositary. In addition, many international treaties/agreements have been concluded under the auspices of the specialised agencies of the United Nations such as International Maritime Organisation (IMO), International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO), International Labour Organisation (ILO), etc. The treaties concluded within the framework of United Nations cover the whole spectrum of human interaction.

The subject matter of these treaties/agreements fall within the jurisdiction of various Ministries/Departments of the Government of India. The required information is being collected from them and shall be made available as soon as possible.

Identity Card for Handicapped

3611. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the physically handicapped persons are issued identity cards by respective State Governments and Union Territories; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the formalities/ criteria laid down for the purpose ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) and (b) Information is being collected from the State Government and Union Territories and will be laid on the Table of the House.

15 Point Programme for Minorities

3612. SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether 15 Point Programme for the welfare of minorities has been implemented;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of achievements made under the programme, State and Territory-wise;

(d) whether the Government propose to formulate some more programmes for welfare of minorities;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor ?

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

(b) and (c) The details of 15 Point Programme and the State/UT-wise achievement are given in enclosed statement I and Ii, respectively.

(d) to (f) The on-going 15 Point Programme is being reviewed, so as to make it a more effective instrument for welfare of the minorities.

Statement-I

15-Point Programme for Welfare of Minorities

Communal Riots

1. In the areas which have been identified as communally sensitive and riot prone, District and Police Officials of the highest knows efficiency, impartiality and secular record must posted. In such areas and even elsewhere, the prevention of communal tension should be one of the primary duties of DM and SP. Their performances in this regard should be an im-portant factor in determining the promotion prospects.

2. Good work done in this regard by District and Police Official should be rewarded.

3. Severe action should be taken against all those who incite communal tensions or take part in violence.

4. Special court or courts specifically earmarked to try communal offences should be set up so that offenders are brought to book speedily.

5. Victims of communal riots should be given immediate relief and provided prompt and adequate financial assistance for the rehabilitation.

6. Radio and TV must also help in restoring confidence, communal harmony and peace in such affected areas.

7. It is unfortunate that certain sections of the Press sometimes indulge in tendentious reporting and publication of objectionable and inflammatory material, which may incite communal tension. Editors, printers, publishers and other concerned will cooperate in finding a way to avoid publication of such material.

Recruitment to State and Central Services

8. In the recruitment of police personnel, State Governments should be advised to give special consideration to minorities. For this purpose, the composition of selection of Committees should be representative.

9. The Central Government should take similar action in the recruitment of personnel to the Central Police Forces.

10. Large scale employment opportunities are provided by the Railways, Nationalised Banks and Public Sector Enterprises. In these cases also the concerned departments should ensure that special considerations given to recruitment from minority communities.

11. In many areas recruitment is done through competitive examinations. Often minority groups have been handicapped in taking advantage of the education system to complete on equal terms in such examinations. To help them overcome these handicaps step should be taken to encourage the starting of coaching classes in minority educational institutions to train persons to compete successfully in the these examinations.

12. The acquisition of technical skills by those minorities who are today lagging behind would also help in national development arrangements should be made to set up ITI's and polytechnics by Government of private agencies in predominantly minority areas encourage admission in such institutions of adequate number of persons belonging to these communities.

Other Measures

13. In various development programmes including the 20-Point Programme, care should be taken to see that minorities secure in a fair and adequate measure the benefits flowing therefrom. In the various committees, which are set up to oversee the implementation of such programmes, members of these communities should be actively involved.

14. Apart from the above general issues there are various local problems which develop into needless irritants to minorities. For instant encroachment of Wakf properties and no graveyards have led to protests and grievances in some places. Suitable steps should taken to deal with such problems on an expeditious and satisfactory basis.

15. Problems relating to minorities need to be attended to on a contributing basis so that apprehensions are allayed and genuine grievances redresses. To facilitate this a special cell will be crated in the Ministry of Home Affairs to deal with matters relating to minority.

Statement-II

(For the period ending 30.9.99)

States/UTs	No. of Minority Educational Institutions	No. of Competitive Exams.	No. of Students admitted/ appeared	No. of Students successful	No. of Centres where ITI/ Poly.	Proposal to set up I.T.I./Poly.	No. of Minority Commitee at Distt. Level	No. of encroach-ment of WAKF propertie	No. of of such cases dealt	No. of cases unresolved	Remarks
1. Arunchal Pradesh	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	4	Nil	13	Nil	Nil	Nil	–
2. Assam	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	4	3	6	Nil	Nil	Nil	–
3. Goa	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	–
4. Haryana	3	Nil	Nil	–	–	–	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	–
5. Himachal Pradesh	Nil	Nil	Nil	–	–	–	12	24	16	8	–
6. Karnataka	1	1	50	20	Nil	–	27	79	–	79	–
7. Kerala	1	1	166	N.A.	Nil	Nil	N.A.	Nil	Nil	Nil	–
8. Maharashtra	Nil	–	–	–	–	–	–	266	–	266	–
9. Mizoram	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	8	Nil	Nil	Nil	–
10. Nagaland	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	–
11. Punjab	1	8	54	16	Nil	N.A.	17	Nil	Nil	Nil	–
12. Tamilnadu	Nil	–	–	–	Nil	Nil	19	318	318	317	–
13. Tripura	Nil	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
14. Uttar Pradesh	11	11	257	–	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	–
15. West Bengal	1	2	114	–	Nil	Nil	3	68	16	52	–
16. Chandigarh	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	–
17. D and N Haveli	Nil	–	–	–	Nil	–	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	–
18. Daman and Diu	2	Nil	–	–	1	Nil	2	Nil	Nil	Nil	–

[Translation]

Food Control

3613. YOGI ADITYA NATH : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the entire country faces the fury of flood every year;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to formulate any scheme to desilt the river beds to check the floods;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the manner in which the Government propose to tackle this problem ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (d) The flood prone areas of the country face the fury of flood almost every year in varying degrees. There is no proposal to desilt the river beds to check the floods. The general strategy for tackling flood problem includes measures like flood moderation reservoirs, construction of embankments along the banks of rivers in the spilling reaches, improvement of drainage system anti-erosion works for protection of important towns, villages and other vital installations and communication lines against erosion, watershed management and non-structural measures like flood proofing, flood plain zoning and flood forecasting.

Integrated Development of Fruits

3614. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether target has not been achieved for setting up big and small nursery for Integrated Development of Fruits during the Eighth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the efforts made by the Government to achieve the target in future ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO) : (a) and (b) During the Eighth Five Year Plan, 54 big and 421 small nurseries were established against a target of 85 big and 350 small nurseries respectively. The shortfall in achieving the target of big nurseries was mainly due to the high cost involved in its establishment through the Public Sector/State Government.

(c) During the IX Five Year Plan, it has been envisaged to encourage the big and small nurseries in the Private Sector under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Integrated Development of Fruits. Assistance for nurseries is being provided with effect from the year 2000-01 as back ended subsidy linked with institutional financing @ 25% of the total cost subject to a maximum ceiling of Rs. 8.00 lakhs for big nurseries and Rs. 2.00 lakhs for small nurseries. During the Eighth Plan the maximum assistance for big nurseries was Rs. 18.00 lakhs while for the small nurseries the assistance was limited to Rs. 0.20 lakhs per nursery.

[English]

Inter-State Water Dispute

3615. SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY :
SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any Inter-State water dispute between the State Governments of Orissa-Madhya Pradesh and Orissa-Andhra Pradesh;

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

(c) whether the State Government of Andhra Pradesh urged the Union Government to intervene in the matter; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) There is no inter-State water dispute regarding sharing of water between the State Governments of Orissa-Madhya Pradesh and Orissa-Andhra Pradesh. However, there are inter-State issues regarding the submergence and other related aspects of the projects named Vamsadhara Projects Stage II, Jhanjhavati, Inchampally and Polavaram of Andhra Pradesh with Orissa and Madhya Pradesh.

(c) and (d) At the instance of Andhra Pradesh, a High Level Committee for resolving the inter-State issues in planning of Inchampally and Polavaram project has been constituted by the Central Water Commission (CWC) under the chairmanship of Member (WP&P), CWC and representatives from the States of Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Orissa.

Terrorist Country Status to Pakistan

3616. SHRI R.L. BHATIA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any pressure has been mounted on USA to declare Pakistan a terrorist state; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) and (b) Government has been conveying to the US Government in all appropriate forums, including in the Indo-US Joint Working Group on Counter Terrorism, its assessment of Pakistan's role in sponsoring, supporting, and abetting cross-border terrorism in India. Government is also aware that concerns on Pakistan's links with terrorist organisations and its support for cross-border terrorism in India continue to be raised with the US Government, including by members of the US Congress and the US National Commission on Terrorism, which released its report in June 2000. In this context, the International Relations Committee of the US House of Representatives held a Hearing on 12th July on 'Global Terrorism and South Asia'.

The US Government has stated that it has not made a legal determination with regard to Pakistan's sponsorship of terrorism. The process remains under review. Government will continue to draw the attention of the international community, including that of the United States, to Pakistan's sponsorship of and support to cross-border terrorism in India.

[Translation]

Indo-Sino Economic Relations

3617. SHRI BRIJLAL KHABRI : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether India and China are contemplating to hold talks for improving economic relations;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the progress made by both the countries in improving economic relations so far ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) to (c) Government attaches importance to promoting mutually beneficial economic co-operation with China. In recent years, bilateral trade has recorded rapid growth. It reached US$ 1.987 billion in 1999. In the first six months of this year, bilateral trade was US$ 1308.4 million, an increase of 43% over the corresponding period last year. During the recent visit of the President to China (May 28-June 3, 2000), the two sides agreed to expand and diversify bilateral trade and economic co-operation. Earlier, Minister of Commerce and Industry had visited China for the 6th meeting of the India-China Joint Economic Group in February 2000. During the visit, the two sides concluded an agreement on issues relating to the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on co-operation in the field of steel. During the visit of Minister for Information Technology to China in July 2000, the two sides signed an MOU on co-operation in the Information Technology (IT) sector. During Chinese Foreign Minister Tang Jiaxuan's visit to India in July 2000, the two sides agreed to promote mutual investments and to organise trade fairs and seminars.

[English]

Injury to Indian Soldiers

3618. SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state the number of Indian soldiers injured during the operation at Sierra Leone ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : The rescue operation to secure the freedom of movement of 221 Indian troops and 11 military observes held under siege by the RUF rebels in Kailahun (Sierra Leone) was launched by the UN Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL), under the command of Force Commander Major General V.K. Jetley on July 15 and successfully completed on July 16, 2000. During the operation, 7 Indian soldiers received minor injuries. There was unfortunately one fatal casualty of an Indian Soldier, Havildar Krishan Kumar.

Banks for Village Industries

3619. DR. V. SAROJA : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is proposed to set up village and cottage industries Bank of India on lines of Small Industries Development Bank of India for better development and promotion of village and cottage industries;

(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) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The existing infrastructure is adequate.

Post Harvest Losses

3620. SHRI JAIBHAN SINGH PAWAIYA :
SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN :
SHRI JITENDRA PRASADA :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated any action plan to identify the causes of post harvest losses in the country during the last three years;

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

(c) the remedial action taken/proposed to be taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per Statement-I.

(c) As per Statement-II.

Statement-I

The extent and causes of losses in different crops, viz; cereals, pulses, oilseeds, fruits and vegetable etc. were assessed through various programmes run by the ICAR Institutes, All India Coordinated Research Projects (AICRPs), State Agricultural Universities (SAUs) and ICAR funded ad-hoc schemes operating in different States (Table-I)

The three All India Coordinated Research Projects on namely, Post-Harvest Technology, Jaggery and Khandsari and Post Harvest Technology on Horticultural Crops having 18 Centres, 4 Centres and 13 Centres, respectively, located in different States have addressed to identify the causes of post-harvest losses. Some of the commodity based ICAR Institutes and SAUs had also programmes to identify the causes of post-harvest losses of the crops grown in their respective regions. Besides, a number of ad-hoc schemes were funded by the ICAR to address to the location and crop specific problems related to post harvest losses. Through these programmes and studies, it has been found that the major causes for the losses are varied. These include (i) harvesting stage of crops; (ii) threshing; (iii) cleaning, sorting and grading; (iv) drying; (v) milling; (vi) handling, storage and packaging, (vii) transport etc. The losses do take place at farmer's level, mandi level, trader's and retailer's level and also at domestic levels.

Table-I : Name of AICRP's cooperating centres located in different States

State	Sl.No.	Name of the Project	Institution and location
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	1.	AICRP on PHT	Andhra Pradesh Agricultural University, Bapatla
	2.	AICRP on PHT on Hort. Crops.	Andhra Pradesh Agricultural University, Hyderabad
	3.	AICRP on Jaggery and Khandsari	Andhra Pradesh Agricultural University, Anakapalli
Assam	1.	AICRP on PHT	Assam Agricultural University, Jorhat
	2.	AICRP on Jaggery and Khandsari	Assam Agricultural University, Jorhat
Bihar	1.	AICRP on PHT	Rajendra Agricultural University, Pusa
	2.	AICRP on PHT on Hort. Crops.	Rajendra Agricultural University, Pusa
Delhi	1.	AICRP on PHT on Hort. Crops.	Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi
Gujarat	1.	AICRP on PHT	Gujarat Agricultural University, Junagadh
Himachal Pradesh	1.	AICRP on PHT on Hort. Crops.	Dr. Y.S. Parmar University of Horticulture and Forestry, Solan
Karnataka	1.	AICRP on PHT	University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore
	2.	AICRP on PHT on Hort. Crops	Indian Institute of Horticultural Research, Hassarghatta
Kerala	1.	AICRP on PHT	Central Plantation Crops Research Institute, Kasargod
	2.	AICRP on PHT	Central Tuber Crops Research Institute, Trivandrum

1	2	3	4
Madhya Pradesh	1.	AICRP on PHT	Central Institute of Agricultural Engineering, Bhopal
	2.	AICRP on PHT	College of Agril. Engg. JNKVV, Jabalpur
Maharashtra	1.	AICRP on PHT	Dr. Punjab Rao Krishi Vidyapeeth, Akola
	2.	AICRP on Jaggery and Khandsari	Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidyapeeth, Kolhapur
	3.	AICRP on PHT on Hort. Crops.	National Research Centre for Citrus, Nagpur
	4.	AICRP on PHT on Hort. Crops.	Konkan Krishi Vidyapeeth, Dapoli
	5.	AICRP on PHT on Hort. Crops.	Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidyapeeth, Rahuri
Orissa	1.	AICRP on PHT	Orissa University of Agricultural and Technology, Bhubaneswar
Punjab	1.	AICRP on PHT	College of Agricultural Engineering, PAU, Ludhiana
Rajasthan	1.	AICRP on PHT	Central Arid Zone Research Institute, Jodhpur
	2.	AICRP on PHT	Rajasthan Agricultural University, Udaipur
	3.	AICRP on PHT on Hort. Crops.	Agricultural University, Jobner
Tamil Nadu	1.	AICRP on PHT	Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore
	2.	AICRP on PHT on Hort. Crops.	Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Periyakulam
Uttar Pradesh	1.	AICRP on PHT	G.B. Pant University of Agriculture and Technology, Pantnagar
	2.	AICRP on PHT	Narendra Dev University of Agricultural and Technology, Faizabad
	3.	AICRP on Jaggery and Khandsari	Indian Institute of Sugarcane Research, Lucknow
	4.	AICRP on PHT on Hort. Crops.	Central Institute for Sub-Tropical Horticulture, Lucknow
West Bengal	1.	AICRP on PHT on Hort. Crops.	Bidhan Chandra Krishi Vishwa Vidyalaya, Kalyani

Nomenclature

AICRP on PHT – All India Coordinated Research Project on Post Harvest Technology.

AICRP on PHT on Hort. Crops – All India Coordinated Research Project on Post Harvest Technology of Horticultural Crops.

AICRP on Jaggery and Khandsari – All India Coordinated Research Project on Processing, Handling and Storage of Jaggery and Khandsari.

Statement-II

Several technology options developed by various programmes indicated in Statement-I to reduce post harvest losses have been developed and demonstrated at different levels such as, farm level, processor's level and mandi/market level.

Action is being taken and proposed in the following areas to reduce the post harvest losses :-

1. Promotion of technologies through entrepreneurship development, Frontline demonstrations, KVKs and other extension agencies.
2. Pursue R&D for further improvements of technologies under All India Coordinated Research Projects and at ICAR Institutes/SAUs and multi location trials.
3. Prototype production institutionally and through private entrepreneurs.

[Translation]

Package/Policy for Farmers

3621. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to formulate any package/policy for the farmers for increasing per hectare agricultural production, export of agricultural products and providing market for their produce; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO) : (a) and (b) The National Agriculture Policy, which, interalia, deals with these issues, has already been laid on the Table of Lok Sabha on 28th July 2000.

[English]

ESIC

3622. SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to give special training to the officers and staff of ESIC in their related field regularly and in a systematic manner;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the reason for not registering All India Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Federation of Employees State Insurance Corporation; and

(e) number of SCs/STs Unions, Federations, registered/recognised by the ESIC ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) to (c) The ESI Corporation has set up a Human Resource Development Division comprising a Central Training Institute and four Zonal Training Centres i.e. one each of Delhi, Calcutta, Mumbai and Bangalore for imparting necessary systematic training to insurance inspectors, local office Managers and other staff of the Corporation. The officers of the Corporation are also nominated for training at reputed training institutions such as Indian Institute of Management, Indian Institute of Public Administration, Institute of Secretariate Training and Management etc.

(d) and (e) The work relating to registration of Federations/Unions is not under the jurisdiction of the ESI Corporation. As such the Question of not registering/ recognising All India SC/ST Federation by the ESIC does not arise.

[Translation]

Number of SSI Units

3623. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :
DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA :
SHRI NAMDEO HARBAJI DIWATHE :

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

(a) the total number of registered small scale units in the country as per latest review with State-wise and sector-wise;

(b) the details regarding growth production, employment, investment, exports in small scale industry sector, State-wise during last three years;

(c) the details regarding major problems faced by the small scale sector alongwith the action taken by the State and Union Government for promotion and development of SSI; and

(d) the details of the plan of action of provide adequate credit to Small scale Industry and make them competitive through upgradation of technology ?

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 total number of registered small scale units in the country with State-wise break up is given in enclosed statement. Sector-wise information is not maintained.

(b) Details regarding growth, production, employment, investment, exports in small scale industry sector at all India level during last three years are given below.

	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
Growth(%) at 1990-91 Prices	8.43	7.70	8.23*
Production (Rs. Crore) (at current prices)	465171	527515	578470*
Employment (lakh persons)	167.20	171.58	177.30*
Investment (Rs. Crore)	72577	78563	82745*
Exports (Rs. Crore) (at current prices	44442	48979	N.A.

*Projected

The information is not available State-wise.

(c) and (d) Major problems faced by the small scale sector are inadequacy of working capital, delay in sanction of working capital and time gap in its disbursement, obsolete technology, infrastructure constraints etc.

Details of plan of action to provide adequate credit to small scale units are :

1. The limit of composite loan under single window scheme has been raised from Rs. 5 lakhs to Rs. 10 lakhs.
2. The limit of loans without collaterals has been raised from Rs. 1 lakh to Rs. 5 lakhs.
3. The launching of Credit Guarantee scheme has been announced.
4. Setting up of specialized bank branches.

To facilitate upgradation of technology, the Government have strengthened the technology upgradation programme and provided facilities through Tool Rooms, Product-cum-Process Development Centres, Regional Testing Centres etc. for promotion and development of SSI. The operation of Technology Development Modernization scheme has been extended for another three years. A scheme of Technology Upgradation called UPTECH intends to improve the level of technology in use at cluster level.

Other schemes for the promotion and development of SSI consist of Excise exemption/concession, Integrated infrastructure Development, programmes for entrepreneurial and skill development, incentive for acquiring ISO 9000 certification, product reservation, price and purchase preference, participation in domestic and international exhibitions etc. The State Governments also provide various incentives by way of infrastructural facilities and fiscal concessions.

Statement

Estimated number of SSI Units (SIDO) granted permanent Registration by State/UT Directorates of Industries by 30th April, 2000

Sl. No.	Name of the State/ Union Territory	No. of units as on 30.4.2000
1	2	3
01.	Andhra Pradesh	127325
02.	Assam	23676
03.	Bihar	121361
04.	Gujarat	174177
05.	Haryana	84921
06.	Himachal Pradesh	16452
07.	Jammu and Kashmir	29633
08.	Karnataka	157401
09.	Kerala	198745
10.	Madhya Pradesh	323956
11.	Maharashtra	141583
12.	Manipur	6013
13.	Meghalaya	2651
14.	Nagaland	985
15.	Orissa	19325
16.	Punjab	152663
17.	Rajasthan	81833
18.	Tamil Nadu	307917
19.	Tripura	2118
20.	Uttar Pradesh	372684
21.	West Bengal	151710
22.	Sikkim	344
23.	Andaman and Nicobar	1198
24.	Arunachal Pradesh	4532
25.	Chandigarh	3041
26.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	971
27.	Delhi	25339
28.	Goa	5890
29.	Lakshadweep	416
30.	Mizoram	4359
31.	Pondicherry	4887
32.	Daman and Diu	1517
	All-India Total	**2549623**

[English

Investment Friendly Climate

3624. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the state which are getting maximum investment benefit on account of investment friendly climate;

(b) the rating of Andhra Pradesh in this regard; and

(c) the views of the Planning Commission to emulate the model document prepared by the Andhra Pradesh-vision 2020 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE) : (a) and (b) According to the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE), the five States which are getting maximum investment are Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh and Orissa. A statement giving details of the investment trends, including the comparative position of Andhra Pradesh is attached.

(c) Planning Commission has set up a Committee for the preparation of a National Vision 2020 document.

Statement

Trends in Investments

Trends in Total Investment by States and Union Territories

(Rs. crore,)

State	October 1998	January 1999	April 1999	July 1999	October 1999	January 2000	April 2000
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Andhra Pradesh	1,03,983	1,03,701	1,02,710	93,869	98,235	1,33,198	1,32,038
Arunachal Pradesh	4,142	2,642	3,738	4,336	4,336	4,104	4,104
Assam	15,628	14,231	14,028	11,982	11,191	10,692	12,106
Bihar	28,774	24,137	23,204	28,681	42,574	42,122	44,317
Delhi	14,898	15,003	15,510	15,310	14,072	13,837	14,954
Goa	6,000	6,244	9,050	9,081	8,946	8,874	8,055
Gujarat	1,33,736	1,44,471	1,44,129	1,32,480	1,43,025	1,43,453	1,38,997
Haryana	11,125	17,427	15,592	15,824	17,783	18,554	18,963
Himachal Pradesh	28,220	26,926	23,745	26,295	29,795	30,096	30,826
Jammu and Kashmir	12,184	12,219	11,841	11,915	11,767	12,190	11,739
Karnataka	1,03,184	1,04,385	1,00,918	99,391	94,253	90,980	94,180
Kerala	54,638	55,077	48,851	47,411	46,357	44,578	42,946
Madhya Pradesh	71,156	70,430	71,025	71,480	65,177	65,645	70,296
Maharashtra	1,37,571	1,50,391	1,49,918	1,50,657	1,45,840	1,48,247	1,57,232
Manipur	955	955	955	955	955	1,108	1,108
Meghalaya	362	362	362	362	725	725	725
Mizoram	1,594	1,594	1,594	1,594	1,594	1,506	1,086
Nagaland	652	652	94	801	889	889	855
Orissa	1,07,652	1,12,979	1,11,503	1,01,236	98,820	1,10,948	1,11,744

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Punjab	22,351	25,535	25,576	26,260	24,978	26,995	25,992
Rajasthan	31,505	33,601	34,032	35,428	37,752	38,154	31,924
Sikkim	362	362	362	450	450	0	3,086
Tamil Nadu	1,37,615	1,46,578	1,38,562	1,39,062	1,33,674	1,46,557	1,56,953
Tripura	245	248	248	443	443	3,443	3,443
Uttar Pradesh	60,368	66,535	65,034	69,344	71,594	72,442	73,678
West Bengal	58,489	65,413	63,516	62,054	60,599	60,614	55,423
Union Territories							
Andaman and Nicobar	8	8	8	8	8	8	77
Chandigarh	75	210	179	179	104	104	100
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	394	377	378	377	308	310	268
Daman and Diu	168	168	168	165	95	17	17
Lakshadweep	0	0	4	4	4	4	4
Pondicherry	2,056	131	195	375	361	361	426
All India	12,16,844	12,83,400	12,53,569	12,34,255	12,42,613	13,20,683	13,44,462

[Translation]

Utilisation of River Water

3625. DR. M.P. JAISWAL : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to launch any strategy for the optimum utilisation of river water in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the efforts/achievements made by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (c) The strategy for optimum utilization of river water in the country was launched in 1987 when the National Water Policy was adopted by the National Water Resources Council headed by the Prime Minister. The Policy, inter-alia lays stress on conservation and augmentation of the availability of water by adopting measures for maximizing retention and minimizing losses. Accordingly, the water resources projects are prepared on the basis of an overall plan for the drainage basin as a whole or for a sub-basin. The development projects are generally formulated by the States within the framework of such an overall plan. The policy also lays emphasis on making water available to the water short areas by transfer from one river basin to another based on a national perspective. A separate organization has been established by the Government to examine the feasibility of the water transfer proposals. About 3600 large dams and reservoirs and 250 barrages have already been constructed to harness the available water resources and augment water supplies.

Government of India is also promoting conjunctive use of surface and ground water, rainwater harvesting through watershed management programme, artificial recharge of ground water and roof top rainwater harvesting for which technical and financial assistance is provided to the State Governments and other implementing agencies.

[English]

Assistance of Small Scale Industries

3626. SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO : DR. BALIRAM :

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

(a) whether Government have provided assistance/ incentives to set-up; small scale industries and rural

industries in the country particularly in Uttar Pradesh and union Territory of Delhi during the last three years;

(b) what will be the effect of W.T.O. coming into force; and

(c) the number of job opportunities created as a result thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Central Government supports and supplements the efforts of State Governments/UT Administrations for the development and promotion of Small Scale Industries (SSI) through various Schemes/Programmes.

(b) In terms of WTO covenants, mainly there would be lowering of tariffs and removal of Quantitative Restrictions on Imports and Exports. This would improve the access of Indian SSI Units to the markets in various countries. Simultaneously, SSI units will have to face stiff competition in terms of prices and quality from imported goods as the domestic market would be freely accessible to foreign companies. All SSI units will have to be, therefore, competitive in price, quality and customers services in future.

(c) The policies/programmes of the Government in providing assistance/incentives in various forms invariably lead to setting up of units and thereby creation of employment opportunities. Detailed figures of employment generated are not maintained.

Rice Processing Research Centre

3627. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH :
SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the rice processing research centers are working for the benefit of the rice growing farmers, in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the type of facilities, training etc. those centers are providing to the rice growing farmers, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government have any proposal to establish similar rice processing research centers in North and Central Bihar for the benefit of rice growing farmers;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the number of farmers benefited/will be benefited by the programme ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TH. CHAOBA SINGH) : (a) to (e) Paddy Processing Research Centre, Thanjavur and Post Harvest Technology Centre at IIT, Kharagpur being funded by the Department of Food Processing Industries are engaged in research and development, training and human resource development including transfer of technology in paddy processing and utilization of by-products like husk and bran for the benefit of farmers, processors, industry and consumers. These Centres have the necessary facilities and infrastructure for imparting training to the farmers, millers and entrepreneurs from all states of the country.

The Department has also funded Regional Extension Service Centres for carrying out extension activities in modern rice milling and by-products utilization through demonstrations, seminars, exhibitions. Group discussions, distribution of literature like pamphlets and posters etc. The Centres so far have been funded by the Department through State Governments, Agricultural Universities/ Research Institutions are located in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Tamilnadu, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Punjab, Gujarat, Manipur and Assam. Besides the Department has also funded four rice mill machinery testing centers through agricultural universities at Coimbatore, Pune, IIT Kharagpur and Harcourt Butler Technological Institute, Kanpur, for guiding the machinery manufactures for testing the improvement of rice mill and allied machinery.

All these above Centres through their activities have benefited a large number of farmers and users of technology in the country.

Wastage of Rivers Water

3628. SHRI SAHIB SINGH : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the large quantity of rivers water flow as a waste into sea;

(b) whether the Government contemplate to formulate any scheme to stop and save water for domestic use after suitable treatment;

(c) whether the Government also propose constitute a Task Force for the purpose; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) Out of 4000 BCM of annual rainfall snow in the country, 1869 BCM appears as average annual run off in the various rivers of the country. Out of this, only 690 BCM surface water can be economically utilised by the conventional methods of water conservation. In addition, 432 BCM replenishable ground water is available for utilization. Suitable guidelines have been issued on making provision of drinking water in the projects. Government of India is also promoting Rainwater Harvesting through Watershed Management Programme, Artificial Recharge of Ground Water and Roop-top Rainwater Harvesting for which technical and financial assistance is provided to the State Governments and other implementing agencies.

(c) and (d) Government had set up the National Commission for Integrated Water Resources Development in September, 1996. The Commission has submitted its report in December, 1999. An Implementation Cell and an Advisory Committee has been set up for considering the implementation of the recommendation of the Commission.

Indian Children Languishing in Pak Jails

3629. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY :
SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether many Indian children are in Pak jails;

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

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to get them released ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) to (c) According to available information, 7 children of Indian fishermen are under detention in Pakistani jail. These children, in the age group of 9 to 17 years, were detained by the Pakistani authorities following apprehension of their fishing boats by the Pakistani Maritime Security Agency during the period between October and December, 1999.

The issue of early release and repatriation of these children is being pursued with Pakistan through diplomatic channels and it is our hope and expectation that these children would be released soon.

[Translation]

Jowat Irrigation Project

3630. SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the present status of the Jowat irrigation project in Jhabua district of Madhya Pradesh;

(b) whether there is any delay in completion of the project;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which the project is likely to be completed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) The present financial status of the Jobat Irrigation Project in Jhabua district of Madhya Pradesh is as under :–

Sl. No.	Particulars	Amount (Rs. in crore)
1.	Latest Estimated Cost (at 1998 price level)	110.45
2.	Approved Cost (at 1984 price level)	30.75
3.	Expenditure upto end of VIII Plan	26.57
4.	Approved outlay for IX Plan	50.00
5.	Expenditure during 1997-98	1.33
6.	Expenditure during 1998-99	1.80
7.	Expenditure during 1999-2000 (anticipated)	3.30
8.	Cumulative Expenditure upto 3/2000 (anticipated)	33.00

(b) and (c) Yes Sir, there has been considerable delay in completion of the project mainly because of insufficient funding to the project by the state government.

(d) The project is likely to be completed by March, 2003 subject to available of funds.

[English]

Advisory Committees for Dairying and Fisheries

3631. SHRI P.D. ELANGOVAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Advisory Committees/Councils/ Boards Constituted to advice the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries during the last three years;

(b) the composition and functions thereof;

(c) whether any liaison officer from OBCs has been appointed to the said advisory bodies; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) Two Boards and one Committee have been constituted during the last three years to advise the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying.

(b) Details are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) and (d) There is no provision to appoint liaison officers from OBCs to the said Committees/Boards referred in (a) above.

Statement

Advisory Committees

1. **Central Advisory Committee for Development of sheep, goats and rabbits :**

Composition : The Committee is chaired by Agriculture Minister and Minister of State (Agriculture) is the Vice-Chairman. The members of the Board include two members of Lok Sabha; one member of Rajya Sabha, five non-official members, and twenty official members including member secretary.

Functions : The Committee is to advise the Central Government on various development programmes relating to sheep, goat and rabbits; review the research and development activities relating to sheep, goat and rabbits; consider matters relating to grading and processing of wool and its utilization, consider problems relating to marketing of sheep, goat, rabbit and their produce; and to consider policies relating to import/export of sheep, goat, rabbit and their produce; and any other item assigned to the committee from time to time.

Advisory Boards

2. **Milk and Milk Product Advisory Board :**

Composition : The Board, chaired by Secretary, Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying has 17 members including five non-official members.

Functions : To assist, aid and advise the Central Government on any matter concerning production, manufacture, sale, purchase and distribution of Milk and Milk products and no matters incidental thereto.

3. **Equine Development Board :**

Composition : The Board, chaired by Agriculture Minister and Minister of State (Agriculture) is the Vice-Chairman has 19 members including six non-official members representing progressive breeders.

Functions : To advise Government on matters relating to the development of equines, registration to equine breeding studs, import of studs, and exercise technical control of breeding of horses, so as to enable the Ministry to effectively coordinate all aspects pertaining to horse breeding, import/export of horses etc., and any other function assigned to the board from time to time.

Institute for Mentally Retarded Children

3632. MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government propose to set up more institutes for imparting educational training to mentally retarded children in the country;

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

(c) the time by which these institutes are likely to be set up ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) to (c) There are six Apex Level Institutions, specializing in different areas of disability, including the National Institute for Mentally, Handicapped at Secunderabad. These institutes provide long term training, model rehabilitation services and undertake research in their respective areas of specialization. The Government has also recently established the National Trust for the Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral palsy, mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities, with the prime objective of promoting th development, safeguarding the interest and upholding the rights of persons with autism, cerebral palsy, mental retardation and multiple disabilities and their families. The Government has also initiated setting up of five Composite regional Centres which inter alia will provide services, research and training in all the areas of rehabilitation of persons with disabilities including special education of children with disabilities.

Through its Scheme to Promote Voluntary Action for Personas with Disabilities, the Government also supports NGOs to set up special schools for children including mentally retarded children and to integrate them in normal schools.

[Translation]

Water Crisis in Rajasthan

3633. SHRI RAM SINGH KASWAN :
SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA :
SHRI PUSP JAIN :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the experts have indicated that Rajasthan may face acute water crisis in future;

(b) if so, whether any concrete scheme has been formulated by the Government to increase water resources in the State;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any survey has been conducted in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (e) In the State of Rajasthan, there are thirteen districts covering an area of 21500 million hectare viz. Ajmer, Banswara, Barmer, Bikaner, Churu, Dungarpur, Jaisalmer, Jalore, Jhunjhunu, Jodhpur, Nagaur, Pali and Udaipur which have been identified as drought prone out of total 99 drought prone districts in the country. The Union Government had, in 1980, formulated a National Perspective Plan for Water Resources Development which envisages inter linkages between various Peninsular rivers and Himalayan rivers for transfer of water from surplus basins to water deficit basins including upper areas of Rajasthan 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 carry out the water balance and other studies of National Perspective Plan and to prepare feasibility report of the links. Prefeasibility reports of 17 links under Peninsular component and 14 links under Himalayan component have been completed. Implementation of water transfer link proposal inter-alia depend on how soon the detailed project report is prepared after consensus is reached among the concerned States and the availability of funds.

Production of Potato Seed

3634. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is proposal to set up bio-centres in Madhya Pradesh for the production of potato seeds;

(b) if so, the details there of location-wise; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO) : (a) and (b) Three proposals to set up bio-centres for the production of potato seeds were received from the State Government of Madhya Pradesh of which two bio-centres were sanctioned and set up at the following locations :

(1) Kuthar (Bhopal), and

(2) Chhindwada (Jabalpur).

(c) Does not arise.

Regularisation of Daily Wagers

3635. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 369 on April 19, 2000 and state :

(a) the terms for regularising "several employees working on daily wages in the Government/Semi-Government Undertakings";

(b) whether "all those employees working in the State Government Emporia and other organisations" are likely to be regularised; and

(c) if so, the guidelines issued therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) Under the existing instructions a daily wage workers working in Ministries/ Departments/Offices of Govt. of India may be considered for regularisation against a Group 'D' post if he has put in at least 206 days of service as daily wage worker (including broken period of service) during each of the two consecutive years ad fulfil the other conditions laid down in the recruitment rules of the relevant Group 'D' post. For this purpose, the period spent by him as daily wage worker is allowed to be deducted from his actual age. However, such regularisation is not automatic but dependent upon the availability of a post in the Group 'D' cadre in the Office where such daily wage worker has been working.

(b) and (c) As the service conditions of employees of State Govt. Undertakings are regulated by respective State Govts., the information in this regard is not available.

[English]

Water Reactors

3636. DR. (SHRIMATI) C. SUGUNA KUMARI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether pressurized water reactors (PWRs) are more advanced in Nuclear Power Generation; and

(b) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken to replace boiler water reactors of Tarapur Atomic Power Plant with PWRs for better results ?

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) Pressurised Water Reactors (PWRs) contribute about 58% of nuclear power reactors in operation in the world. These reactors contribute about 65% of the nuclear power capacity in the world.

(b) Like PWRs, Boiling Water Reactors (BWRs) and Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors (PHWRs) are also among the proven nuclear power reactors. In India, the nuclear power reactors at Tarapur Atomic Power Station Unit-1 and 2 (2x160 MWe) are BWRs and these units are operating well and there is no proposal to replace the same with PWRs.

Unemployed Educated Persons in Manipur

3637. SHRI HOLKHOMANG HAOKIP : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of unemployed educated persons targeted for self employment during each of the last three years under Prime Minister Rozgar Yojana in Manipur; and

(b) the number of them provided employment so far district-wise in the State ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) Manipur State was allocated a total target of 1300, 1350 and 1350 respectively for the last three years i.e. 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000, under the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana.

(b) The statement showing district-wise number of educated unemployed persons provided with employment in the state, out of the total target for the last three years i.e. 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000, so far, under the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana as reported by the State Government is enclosed.

Statement

District-wise number of educated unemployed persons provided employment out of the total targeted for the last three years i.e. 1997-98; 1998-99 and 1999-2000 under the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana

(As reported by the State Government)

Sl. No.	Name of the District	Educated unemployed persons provided employment (Nos.)
1.	Erstwhile Imphal	320
2.	Imphal West	210
3.	Imphal East	79
4.	Thoubal	293
5.	Bishnupur	86
6.	Churachandpur	195
7.	Ukhrul	8
8.	Senapati	255
9.	Chandel	94
10.	Tamenglong	37
	Total	1557

Per Capita Expenditure

3638. SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have estimated the per capita expenditure on food/non-food and fuel in the North Eastern Region; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) According to the survey on Consumer Expenditure conducted by National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) during January – June 1998, the estimated monthly per capita expenditure of households in North-Eastern Region on food, non-food and fuel and light is as given below :

State	Item	Monthly Per Capita Expenditure (in Rs.)	
		Rural	Urban
Assam	Food	233.06	327.74
	Non-food	104.49	251.83
	Fuel and light	24.27	40.97
Other States in NE including Sikkim	Food	295.26	367.31
	Non-food	182.08	330.33
	Fuel and light	37.60	46.97

Development of Nuclear Energy

3639. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) is pursuing research and development in the field of nuclear energy in the country; 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) Yes, Sir.

(b) Details of Research and Development in the field of nuclear energy are as follows :–

(1) Management of ageing, and extension of life of early generation nuclear power plants.

(2) Research, design and development relating to current generation thermal reactors.

(3) Technologies for next generation reactors and advanced fuel cycles required for long term energy security of India.

Sardar Sarovar Project

3640. SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the tax free bonds are likely to be issued for generating funds for Sardar Sarovar Project;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, whether the Government propose to allocate additional funds from the Central Budget for the completion of the project;

(d) whether the Government have granted the permission to import a hydroelectric machine for the project; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (c) The Central Board of District Taxes vide its notification no. 205/9/98/ITA-II dated 11.2.99 has notified the Sardar Sarovar Narmada Nigam Limited as an approved enterprise for exemption under Section 10(23 G) of Income Tax Act, 1961, Sardar Sarovar Nigam Limited has mobilized Bonds aggregating Rs. 161.63 crore carrying tax exemption benefits under Section 10(23 G) of Income Tax Act, 1961 as under :–

Financial year	Amount (Rs. in Crore)
1997-98	61.64
1998-99	35.59
1999-2000	64.40

Government of India have also released Rs. 924.25 crore as Central Loan Assistance for Sardar Sarovar Project under the Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP) upto 31st March, 2000. An amount of Rs. 150 crore has been recommended as first instalment of Central Loan Assistance for Sardar Sarovar Project under the Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme during the current financial year.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. The Sardar Sarovar Project is importing 6 units of 200 MW Pump Turbine/Motor Generator Sets for its 1200 MW River Bed Powerhouse from Japan.

Fish Processing Industry

3641. DR. A.D.K. JAYASEELAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of long coast and ample scope of fishing in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal to set up fish processing industry in Tamilnadu;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) There are no proposals pending in this Ministry which seek financial assistance under Plan Schemes for establishing fish processing industry in Tamil Nadu.

[Translation]

Construction Labour

3642. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Act No. 27-28 enacted in 1996 for the welfare of construction labourers has not yet been implemented by several States;

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

(c) the concrete steps taken/being taken by the Government to implement the said Act in all the States of the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) to (c) In the Building and Other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1996, there is concept of Appropriate Government. In the Central sphere, the Government has framed the Rules, notified authorities for the implementation of the Act and has also constituted the Central Advisory Committee under the Act. The State Governments are in the process of implementation of the Act(s) i.e. framing of state rules, notifying the authorities, constitution of Welfare Boards and State Advisory Committee etc. The matter is being regularly followed up with the State Governments.

Provident Fund Organisation

3643. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the number of cases registered against the officers/employees working in the Provident Fund Organisation by the CBI in Rajasthan alongwith the details of these officers/employees;

(b) the number of raids conducted by the CBI at their residence;

(c) the status of the registered cases thereof;

(d) the total amount involved in bungling and corruption in the said cases; and

(e) the stern action taken against the above convicted officers/employees ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) In addition to a trap case by CBI involving one Assistant Provident Fund Commissioner and one Assistant Accounts Officer, the CBI has also registered eight F.I.Rs. implicating two Assistant Provident Fund Commissioners, two Enforcement Officers and one Upper Division Clerk in the Sub-Regional Employees' Provident Fund Office, Jodhpur, Rajasthan.

(b) The CBI has conducted raids at the residence of three officials of the Sub-Regional Office, Jodhpur.

(c) In the trap case, CBI sought prosecution sanction against one Assistant Accounts Officer which was given. In the case of Assistant Provident Fund Commissioner involved in the trap case, CBI recommended action as deemed appropriate by the Department.

In five out of the eight FIRs, CBI recommended departmental action against three officials. Necessary instructions have accordingly been issued to the concerned competent authority. The CBI's report in the remaining three FIRs have not been received.

(d) The cases initiated by the CBI against three officials of the EPFO relate to procedural irregularities. As such, no case of bungling has been made out by the CBI.

(e) Necessary disciplinary action is already being taken against the employees allegedly involved in the procedural irregularities.

[English]

Dr. Ambedkar Foundation

3644. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Dr. Ambedkar Foundation was established by the Government to carry out the programmes and activities for dissemination of Dr. Ambedkar's ideology and to spread his messages of social justice;

(b) if so, the details of programmes implemented by the Foundation during the last 5 years especially in Maharashtra;

(c) steps taken by the Government to ensure that the foundation play a more proactive role for upliftment and development of the weaker sections of the society; and

(d) steps taken to create a database of such persons and organisations who have done significant work for upliftment and development of weaker sections ?

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

(b) Dr. Ambedkar Foundation is taking a steps on the following :-

(i) Funding Dr. Ambedkar Chairs in Universities.

(ii) Translation and Publication of the Writings and Speeches of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar.

(iii) Giving Dr. Ambedkar National Award for Social Understanding and upliftment of Weaker Sections and Dr. Ambedkar International Award for Social Change.

(iv) Setting up Dr. Ambedkar National Memorial at 26, Alipur Road, Delhi.

(v) Setting up Dr. Ambedkar National Public Library.

Following programmes are being implemented in Maharashtra :-

(i) Dr. Ambedkar Chair was setup at Nagpur University during the year 1996. It is doing research work on Dalit Movement and History.

(ii) Government of Maharashtra has been requested for taking up Translation and Publication of Collected Works of Baba Saheb Dr. Ambedkar in Marathi Language.

(c) The Foundation is implementing a number of scheme/projects as indicated above, for upliftment and development of weaker sections of the society.

(d) Ministers of Central Government, Members of Parliament, Vice Chancellors of Universities and District Collectors have been requested to send names and details on persons/organisations, who have done significant work for upliftment and development of weaker sections and Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes to the Foundation to create a Data Base.

Reservation for OBC in Jammu and Kashmir

3645. VAIDYA VISHNU DATT SHARMA : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the details of reservation provided to the other Backward Classes in Services in Jammu and Kashmir State during the last three years;

(b) the total number of posts lying vacant in each category;

(c) the total number of posts likely to be filled in different reserved categories during the next three years; and

(d) the steps taken to strengthen the monitoring agency in order to safeguard the interest of persons belonging to different reserved classes ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) (a) to (d) The National Backward Classes Commission Act, 1993 does not extend to the State of Jammu and Kashmir. The State Government has, however, set up its own State Backward Classes Commission.

The State Government has provided reservation to the Socially and Educationally Backward Classes (other than Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes) as per the details below :-

(i) Weak and under privileged classes (Social Castes)-2%

(ii) Resident of Areas adjoining Actual Line of Control-3%

(iii) Resident of Backward Areas-20%

Details of reservation provided to OBCs including the number of posts lying vacant and the number of posts likely to be filled up are maintained by the State Government.

[Translation]

Modernisation of Handloom Units

3646. SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to modernise the handloom units in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount allocated for modernisation of handloom units in 2000-2001 to each State and Rajasthan in particular; and

(d) the number of handloom units likely to be modernised with the allocated amount ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) and (b) There is no specific scheme under operation for modernisation of handloom units in the country. However, this issue is addressed through a number of developmental and welfare schemes implemented by the Government of India through the State Governments. The schemes include Decentralised Training Programmes, Development of Exportable Products, their marketing and Project package etc.

(c) and (d) State-wise funds are not allocated under these schemes. However, assistance to the States is sanctioned by the Govt. of India and funds are released on the basis of receipt of viable proposals from the State Governments.

State Farms Corporation of India

3647. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the total area of cultivable land on which the State Farms Corporation of India is doing farming work alongwith the profits earned/losses suffered by it during each of the last three years; and

(b) the amount of loans outstanding against the above said corporation at present ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO) : (a) The total cultivable area on which State Farms Corporation of India is doing farming is 25316 ha.

The losses suffered by the Corporation during the last three years are as under :-

Year		(Rs. in lakhs)
1996-97	-	297.62
1997-98	-	835.40
1998-99	-	1172.53

(b) An amount of Rs. 19.98 crores is outstanding against the Corporation by way of Principal and Interest as on 31.3.2000.

Support Price of Agricultural Commodities

3648. SHRI RAJESH RANJAN alias PAPPU YADAV : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the support prices announced by the Government for the year 1999-2000 for the procurement of agricultural crops;

(b) the details of action taken by the Union Government for the procurement of soyabean at support price in Bihar;

(c) whether Union Government have provided any grant to the State Government for the procurement of soyabean; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO) : (a) The support price fixed by the Government of India for 1999-2000 for major agricultural commodities are given in enclosed statement.

(b) Before onset of harvesting season NAFED, the nodal agency of procurement of Soyabean, had advised all the concerned State Governments/State Agencies to give wide publicity of the Rice support Scheme and in case prices rule below Minimum Support Prices (MSP) to purchase the stocks at MSP under PSS. However, no stock of soyabean under Price Support Scheme was offered in Bihar during Kharif, 1999.

(c) and (d) There is no subsidy involved in the purchases of soyabean under Price Support Scheme. However, losses incurred by the Central Nodal Agency are fully met by the Union Government.

Statement

Minimum Support Price

(Rs. per quintal)

Sl. No.	Commodity	Variety	1999-2000	2000-01
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Paddy	Common	490	
		Grade A	520	

1	2	3	4	5
2.	Coarse Cereals Jowar, Bajra and Ragi		415	
3.	Maize		415	
4.	Wheat		580	
5.	Barley		430	
6.	Gram		1015	
7.	Arhar		1105	
8.	Moong		1105	
9.	Urad		1105	
10.	Sugarcane		56.10	
11.	Cotton	F-414/H-777/ J-34	1575	
		H-4	1775	
12.	Groundnut-in-Shell		1155	
13.	Jute		750	785
14	Rapeseed/Mustard		1100	
15.	Sunflower Seed		1155	
16.	Soyabeen	Black	755	
		Yellow	845	
17.	Safflower		1100	
18.	Torai		1065	
19.	Tobacco (VFC)	Black Soil (F2 Grade)	25.00	
	(Rs. Per Kg.)	Light Soil (L2 Grade)	27.00	3250
20.	Copra (Calendar	Milling	3100	
	Year)	Ball	3325	3500
21.	Sesamum		1205	
22.	Nigerseed		915	

[English]

Schemes/Programmes

3649. SHRI JAGANNATH MALLIK : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the schemes/programmes of Orissa University of Agriculture and Technology funded by ICAR and Government of India;

(b) the amount given by the Government Scheme-wise during the period 1995-2000; and

(c) the mechanism to evaluate the achievements and results achieved therefrom ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) to (c) :

List of Schemes/Projects being Operated in Orissa University of Agriculture and Technology funded by ICAR, Alongwith the amount given during 1995-2000 and Mechanism to Evaluate Achievements and Results

Sl. No.	Name of the Scheme	Amount released 1995-2000 (Rs. in lakh)
1	2	3
A.	**Krishi Vigyan Kendras**	
1.	Kendrapara	95.25
2.	Regional Research Station Semiliguda, Koraput	89.83
3.	Regional Research Station Judia Farm, Keonjhar	108.37
4.	Balinpal, Balasore	78.81
5.	Bhanjanagar, Ganjam	91.30
6.	Gambhirpalli, Sambalpur	92.78
7.	Udyagiri, Phulbani	66.80
8.	Regional Research Station NARI Campus, Kalahandi	79.09
	Sub Total	702.23
B.	**All India Coordinated Research Projects (AICRPs)**	
1.	Water Management	49.21
2.	Cropping System Research	103.81
3.	Weed Control	20.61
4.	Agrometeorology	8.30
5.	Dryland Agriculture	56.40
6.	Soil Test Crop Respnose	20.83

1	2	3
7.	Micro Secondary Nutrients	30.84
8.	Long Term Fertilizer Experiments	13.50
9.	Tillage Requirement	11.46
10.	Bilogical Nitrogen Fixation	14.15
11.	Agroforestry	46.00
12.	Palms	17.29
13.	Betelvine	24.5
14.	Spices	15.01
15.	Cashew	23.25
16.	Vegetable	23.53
17.	National Seed Project (Vegetable)	15.80
18.	Potato	34.21
19.	AICRP Poultry	63.71
20.	Human Engg. and Safety in Agriculture	37.34
21.	Post Harvest Engg. and Technology	57.92
22.	Power Tiller	28.63
23.	Rice	71.29
24.	Wheat	9.20
25.	Maize	34.26
26.	Small Millets	25.66
27.	Forage Crops	32.78
28.	Under Utilised Crops	16.57
29.	Oilseeds	31.54
30.	Groundnut	20.14
31.	Rapeseed and Mustard	11.27
32.	Mungbean, Urdbean, Lentil, Lathyrus, Rajmash and Pea	31.18
33.	Tobacco	15.16
34.	Sugarcane	20.33
35.	Jute and Allied Fibres	33.65
36.	Cotton Improvement	2.52
37.	National Seed Crops (Crops)	113.68
38.	Breeder Seed Production on Oilseed Crops	11.09
39.	Honeybee	16.17
40.	Pesticide Residue	20.80
41.	Nematode	14.02
	Sub Total	1247.61
C.	**AP Cess Fund Schemes**	
1.	Weather study for rice, wheat and rice based cropping System in Orissa	2.84
2.	Optimum allocation of irrigation water in the command area of Orissa	5.17
3.	Evaluation of rice germplasm of biotic stresses	2.52
4.	Enhancement of genetic yield potential of rainfed lowland rice with emphasis on semi deep water ecology	14.97
5.	Improvement of aromatic and non-aromatic fine grain rice for increased productivity and export in Orissa state	14.04
6.	Genetic characterisation of electrophoratic banding pattern of seed proteins in mungbean: molecular implications and seed proteins improvement	3.68
7.	Exploitation of hybrid vigour in Sesame	10.14
8.	Conservation of genetic linkage of RAPD marker and economic trait LOCI in mungbean	28.05
9.	Network Project on Tribal Crops Centre, Semilguda	21.71
10.	Leafhoppers of Economic Crops in Orissa	8.24
11.	Tritrophic interactions in rice ecosystem with special reference to plathopper management	7.09
12.	Studies on economic feasibility for the use of tagetes in the management of root knot nematode on brinjal	7.55
13.	Production storage and utilization of Azola sporocarps for fields inoculation in rice	5.21
14.	Studies on delineation of pollutant and toxic element chromium in soil water and crop plants of Orissa and its remedial measures	4.08
15.	Effect of ambient iodine on the growth and reproduction of catfish *Clarias batrachus*	4.44

1	2	3
16.	Network project on Promotion of Hybrid research in vegetable Crops	9.40
17.	Improvement of Amaranth leafy vegetables of Orissa	1.12
18.	Production of Propagules and standardization of Agro-techniques in *Dioscorea alata*	3.42
19.	Improvement of Pointed Gourd	1.33
20.	Improvement of minor cucurbits like spine gourd, sweet gourd, little gourd and jungle kundru	1.56
21.	Collection, evaluation and identification of superior types of Jhumpuri and Morianga tree vegetables	3.50
22.	Identification in characterisation of buffaloes (indigenous and Murrah) and bulls used for artificial insemination in Orissa	9.78
23.	Immune status and immuno modulation infection on bursal disease and afalexieesis in chickens	15.70
24.	Development of an immunogenic vaccine using highly protective antigen of clostridim chauvoci	12.77
	Sub Total	160.06

D. Development Grant Released to Orissa University of Agriculture and Technology

Development Grant is being given to the State Agricultural Universities for the infrastructure viz., construction and furnishing the class rooms, laboratories, seminar halls and hostels etc. Following is the break-up of development grant given to OUAT during 1995-2000 :

	(Rs. in lakh)
1995-96	221.00
1996-97	Nil
1997-98	70.00
1998-99	100.00
1999-2000	70.00

E. One Time Catch up Grant

One time catch up grant released to OUAT Orissa during 1995-2000	Rs. 100 lakh
Grand Total (A+B+C+D+E)	Rs. 2670.90 lakhs

F. The evaluation of results achieved by the schemes/projects is done periodically by the concerned Subject Matter Divisions through the Annual Workshops of All India Coordinated Research Projects (AICRPs) organised by the concerned Project Coordinators, also attended by senior officials of the ICAR Headquarters. The Quinquennial Review of AICRPs are undertaken once in five years by a team consisting of eminent scientists from outside the ICAR system. The progress of AP Cess funded projects is reviewed during Scientific Panel Meetings as well as Annual Workshops of AICRPs.

The above mechanism of review and evaluation of projects/schemes is very effective in ensuring their desired performance/achievements.

[Translation]

Computer Network (ICAR)

3650. SHRI ATMARAM BHAI PATEL :
SHRI DHARM RAJ SINGH PATEL :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of Centres where computer network was proposed to be set up under the computer network equipment purchasing and supply (MATP) during the year 1998-99 in the Indian Council for Agriculture Research;

(b) the Centres where computers have been installed and the Centres where computers are yet to be installed;

(c) whether the required training has been imparted in these Centres;

(d) whether the number of Centres fixed for training centres has been reduced and the training likely to be given on each site has been Centralised in limit Centres;

(e) if so, whether training was to be imparted on each site after the matching of the hardware and software which were supplied;

(f) whether there is likely to be any loss in case of training given in other training centres; and

(g) whether the technical knowledge would be affected due to it ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) During 1998-99 computers and networking equipment were procured under the National Agricultural Technology Project (NATP). These computers and networking

equipment were allotted to 437 consignees at 202 locations throughout the country.

(b) Equipment have been delivered at all sites and 1035 computers have been installed out of total 1442. The remaining computers are being installed.

(c) Training has been imparted at all the locations in Delhi and most of the locations in the States of Haryana, Punjab, Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) No, Sir.

(g) No, Sir.

[English]

Simulation of Nuclear Tests

3651. SHRI SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the US Scientists have achieved a break through in three-dimensional computer simulations of detonations;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the Government's assessment about its impact on global nuclear disarmament ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) to (c) Government have seen newspaper reports that scientists at the US nuclear weapons laboratories have carried out three-dimensional simulations of a thermonuclear warhead as it explodes. It is claimed that, in this way, scientists can study the reaction of materials being compressed and exploded and also understand the ageing of nuclear warhead components. The technological details of these developments remain classified but clearly, activities aimed at ensuring further development of nuclear weapons will enhance their salience and render difficult, decisive movement towards global nuclear disarmament.

[Translation]

Dress Code for School Children in Saudi Arabia

3652 SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Managing Committee of the International Indian School based at Jeddah in Saudi Arabia has prescribed some dress for children of that school.

(b) if so, whether this dress is of Islamic type;

(c) if so, whether Indian Government have registered any protest with the Saudi Government in this regard; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

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

(b) The school uniform for girls includes a head scarf; however, its use is voluntary in nature and not obligatory.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) There have not been any instructions from the Saudi Government regarding any dress code for the children of the International Indian School, Jeddah.

[English]

Promotion of Horticulture

3653. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the steps taken to promote horticulture in the country during the last three years;

(b) details of the areas brought under horticulture in those years, State-wise;

(c) the target set by each State to promote horticulture during the Ninth Five Year Plan; and

(d) the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO) : (a) Govt. of India have implemented following schemes for promotion of horticulture during the last three years

1. Integrated Development of Tropical, Temperate and Arid Fruits.
2. Integrated Programme for Development of Cashewnuts and Cocoa.
3. Horticulture Development through Plasticulture Intervention.
4. Integrated Development of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants.

5. Promotion of Bee-keeping.

6. Integrated Development of Mushroom.

7. Integrated Development of Commercial Floriculture.

8. Integrated Programme for Development of Spices.

9. Integrated Development of Vegetables including Root and Tuber Crops.

10. Programme of Coconut Development Board.

11. Programme of National Horticulture Board.

(b) to (d) State-wise details of actual area brought under horticulture for last three years and targets set by each State are not available. The information is being collected from the States.

[Translation]

Bansagar Irrigation Project

3654. SHRI KHEL SAI SINGH : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the present status of the Bansagar Irrigation Project;

(b) whether some schemes related to the Bansagar Irrigation Project still lying pending with the Union Government; and

(c) if so, the time by which these scheme are likely to be cleared ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) The present status of Bansagar Irrigation Project as on March 2000 is given below :

Item		Physical progress	Expenditure incurred (Rs. in crore)
Main Dam		90% complete	638.52
Canal Work	(M.P.)	25% complete	158.18
	(U.P.)	Only Feeder Canal taken up	68.53
	(Bihar)	Modernisation of Sone Canal System taken up	83.06
Power House	I	Completed	735.01
	II and III	to be completed by 2001	
	IV	to be taken up after dam is raised to full height	

(b) to (c) The Bansagar Canal Project (M.P.) and the Bansagar Canal Project (U.P.) were accepted by the Technical Advisory Committee on 27.01.1994 subject to certain conditions. The clearance of these schemes will depend upon the promptness with which the State Governments submit the compliance to the Union Government.

[English]

Equal Distribution of Resources

3655. SHRI SAMAR CHOUDHARY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether any criteria and norms of equitable distribution of resources amongst all the North East Region States have been evolved for balanced development of the region;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any State of the North East region has demanded for equitable share of the resources; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE) : (a) and (b) For Special Category States (include North-Eastern States), the main considerations for allocation of Central Assistance are the level of allocations made in the previous year, States' resource position, the

developmental needs etc. The criteria adopted under the Original Gadgil Formula, Modified Gadgil Formula and subsequent revised formulae for allocation of Central Assistance to Special Category States, are as follows :-

Original Gadgil Formula (1969)	Modified Gadgil Formula (1980)	NDC Revised Formula (1990)	NDC Revised Formula (1991)
1	2	3	4
30% share for 3 States, excluding N.E.C.	30% share for 8 States, excluding N.E.C.	30% share for 10 States, excluding N.E.C.	30% share for 10 States, excluding N.E.C.

(c) and (d) There is no such proposal.

[Translation]

Setting up of Small Scale Industries in Backward Areas

3656. DR. BALIRAM :
SHRIMATI SUSHILA SAROJ :

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

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from the Uttar Pradesh Government for setting up small scale industries in the backward areas of the State during the last three years;

(b) the amount of assistance provided to rural industries in various States particularly in Uttar Pradesh during the last three years;

(c) whether the Union Government have asked for progress report from the States regarding the utilization of the said amount;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) The details of financial assistance provided in the form of grant and loan by Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) during the years 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99 for Khadi and Village Industries to various states including Uttar Pradesh is given in Statement I and II.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Does not arise.

Statement-I

Distribution of Grant to Various States/Union Territories by KVIC during the years 1996-97 to 1998-99

(Rupees in lakhs)

Sl.No.	State/U.T.	1996-97		1997-98		1998-99	
		Khadi	V.I.	Khadi	V.I.	Khadi	V.I.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	273.95	685.78	174.29	737.29	275.35	340.75
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	–	125.41	0.87	–	–	–
3	Assam	52.55	12.70	35.06	6.30	59.79	6.72
4.	Bihar	651.17	12.29	748.45	4.00	1196.53	33.96
5.	Goa	0.60	45.35	1.00	9.84	–	40.36
6.	Gujarat	922.70	519.17	1387.00	94.71	2554.96	268.56

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
7.	Haryana	19.40	292.58	592.79	52.25	652.94	185.23
8.	Himachal Pradesh	1.88	203.59	123.30	153.97	76.51	272.94
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	70.29	263.48	81.92	40.53	182.50	352.13
10.	Karnataka	255.57	653.33	438.63	561.35	1008.73	1228.32
11.	Kerala	147.03	1175.18	322.60	15.58	205.45	395.94
12.	Madhya Pradesh	100.60	720.64	367.27	319.06	178.49	1319.02
13.	Maharashtra	260.82	795.04	32.93	285.31	310.59	308.97
14.	Manipur	2.38	208.16	–	281.51	–	266.93
15.	Meghalaya	4.88	232.43	–	–	2.36	44.93
16.	Mizoram	1.13	1028.05	–	49.63	0.02	344.39
17.	Nagaland	28.32	733.46	7.18	90.00	5.37	396.94
18.	Orissa	45.25	396.94	30.99	60.50	172.53	87.02
19.	Punjab	281.01	391.05	619.41	124.79	345.73	605.12
20.	Rajasthan	860.03	636.87	105.26	314.15	1490.71	461.80
21.	Sikkim	–	–	–	–	–	–
22.	Tamilnadu	757.63	737.73	1268.80	58.77	2690.76	414.10
23.	Tripura	0.50	90.31	0.02	–	0.50	–
24.	Uttar Pradesh	2141.50	1589.33	1947.68	77.71	4201.30	1454.00
25.	West Bengal	227.47	1011.77	235.00	7.60	595.10	20.49
26.	Andaman and Nicobar	–	42.85	–	–	–	–
27.	Chandigarh	–	–	–	–	–	–
28.	Dadar and Nagar Haveli	–	–	–	–	–	–
29.	NCT of Delhi	321.06	73.11	22.29	10.74	669.27	31.34
30.	Daman and Diu	–	–	–	–	–	–
31	Pondicherry	–	7.60	–	–	–	26.23
32.	Lakshadweep	6.39	24.20	–	–	0.39	34.64
33.	Departmental	229.43	3654.50	217.35	21567.01	752.48	7707.43
34.	Other Schemes	–	4866.15	–	–	–	–
	Total	7663.54	21224.05	8760.09	24922.60	17628.36	16648.26

Statement-II

Disbursement of Loans to Various States/Union Territories by KVIC during the years 1996-97 to 1998-99

(Rupees in lakhs)

Sl.No.	State/U.T.	1996-97		1997-98		1998-99	
		Khadi	V.I.	Khadi	V.I.	Khadi	V.I.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	383.16	258.90	63.02	17.68	19.76	31.10
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	14.33	29.42	–	–	–	–
3.	Assam	61.43	4.68	19.43	0.37	0.79	2.00
4.	Bihar	144.81	56.34	30.17	0.14	53.83	7.02
5.	Goa	36.65	11.30	–	31.32	–	1.55
6.	Gujarat	61.64	30.41	7.00	13.37	43.34	29.13
7.	Haryana	74.67	65.72	18.75	219.36	2.10	8.88
8.	Himachal Pradesh	11.97	31.03	–	–	6.52	4.33
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	35.97	4.51	0.38	–	6.61	0.52
10.	Karnataka	170.98	56.66	170.75	68.05	102.75	61.58
11.	Kerala	108.82	21.87	3.15	1.46	35.48	13.68
12.	Madhya Pradesh	153.26	49.27	1.21	48.88	8.18	12.11
13.	Maharashtra	87.68	220.24	10.84	48.68	7.62	41.96
14.	Manipur	7.42	2.84	–	–	–	0.34
15.	Meghalaya	6.75	36.04	–	–	–	0.86
16.	Mizoram	1.62	–	–	–	0.10	–
17.	Nagaland	16.78	2.73	–	2.00	–	–
18.	Orissa	116.46	9.52	18.95	3.87	6.10	8.34
19.	Punjab	72.00	6.10	–	2.50	11.45	1.21
20.	Rajasthan	218.24	18.79	28.59	26.21	19.70	23.60
21.	Sikkim	3.90	–	–	–	–	–
22.	Tamilnadu	446.80	43.07	0.25	26.57	42.27	37.41
23.	Tripura	21.99	4.61	–	–	–	–
24.	Uttar Pradesh	492.82	241.38	61.81	135.90	332.88	191.10
25.	West Bengal	138.32	69.55	43.15	4.97	36.28	48.54
26.	Andaman and Nicobar	–	–	–	–	–	–
27.	Chandigarh	–	–	–	–	–	–

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
28.	Dadar and Nagar Haveli	–	–	–	–	–	–
29.	NCT of Delhi	13.69	3.38	–	–	1.65	10.11
30.	Daman and Diu	–	–	–	–	–	–
31.	Pondicherry	2.06	–	–	–	–	1.29
32.	Lakshadweep	–	5.10	–	–	–	–
33.	Departmental	–	–	–	–	–	7.67
34.	Other Schemes	–	–	–	–	–	–
	Total	2904.22	1283.46	477.45	651.33	737.41	544.33

[English]

Lift Irrigation Schemes

3657. SHRI R.S. PATIL : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Bhima and signature-Huligudda Lift Irrigation Schemes in Karnataka are pending for clearance with his Ministry;

(b) if so, the date on which these schemes were received by his Ministry;

(c) whether these schemes have been cleared; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor alongwith the time by which these schemes are likely to be cleared ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (d) Bhima and Singatalur (Huligudda) Lift Irrigation Schemes in Karnataka were received in Central Water Commission for appraisal in December, 1985 and July, 1998 respectively. Bhima Lift Scheme was returned to the state government in November, 1988 due to non-compliance of observations of CWC for more than one year. Comments on Singatalur Lift Scheme have also been sent to the state government. The clearance of these schemes depends on the compliance of observations of various central appraising agencies by the state government.

Titanium Reserves

3658. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the approximate reserve of Titanium in the country;

(b) the location of the Titanium deposited areas in the country, State-wise; and

(c) the steps taken to extract the Titanium reserved in different parts of the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) The reserves of titanium bearing ores in the country viz. ilmenite and rutile are 278 and 13.5 million tonnes respectively.

(b) The State-wise in situ reserves (estimated) of ilmenite and rutile in the country are as follows :

State	in situ reserve in million tonnes (estimated)	
	Ilmenite	Rutile
Andhra Pradesh	72.34	02.37
Bihar	0.74	0.01
Kerala	75.21	4.85
Maharashtra	01.67	0.00
Orissa	38.58	1.62
Tamil Nadu	86.90	4.46
West Bengal	02.08	0.19
Total	277.52	13.50

(c) Defence Metallurgical Research Laboratory (DMRL). Hyderabad in collaboration with Nuclear Fuel Complex (NFC), Hyderabad and Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research (IGCAR), Kalpakkam is developing the technology for production of titanium sponge from the ore, on industrial scale batch sizes. The demand for titanium sponge and the commercial viability of setting up a 400 tonnes titanium sponge plant is presently under evaluation.

Mishap in Kawadi Open Cast Mines

3659. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Director General of Mine Safety (DGMS) has conducted any enquiry into the mishap in the Kawadi open cast mine of the Western Coalfields Limited in Majri area of Chandrapur district in Maharashtra;

(b) whether the said enquiry has since been completed;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons for delay; and

(e) the time by which the enquiry report of the DGMS is likely to be submitted to the Government ?

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

(c) The enquiry has established that the accident occurred at the bottom of the 15 meters high coal bench of a mechanized quarry. The bench which had been formed from the double section workings was affected by fire and was located other rise side against a fault plane. The benches in overburden which consisted of fractured sand stone had flushed into a combined height of 52 metres with individual width of 8-10 meters. This was overlain by bench in black cotton soil as high as 15 meters with width of only 4-8 meters. Thus, while 16 persons were working at the bottom the coal bench, the entire benches consisting of black cotton soil, sandstone and coal failed and the debris trapped the workers, out of which 10 asphyxiated to death while the remaining 6 (six) escaped with minor injuries.

The accident could have been averted if the quarry had been properly benched and special care taken while working near the fault plane and in coal benches and special care taken while working near the fault plane and in coal benches affected by fire as required under Regulations, 98(1), 98(3) and 100(1) of the Coal Mines Regulation 1957, as amended from time to time read with the Directorate General of Mine Safety letter Nos. 6519 and 5330 dated 29.9.95 and 4.11.97 respectively.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Target of Andhra Pradesh under PMRY

3660. DR. B.B. RAMAIAH : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) the target for the Andhra Pradesh under the Prime Minister's Rojgar Yojana during the last three years;

(b) the extent of disbursement under the Scheme;

(c) the criteria for fixing of targets amongst different States;

(d) whether there is any provision for fixing of district-wise targets under the scheme;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) and (b) The total target for the last three years i.e. 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 was 1,02,000 for Andhra Pradesh under the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana Loans were disbursed to 50,216 educated unemployed youth for this period as per the report received from the State Government.

(c) The Central Government allocates State/UT wise targets on the basis of the population of the State/UTs and the latest available data on educated unemployed youth registered with the Employment Exchanges. Consideration is also given to the achievement of targets under the scheme by the State/UTs in the preceding year and to the recovery of the loan dues under the scheme.

(d) and (e) The distribution of the State/Uts targets amongst the District Industries Centres is done by the concerned State/UT Governments. No criteria have been laid down by the Central Government in this regard. The Government of Andhra Pradesh has reported that district-wise/bank-wise target in Andhra Pradesh is allocated by the State Level Bankers Committee.

(f) Does not arise in view of (d) and (e) above

Mandatory Posting

3661. SHRI P. RAJENDRAN Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Department of Personnel and Training have taken a decision to give mandatory posting to Central Secretariat Service (CSS) officers as Joint Secretaries if they have been empanelled for three years or more;

(b) if so, the number of CSS officers eligible for mandatory posting as Joint Secretaries as on date;

(c) the number out of them have been given mandatory posting; and

(d) the time by which the remaining eligible officers are likely to be given mandatory posting ?

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) As per the extant policy, the CSS officers who are having 2 years to superannuate may be considered for appointment as Joint Secretary by way of mandatory posting either against a regular vacancy in the Ministry/Department where the officer is working or by in-situ promotion by personal upgradation in the same Ministry/Department, provided they are included in the Joint Secretaries' suitability list. At present there is only one CSS officer, empanelled to hold a post at the level of Joint Secretary, who has got less than two years' service for retirement and, as such, is eligible for in-situ promotion as Joint Secretary. Action has been initiated in his case.

Construction of Embankment

3662. SHRI RAMCHANDRA PASWAN :
SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether any embankment is being constructed across the river of Rapti near Indo-Nepal border;

(b) if so, whether the Government of Nepal have raised any objection in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) Government of Uttar Pradesh has constructed marginal bund on the right bank of Rapti river above Laxmanpur barrage as per requisite technical norms. However, the Government of Nepal has expressed apprehensions that the embankment would constrict the natural flood plain of the river as well as obstruct natural drainage of drains that have outfalls into Rapti river causing inundation in some areas.

(c) The Government of India has informed the Nepalese Government that construction of embankment would not constrict the natural flood plain as they have been constructed as per requisite technical norms. Necessary steps have been taken by Government of Uttar Pradesh to take care of the apprehended inundation.

Safety to Staff of Indian High Commission in Pak

3663. DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of cases during the last five years in which Staff of Indian High Commission in Pakistan have been insulted/assaulted;

(b) the number of persons of India High Commission in Pakistan who were declared "Persona Non Grata" and sent back to India during the above mentioned period; and

(c) the steps the Government propose to take to ensure the safety of Indian High Commission staff in Pakistan ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) During the last five years (since 1995), there have been 8 cases of assault of officials of our High Commission in Pakistan.

(b) During the same period, 16 officials of our High Commission in Pakistan were called back consequent upon Pakistan's request that they be withdrawn.

(c) Pakistan has, time and again, been reminded of its obligations under the Vienna Convention as well as the Bilateral Code of Conduct. It has been called upon to discharge its responsibilities to ensure the safety and security of all personnel of the High Commission of India in Islamabad.

[Translation]

Number of SSI and Agro Rural Industries in Gujarat

3664. SHRI BABUBHAI K. KATARA : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of new small scale industries, agro and rural industries set up in Dahod and other districts of Gujarat since the year 1999-2000 till date;

(b) the expenditure incurred thereon;

(c) the month-wise job opportunities created on account thereof;

(d) the salary emoluments and other facilities provided to the male/female employees in these industries;

(e) the total assistance/grants extended to the above said industries separately;

(f) the number of such fresh industries proposed to be set-up in various areas of Dahod district during the year 2000-2001; and

(g) the amount of assistance proposed to be provided to these industries alongwith the number of people likely to be benefited there-from separately ?

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 the information received from the State Government of Gujarat, the number of new small scale industries, agro and rural industries set up in Dahod District in rural areas is 83 and in the other districts of Gujarat is 6320 during the year 1999-2000.

(b) The information is not maintained.

(c) The employment generated in the SSI during the year 1999-2000 in 249 in Dahod district and 18960 in other districts of Gujarat.

(d) The information is not maintained.

(e) The State Government of Gujarat extended total assistance to 28 SSI, Agro and Rural industries by way of State cash subsidy worth amounting Rs. 103.74 lakhs for the year 1999-2000.

(f) The number of fresh industries target to set up in the year 2000-2001 is 70 in rural area and 90 in urban area, in Dahod district.

(g) Under the incentive scheme of the State Government of Gujarat, benefits would be available to the eligible units.

[English]

Natural Calamity in Himachal Pradesh

3665. COL. (RETD.) DR. DHANI RAM SHANDIL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether on account of cloud bursts followed by natural calamities in some of the districts of Himachal Pradesh, the assessment of the loss of human life and properties made in terms of money is estimated to be Rs. 10,000 crores;

(b) if so, the details of the relief measures undertaken by the Union Government in addition to the State Government to rehabilitate the people of the flood affected families of these areas;

(c) whether the State Government of Himachal Pradesh has approached the Union Government in this critical juncture for the financial assistance; and

(d) if so, the details of the demands of the State Government and the assistance provided by the Union Government in such situation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO) : (a) to (d) As per reports from the Government of Himachal Pradesh, the flash floods affected the districts of Kinnaur, Mandi, Kulu and Shimla. More than 100 people had reportedly died besides damage to number of bridges, power projects and buildings.

In addition to the measures taken by the State Government, the Ministry Agriculture is coordinating the relief activities. Army is assisting in relief work and airlifting of food and relief materials. Border Roads Organisation is assisting in repair/reconstruction of bridges and roads on National Highways. Department of Telecommunications has provided INMARSAT sets. Truck-loads of medical supplies has been despatched. Steps have been taken for supply of foodgrains at Below Poverty Line (BPL) rates to the affected families.

An amount of Rs. 100 crore has been released to the State (Rs. 50 crore as ways and means advance, Rs. 45 crore as grant and Rs. 5 crore as loan) for undertaking immediate relief and restoration measures. First instalment of Central share of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) of Rs. 8.44

ore is already with the State Government. Rs. 50,000 ex-ratia each to the next of kin has been announced from e Prime Minister's National Relief Fund.

Translation]

Safai Karamchari

3666. SHRI JAI BHADRA SINGH :
DR. N. VENKATASWAMY :

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

(a) whether the Government are aware that the practice of carrying night soil on heads is still continuing in certain States;

(b) if so, whether the National Commission for Safai Karamchari has submitted any report in this regard recently;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the action taken by the Government in this regard;

(e) whether the State Governments or Union Government have made arrangements for their rehabilitation and alternative employment; and

(f) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) to (d) The National Commission for Safai Karamcharis, in its latest IVth report, has indicated about existence of manual scavenging in certain parts of the country. Extracts of the report have been sent to the concerned State Government(s) for necessary action.

(e) and (f) The National Scheme of Liberation and Rehabilitation of Scavengers and their dependents is being implemented since 1992-93 with a view to give financial assistance for training the rehabiliation in alternative occupation of the scavengers. The Scheme is implemented through State Scheduled Castes Development Corporations. Under the scheme assistance is provided for the following :

1. For training 100% Central Assistance, (i) Stipend – upto Rs. 500/- per month per scavenger (ii) Training fees per scavenger – upto Rs. 300/- per month (iii) Honorarium to craftsman – upto Rs. 100/- per month, and (iv) Tool kit allowance – upto Rs. 2000/- per scavenger. The period of training is upto six months;

2. For rehabilitation, (i) the extent of Central subsidy is 50% of the project cost or Rs.10,000/- whichever is less; (ii) Margin Money Loan is 15% of the project cost which is shared by the Central and State Governments in the ratio of 49:51; and (iii) Balance amount of the project is met through banks loans.

[English]

Rehabilitation Centre in Kerala

3667. SHRI E. AHAMED : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up Fitment and Rehabilitation centres in the country particularly in Kerala;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has planned to set up Fitment and Rehabilitation Centres in more than 100 districts throughout the country including 2 in Kerala namely Kozhikode and Thiruvananthapuram. State-wise details are given in enclosed statement.

(c) Does not arise.

Statement

List of District Fitment Centres

Andhra Pradesh

1. Anantpur
2. Krishna
3. Vishakhapatnam

Assam

1. Dibrugarh
2. Guwahati
3. Kachhar
4. Tejpur

Arunchal Pradesh

1. Itanagar
2. Dibang Valley

Bihar

1. Sahibganj
2. Champaran
3. Bhagalpur
4. Muzzafarpur
5. Gaya
6. Hazaribagh
7. Ranchi
8. Darbangha
9. Singhbhum
10. Devgarh
11. Nawadah

Gujarat

1. Ahmedabad
2. Baroda
3. Surat

4. Rajkot
5. Jamnagar

Goa

1. Panaji

Haryana

1. Bhiwani
2. Rohtak
3. Kurukshetra

Himachal Pradesh

1. Shimla
2. Dharmshala

Jammu and Kashmir

1. Srinagar
2. Udhampur

Karnataka

1. Tumkur
2. Mangalore
3. Bellary
4. Belgaum
5. Gulbarga

Kerala

1. Kozhikode
2. Thiruvananthapuram

Mizoram

1 Aizwal

Meghalaya

1. Shillong

Manipur

1. Imphal

Maharashtra

1 Aurangabad
2 Buldana
3 Vardha
4. Kolhapur
5. Latur

Andaman and Nicobar Island

1. Port Bihar

Chandigarh

1. Chandigarh

Daman and Diu

1. Diu

Madhya Pradesh

1. Gwalior
2. Indore
3. Raigarh
4. Jabalpur
5. Balaghat
6. Durg
7. Raipur
8. Jhabua
9. Rewa
10. Rajgarh
11. Sagar

Nagaland

1. Kohima

Orissa

1. Sambhalpur
2. Mayurbhanj
3. Phulbani
4. Kalahandi
5. Koraput

Punjab

1. Patiala
2. Jullandhar
3. Ferozpur

Rajasthan

1. Udaipur
2. Jodhpur
3. Ajmer
4. Bikaner
5. Jhunjhunu

Sikkim

1. Gangtok

Tripura

1. Agartala

Tamil Nadu

1. Chengalpattu
2. Vellore
3. Madurai
4. Selam
5. Tutikorin
6. Virudhunagar

Uttar Pradesh

1. Gonda
2. Mau
3. Gorakhpur
4. Lucknow
5. Pilibhit
6. Almorah
7. Bareilly
8. Tehri Garwal
9. Agra
10. Meerut
11. Varanasi
12. Allahabad
13. Kanpur
14. Farrukhabad
15. Jhansi
16. Haridwar
17. Balia

Dadra and Nagar Haveli

1. Silvasa

Pondicherry

1. Pondicherry

West Bengal

1. Jalpaiguri
2. South Dinajpur
3. Murshidabad

Lakshadweep

1. Kavarati
2. Murshidabad

ISI Activities in Nepal

3668. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any prior information was received by Indian Embassy at Kathmandu or other agencies pertaining to the ISI activities in Nepal before the hijacking of IC 814;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps which the Government of Indian had taken to deal with the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) and (b) The Government of India has been aware and concerned about ISI misusing the Nepalese territory and the open India-Nepal border for activities inimical to India's interest. Reports received by the Government indicated evidence of ISI, with the help of Indian extremist elements from Punjab and Kashmir, using Nepal as a staging post for terrorist activities directed against India. However, no

prior information was available specifically with regard to the hijacking incident.

(c) Measures have been taken to enhance cooperation with Nepal, particularly with regard to implementing effective border management. The concerned agencies of the two Governments remain in regular touch to coordinate efforts to tackle this problem. There are also bilateral institutional mechanisms, such as the Joint Working Group on Border Management and Home Secretary level talks, which have been evolved to specifically develop cooperation on security matters and to address these concerns. In pursuance of the decision taken in these meetings, both sides have agreed to jointly coordinate measures to counter ISI activities directed against India. On their part, the Government of Nepal have assured that their territory would not be used for activities inimical to India's interest and have been extending their cooperation to the Government of India in this regard.

Increase in the Prices of Dal

3669. SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether inspite of best efforts to increase the production of dal, the prices of dal, particularly, arhar, urad, mung are going upwards;

(b) if so, the details regarding the rates of such dals at present; and

(c) the measures proposed to be taken by the Union Government to meet the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO) : (a) and (b) The production of pulses is estimated to be 13.06 million tonnes in 1999-2000, compared to the production of 14.80 million tonnes in 1998-99 due to adverse agro-climatic conditions. The wholesale price index number of pulses for the week ending 29th July 2000, shows a weekly fall of 0.6 per cent; monthly rise of 0.5 per cent and annual rise of 10.9 per cent. The position with regard to individual pulses is as under (provisional) :

Pulses	Variation in Wholesale Price Index		
	Over a Week	Over a Month	Over a Year
Arhar	-2.0	-5.5	-12.9
Urad	-0.5	3.0	38.7
Moong	-0.2	-1.4	3.4

(c) The Government is implementing the National Pulses Development Project (NPDP) for increasing the production of pulses in the country. The Government, at times, import pulses to meet the shortage in supply over demand. The Government imported 203.99 thousands tonnes of pulses during 1999-2000.

Loans for SC/ST Minorities in Andhra Pradesh

3670. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether National Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Finance Development Corporation provided funds for the upliftment of these categories; and

(b) if so, the total allocations made to Andhra Pradesh during the last three years and total number of beneficiaries benefited there from during the last three years, year-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) National Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation provides funds for economic upliftment of persons belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

(b) Details of allocations made to Andhra Pradesh, funds sanctioned and released and beneficiaries to be covered on completion of schemes of the last three years are as given below :

(Rs. in laksh)

	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
Allocation for sanction of Andhra Pradesh	1214.00	1012.62	810.57
Amount sanctioned	1458.57	1991.04	1223.06
Funds disbursed	1007.37	1782.86	1466.89
Beneficiaries to be covered on Completion of schemes	1793	6161	3315

[Translation]

Increased Interest of Loan for SC/ST

3671. KUMARI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the interest rate on the loan to be provided to the persons belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes by the National Scheduled Castes/

Scheduled Tribes Finance Development Corporation has been increased and the loan amount in different cases has been reduced for the present;

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

(c) the corrective measures being 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) The interest rates and criteria of loan amount were revised as follows :-

Interest Rates :

Prior to 1.4.99

	Chargeable p.a. to	
	SCA	Beneficiary
Upto Rs. 5 lakhs	4%	6%
Above Rs. 5 lakhs	6%	8.5%

Revised Rates

Upto Rs. 5 lakhs	4%	7%
Above Rs. 5 lakhs	6%	9%

Interest Rate were revised to provide more margin to State Channelising Agencies for covering their administrative Costs.

Loan Amount

Prior to 01.04.99, NSFDC had earmarked 75% funds for projects costing upto Rs. 5.00 lakhs and 25% funds for project costing above Rs. 5 lakhs and upto Rs. 30.00 lakhs per unit. The allocation for low value schemes was raised to 90% w.e.f. 01.04.99 and only 10% funds have been kept for high value scheme.

The allocation for low value Schemes has been increased with a view to give more coverage to low cost schemes and also to cover more beneficiaries within available resources.

(c) Rate of interest and loan amount was revised for assisting the SC/ST beneficiaries in a better manner and for the benefit of State Channelising Agencies.

Setting up of Food Processing Industries

3672. SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of proposals given clearance to set up food processing industries in Bihar during the last three years;

(b) the number of proposals pending as on date alongwith the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which remaining proposals are likely to be cleared ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TH. CHAOBA SINGH) : (a) Financial assistance under the Plan Schemes of this Department has been extended to set up 9 Food Processing Projects in the State of Bihar during the last three years. In addition, financial assistance for conducting seminars, Entrepreneurial Development Programme (EDP) and study has also been extended.

(b) and (c) Nine proposals for setting up Food Processing and Training Centres in the State of Bihar are pending consideration as the review of the Scheme is underway.

[English]

Major and Medium Irrigation Projects

3673. SHRI NAMDEO HARBAJI DIWATHE : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to review the performance of ongoing major and medium irrigation project in the country;

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

(c) whether the Government are contemplating to launch an effective policy for the expeditious completion of such projects which have been lagging behind of their schedule; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (d) Irrigation projects are conceived, planned and constructed by the State Governments with their own funds. However, Government of India had in 1996-97 launched a Central Loan Assistance Scheme under the name "Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme" to assis the State Governments to complete long pending Major and Medium irrigation project. Minor irrigation projects in the KBK districts of Orissa and the North-Eastern States of Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir have also been included under the programme from the year 1999-2000. Government of India assistance is currently provided in the ratio of 3:1 for Special Category States and in the ratio of 2:1 for other States.

UPCBMA

3674. SHRI JITENDRA PRASADA : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Uttar Pradesh Corrugated Box Manufactures' Association (U.P.C.B.M.A.) has protested against the price hike by the North India paper mills which was Rs. 4000 per metric tonne and which was causing crippling affect on the industry;

(b) facts thereof; and

(c) the measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) to (c) Some representations have been received regarding hike in the prices of indigenously produced paper. There is no government control on the prices of paper and these are determined by market forces. With a view to ensuring adequate availability of paper to corrugated box manufacturing units, the import of paper is allowed under OGL.

Expansion of Security Council

3675. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the matter of expansion of Security Council is to be taken up during the forthcoming UNO session in September 2000;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the preparation being made by India to stake her claim for becoming permanent member of Security Council during the above session ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The question of expansion of the Security Council and related matters is part of the agenda for the coming 55th Session of the UN General Assembly which will commence in September 2000.

(c) India is an active participant in all discussions on Security Council reform and expansion including in the Open Ended Working Group that was instituted by the General Assembly in 1993 for this very specific purpose. India has been actively discussing our candidature at the bilateral as well as multilateral level.

[Translation]

Babasaheb Dr. Ambedkar's Birth Centenary

3676. SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government had decided to develop the Delhi residence of Babasaheb Dr. Ambedkar as a National Monument on the occasion of his Birth Centenary Celebrations;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken in this regard as on date; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

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

(b) The Government of NCT of Delhi was requested to acquire the land and property located at 26 Alipur Road, where Dr. B.R. Ambedkar had stayed. Rs. 7.12 crores have been released for the purpose. Subsequently the matter has been subjudice in Delhi High court.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Animal Husbandry/Dairy Industry

3677. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA :
SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated any scheme/programme for development of animal husbandry and dairy industry in the country, particularly in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total funds allocated and released during 1998-1999, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001, till date; and

(d) the procedure adopted to monitor the progress of these schemes/programmes ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) to (c) Animal Husbandry is a State subject. The Government has been implementing various schemes in all States including Maharashtra to supplement their efforts for the

development of the sector. The requisite details of funds allocated and released to the States including Maharashtra is given in the enclosed statement.

(d) The progress of the schemes is monitored through regular review meetings held internally as well as with the officials of the State Governments.

Statement

Funds allocated and released under various Animal Husbandry Schemes

(Rs. in crores)

Sl. No.	Particulars	1998-99		1999-2000		2000-2001	
		BE	Expd.	BE	Expd.	BE	Expd. (July, 2000)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Ext. of Frozen Semen Tech. and PTP	30.90	6.10	35.00	26.00	32.00	0.00
2.	National Bull Production Programme	10.00	0.08	12.00	6.50	12.00	0.00
3.	National Ram/Buck Production Programme	3.00	1.17	3.00	1.25	2.50	0.03
4.	Asst. to State for Integrated Piggery Dev.	5.00	4.00	6.00	2.50	3.00	0.00
5.	Asst. to State Poultry/Duck Farms	5.94	0.00	8.00	4.50	3.00	0.00
6.	Asst. to States for Fodder Development	5.40	3.50	6.50	4.00	4.00	0.00
7.	Asst. to States for Control of Animal Diseases	13.50	5.16	17.00	8.07	13.00	0.12
8.	Prof. Efficiency Development	5.00	1.27	4.00	2.50	3.00	0.49
9.	National Proj. on Rind. Eradication	36.00	2.70	10.00	4.90	15.00	1.45
10.	Imp. Slaugh. Houses/C.U.C.	20.00	6.87	15.00	1.50	2.50	0.00
11.	Int. Sample. Surveys	3.50	2.65	4.00	3.02	4.00	0.00
12.	Development of Pack Animals	1.00	0.05	0.80	0.28	0.40	0.00
13.	Int. Dairy Development Project	25.60	21.25	45.00	10.90	20.00	1.44

Educational Facilities to Foreign Students

36.*8. SHRI A. NARENDRA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have worked out a comprehensive plan to expand, strengthen and restructure the present scheme for providing educational opportunities and scholarships to foreign students from neighbouring/ developing countries as part of the strategy to strengthen friendly relationship through ICCR;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the funds earmarked for the implementation of the plan;

(d) whether the performance of the scheme is reviewed from time to time; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) and (b) The Government offers a number of scholarship to foreign students, particularly from the developing countries with special emphasis on our neighbours, as an important instrument of its foreign policy objective to enhance mutual understanding and strengthen friendly relations with countries. While the administration of the scheme is constantly under review and tuition fees and other allowances like stipend and house rent allowance have been revised recently to strengthen the scheme, there is no plan presently to expand the scheme largely due to overall financial constraints. Even for the maintenance of the schemes at its existing levels the budget has been increased by 45.1% in the last three years. A list of

important schemes administered by the ICCR are as follows :

1. General Cultural Scholarship Scheme : 180 scholarships are offered under this scheme primarily for nationals from developing countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America.

2. Cultural Exchange Programme : The ICCR administers approximately 450 scholarships under the Government of India's bilateral Cultural Exchange Programmes with various countries.

3. Commonwealth Fellowship Plan : 70 scholarship are offered annually under this scheme for nationals from Commonwealth countries.

4. Scholarship Schemes for Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Mauritius : 177 scholarships are offered annually; 100 for Bangladesh, 47 for Sri Lanka and 30 for Mauritius.

5. Craft Instructors Scheme : 10 bursaries are offered annually to nationals of Commonwealth countries for training as craft instructors.

6. ICCR Scholarship Scheme : 60 scholarships are offered for studies in Indian classical dance, painting and sculpture.

7. Reciprocal Scholarships Scheme : 25 scholarships are offered annually on a reciprocal basis for Latin Amercian countries and to certain specified European countries.

8. Technical Cooperation Scheme of the Colombo Plan : 130 scholarships are administered under this scheme on behalf of the Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance and Ministry of External Affairs. These scholarships are meant for Asian countries.

9. SAARC Fellowship Scheme : 6 fellowships and 12 scholarship are offered annually to scholars from SAARC countries under the scheme. One Chair is also offered on a rotation basis among SAARC member countries.

(c) Rs. 10.52 crores are earmarked from the ICCR's annual budget for scholarships to foreign scholars. In addition Rs. 4.50 crores are disbursed on behalf of Ministries such as Ministry of Finance and Ministry of External Affairs for scholarships schemes administered on their behalf by the ICCR.

(d) and (e) All aspects of the various scholarship schemes such as geographical regions of priority, areas of studies and terms of scholarships are kept under constant review by the statutory bodies of ICCR and the Government of India.

Kashmir Issue at OIC Meet

3679. DR. RAJESWARAMMA VUKKALA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether India has protested against the Pakistan scripted resolution on Kashmir at the meet of Organisation of Islamic Conference held in June, 2000 in Malaysia;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the response of the Government thereto ?

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

(b) and (c) The Government of India, in a press release dated 6th July, 2000, outrightly rejected the resolution. It was reiterated that such resolutions and pronouncements of the OIC on matters that are entirely within the domestic jurisdiction of India are totally unacceptable; and that OIC has no locus standi whatsoever on the subject of Jammu and Kashmir or any other subject that relates to India's internal affairs.

Meeting with US Deputy Secretary of State

3680. SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any understanding has been reached at the last round of discussions between him and the US Deputy Secretary of State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) to (c) The last full round of discussion between Minister of External Affairs Shri Jaswant Singh and US Deputy Secretary of State Mr. Strobe Talbott was held in London on January 18-19, 2000. This meeting was in continuation of the bilateral dialogue on security, non-proliferation, disarmament and related issues, established for the purpose of creating greater trust and understanding between the two countries. There was a brief exchange of views between the Minister of External Affairs Shri Jaswant Singh and US Deputy Secretary of State in Bangkok on 27 July on the margins of the 7th ASEAN Regional Forum meeting. During the visit of President Clinton in March 2000, the two sides agreed that this dialogue should continue, semi-annually or as often as considered desirable, as part of the agreed structure for institutional dialogue between India and the United States.

Assistance for Agricultural Machinery

3681. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are providing any assistance to the farmers to purchase agricultural machinery to boost the production;

(b) if so, the details of scheme being implemented in this regard;

(c) the funds provided to each State particularly to Karnataka for the purpose during the last two years;

(d) the number of the farmers benefited therefrom during each of the above period;

(e) whether the Government have any machinery to check the disbursement of the said funds; and

(f) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, the Government have been providing assistance to the farmers to purchase agricultural machinery under various crop specific schemes. A statement showing the details is enclosed.

(c) A sum of Rs. 43427.45 lakh has been provided to various States, of which Rs. 6724.33 lakh have been provided to the State of Karnataka, during the last two years.

(d) The number of farmers benefited under these schemes is not available.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. The performance of the schemes is being monitored both by the Central and the State Government.

Statement

Details of the Schemes whereunder Subsidy/Assistance is Provided to the Farmers for the Purchase of Agricultural Machinery

Sl.No.	Name of the Scheme	Norms of assistance on agricultural equipments
1	2	3
1.	National Pulses Development Project (NPDP).	(i) **Implements** – 50% of the cost limited to Rs. 1500/- to Rs. 2000/-.
		(ii) **Power Driven Implements** – 30% of the cost limited to Rs. 10,000/- per implement.
		(iii) **Plant Protection equipments –**
		(a) Manually operated – 50% of the cost limited to Rs. 800/-
		(b) Power operated – 50% of the cost limited to Rs. 2000/-
		(iv) **Sprinkler sets –**
		(a) 50% of the cost limited to Rs. 15,000/- per set for small, marginal, SC&ST and women farmers.
		(b) 33% of the cost limited to Rs. 10,000/- per set for other farmers.
2.	Oilseeds Production Programme (OPP).	-do-
3.	Accelerated Maize Development Programme (AMDP).	(i) **Manual/bullock driven** – 50% of the cost limited to Rs. 1500/- per implement per farmer.

1	2	3
		(ii) **Power driven** – 25% of the cost limited to Rs. 5000/- per implement per farmer.
4.	Intensive Cotton Development Programme/Mini Mission II under technology Mission on Cotton.	(i) **Sprinkler Sets** – 50% of the cost limited to Rs. 15,000/- per ha. for SC&ST, small and marginal and women farmers, 33% of he cost of other farmers limited to Rs. 1000/- per ha. up to 2 ha.
		(ii) **Plant protection equipment** –
		(a) **Manual** – 50% of the cost limited to Rs. 700/-.
		(b) **Power operated** – 50% of the cost limited to Rs. 1500/-.
		(c) **Tractor operated** – 25% of the cost limited to Rs. 4000/-.
		(iii) **Drip Irrigation System** – 50% of the cost of SC&ST, small, marginal and women farmers, at 35% of the cost of other the farmers with the limit as under :–

	State	SC/ST, S/M and Women Farmers	Other Farmers
(a)	Fully developed	22500/-	16000/-
(b)	Less developed	26000/-	18200/-
(c)	Hilly region	28500/-	20000/-

5	Integrated Cereals Development Programme – Rice.	(i) **Manual/Bullock driven** – 50% of the cost limited to Rs. 15,000/- per implement per farmer.
		(ii) **Power tiller** – 50% of the cost limited to Rs. 30000/ - per unit.
		(iii) **Sprinkler sets** – 50% of the cost limited to Rs. 15,000/- per ha., whichever is less, for small and marginal, SC& ST and women farmers. 33% of the cost limited to Rs. 10,000/- per ha. to other farmers.
6.	Integrated Cereals Development Programme – Wheat.	(i) **Manual/Bullock driven** – 50% of the cost limited to Rs. 1500/- per implement per farmer.
		(ii) **Multicrop Power threshers** – 25% of the cost limited to Rs. 5000/- per unit per farmer.
		(iii) **Sprinkler sets** – 50% of the cost limited to Rs. 15,000/- for SC/ST, Small, Marginal and women farmers and at the rate of 33% limited to Rs. 10,000/- per ha. for other farmers.

1	2	3
7.	Integrated Cereals Development Programme – Coarse Cereals.	(i) **Manual/Bullock driven** – 50% of the cost limited to Rs. 1500/- per implement per farmer. (ii) **Multicrop Power threshers** – 25% of the cost limited to Rs. 5000/- per unit per farmer. (iii) **Sprinkler sets** – 50% of the cost for small, marginal, SC&ST, and women farmers limited to Rs. 15,000/- per set and at 33% of the cost limited to Rs. 10,000/- per set for other farmers.
8.	Special Jute Development Programme (SJDP).	(i) **Manual/Bullock driven** – 50% of the cost limited to Rs. 250/- per unit on handwheel hoe and at 50% of the cost limited to Rs. 1500/- per unit on multirow seed drill. (ii) **Plant Protection Equipment** – (a) **Manual** – 50% of the cost limited to Rs. 700/- (b) **Power operated** – 50% of the cost limited to Rs. 1500/-.
9.	Sustainable Development of Sugar-cane Based Cropping System (SUBACS).	(i) **Manual/Bullock driven** – 50% of the cost limited to Rs. 1500/- per unit. (ii) **Tractor drawn** – 25% of the cost limited to Rs. 10000/- per unit. (iii) **Drip irrigation** – 50% of the cost limited to Rs. 25000/- per ha.
10.	Use of Plastics in Agriculture.	As provided under Technology Mission on Cotton (refers Sl.No.4)
11.	Integrated Development of Spices.	(i) **Plant protection equipment** – 50% of the cost limited to Rs. 750/- whichever is less.
12.	Oil Palm Development Programme.	(i) **Drip irrigation** – 50% of the cost for small, marginal, SC&ST and women farmers limited to from Rs. 7400/- Rs. 9300/- and 35% of the cost limited from Rs. 5200/- to Rs. 6500/- for other category of farmers. (ii) **Diesel Pump Sets** – 50% of the cost limited to Rs. 8000/- to the farmers having more than 5 ha. under plantation.
13.	Promotion of Agricultural Mechanisation among Small Farmers.	(i) **Tractors of upto 30 PTO HP** – 30% of the cost limited to Rs. 30,000/- per tractor.

Inter-State Water Disputes

3682. SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY :
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government are aware that several State Governments are against Centre's intervention in water related issues;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government propose to issue directions to concerned State Governments to resolve water disputes on their own; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the State Governments thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) Several State Governments have expressed differing views on proposal for constitution of River Basin Organisations with statutory powers for inter-State River Basins, guidelines for water allocation of inter-State rivers amongst States and putting into place a Comprehensive Information System in the recently held meeting of National Water Resources Council.

(c) and (d) The Union Government do endeavour to facilitate and encourage the concerned State Governments to resolve water disputes on their own and a large number of agreements have been reached amongst states in the past on water related issues.

Slashed Interest Rate on Loans

3683. SHRI SHIVAJI MANE :
SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL :
SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) has slashed interest rate on loans to be extended to cooperative societies;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the amount of loan disbursed by NCDC for cooperative marketing, storage, fisheries and handloom during the last three years;

(c) whether the NCDC further identified some areas where the NCDC schemes would be implemented during the next five years; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Board of Management of NCDC has approved the reduction of the interest rates.

(b) The Scheme-wise new rates of interest and amount of loan disbursed by NCDC for Cooperative Marketing, Storage, Fisheries and Handloom during the last three years are given in enclosed statement.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. NCDC has identified certain new areas like Labour, Industrial, Tourism and Service Cooperatives. However, these activities would be taken up after the proposed amendment of the NCDC Act.

Statement

		New Rates of Interest* Revised
1.	Working capital loan at special interest rate	13.00%
2.	All programmes in under developed/ least developed states and weaker section programmes	13.75%
3.	Assistance for computerisation	13.75%
4.	Working capital loan upto one year in cooperatively developed states	14.00%
5.	Cold Storage under capital investment subsidy scheme in cooperatively developed states	14.00%
6.	Other Programmes in cooperatively developed states	14.50%

Details of Amount of Loan Disbursed by NCDC

(Rs. in crores)

Sl. No.	Sector	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
1.	Marketing and Inputs	43.02	52.17	60.40
2.	Storage (including Cold Stg.)	8.83	5.95	11.19
3.	Fisheries	36.89	50.56	55.58
4.	Handloom	4.28	7.03	5.47
	Total	93.02	115.71	132.64

I.T. Foreign Market

3684. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indian I.T. Industry is facing a tough competition from foreign markets of China and Russia;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action plan prepared by the Government to meet the challenge of stiff competition in the foreign market ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : (a) and (b) Indian Information Technology Industry is performing well in Software Sector. It is true that China's performance in hardware sector is impressive.

(c) Government constituted a National Task Force on Information Technology and Software Development who submitted on action plan report in 3 parts. The first report emphasized the policy frame work required for creating an ambience for the accelerated flow of investment into the Information Technology (IT) sector, with specific orientation towards the software industry. Second report relates to policy instruments for the development, manufacture and export of IT hardware and third report relates to the Long Term IT policy.

The first report has been accepted by the Government. The latest status of its implementation is given below :

Recommendations implemented		64
Recommendations not implemented		4
Recommendations not accepted		3
Recommendations on-going	:	4
Total	:	108

The second and third reports are under consideration of the Government.

The details on incentives provided to the IT industry is given in enclosed statement.

Statement

Incentives to IT Sector

To encourage and promote information business abroad, the Government of India has abolished licensing and simplified the procedures to make them transparent. The following major steps have been taken to promote export of IT Sector.

1. To provide legal framework so as to facilitate Electronic Commerce in the country, the Government has drafted Information Technology Act. The Act provides legal framework for amongst others recognition of electronic contracts, prevention of computer crimes, and electronic filing/ documents. The mechanism of digital signature has been approved to address the issues of jurisdiction, authentication and origination.

2. Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) Scheme at 5% duty.

3. Foreign direct Investments upto 100% allowed.

4. Software Technology Parks Scheme.

5. Special Stock Option Schemes for Indian Software Companies linked with ADR/GDR offering.

6. Working Capital Finance to Information Technology and Software industry.

7. Sweat Equity has been introduced in the Companies Act.

8. Domestic Tariff Area (DTA) access upto 50% of FOB value of exports for units under Export Oriented Unit (EOU)/Export Processing Zone (EPZ)/Software Technology Parks (STP) Scheme.

9. Depreciation on Computer @ 60% per annum.

10. Reduction in Custom Duty on computer and peripherals to 15%. The customs duty on all storage devices, integrated circuits, microprocessors, data display tubes and deflection components of colour monitors is @ 0%.

11. Software exempted from custom duty and excise duty.

12. Relaxation in income tax to software units under EOU/EPZ/STP Schemes.

13. Exemption of withholding tax on interest on External Commercial Borrowings.

14. Computer systems have been made freely importable. The donation of used computers to educational institutes, hospitals etc. have been permitted duty free from units in EOU/EPZ/STP/ Electronics Hardware Technology Park (EHTP).

15. Exemption on income from dividends on Venture Capital Fund.

16. "Business Support Centre" has been opened in "Silicon Valley" California, USA to assist small and medium enterprises in establishing strategic alliance in the US.

[Translation]

Submersion of Land

3685. SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large area of land has submerged from the water of Koshi river in Bihar particularly in Sahara, Sampaul and Madhepura throughout the year, around 40 lakh quintals of foodgrains is not being produced;

(b) if so, the details of the areas and net effects on the production of foodgrains as a result thereof;

(c) whether in the absence of any special package fisheries and parched lotus seed industries are not getting encouragement;

(d) whether the Government are formulating any special package of the development of these areas; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO) : (a) and (b) It is estimated that about 1.4 lakh hectare of land is affected by water logging in Koshi Irrigation Command area resulting in loss in foodgrains production to the tune of about 22 lakh quintals. A High Level Committee for the Koshi region is regularly studying and recommending the various steps needed to control the waterlogging in the area after the construction of Eastern Koshi Embankment on the left bank of Koshi river.

(c) to (e) There is no special package for Koshi region as such. However, State Government can avail benefits under the centrally sponsored Command Area Development programme by evolving proposals for land reclamation works.

Setting up of Mustard Research Centre

3686. DR. RAM LAKHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether National Mustard Research Centres were proposed to be set up by the Indian Council for Agricultural Research in various parts of the States;

(b) if so, the reasons for delay;

(c) the production of mustard in the country during each of the last three years, State-wise; and

(d) the places where Mustard Research Centres are likely to be set up by the Government, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) The Indian Council of Agricultural Research has already established a National Research Centre on Rapeseed and Mustard at Bharatpur (Rajasthan) in 1993. This national research centre has mandate to conduct research in the basic and strategic areas for improvement of rapeseed and mustard at national level. There is, therefore, no proposal to establish any other national research centre on mustard in any other State in the country.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The state-wise details of production in the country are given in enclosed statement.

(d) No national research centre on mustard is being set up.

Statement

State-wise Production of Rapeseed and Mustard

State/U.T.	Production (000 tonnes)		
	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	1.2	0.7	0.7
Arunachal Pradesh	19.0	19.1	19.7
Assam	140.6	154.6	135.6
Bihar	75.1	89.3	83.9
Gujarat	470.6	350.0	468.9
Haryana	894.0	370.0	597.0
Himachal Pradesh	5.7	5.7	6.1
Jammu and Kashmir	45.1	44.3	44.3
Karnataka	1.7	1.2	1.9
Madhya Pradesh	672.6	417.0	667.9
Maharashtra	5.1	2.3	2.0
Manipur	0.9	0.5	0.6
Meghalaya	4.4	4.4	4.4
Mizoram	5.7	6.3	1.7
Nagaland	6.4	8.0	12.5
Orissa	2.9	3.2	2.4
Punjab	109.0	63.0	69.0

1	2	3	4
Rajasthan	2655.2	2193.3	2477.1
Sikkim	4.2	4.3	2.4
Tamil Nadu	0.2	0.2	0.1
Tripura	4.9	4.0	2.9
Uttar Pradesh	1247.8	709.8	920.4
West Bengal	284.8	251.0	251.7
Delhi	0.8	0.7	0.7
All India	6657.9	4702.9	5773.9

Modern Technique for Irrigation

3687. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN :
SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI :
DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Agricultural Scientists have developed a modern technique for irrigation in view of shortage of water;

(b) if so, the details thereof, alongwith the benefits likely to be achieved therefrom;

(c) whether an action plan has been formulated by the Government to encourage new research and innovations in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The modern techniques are called "Micro Irrigation Systems" and include 'Drip' and 'Micro-Sprinkler Irrigation' System. In these advanced systems, just adequate amount of water is supplied in the form of droplets or microjets near the plant roots to satisfy the plant water requirements. Soluble fertilizers can also be applied alongwith the water and then the system is called 'fertigation'. The major benefits of the system include water savings, enhanced plant growth and yields, saving in labour and energy, improved fertilizer use efficiency and suitability for poor and undulating soils and saline water use. Studies, demonstrations and case studies have revealed that the water saving by drip is significant, ranging from 40 to 70% over surface irrigation with a yield increase of as high as 40 to 100%. Presently, about 2.93,016 hactare area is under micro irrigation in India.

(c) Yes, Sir. A number of steps have been taken to promote new research and innovations in the field of micro irrigation.

(d) Following are some of the important initiatives :

1. A 'Centre of Excellence on Micro Irrigation' has been established at Directorate of Water Management Research, Patna to conduct lead research and develop human resources.

2. More than 10 ad-hoc research schemes on various aspects of micro irrigation have been financed through Agricultural Produce Cess Fund.

3. An Indo-Israeli Collaborative Project on Micro Irrigation and Protected Agriculture has been established at Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi.

4. Several Indian scientists have been trained in Israel and other advanced countries in this field so as to conduct innovative research on micro irrigation.

5. Ministry of Water Resources through Indian National Committee on Irrigation and Drainage has planned to confer "Sukshma Sinchai Purskar" to scientists/farmers for improvement and innovation in the design and practice of various components of Micro Irrigation.

[English]

Economically Backward District

3688. SHRI RAMESH THAKUR :
SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that several parts of the country are still Economically backward;

(b) if so, details of such areas alongwith the reasons therefor; and

(c) the measures being taken by the Government for the development of these districts ?

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

AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE) : (a) Yes, Sir. Although removal of regional disparities has been an inherent part of the planning process certain areas of the country continue to lag behind in the development process owing to certain historical-geographical factors and differences in resource endowment.

(b) and (c) As planning and development of an area and allocation of funds for the purpose are primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Government, Planning Commission has not identified any area as backward per se. However, the Central Government supplements the efforts of the State Governments in the development of economically backward areas through appropriate weightage in the formula used for distribution of Normal Central Assistance. In addition, in order to address the special problems of designated areas, Special Central Assistance is allocated under Special Area Programmes such as Hill Areas Development Programme, Border Area Development Programme, North Eastern Council and Tribal Sub-Plan. Further, in order to give a fillip to industries in less developed areas various schemes are in operation such as the Growth Centres Scheme, Integrated Infrastructure Development Scheme and Transport Subsidy Scheme.

Surplus Employees

3689. SHRI RASHID ALVI :
SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the affairs in majority of Government public sector, semi-Government institutional run entirely on Government grants, where the work culture has totally disappeared as reported by TOI June 29, 2000 and as seen by countless independent persons specially in Delhi;

(b) whether this serious situation has arisen partly by appointment to senior positions being made through influence, suppression of professionals by the IAS Officers in technical jobs and general lack of principles of good Governance; and

(c) whether the Government propose to make immediate corrective steps and ensure accountability and remove surplus and non performing employees at the earliest ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE) : (a) and (b) The Government has seen the report published in the Times of India dated 29 June, 2000. It appears that an attempt has been made to generalize on the basis of an isolated experience in a particular office of the Government. The conduct of the Government servants including those in the Public Sector Undertakings is governed by a set of instructions issued from time to time and all cases of the violations of the conduct Rules are dealt with in accordance with these instructions. As far as the employees of the Public Sector Undertakings are concerned, they are governed by the Conduct, Discipline are Appeal (CDA) Rules of the respective Undertakings based on the model CDA Rules prescribed by the Government. The Vigilance Wings of the Undertakings are headed by Chief Vigilance Officers who are appointed in consultation with Central Vigilance Commission.

Appointments to top management posts in various Public Sector Undertakings are made on merits, with the approval of the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet, based on the recommendations made by the Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB). The policy of the Government is to appoint, through a fair and objective selection procedure, professional managers in these Undertakings. Professionalisation of Boards of management of Public Enterprises is one of the thrust areas of public sector reforms. Necessary guidelines have been issued by the Department of Public Enterprises to provide that outside professionals are inducted on the Boards of PSEs in the form of part-time non-official Directors whose number should be at least one-third of the actual strength of the Board. The guidelines also envisage that the number of Government Directors on the Boards should not be more than two.

(c) Clause (j) of F.R. 56 and Rule 48 of the Central Civil Services (Pension) Rules, 1972 confer on the Government an absolute right to retire a Government servant in public interest after he has attained 50/55 years of age or rendered 30 years of qualifying service, by giving him a notice of not less than 3 months in writing or pay and allowances for 3 months in lieu of such notice. The objective of these special provisions is to improve efficiency and strengthen the administrative machinery at all levels of the Government and to provide clean administration. Similar provisions exist in the All India Services (DCRB) Rules, 1958 in regard to members of All India Services. In terms of these Rules, a review is conducted to adjudge whether a Government servant is fit or unfit to be retained in the Government service.

Moreover, the Government have also introduced the Freedom of Information Bill, 2000 in the Lok Sabha in order to ensure high level of transparency and accountability in the Civil Services.

Vacancy Based Rosters

3690. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether 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 as per the decision of Supreme Court;

(b) if so, the details of the services of Class I, II, III and Class IV category/grade under this ministry and Public Sector Undertakings/Autonomous/Attached/Sub-ordinate Organisations under its control where the representation of persons belonging to the SC/ST categories has reached the prescribed percentage of reservation due to the introduction of Post Based Roster in place of Vacancy Based Roster; and

(c) furnish 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 IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Mission/Posts/Joint Mission Abroad

3691. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of Missions/Posts abroad closed down during the last 30 years;

(b) the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government are contemplating to open more Missions/Posts/Joint Missions abroad;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government propose to close down the Mission in Fiji; and

(f) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) and (b) The total number of missions/posts aboard closed down during the last 10 years is 12. The reasons for retaining various Missions/Posts abroad are reviewed by the Government of India on a continuous basis in the context of our national interests, including emerging strategic, political, economic, commercial, consular and other factors of relevance. Decisions to close an existing Mission is taken after a through assessment of our national interest, keeping in mind financial constraints.

(c) and (d) The Government has recently received Cabinet approval for the opening of new Post in Munich. The Post is expected to further strengthen our bilateral relations with Germany.

(e) At present, there is no proposal to close down the Mission in Fiji.

(f) Does not arise.

Allocation from NCRF

3692. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH :
SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY :
SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a Committee to examine afresh the whole question of providing relief under the National Calamity Relief Fund;

(b) if so, the terms and reference of the Committee;

(c) whether the 11th Finance Commission has also recommended for a Committee to provide Natural Calamity Relief Funds to the victims; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO) : (a) and (b) The scheme of National Fund for Calamity Relief (NFCR) has come to an end on 31.3.2000. The Eleventh Finance Commission had recommended that the scheme should be discontinued and the recommendation has been accepted by the Government.

(c) and (d) The Eleventh Commission had recommended that a National Centre for Calamity Management (NCCM) be established under the Ministry of Agriculture to monitor all types of natural calamities and the Centre be empowered to make recommendation whether a Calamity would call for financial assistance from the Central Government to the affected States over and above what is available in the Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) or other Plan/ Non-Plan sources. Any financial assistance provided by the Central Government would be recouped by levy of special surcharge on Central Taxes.

National Wage Policy

3693. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY :
SHRI THIRUNAVUKARASU :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is proposed to formulate a National Wage Policy particularly for sugar workers in all India level;

(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) and (b) Based on the recommendations of the Industrial Committee on Sugar Industry, a Sub-Committee has been constituted to formulate guidelines for wage revision in sugar industry. The Sub-Committee consists of representatives of unions, employers and the Government.

(c) Does not arise.

Premium Rate

3694. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the present insurance rates of ESIC are too high for the services being rendered by them;

(b) if so, whether any study has been done to bring down the premium rates;

(c) to what extent top-heavy administration structure are cause for non-productive expenditure; and

(d) the steps proposed to reduce overheads?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Senior Administrative level posts in the ESIC have been created as per the norms prescribed by the Corporation in accordance with the rules and orders applicable to corresponding posts in the Central Govt. The Central Government has since made a provision in the ESI (Central) Rules, 1950 providing that the administrative expenses of the Corporation shall not exceed 15% of its total revenue income. In addition to reducing overhead and other avoidable expenditure, economy instructions issued by the Government from time to time are also followed by the ESIC.

[Translation]

Employment Generation by Rearing of Sheep and Goat

3695. SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether sheep and goat rearing plays an important role in providing employment opportunities and source of income to the economically backward rural people;

(b) if so, the policy of the Union Government in this regard; and

(c) the funds allocated for this purpose during the Ninth Five Year Plan and the target fixed in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The policy of the Union Government aims at genetic upgradation, expansion of existing infrastructure, intensification of cooperative efforts, eystematic dissemination of appropriate technologies, management, health care, promotion of fodder crops/trees, wool procurement and marketing by market intervention for development of sheep and goats in the country. The integrated sheep and wool development and machine shearing-cum-training approach have been adopted for sheep development.

(c) The Union Ministry of Agriculture (Animal Husbandry and Dairying Department) has allocated Rs. 15.65 crores for Central Sheep Breeding Farm Hissar and Rs. 21.05 Crores under its Centrally Sponsored Scheme "National Ram/Buck Production Programme and Programme for Rabbit Development". Central grants are also made available to States for control of animal diseases, feed and fodder production, demonstration centres and rinderpest eradication.

Central Sheep Breeding Farm, Hissar has a target to produce and supply acclimatized 4000 exotic and crossbred rams during 9th Five Year Plan besides providing training in machine sheep shearing and maintenance of machine to sheep rearers.

The Central Institute for Research on Goats, Makhdoom, Mathura District Uttar Pradesh is a pioneer institute in the country for undertaking research on goats in breeding, feeding, management and disease control etc.

The Central Sheep and Wool Research Institute, Avikanagar (Rajasthan) is another pioneer institute in the country for conducting research in breeding, feeding

management, disease control, wool grading, scoring and its utilisations.

The Central Advisory Committee for Sheep, Goats and Rabbits Development is constituted by Government for tendering advice on Government policies and guidance in this field.

The Ministry of Textile (Central Wool Development Board) has proposed Rs. 14.82 Crores under the Integrated Sheep and Wool Development Programme for providing health coverage and breed improvement of 25 lakh sheep and purchase of 80 sheep shearing machines during the 9th Five - Year Plan.

[English]

Central Assistance

3696. SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL :
SHRI RAM SINGH KASWAN :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have prepared any action plan to meet the drought situation in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have also provided Central assistance for the purpose during the last two years, till June 30, 2000; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; particularly Gujarat and Rajasthan ?

THE MINSTER 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 AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A Group of Secretaries to evolve a comprehensive contingency plan to meet the situation of possible inadequate and delayed monsoon this year has been set up under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Planning Commission. The Group would develop a comprehensive action plan to meet the contingency of delayed/inadequate monsoon.

(c) and (d) The State Governments undertake necessary relief and rehabilitation measures for the people affected by natural calamities including drought. States are provided assistance from Calamity Relief Fund (CRF). In addition to the CRF, support to State Governments is also provided from the National Fund for Calamity Relief (NFCR) in the event of calamities of rare severity. The assistance provided to Gujarat and Rajasthan under CRF and NFCR in the wake of drought for the last two years is follows:

(Rs. in crores)

State	Year	CRF	NFCR
Gujarat	1999-2000	121.05	54.58
	2000-01	131.14	–
Rajasthan	1999-2000	155.25	102.93
	2000-01	168.18	–

In addition to the relief measures, the Area Development Programmes, viz., Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP), Desert Development Programme (DDP), Integrated Wasteland Development Project (IRDP) and National Watershed Development Project in Rain Fed Areas (NWDPRA) are administered by the Government on a continuing basis with the basic objective of drought proofing the project areas in the long run. The main focus of these programmes is to prevent occurrence of drought.

[Translation]

Labour Organisation

3697. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) details of the recognised and duly registered national level labour organisations in the country;

(b) the dates on which these labour organisations were set up and the number of Labour Unions affiliated with these labour organisations;

(c) the total members attached to each such labour organisations;

(d) whether the Government have conducted any enquiry at its own level to ascertain the actual number of these labour organisations;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the Government are reconsidering to review the recognition of these national level labour organisations and to take an account of the power of these supreme labour organisations;

(g) whether all the labour organisations of the country have been consulted in this regard; and

(h) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) to (h) For the purpose of giving the workers organisations representation on

national and international conferences, committees, councils etc., Government of India recognises a workers organisation as a Central Trade Union Organisation if the organisation has a verified membership of at-least 5 lakh and is spread over at-least 4 States and in 4 industries. The Government of India conducted a verification for recognising workers organisation as Central Trade Union Organisation with the date of reckonning as 31.12.89. In this regard a statement is laid on the table of the House.

For the purpose of verification of membership of the Central Trade Union Organisations, a Standing Committee on verification has been constituted by the Government to take into account the respective membership strength of each CTUO for the purpose of determination of their representation in various conferences, Councils etc. at the national and international level. The Standing Committee has representatives of all the CTUOs.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of CTUOs	No. of Union Affiliated to CTUOs	Finally verified Membership of CTUOs
1.	BMS	1763	3116564
2.	INTUC	3842	2692388
3.	CITU	2468	1775220
4.	HMS	934	1480963
5.	AITUC	2983	938486
6.	UTUC[LS]	205	843256
7.	UTUC	357	584523
8.	NFITU	118	529782
9.	NLO	284	138877
10.	IFFTU	26	428
11.	HMKP	80	3516.
12.	TUCC	171	230139

[English]

Financial Aid to Orissa

3698. SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO : Will the Minster of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount of financial aid to the Orissa State Scheduled Castes Development Corporation during the last and the current financial year, and the share of KBK region therefrom;

(b) whether the O.S.S.C.D.C. has launched Employment Oriented Schemes in the field of Agriculture, minor Irrigation and Self-Employment Schemes;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government propose to double the financial aid for the year 2000-2001; and

(e) the achievements of each scheme so far ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) The total amount of financial aid to this Corporation during the years 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 is Rs. 2043.30 lakhs out of which share of KBK Region is Rs 545.64 lakhs.

(b) and (c) Orissa Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Development Finance Cooperative Corporation Ltd. is implementing different employment oriented and income generating Schemes for the benefit of SC, ST and Scavengers living below the poverty line by providing them Margin Money, Subsidy and Loans at low rate of interest. In the fields of Agriculture and Minor Irrigation Schemes such as Shallow Tube Well, Lift Irrigation, Disel Pump sets, Dug Wells, Bullock Carts etc. are implemented for SC/ST beneficiaries. Similarly under different self employment schemes, financial assistance is being provided to SC/ST people through various income generating schemes in the trades of animal husbandry, fishery, small scale industries, handlooms, sericulture, vocational trade and small business etc. by implementing these schemes, the corporation is contributing partially to solve the rural unemployment problems.

(d) Financial assistance is provided as per guidelines.

(e) Orissa SC/ST Development Finance Co-op. Corporation Ltd. have intimated that percentage of achievement in respect of schemes of SCA to SCP and SCA to TSP is 85% and 97% respectively (Provisioinal).

Analogous Posts

3699. SHRI ARUN KUMAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Deputation of Government servant to Central Public Sector Undertakings can only be "Analogous Post";

(b) if so, the guidelines framed by the Ministry to determine the Analogous Post between the central pay scales and industrial pay scales;

(c) whether any Ministry can send the Government servant on deputation to the post, which is higher than his/her Analogous Post; and

(d) if so, the rules in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a), (c) and (d) As per extant instructions issued by the Government from time to time ordinarily Government servants can be permitted to join Central Public Sector Undertakings only on permanent absorption basis and not on deputation basis and that too only in higher posts and not in analogous posts.

(b) A statement of pre-revised comparable pay scales in the Government with pay scales for Public Sector Undertakings is enclosed.

Statement

Equation of Pay Scales to Determine Analogous Posts

	Pay Scales in the Government Range of Existing Scale of Pay			Pay scales for Public Sector undertakings
	Minimum of the scale is not less than	Rate of increment	Maximum of scale is not more than	Scales of pay (for public sector undertakings)
A.	**Supervisors**			
(i)	Rs. 1640	Rs. 60-75	Rs. 2900	Rs. 715-40-1355
(ii)	Rs. 2000	Rs. 60-75-100	Rs. 3500	Rs. 900-50-1650
B.	**Executives**			
(i)	Rs. 2200	Rs. 75-100	Rs. 4000	Rs. 1050-50-1350-60-1470
(ii)	Rs. 3000	Rs. 100-125	Rs. 4500	Rs. 1450-60-1750-70-2240
(iii)	Rs. 3700	Rs. 125-150	Rs. 5000	Rs. 2050-70-2400-85-2740
(iv)	Rs. 4500	Rs. 150	Rs. 5700	Rs. 2625-100-3225
C.	**Executives in Scales Analogous to Scheduled Scales**			
(i)	Rs. 5100	Rs. 150-200	Rs. 6700	Rs. 3000-100-3700
(ii)	Rs. 5900	Rs. 200	Rs. 7300	Rs. 3500-100-4000
(iii)	Rs. 7300	Rs. 200-250	Rs. 8000	Rs. 4000-125-4500

Agriculture Computer Technology Park

3700. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a project proposal on "Agriculture Computer Technology Park" has been submitted to Government by the Shikshan Prasarak Mandal, Solapur (Maharashtra);

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the estimated cost of the project and the Government's decision thereon;

(c) whether Government have formulated any centrally sponsored schemes for strengthening IT, creation of data-base and IT network etc, with respect to agriculture for all States and Union Terriotories;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

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

(b) The projected requirements of funds for Land, Building and Construction, Interior decoration and Furniture, Equipment and Instruments and Basic and Supplementary Requirements of the Park comes to Rs. 9202 lakhs. The proposal is under examination.

(c) to (e) A Central Sector Scheme for networking of Agriculture Departments of the States and Union Territories and Department of Agriculture and Cooperation in order to make Agriculture on line for promoting/strengthening informatics in Agriculture is under preparation. The proposed scheme would, inter alia, facilitate development of agricultural informatics and communications for decision support for promoting sustainable agricultural productivity and for making Indian Agriculture on line on a cost-effective manner.

[*Translation*]

Employees Provident Fund

3701. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the number of institutions against which inquiry was conducted by the office of the Commissioner Employees-Provident Fund Rajasthan alongwith the outcome thereof; and

(b) the number of cities of Rajasthan wherein the investigation was conducted alongwith the names of the officers conducting investigation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) and (b) During 1999-2000 there were 523 inquiries initiated under Section 7-A of the EPF & MP Act, 1952 in various Sub Regional and Regional Offices located at Jaipur, Jodhpur, Kota and Udaipur. According to available information 393 cases were finalised and dues determined. The inquiries under Section 7-A are the judicial nature and are conducted by APFC/ RPFC appointed for the purpose from time to time. During 1999-2000 Shri J.K. Koli was incharge of Regional EPF Office, Rajasthan.

Indian Cultural Centres Abroad

3702. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Council for Cultural Relations propose to review the activities of the Indian Cultural Centres located abroad;

(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) Yes, Sir.

(b) The activities of the Indian Cultural Centres abroad are constantly reviewed through regular supervision by the Head of Missions, monthly reports from the Centres to the Council's Headquarters and periodically by the Statutory Bodies of the Council.

(c) Does not arise.

[*English*]

Seed Crop Insurance Scheme

3703. SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have introduced the Seed Crop Insurance Scheme in some selected States:

(b) if so, since when and the response to that scheme in those States; and

(c) the steps taken to protect the interest of seed growers in those States ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO) : (a) and (b) The Central Sector Pilot Scheme on Seed Crop Insurance has been launched from Rabi 1999-2000 in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. Most of the States have shown their willingness to implement the scheme.

(c) The scheme is being implemented by the Government of India through General Insurance Corporation of India, who will act as insurer. All seed producing organisations, under Government or private control, producing breeder, foundation and certified seeds of identified crops in the participating States are eligible to avail of the benefits of the scheme. The scheme would provide financial security to the seed growers in the event of failure of seed crop.

KVIC

3704. SHRI R.L. BHATIA :
SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA :

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

(a) whether it is true that the Government have taken decision to give the mandate for restructuring the Khadi and Village Industries Commission to a multinational consultancy agency Aurther Anderson;

(b) if so, the details of the credentials of this foreign firm in relation to Khadi and Village Industries of India;

(c) whether any representation has been received from any organisation opposing the move;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon;

(e) was it not possible to engage any Indian firm for this purpose or is there no Indian firm who can advise Government in correcting the ills of KVIC; and

(f) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) to (f) No, Sir. However, a restructuring study have been assigned to M/s. Arthur Andersen India Pvt. Limited. For restructuring of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), the KVIC had invited proposals from the various consultants including Indian Firms.

After detailed discussions with the organisations who made the presentation and after discussions with all concerned, it was observed that technically and professionally, M/s. Arthur Andersen India Pvt. Ltd. were the most suited organisation for undertaking the proposed restructuring study of the KVIC. It may also be mentioned that M/s. Arthur Andersen India Pvt. Ltd., is a company incorporated under Indian Laws and set up in India.

Extradition of Militants

3705. SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE :
SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA :
SHRI RASHID ALVI :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether some British Police Officers visited India recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether they wanted to know the Indian Government's legal stand in case any of the person released by Indian Government in connection with IC 814 Plane Hijack is arrested by British Government and extradited to India; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) and (b) Two British Officers, from the Metropolitan Police Service of the New Scotland Yard, visited India from 4-11 July, 2000. They held discussions with the concerned Indian officials from the Central Bureau of Investigation and Delhi Police.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Various matters, including the legal aspects of events related to the hijacking of flight IC 814, were discussed with the visiting UK officials.

Rain Water Harvesting

3706. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO :
SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY :
SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA :
SHRI SUBODH MOHITE :
SHRI BHAN SINGH BHAURA :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the States where rain water harvesting scheme has been accepted and implemented alongwith the results thereof;

(b) whether any shortcoming have been detected in implementing the scheme;

(c) whether the Government propose to provide adequate funds and technical know how to the State Governments for the rain water harvesting and increase ground water level in the State;

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

(e) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to popularise the rain water harvesting system in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) Under the Central Sector Scheme of the Central Ground Water Board on "Artificial Recharge of Ground Water", rain water harvesting and ground water recharge experiments have been carried out in the States of Maharashtra, Karnataka, NCT Delhi, and the Union Territory of Chandigarh. The scheme has been extended to the States of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala and Madhya Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala and Madhya Pradesh. The results of the scheme so far have been encouraging and rise in the level of ground water as much as 1 to 10 meters has been noticed in Amravati and

Jalgaon districts in Maharashtra, Gauribidanaur and Mulbagal Talukas in Karnataka and in NCT Delhi.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Water being a State subject, it is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Government to plan, finance and execute schemes for augmenting water resources. The Central Government is, however, providing technical and financial assistance to the States under various programmes.

The Central Ground Water Board under the Ministry of Water Resources is implementing a scheme at a cost of Rs. 25.00 crore for "Artificial Recharge of Ground Water". Rain water harvesting is an integral part of this scheme. An amount of Rs. 2.99 crore has been allocated under this scheme for the year 1999-2000. The State-wise position is given in enclosed Statement-I.

Funds are given by the Central Government through the Ministries of Agriculture and Rural Development to the States in respect of schemes having a component of rain water harvesting/ground water recharge/water conservation. For the year 1999-2000 the state-wise allocation under such schemes of these Departments is given in enclosed Statement-II.

The Central Ground Water Board extend technical assistance to State Governments in the design and execution of rainwater harvesting/ground water recharge structures.

(e) In addition to the various steps taken by other Government departments/agencies for popularising the rain water harvesting, the Central Ground Water Board has taken various steps to popularise the rain water harvesting in the country. The Board has organised seminars and workshops and several mass awareness programmes. It has also issued newspaper supplements for the purpose.

Statement-I

Funds Allocated During 1999-2000 for Recharge Studies in Various States/UTs under Central Sector Scheme on Studies on Artificial Recharge of Ground Water

Sl. No.	State/UT	Funds allocated in the year 1999-2000 (Rs. in Lakh)
1	2	3
1.	NCT of Delhi	17.96
2.	Haryana	34.52
3.	Himachal Pradesh	25.37
4.	Jammu and Kashmir	19.00
5.	Karnataka	–
6.	Kerala	–
7.	Madhya Pradesh	17.94
8.	Maharashtra	37.32
9.	Punjab	97.74
10.	Rajasthan	14.50
11.	Tamil Nadu	–
12.	Uttar Pradesh	5.00
13.	West Bengal	29.37
14.	Chandigarh	–
	Total	298.72

Statement-II

State-wise Allocation of Funds by the Union Government Under Schemes Having a Component of Rain Water Harvesting/Ground Water Recharge/Water Conservation During 1999-2000

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	States/UTs	Ministry of Agriculture	Ministry of Rural Development
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1665.00	12251.07
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	127.00	2476.00
3.	Assam	120.00	418.00
4.	Bihar	0.00	9609.99
5.	Goa	34.00	352.92
6.	Gujarat	2480.00	9658.18
7.	Haryana	245.00	2337.46
8.	Himachal Pradesh	762.00	2620.77
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	665.00	7087.01
10.	Karnataka	3200.00	9419.54
11.	Kerala	390.00	4307.88
12.	Madhya Pradesh	4750.00	10846.44
13.	Maharashtra	1500.00	14258.91

1	2	3	4
14.	Manipur	460.00	907.00
15.	Meghalaya	410.00	974.00
16.	Mizoram	866.00	696.00
17.	Nagaland	900.00	724.00
18.	Orissa	500.00	4894.18
19.	Punjab	123.00	1720.64
20.	Rajasthan	5130.00	16963.19
21.	Sikkim	200.00	460.83
22.	Tamil Nadu	2075.00	7361.96
23.	Tripura	551.00	862.00
24.	Uttar Pradesh	3575.03	15868.18
25.	West Bengal	750.00	7217.40
Union Territories			
1.	Andaman and Nicobar	3.00	12.50
2.	Chandigarh	0.00	0.00
3.	Dadar and Nagar Haveli	0.00	12.50
4.	Daman and Diu	0.00	12.50
5.	NCT Delhi	0.00	0.00
6.	Lakshadweep	0.00	12.50
7.	Pondicherry	0.00	5.00
	Grand Total	31481.03	148110.54

[Translation]

Assessment of Poor Persons

3707. SHRI JAIBHAN SINGH PAWAIYA :
SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN :

Will the PRIME MINISTER to pleased to state :

(a) whether the expert team set up to assess the number and ratio of the poor people in the country has submitted its report;

(b) if so, the main recommendations thereof;

(c) the steps being taken by the Government in this regard; and

(d) if not, the reasons for delay in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING. MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE) : (a) The Planning Commissioin has constituted the Expert Group on Estimation of Proportion and Number of Poor in September, 1989 in order to look into the methodology of extimation of poverty and to redefine the poverty line, if necessary. The Expert Group submitted its report to the Planning Commission in July, 1993.

(b) The Expert Group recommended the following:

(i) The poverty line recommended by the Task Force on projection of minimum needs and effective consumption demand, namely a monthly per capita total expenditure of Rs. 49.09 (rural) and Rs. 56.64 (urban) rounded respectively to Rs. 49 and Rs. 57 at all India level at 1973-74 prices be adopted as the base line;

(ii) Disaggregation of the National level poverty line into state-specific poverty lines using state-specific price indices and index of inter-state price differential;

(iii) Updation of state-specific poverty lines by especially constructed price index for use in latter years; and

(iv) Using the state-specific poverty lines as estimated in (ii) above, estimation of state-specific poverty ratios from large sample survey data on consumption expenditure distribution obtained from the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO), without any adjustment to CSO level of consumption as was being done in the earlier Task Force method.

(c) A Full Planning Commission meeting under the Chairmanship of Prime Minister accepted its recommendations with minor modifications in March, 1997.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

User Friendly Buildings and Railway Stations

3708. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to form rules to ensure that all Government Buildings and railway stations become user friendly for handicapped people;

(b) if so, steps initiated in this regard; and

(c) the time frame worked on therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) to (c) Ministry of Urban Development had prepared the Model Building bye-laws, containing provisions for barrier-free built environment alongwith guidelines and space standards and circulated the same to all the State Governments and Union Territories, for adoption. A circular has also been issued by that Ministry of all Ministries/Departments in Centre as well as States, to ensure provision of barrier-free facilities in all new Government buildings and public utilities. The CPWD has planned and executed barrier-free features like appropriate ramps with railing, reserved parking for disabled, accessible lifts with auditory signals (wherever possible) and toilets for disabled with international signage for the disabled in a number of public buildings. It is decided that all the existing Central Government Public Buildings would be made barrier-free, phase-wise. For construction of new Central Government Public Buildings in the regions, instructions have been issued to Architects to follow Guidelines and Space Standards for Barrier-Free Built Environment for Disabled and Elderly Persons.

The Ministry of Railways have already issued instructions to the Zonal Railway Administrations to provide facilities for the disabled. Some of the facilities like provision of Western Type WCs accessible to wheel Chair users and ramps on foot-over bridges have already been provided in some railway buildings for barrier-free entry for the handicapped persons. The Ministry of Railways have adopted the following strategy to implement and provide these facilities in two phases. The short-term plan includes provision of standard ramps with railing for barrier-free entry into Railway buildings in Metropolitan Cities, provision of at least one toilet of standard design in each building, preferably on ground/first floor with easy approach, signages and non-slippery walkways around the buildings. The long-term plan includes, besides provision for standard ramps with railing for barrier-free entry into railway buildings for all towns and cities other than Metropolitan cities, developing facilities for intra-platform transfers and easy entrance to coaches and provision of facilities inside the coaches. A high level committee under the chairmanship of Additional Member of Railway Board has been set up to periodically monitor the progress.

[Translation]

Basic Facilities

3709. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :
DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the details of targets fixed for providing basic minimum services in the country during 9th Five Year Plan;

(b) whether the Government have reviewed the implementation of scheme recently;

(c) if so, the names of the field alongwith the results thereof; and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE) : (a) No targets were fixed under the Basic Minimum Services Programme for providing the basic services in the country during the Ninth Five Year Plan. However, in order to complement the resources of the States and UTs in their efforts to ensure basic services for all in a time-bound manner, Additional Central Assistance (ACA) was provided by the Planning Commission for BMS since 1996-97.

(b) Periodic Review of the Basic Minimum Services (BMS) Programme was undertaken by the Government.

(c) and (d) In the current year, however, the ACA for BMS provided by the Central Government has been replaced by the ACA for Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana (PMGY). The allocation for PMGY is Rs. 5000 crore for the Annual Plan 2000-01. PMGY has two components, namely, Rural Roads with an allocation of Rs. 2500 crore and the Other Programmes of PMGY, namely, Primary Health, Primary Education, Shelter, Drinking Water and Nutrition with an equal allocation of Rs. 2500 crore. The PMGY has been launched to achieve the objective of sustainable human development at the village level.

[English]

Safety Measures

3710. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the revelations of a study carried out by the Environment Assessment Division of the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) on the exposure of a group of villages in Karunagappally Taluk of Kerala to a much higher dose of natural radiation from a monazite belt than the global average;

(b) if so, the impact of the exposure on the health of the people living in the Taluk; and

(c) the kind of protection of the residents would need from radiation from the monazite belt since the radioactive pollution in the mining of uranium by the Uranium Corporation of India Limited (UCIL) in Jaduguda in Bihar has seriously affected the health of workers and the people there?

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

(b) and (c) Extensive studies conducted in this area have not shown any ill-effects on the health of the people living in the Karunagappally Taluk due to higher background radiation level. It is not true that, the mining operation of Uranium Corporation of India Ltd. (UCIL) has affected the health of the workers and people around Jaduguda in Bihar.

[Translation]

Assessment of Foodgrain

3711. MOHD. SHAHABUDDIN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have conducted any review keeping in view the adverse effect of drought in many States of the country on the foodgrain production;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the steps being taken by the Government to assess the estimated foodgrain production ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO) : (a) and (b) The production prospects of various crops including foodgrains are continuously reviewed in the Ministry of Agriculture and remedial measures are taken as and when required. It is correct that certain parts of the country were affected, during 1999-2000, by adverse agro-climatic conditions. Despite these adverse agro-climatic conditions, the country is expected to achieve an all time record production of 205.91 million tonnes of foodgrains.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Voluntary Efforts

3712. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Planning Commission has been designated as the nodal agency for coordinating voluntary efforts in development and act as an inter face between the government and the voluntary agencies;

(b) if so, whether the Planning Commission has decided to have joint collaborative machinery; and

(c) if so, the extent to which Planning Commission has been successful in coordinating voluntary efforts in development?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINSTER 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 AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A Joint Machinery for collaboration between Government and Voluntary Sector was constituted during 1994 with the Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission as its Chairperson and DG, CAPART as its Member-Secretary. The second meeting of the Joint Machinery was held on 2nd June 2000. Consequent to the decision of designating Planning Commission as the nodal agency during March 2000, a Standing Committee of Secretaries on VOs/NGOs has also been constituted in June 2000 to coordinate and review inter-ministerial policy issues related to Voluntary Organisations. This will help in coordinating voluntary efforts in development.

Fisheries Development

3713. SHRI P.D. ELANGOVAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the annual fish pruduction in India in both quantity and value during the last three years and the anticipated production during 2000-2001, state-wise;

(b) whether the government have any special scheme to promote fishing industry in India with the technological and scientific advancements;

(c) if so, the details thereof,

(d) whether the Government have formed fisheries export promotion council which facilitate the export of fish; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) The annual fish production during the last three years is as follows :

Year	Fish Production	
	Quantity (lakh tonnes)	Value (Rs. Crores)
1997-98	53.88	12,361
1998-99	52.62	12,478
1999-2000	56.56 (Provisional)	13,412 (Provisional)

State-wise anticipated fish production during the year 2000-01 is provided in the enclosed statement.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The Government of India are implementing a Scheme namely Development of Coastal Marine fisheries, which inter alia, include subsidy for motorisation of traditioinal crafts, provision of modern fishing gear, etc which will help using modern technology in fishing industry. Similarly, the ongoing Schemes for Fresh and Brackishwater aquaculture are intended to popularize scientific fish farming through training and input subsidies.

(d) and (e) The Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) has been set up under an act of Parliament (No. 13 of 1972). Its function, inter alia, include.

(i) Development of marine products industry with special reference to exports.

(ii) Developing and regulating off-shore and deep sea fishing and undertaking measures for conservation and management of off shore and deep sea fisheries.

(iii) Registration of fishing vessels, processing plants, exporters and conveyances used.

(iv) Improving the marketing of marine products industry.

(v) Collection of statistics relating to marine products industry.

(vi) Training in various aspects of the marine products industry.

Statement

Sl. No.	State/Union Territory	Anticipated Production (Metric Tonnes)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	578,563
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	2,533
3.	Assam	168,968
4.	Bihar	269,409
5.	Goa	69,401
6.	Gujarat	783,964
7.	Haryana	31,727
8.	Himachal Pradesh	7,398
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	19,935
10.	Karnataka	309,130
11.	Kerala	686,794
12.	Madhya Pradesh	134,767
13.	Maharashtra	563,999
14.	Manipur	16,399
15.	Meghalaya	4,945
16.	Mizoram	3,056
17.	Nagaland	5,288
18.	Orissa	276,281
19.	Punjab	49,894
20.	Rajasthan	13,715
21.	Sikkim	148
22.	Tamil Nadu	502,352
23.	Tripura	31,029
24.	Uttar Pradesh	203,811
25.	West Bengal	1,105,915
26.	Andaman and Nicobar	29,827
27.	Chandigarh	4
28.	Dadar and Nagar Haveli	31
29.	Daman and Diu	16,864
30.	Delhi	4,548
31.	Lakshadweep	14,383
32.	Pondicherry	45,296
33.	Deep Sea Sector	30,000
	Total :	5,980,374

Ratification of Convention No. 182

3714. SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have started consultation process to retify International Labour Organisation Convention No. 182 to eliminate worst forms of child labour;

(b) if so, the progress made in this direction;

(c) whether the Government have sought ILO's assistance for training and education for the workers of the unorganised sector;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reaction of ILO thereto ?

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

(b) The process of tripartite and inter-ministerial consultation is in progress and the approval of the competent authority will be obtained before ratifying the convention No. 182 concerning the worst forms of child labour.

(c) to (e) In view of the importance of the informal sector and that of the unorganized sector of the Indian economy, it was conveyed to the ILO during the discussion held with DG in June, 2000 that ILO's support would be welcome for training and education of the unorganized workforce.

Employees Provident Fund

3715. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the number of workforce covered under the employees provident fund and Misc. Provisions Act 1952 so far:

(b) whether the Government propose to cover some more workers; and

(c) if so, the measures taken to cover the remaining workmen under the Act ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) 2.51 crore (as on 31.03.2000).

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The factories/establishments employing 20 or more persons are required to comply with the provisions of the EPF Scheme on their own. However, periodical inspections are carried out to detect the employers who fail to make timely compliance. Necessary legal and penal action is also taken against such defaulters.

Smuggling of Atomic Minerals

3716. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that atomic minerals were being smuggled to Pakistan from the Bastar region of Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether the minerals were being taken out of the country in the form of tin ore;

(c) whether the State Government was already informed and was urged to have a high level probe into it;

(d) if so, whether the Centre has taken up this matter with the State Government of Madhya Pradesh for smuggling of atomic mineral to Pakistan; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) No case of smuggling of atomic minerals to Pakistan from the Bastar region of Madhya Pradesh has been reported so far.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Promotion of SSI in NER Sikkim

3717. SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) the steps taken by the Government to promote Small Scale Agro and Rural Industries in North East Region and Sikkim during the last three years, scheme-wise and State-wise;

(b) the annual funds made available to all the States for the above industries during the last three years, State-wise and Scheme-wise;

(c) whether a huge amount remained unspent on this account; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken for full utilisation of funds ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, ARGO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) Besides the ongoing programmes/schemes implemented by Small Industries Development Organisation, National Small Industries Corporation, Small Industries Development Bank of India, etc. Under the New Industrial Policy introduced for the entire North East Region including Sikkim various steps have been taken for promotion of small scale, Agro & Rural Industries in NE Region and Sikkim during the last three years. Some of the important steps are as under:

(i) Funding pattern (sanction of funds) for Integrated Infrastructural Development (IID) Scheme has been changed from 2:3 between Government of India and SIDBI to 4:1. The Government's share is in the form of grant.

(ii) IID Centres and Growth Centres become tax-free zones for income tax and excise duty for a period of 10 years. Certain high growth potential industries have also been given the tax-free status in the North East.

(iii) Capital Investment Subsidy @ 15% of the investment in Plant & Machinery subject to a ceiling of Rs. 30.00 lakhs is allowed under the Capital Investment Subsidy Scheme.

(iv) An Interest Subsidy @ 3% on the working capital loan is provided to the new units in the NE Region for a period of 10 years from the commencement of production.

(v) Comprehensive Insurance Scheme for Industrial Units set up after 24.12.1997 has been put in place.

(vi) The validity of Transport Subsidy Scheme 1971 has been extended for a period of 7 years up to 31.3.2007.

(vii) Specific relaxation has been provided for the NE Region, including Sikkim, under the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana, which is aimed at providing self employment to educated unemployed youth. This includes, age relaxation (40 years under general category as compared to 35 years in other parts of the country), higher family income limit (Rs. 40,000/- per annum as compared to Rs. 24,000/- in other parts of the country) and higher subsidy component (up to maximum of Rs. 15,000/- as compared to a ceiling of Rs. 7,500/- (in other parts of the country).

(viii) Entrepreneurship Development Programmes and management Development Programme courses are conducted regularly by the offices of Small Industries Development Organisation located in North Eastern Region without charging any participation fees from the participants from North Eastern Region.

(b) The funds are allocated Scheme-wise and not State-wise. However, the funds allocated for promotion of Small Scale, Agro and Rural Industries all over the country including NE Region and Sikkim for the year 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 were Rs. 1001.52 crores, Rs. 1017.75 crores and Rs. 992.58 crores, respectively.

(c) and (d) As per the directive of the Government at least 10 per cent of the total annual Plan outlays are to be spent for North Eastern States and any shortfall thereof is to be credited to 'Non-lapsable Pool' handled by the Planning Commission. The funds from this Pool are provided for the Projects/Schemes implemented in North Eastern States.

National Water Policy

3718. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether several NGOs and Water experts have opposed the draft of the National Water Policy;

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

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (c) Tarun Bharat Sangh, a Voluntary organisation had submitted their observations/suggestions on some of the provisions in the draft National Water Policy. In response to the suggestions made by them necessary clarifications were provided by the Ministry of Water Resources. The suggestions made by the NGOs were mostly on the implementation of the revised National Water Policy, which can be considered at the time of formulating the detailed guidelines on various provisions of the revised National Water Policy, after its adoption by the National Water

Resources Council. The draft National Water Policy provides for the main demands of NGO's such as participatory approach by involving the users and other stakeholders at an appropriate level in various aspects of planning, development and management of water resources schemes.

[Translation]

Pak Design

3719. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Pakistan is making any preparation to raise a Kashmir Liberation Army by ganging up terrorist groups;

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

(c) the measures being taken or proposed to be taken by the Union Government on international level to fail this Pak design ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) and (b) Government is aware that following its defeat at Kargil, Pakistan has stepped-up its state sponsorship of cross-border terrorism in the State of Jammu & Kashmir and elswhere in India. Pakistan has been trying to bring various militant groups under one umbrella organization to be known as the Kashmir Liberation Army. This project has not taken off yet, due to the unwillingness of certain Tanzeems to join such a group.

(c) Government have, appropriately and effectively, brought to the attention of the international community facts regarding Pakistan's state sponsorship of cross border terrorism and attempts to interfere in the internal affairs of the country. The international community now openly recognizes Pakistan's role in the sponsorship of cross-border terrorism in India, and the impact this has on the security of the country and the region. This concern is reflected in statements by official spokesmen of several governments, and in the international media coverage on Pakistan.

Import of Flouroscent

3720. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether flouroscent mineral is being imported from China which is necessary for production of hydrophloric acid required for enrichment of uranium;

(b) if so, the reasons therefore despite availability of this mineral in the country;

(c) whether the Government are contemplating any scheme for exploitation of this mineral in the country so as to make country's atomic energy programme self reliant;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) if so, the time by which the scheme is 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) Hydrofluoric acid which has many industrial applications and is also required for enrichment of uranium is produced indigenously in the country. Some of the raw materials used in the production of Hydrofluoric acid may have been imported by the private manufacturers. All elements contained in the materials used for different processes are not necessarily developed indigenously. Some elements could also be imported.

(c) to (e) Do not arise.

[English]

Government Purchases

3721. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Super Bazar, Kendriya Bhandar and NCCF are selling stationery and other items to Government Departments under an order issued by Department of Personnel and Training in 1981 and whether that Department is not monitoring the proper implementation of the order but have left the same to respective Ministries under which the agencies fall;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether serious irregularities have come to the notice of the Government through the Members of Parliament;

(d) if so, the action taken in this regard; and

(e) the procedure adopted by these agencies to fix margin of profit to the suppliers as well as to the Super Bazar, NCCF and Kendriya 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) and (b) The Department of Personnel and Training issued an Office Memorandum in 1981 (which was subsequently amended) which enabled the Government Departments/Offices to buy stationery and other items from Kendriya Bhandar, Super Bazar and NCCF in relaxation of the procedures laid down in "General Financial Rules". Purchases are made by each Ministry/Department independently from these three agencies and no monitoring by the Department of Personnel and Training in this regard is required.

(c) and (d) Complaints have been received from time to time from various sources including the Members of Parliament against these cooperatives alleging corruption, irregularities and unfair trade practices etc. on their part. These are investigated by the respective Vigilance Units in these organisations. The Department of Personnel and Training has also issued instructions to make quality and price control more effective in these organisations.

(e) All decisions in regard to the purchase of various items, margin of profit therefor and sales price thereof are taken by these approved agencies on commercial considerations.

Ban on Sale of Agro-Products

3722. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the State Governments who have put a ban on the sale of their agro-products in other States;

(b) the names of the States who have monopolised the purchase of certain agro-products; and

(c) the names of the agro-products on the exports of which the Union Government have put a ceiling in terms of quantity ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

[Translation]

Implementation of Recommendations of Fifth Pay Commission

3723. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the action taken by the Government on implement Fifth Pay Commission for providing revised pay and allowances to the veterinary doctors at par with medical doctors and dental surgeons in Government Hospitals; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to provide equal promotion opportunities to the veterinary doctors at par to the medical doctors ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) and (b) As per the recommendation of Vth Central Pay Commission, the respective veterinary doctors holding the posts on regular basis in the Department have been granted the pay scale of Rs. 8000-13,500 at par with medical doctors in Government of India. All Veterinary Doctors in the Department have also been granted NPA @ 25% of the basic pay. The veterinarians working in this Department get promotions in their normal hierarchy.

National Institute for Child Protection

3724. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the organizations functioning under the auspices of National Institute for child protection to ensure the rights to children and inculcate proper values in them;

(b) whether National Institute of Social Defence (NISD) and Childline-India foundation have done a tremendous work in this direction; and

(c) if so, the details of the financial assistance orovided by the Government to these Institutes during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) There is no Institute by the name of National Institute for Child Protection. Hence reply to (a) is "Nil". However, the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment has recently launched a campaign known as National Initiative for Child Protection (NICP) through National Institute of Social Defence (NISD) and Child Line India Foundation (CIF). NICP aims at building partnership

with the Allied Systems such as the police, the health care system, the judicial system, the juvenile justice system, the education system the transport system, the labour department, the media, the department of telecommunications, the corporate sector, elected representatives and all of us.

(b) Yes, Sir. NICP is being implemented through National Institute of Social Defence and child line India Foundation.

(c) NISD is a subordinate office of Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment and the budget allocated to it for the last three years are as follows :-

(Rs. In crores)

Year	B E.	
	Plan	Non-Plan
1997-98	1.75	0.35
1998-99	2.00	0.40
1999-2000	2.00	0.40

As regards Child line India Foundation, a grant-in-aid of Rs. 10.39 lakhs was released to it for administrative expenditure during the year 1999-2000, the first year of its existence.

Macro-Management System

3725. SHRI KHEL SAI SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government proposed to implement the Centrally sponsored scheme under Macro-Management System for the development of agriculture in Madhya Pradesh during the year 2000-2001;

(b) whether Government have finalised the proposals received from the State;

(c) if so, the time by which due administrative clearance are likely to be given to these proposals and funds released accordingly; and

(d) whether Government have fixed any time limit in this regard ?

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

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) No, Sir.

[English]

Transfer of Ambassadors

3726. DR. M.P. JAISWAL : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the criteria laid down for the transfer of the Ambassadors posted in Europe and elsewhere;

(b) whether criteria was followed in respect of transfer of the Ambassadors when the retirement age was extended upto 60 years, as a result of the Government decision in 1998;

(c) if not, the number of Ambassadors in Europe who were permitted to continue in their posts beyond their normal tenure of three years and the reasons therefor;

(d) whether there was any exception to this three-year condition; and

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

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

(b) Yes Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) There is no rule which lays down the tenure of our Ambassadors posted in missions abroad. Therefore the question of exception does not arise.

[Translation]

Killings of Dalits

3727. DR. BALIRAM : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of sudden spurt in the incidents of killings of dalits in various States of the country in past six months;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes plan to conduct inquiry in these cases;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government have conducted any inquiry in this regard and have dispatched or propose to dispatch Central Team to take stock of the situation;

(f) if so, the outcome thereof, 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) As per information given by the National Crime Records Bureau, there has been no spurt in the incidence of killings of SCs & STs in the country in the past six months. Average number of killings per month was 49 during 1999 and 29 during the period January-June 2000.

(c) and (d) The National Commission for SCs & STs has informed that the Commission has visited Kambalapalli village, District-Kolar, Karnataka on 16.3.2000 to enquire into the incident of burning of seven Dalits on 11.3.2000 and Hasanpur/Balughat villages in Lakhisarai District and Miapur village in Aurangabad district in Bihar on 2.7.2000 and 3.7.2000. After the visit, the Commission issued necessary instructions to the District and State level officers to take necessary action immediately to prevent such heinous crime against the members of Scheduled Castes and also under the provisions of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989.

(e) to (g) As per Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India, 'Police' and 'Public Order' are State subjects and, as such, registration, investigation, detection and prevention of crimes are primarily the responsibilities of the State Governments. However, the Government of India has been advising the State Governments, from time to time, to give focussed attention to improving the administration of criminal justice system and take such measures as are necessary for the prevention of crimes against the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other vulnerable sections of the society.

[English]

Installation of EPABX(M)

3728. SHRI R.S. PATIL : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the State Government of Karnataka has requested the D.G., ESI Corporation, New Delhi to communicate their approval to install EPABX(M) Services and installation of medical gas pipeline under insurance scheme in ESI Hospital Indiranagar, Bangalore;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for delay in according approval to the above proposals ?

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

(b) and (c) The proposal of the Government of Karnataka for installation of EPABX(M) in the ESI hospital, Bangalore is against condemnation of old EPABX facility. As per the policy of the ESI Corporation, the State Government has been requested to send a condemnation certificate in respect of the old EPABX Board. Necessary sanction of the Corporation as per the scheme in this regard will be issued as and when the requisite condemnation certificate is received from the State Government. As regards installation of Gas Pipe Line, the recommendation of the Regional Deputy Commissioner has since been received and it has been decided to issue necessary sanction for installation of Gas Pipe Line in the ESI Hospital, Bangalore.

Problems Faced by KVIC

3729. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Khadi Mission, as apex body of Khadi institutions in India, has submitted memorandum to the Prime Minister detailing problems faced by the Khadi and Village Industries Sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the remedial action taken/proposed by the Government thereto ?

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

(b) and (c) The Khadi Mission has, inter alia, given suggestions with respect to the rebate policy, financial assistance, reconstitution of Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) etc.

The Khadi rebate policy has already been declared on 1.6.2000. Regarding payment of rebate claims, adequate funds have already been provided to the KVIC against rebate claims. The financial assistance by the banks is provided to the institutions on the basis of the

interest Subsidy Eligibility Certificate (ISEC) issued by the KVIC which in turn is based on the performance of the institutions. As regards, the reconstitution of the Commission, the Government has noted the suggestions.

IID Scheme

3730. DR. B.B. RAMAIAH : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) how many Industrial Infrastructural Development Centres have been implemented under the IID scheme since the commencement of the scheme;

(b) how many of them have become operationaal and the number of Small Scale Units which have been set up in these IID centres;

(c) how many of these centres have been sanctioned for State of Andhra Pradesh and the number of centres operational in Andhra Pradesh with number of units in each of these centres; and

(d) whether any IID centre has been sanctioned for West Godavari and Krishna Districts of Andhra Pradesh, if so, what is the progress of implementation and if not, the reason therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) and (b) Since the launch of the Integrated Infrastructural Development (IID) Scheme in 1994, 53 IID Centres have been sanctioned, out of which 7 projects have been abandoned on the request of the State Governments. At present 13 Centres are functional and 235 units have been set up in these Centres.

(c) and (d) The IID Centres sanctioned so far in Andhra Pradesh are as under :

Sl. No.	Location	Date of Sanction	Whether Operational	No. of Units
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Nandial, District Kurnool	24.06.94	Yes	6
2.	Gajularamaram, District Rangareddy	30.03.98	Yes	76
3.	Tada, District Nellore	28.10.98	Yes	6
4.	Keelapattu, District Chittoor	03.04.2000	Recently sanctioned	–
5.	Madikonda, District Warangal	08.05.2000	Recently sanctioned	–

Performance of DMS

3731. DR. S. VENUGOPAL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that Delhi Milk Scheme is at the verge of lockout due to heavy losses and mismanagement;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) the details of daily handling losses in KG and value processing/production for the last six months;

(d) whether the handling losses are above the norms; and

(e) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken against the concerned persons ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) No. Sir.

(b) Not applicable in view of (a) above.

(c) During last six months, the daily handling losses were around 978 Kg total solid, which is approximately equivalent to Rs. 87,000/-.

(d) and (e) It is not possible to fix norms across the board, because handling losses depend upon various parameters like number of polypack packed, percentage of reconstitution and recombination, separation of cream from milk and capacity utilization etc. in the dairy plant.

Foreign Minister Visits Abroad

3732. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the countries visited by foreign minister from October 1999 to Februry 2000;

(b) the outcome thereof; and

(c) the expenditure incurred on these visits and the steps taken to bring down the expenditure on these visits ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMR PANJA) : (a) to

(c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Brain Drain

3733. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE : Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have assessed the impact of large scale computer professionals going to foreign countries on Indian economy;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the infrastructure being provided by the Government to these professionals to check the brain drain ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : (a) and (b) Most Indian software professionals go to the USA on HIB visas. During the last few years, around fifty to sixty thousand Indian IT/Computer professionals have been going to the USA every year. Such persons are sponsored by Indian/foreign companies to do on site work for their customers. The percentage of IT professionals who are able to get green cards and settle in the USA are relatively small. As a result, there is a major flow of foreign exchange into the country.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Visit of Nepalese Prime Minister

3734. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Prime Minister of Nepal visited India recently;

(b) if so, the details of discussions held by him with various Indian leaders;

(c) the outcome thereof; and

(d) the way visit is expected to foster closer relationship between the two countries ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) to (d) The Prime Minister of Nepal, Mr. G.P. Koirala, paid an official goodwill visit to India from July 31 to August 6, 2000 at the invitation of the Prime Minister of India. He was accompanied by the Foreign Minister of Nepal, Mr. Chakra Prasad Bastola and senior officials of His Majesty's Government of Nepal.

During his official engagements in New Delhi on August 1 and 2, 2000, the Prime Minister of Nepal called on the President and the Vice-President of India, and had a meeting with the Prime Minister of India, which was followed by delegation level talks. He also received our Ministers of External Affairs, Home Affairs, Defence, Finance, Human Resource Development and Water Resources, the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission and the Leader of the Opposition. The discussions covered the entire gamut of our bilateral relations with Nepal.

The Joint Press Statement issued at the conslusion of the visit highlighted the wide-ranging discussions and the decisions taken to further strengthen the close and friendly relations between the two countries. A copy of the Joint Press Statement is attached.

The outcome of the visit confirmed the stable foundation of and steady progress in relations, besides reflecting a common approach to attaining meaningful economic development through mutually beneficial cooperation.

Statement

Joint Press Statement

1. His Excellency Mr. Girija Prasad Koirala, Prime Minister of Nepal, is paying an official goodwill visit to India from 31 July to 6 August, 2000 at the invitation of His Excellency Shri Atal Behari Vajpayee, Prime Minister of India. The Prime Minister of Nepal is accompanied by His Excellency Mr. Chakra Prasad Bastola, Minister of Foreign Affairs and senior officials of His Majesty's Government of Nepal. He is also accompanied by his daughter. Ms. Sujata Koirala.

2. During his visit, the Prime Minister of Nepal visited Rajghat and paid homage to the memory of Mahatma Gandhi. The Prime Minister of Nepal called on the President and the Vice President of India. He had a meeting with the Prime Minister of India, which was followed by delegation-level talks, led by the two Prime Ministers, on bilateral and other issues of mutual interest. Ministers of Home Affairs, External Affairs, Defence, Finance, Human Resource Development and Water Resources of the Government of India called on the Prime Minister of Nepal. The Prime Minister of Nepal also received the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission and the Leader of the Opposition, Lok Sabha. He also attended a business meeting organised by the Confederation of Indian Industry. He will visit Hyderabad where he will attend a dinner hosted by the Governor of Andhra Pradesh, visit the

Hi-tech City, interact with leaders of business and industry and attend a luncheon meeting hosted in his honour by the Federation of the Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industries.

3. The wide-ranging discussions during the visit were held in an atmosphere of warmth and cordiality. During these discussions, the Prime Ministers of India and Nepal noted that the age-old and traditional friendship between the peoples of the two countries, based on the enduring bonds of history, geography and shared social and cultural values, had been reinforced in recent times and bilateral cooperation expanded to embrace new areas of economic and developmental activities. The Prime Ministers reiterated the commitment of their Governments to further strengthen the close and friendly relations between the two countries, in a spirit of equality, mutual respect and partnership and on the basis of an enhanced level of trust and understanding, keeping the long-term perspective in mind. The two Prime Ministers were convinced that a regular dialogue at various levels was required to continuously explore new avenues of cooperation, implement understandings reached in the past and avoid complacency. In the new millennium, the two countries must constantly nurture and upgrade their partnership, which derived sustenance from traditional links and shared values.

4. In the present context of increasing globalisation and the communication revolution and the fast-changes that have taken place at the national, regional and global levels, the two Prime Ministers were convinced that the agenda of partnership in the 21st century must focus on expanding mutually beneficial and future-oriented cooperation. The two Prime Ministers agreed that the institutional mechanisms for dialogue and interaction in existence over the past 50 years be reviewed and rationalised in the context of the new mellenium to set the tone for mature relations and cooperation in the decades ahead.

5. In pursuing cooperative relations in this new framework, the two Prime Ministers agreed to respect each other's sensitivities and concerns and to address such issues that might arise from time to time in a constructive manner.

6. The two Prime Ministers noted that in recent years, the ties between India and Nepal had been reinforced by their shared commitment to multi-party democracy. They noted that their commitment to the consolidation and institutionalisation of democratic values and principles had given the bilateral relations a new dynamism.

Joint Commissioin :

7. It was agreed that the first meeting of the revived India-Nepal Joint Commission would be convened during the forthcoming visit of the External Affairs Minister of India to Nepal. The Joint Commission would act as an umbrella body at the level of Foreign Ministers to oversee the entire gamut of bilateral relations and to provide directives on measures to further strengthen them. It would also review and rationalise the existing inter-Governmental mechanisms.

Economic Cooperation :

8. The two Prime Ministers noted with satisfaction that the work on the B.P. Koirala Institute of Health Sciences at Dharan, the 22-Bridges Project on the East-West Highway and the Maternal and Neo-Nepal Intensive Care Units at Paropakar Indra Rajyalaxmi Maternity Hospital, Kathmandu, had been successfully completed. They directed that the work on the India-Nepal cooperation projects under implementation, including finalisation of the framework for continued cooperation on the B.P. Koirala Institute of Health Sciences at Dharan with the strengthening and extension of Indian faculty support to the Institute till October 2009, the 200-bed Emergency and Trauma Centre at Bir Hospital Kathmandu, Raxaul Sirsiya Rail Link Project and the Mahendranagar-Tanakpur Link Road Project, be expedited.

9. The Prime Ministers were apprised of the outcome of the Fifth Meeting of the India-Nepal High Level Task Force, held in Kathmandu on 6-7 June, 2000. They endorsed the recommendations made by the High Level Task Force and directed that the following new projects be implemented expeditiously :

   (i) Cooperation between the two Governments in improving physical facilities and infrastructure at important border customs stations and check-posts, beginning with three major border crossings at Raxaul-Birgunj, Sunauli-Bhairahawa and Jogbani-Biratnagar;

   (ii) Coopertion in development of infrastructure, including transportation and communication links, in the adjoining districts of Nepal and India;

   (iii) Launching of jointly-developed pilot projects in Nepal in the field of rural and community development;

   (iv) Cooperation between the two Governments in jointly setting up a small or medium sized hydropower project in Nepal;

(v) Cooperation in setting up an Export Processing Zone of Free Trade Zone close to the inland Container Depot being developed at Birgunj;

(vi) Cooperation in developing the dairy industry in Nepal, with the involvement of the National Dairy Development Boards of India and Nepal; and

(vii) Cooperation in the establishment of a Technology Institute in Nepal as a partnership project, with information technology being one of its key components.

Trade, Transit and investment Links :

10. The two Prime Ministers noted with satisfaction that the India-Nepal Trade Treaty of December 1996 and the Transit Treaty of January 1999 had contributed to the expansion of trade and economic cooperation between the two countries and in facilitating Nepal's transit through India. During the delegation-level talks, views were exchanged on some practical problems which had emerged during the implementation of these Treaties; particularly on the Special Additional Duty, definition of "manufacturing", issues of misdeclaration, facilitating access of Nepalese food products into the Indian market and certification procedures for import of Indian vehicles under Nepal's new emission norms.

11. It was agreed that exports from Nepal to India would be exempted from the levy of Special Additional Duty on customs. It was also agreed that imports of Indian vehicles into Nepal under Nepal's new emission norms would be permitted on the basis of self-certification by Indian vehicle manufacturers based on type approvals.

12. The Indian side conveyed that testing facilities were being set up at Gorakhpur and Raxaul, which would help to streamline procedures for Nepalese food exports to India. The Indian side also agreed to assist in upgrading the testing facilities in Nepal.

13. Both the Prime Ministers directed that the Inter-Governmental Committee on Trade. Transit and Unauthorised Trade, headed by the Commerce Secretaries of the two Governments, be convened soon to effectively address the remaining issues in a constructive manner and to take steps to promote trade and economic links between Nepal and India.

14. The Prime Ministers noted with satisfaction that initiatives taken in recent years, including the conclusion of the trade treaty with its provision for preferential entry of Nepalese manufactures into the Indian market and liberalisation of procedures for Indian rupee investments in Nepal, had led to increased investment by Indian companies in Nepal. The two sides agreed to facilitate expansion of the industrial production base in Nepal, including through enhanced participation of the private sector. With this objective, it was agreed to conclude a Bilateral Investment Protection and Promotion Agreement (BIPA) at the earliest.

15. The two Prime Ministers also directed that the conclusion of a bilateral Agreement on Trans-Border Movement of Motor Vehicles be expedited.

16. Noting that the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) and the Nepal Bureau of Standards and Metrology (NBSM) have had preliminary exchanges on cooperation in the field of standards, the two Prime Ministers observed that this would be desirable for further promoting bilateral trade and investment.

Water Resources :

17. The two Prime Ministers noted that the huge potential for development of hydropower resources in Nepal and the projected demand for power in India in the coming decades offered rich opportunities for cooperation to bring about rapid, environmentally sustainable economic growth on both sides of the border. However, the process of achieving concrete results had been relatively slow and needed to be accelerated. The Prime Ministers directed that a Joint Committee on Water Resources, headed by the Water Resources Secretaries of the two Governments, be set up to discuss all important issues pertaining to cooperation in the water resources sector including implementation of existing agreements and under-standings. The Joint Committee, which would meet at least once in every six months, would also oversee the work of all technical and expert level committees and groups in this field.

18. The Prime Minister reiterated that the implementation of the Mahakali Treaty would be given high priority. They directed that the remaining investigations and studies be completed as per the schedule agreed upon by the Joint Group of Experts on Pancheshwar and that the work on the preparation of the DPR be completed latest by the end of 2001. Unresolved issues pertaining to the DPR would be addressed by the Joint Committee on Water Resources.

19. On the Sapta Kosi High Dam and Sun Kosi-Kamla Diversion Projects, the two Prime Ministers agreed that the ongoing process be expedited.

20. The two Prime Ministers directed that the joint Task Force on Flood Control and Forecasting be set up

immediately to review cooperation in a comprehensive manner and give its recommendations to the two Governments. It was also agreed that there would be close consultations between the concerned authorities of the two Governments regarding flood control structures, which may cause damage to life and property in the adjoining border districts of India and Nepal. Responding to the Nepalese concern of inundation in the Banke District of Nepal, the Indian side assured that measures were being taken to ensure that the flood control embankment constructed in the Indian side would not cause inundation in the adjoining regions of Nepal and that the situation in this regard would be monitored jointly and necessary action taken.

Cooperation in Science and Technology :

21. The two Prime Ministers noted that an Agreement of Cooperation in Science and Technology would be concluded shortly.

Cooperation in Information Technology :

22. In response to a request from the Nepalese side, the Indian side agreed to extend their cooperation in the development of information technology in Nepal. It was agreed that a Technology Institute would be established in Nepal as an India-Nepal partnership project, with information technology as the key thrust area. Other avenues of cooperation in this vital sector would be indentified through mutual consultations.

Cooperation in Human Resource Development :

23. Taking note of traditional links between India and Nepal in the field of human resource development, the two Prime Ministers agreed that the cooperation in this key sector must be reinforced. This would include, inter alia, the continuing involvement of India, both at the Governmental level as well as through the private sector, in development of institutions of higher learning and technical studies in Nepal. The Indian side noted the concern expressed by the Nepalese side regarding the high fee structure for the Nepalese students for pursuing higher education in India and assured that necessary measures would be taken to address the problem.

Cooperation in Conservation of Cultural Heritage :

24. Noting that India and Nepal shared a rich cultural heritage and there were a large number of cultural sites which were of importance to the peoples of the two countries, the two Prime Ministers agreed that joint efforts, both at Governmental and non-Governmental levels, to conserve such cultural heritage sites would be mutually beneficial and that the possibility of setting up a Cultural Foundation would be explored.

Boundary Demarcation :

25. The two Prime Ministers reviewed the progress in the work of the Joint Technical Level Boundary Coommittee and directed the Committee to complete its field work by 2001-2002 and final preparation of strip maps by 2003. The Committee was also directed that in case it was unable to reach mutually acceptable agreement on certain specific segments of the boundary despite its best efforts, detailed reports on those pockets, including a compilation of the available evidence, would be submitted to the two Governments for their consideration. The Prime Ministers also directed the Joint Working Group of the Joint Technical-Level Boundary Committee to expeditiously complete its examination of the facts relating to the alignment of the boundary in the western sector, including the Kalapani area, and in other pockets, where there were differences in perceptions of the two sides.

1950 Treaty :

26. The Prime Ministers directed the Foreign Secretaries to undertake a review of all issues pertaining to the 1950 Treaty. The Foreign Secretaries would meet within six months.

Terrorism/Management of Border :

27. The Prime Ministers reiterated the determination of the two countries to work closely and fight the scourge of terrorism. They renewed the commitment of the two countries not to allow their respective territories to be used for activities directed against or prejudicial to the security of the other. In pursuance of their shared objective of combating terrorism and cross-border crimes, the two Governments agreed to devise effective modalities and measures to strengthen their existing cooperation in this regard.

28. The two Prime Ministers were apprised of the discussions held by the Home Secretaries of the two Governments in Kathmandu from 5-7 July, 2000. Expressing their satisfaction at the progress made in those discussions, they directed the Home Secretaries to meet regularly to review and expand the cooperation between the concerned law enforcement and security agencies of India and Nepal.

29. While expressing the determination of the two Governments to preserve the mutually beneficial open interaction between the nationals of the two countries across the border, the Prime Ministers agreed on the need to prevent the misuse of the open border by

terrorists, criminals and other undesirable elements. They directed that cooperation in this regard be stepped up. Discussions on the management of the border would continue in the Joint Working Groups on Border Management as well as in talks between the two Home Secretaries.

Indian Teachers in Nepal .

30. In response to the request made by the Indian side for the regularisation of the services of Indian school and college teachers employed in Nepal, the Nepalese side assured that the decision taken by His Majesty's Government in 1998 in this regard would be implemented.

Consulate General of India at Birgunj :

31. Responding to the long-standing Indian request for the setting up of the Consulate General of India at Birgunj, the Napalese side informed that the request was under consideration of His Majesty's Government.

Invitation :

32. The Prime Minister of Nepal invited the Prime Minister of India to pay an official visit to Nepal at an early date. The invitation was accepted with pleasure. The dates of the visit would be decided through diplomatic channels.

[English]

Production of Cotton

3735. SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI :
DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA :
SHRI ZORA SINGH MANN :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the cotton produced in the country is not competing in international market due to poor quality and higher price;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to take effective steps to reduce the cost of cotton production and also improve the quality;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO) : (a) and (b) Indian cotton is discounted in international market due to poor quality of ginning, imperfect packing, contamination and higher trash contents.

(c) and (d) In order to improve the yield and the quality of cotton, the Government of India has approved the implementation of a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Technology Mission of Cotton in January, 2000. The Mission consists of four Mini-Missions. The Mini-Mission-I on research is to be dealt by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research for evolving newer and better varieties/ technologies suited to different agro-climatic conditions of the country for improving the yield and quality of cotton.

The Department of Agriculture & Cooperation is responsible for the implementation of Mini-Mission-II for enhancing production through the modification of on-going Scheme of Intensive Cotton Development Program. The Intensive Cotton Development Program envisages to enhance production and productivity through various extension/developmental activities such as transfer of technologies by field demonstration/farmers training, supply of certified seeds of varieties released during last fifteen years, use of water saving devices like sprinkler and drip system, establishment of seed delinting machines and various activities of pest control including setting up of bio-agent unit, surveillance, Integrated Pest Management (IPM), demonstration-cum-training, supply of sprayers/ pheromone trap/bio-agents.

The Ministry of Textiles is nodal Ministry for implementation of Mini-Mission-III & Mini-Mission-IV. The Mini-Missioin-III is mean for the development of marketing infrastructure by undertaking activities like construction of marketing yards, auction centres, grading facilities, laboratories for testing quality of cotton. The Mini-Mission-IV aims at up-gradation and Modernization of ginning and pressing factories for the production of better quality cotton.

(e) Does not arise.

Procurement of Copra by NAFED

3736. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Kerala has sent proposal to the Union Government with request to instruct NAFED to process the entire quantity of Copra procured from the State into coconut oil instead of releasing the copra to the market;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the decision of the Union Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Traditional Fishermen

3737. SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR :
SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 455 on 26.4.2000 regarding traditional fishermen and state:

(a) whether the Government have finalised the enhancement of subsidy for purchase of Out Board Motors (OBM);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the time by which the decision is likely to be taken in this regard; and

(e) the approximate number of fishermen in the country; State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) to (d) No, Sir. An EFC Memo for enhancement of subsidy for the purchase of Out Board Motors has been prepared and circulated to various appraisal agencies. A decision on the proposal has been delayed due to non-receipt of adequate response from some of the appraisal agencies. A decision on the proposal is being expedited.

(e) The approximate number of fishermen in the Country State-wise is furnished as under :-

Sl. No.	State/Union Territory	Number of persons engaged in fishing (in '00s)	
		Full time	Part time
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1,428	1,321
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	–	–
3.	Assam	254	201
4.	Bihar	255	754
5.	Goa	24	14
6.	Gujarat	557	236
7.	Haryana	4	–
8.	Himachal Pradesh	2	3
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	19	22
10.	Karnataka	134	74
11.	Kerala	1,099	275
12.	Madhya Pradesh	112	566
13.	Maharashtra	761	387
14.	Manipur	318	239
15.	Meghalaya	–	–
16.	Mizoram	–	–
17.	Nagaland	–	–
18.	Orissa	225	128
19.	Punjab	–	–
20.	Rajasthan	5	9
21.	Sikkim	–	–
22.	Tamil Nadu	890	145
23.	Tripura	8	31
24.	Uttar Pradesh	301	750
25.	West Bengal	884	1,927
26.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	9	22
27.	Chandigarh	3	1
28.	Dadra & Nagar Havli	–	–
29.	Daman & Diu	–	–
30.	Delhi	–	–
31.	Lakshadweep	9	21
32.	Pondicherry	83	11
	India	7,384	7,137

Source : Indian Livestock Census-1992, Summary Tables Volume-I

[Translation]

Number of Chances for CS Exams

3738. KUMARI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have recently increased the age limit for Civil Services Examinations while no increase has been made in the number of chances for appearing in the examination for the candidates;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to increase the number of chances for appearing in the Civil Services Examinations; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

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

(b) to (d) Consequent upon the increase in the age of retirement from 58 to 60, the upper age limit for the Civil Services Examinations from 1999 has been raised by two years from 28 to 30 years (except for CISF) for general category candidates (with further relaxation of 3 years and 5 years for 'other backward classes' and 'scheduled castes/ scheduled tribes' candidates respectively). As the number of attempts available to candidates for various categories i.e. 4 for 'general category' 7 for 'other backward classes' and 14 for 'scheduled castes/scheduled tribes' are already in excess of what has been recommended by various expert bodies on the subject, there is no proposal to alter the number of chances.

Deep Tube-Wells

3739. SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether any survey has been conducted by the Central Ground Water Board in several parts of Bihar for drilling deep tube-wells;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(c) the details of the further plan of the Government to ensure sufficient availability of water in the State for irrigation purposes ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) The Central Ground Water Board undertakes periodical surveys and exploratory drilling of tube wells in various States including Bihar. The Central Ground Water Board has constructed 342 exploratory tube wells in the State upto June 2000. 45 successful exploratory wells have been handed over to the State Government for their purposeful utilisation for drinking, irrigation and other purposes. During the year 2000-2001, the Central Ground Water Board has fixed a target of drilling 28 exploratory wells in Patna, Nalanda, Gaya, Jahanabad, Hazaribagh, Bokaro, Giridih, Dhanbad, Ranchi and Singhbhum districts of the State.

(c) Irrigation being a State subject, these projects are planned, investigated and are taken up for implementation by the State Governments themselves out of their own resources and as per their own priorities. In Bihar there are 14 Major and 29 Medium ongoing irrigation projects, envisaging creation of ultimate 1447.46 thousand hectre irrigation potential on completioin, in addition to 10 Major pending irrigation projects with ultimate irrigtion potential of 822.97 thousand hectare. The Centre has, however, launched Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) since 1996-97 for providing Central Loan Assistance (CLA) to the State Governments for accelerating implementation of ongoing irrigation and multipurpose projects. An assistance of about Rs. 219.4 crore has been provided to 14 projects in Bihar so far under the AIBP.

[English]

Fresh Policy for I.T.

3740. SHRI NAMDEO HARBAJI DIWATHE : Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have recently reviewed the progress made in the I.T. Sector as a result of fresh policy initiatives and financial package of incentives in the context of liberalisation and globalisation;

(b) if so, the details thereof in terms of standard norms and targets proposed and achieved;

(c) the details of foreign investment proposals received, cleared and pending consideration during the current year and implications thereof; and

(d) details of action plan finalised in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has taken many policy initiatives in the IT sector. These are :-

- The Ministry of Information Technology had set up a Working Group on Information Technology for Masses. The Working Group has recently submitted its report and have made a number of important recommendations. The Working Group set an ambitious target of atleast 100 million Internet connections by the year 2008

and 1 million Internet enabled IT Kiosks/Cyber Cafes to be established covering the entire length and breadth of the country.

- To increase the reach of IT to the Masses, the Government is setting up Community Information Centres at all the 487 blocks in the North East Region of the country including Sikkim. Such schemes will be set up in other remote areas of the country also.

- The Government have set up 15 Software Technology Parks in the country to provide High Speed Data Communication facilities and incubation facilities to the software exporting units in different parts of the country. Few more Centres are being set up in the country.

- A National Venture Fund for Software and IT Industry (NFSIT) has been set up with the cost of Rs. 100 crores to provide Venture Capital Finance to the IT Companies.

- A Task Force on Human Resource Development under the Chairmanship of Minister of Human Resource Development have been set up. The Task Force among other things will give its report in a month for doubling IITs/RECs from next academic year and tripling the intake in the next two years.

- The Government has also announced a number of incentives for the growth and promotion of Information Technology business abroad. The details of these incentives are given in enclosed statement.

- A number of initiatives have been taken under the TDIL (Technology Development for Indian Languages) programme of the MIT. Resource centres for Indian Languages solutions at 13 Educational and R&D institutions to cover all the official languages under the constitution.

The National Task Force on Information technology and Software Development has set a software export target of US$ 50 billion by the year 2008. The software exports during the year 1999-2000 were of the order of US$ 4 billion. For the Information Technology Hardware, the said Task Force has set an export target of US$ 10 billion by the year 2008.

(c) and (d) During the current year i.e. 1.1.2000 to 30.6.2000, the details of proposals approved in I.T. Sector is as under :-

Total No. of approvals	297
Technical approvals	8
Financial approvals	289
Amount of FDI approved (Rs. in crore)	4108.54

Consideration of FDI proposals by FIPB is continuous process and it is the endeavor of the Government to communicate the decision within 30 days if the proposal meets all the parameters of the FDI Policy.

Statement

Incentives to IT Sector

To encourage and promote information technology business abroad, the Government of India has abolished licensing and simplified the procedures to make them transparent. The following major steps have been taken to promote export of IT Sector.

1. To provide legal framework so as to facilitate Electronic Commerce in the country, the Government has drafted Information Technology Act. The Act provides legal framework for amongst others recognition of electronic contracts, prevention of computer crimes, and electronic filing/documents. The mechanism of digital signature has been approved to address the issues of jurisdiction, authentication and origination.

2. Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) Scheme at 5% duty.

3. Foreign direct Investments up to 100% allowed.

4. Software Technology Parks Scheme.

5. Speciaal Stock Option Schemes for Indian Software Companies linked with ADR/GDR offering.

6. Working Capital Finance to Information Technology and Software industry.

7. Sweat Equity has been introduced in the Companies Act.

8. Domestic Tariff Area (DTA) access up to 50% of FOB value of exports for units under Export Oriented Unit (EOU)/Export Processing Zone (EPZ)/Software Technology Parks (STP) Scheme.

9. Depreciation on Computer @60% per annum.

10. Reduction in Custom Duty on computer and peripherals to 15%. The customs duty on

all storage devices, integrated circuits, microprocessors, data display tubes and deflection components of colour monitors is @0%.

11. Software exempted from custom duty and excise duty.

12. Relaxation in income tax to software units under EOU/FPZ/STP Schemes.

13. Exemption of withholding tax on interest on External Commercial Borrowings.

14. Computer systems have been made freely importable. The donation of used computers to educational institutes, hospitals etc. have been permitted duty free from units in EOU/EPZ/STP/ Electronics Hardware Technology Park (EHTP)

15. Exemption on income from dividends on Venture Capital Fund.

16. "Business Support Centre" has been opened in "Silicon Valley" California, USA to assist small and medium enterprises in establishing strategic alliance in the US.

Protection of Labour

3741. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether both the ship-breaking units in Gujarat and Diamond cutting industry in Saurashtra are indulging into mal-practices against the labour and violating all human norms:

(b) if so, whether the government have enquired from Gujarat Maritime Board the present conditions of the contract labour of the ship-breaking unit in Gujarat and the child labour engaged in diamond cutting trade in Saurashtra; and

(c) if so, the outcome thereof the steps taken to regulate the welfare of the labour ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) and (b) As per information received from the State Govt. of Gujarat, the Labour Laws are enforced to ensure that workers get benefits provided under various labour laws. The State Govt. has fixed minimum rates of wages in respect of employees employed in the ship-breaking units as well as Diamond Cutting Industries. In addition, the payment of Bonus Act and the Payment of Gratuity Act are also applicable. The Labour Machinery has been strengthened by creating new posts of one Assistant Commissioner of Labour and Govt. Labour Officer exclusively for the protection of the rights of the workers working in ship-breaking units at Alang, Dist. Bhavnagar. It is also, inter-alia, stated that, there is no Contract Labour system prevailing in Alang Ship Breaking operation.

Govt. of Gujarat is vigilant on the issue of Child Labour. In the diamond cutting industry of Saurashtra, incidence of Child Labour is not generally noticed but where found, action is taken in accordance with the law. Officials of the Department are also keeping a close watch.

(c) Does ont arise.

Post Based Rosters

3742. SHRI BUTA SINGH : Will the Minister of LABOUR 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. 02/7/1997;

(b) if so, reasons therefor;

(c) whether while introducting "Post Based Rosters" in place of "Vacancy Based Rosters" the process of identifying excesses/shortages if any in Class I, II, III and IV category of services under this Ministry the Autonomous/ Statutory Organizations, Attached/Sub-ordinate Offices and Public Sector Undertakings was undertaken as prescribed under para (5) of the DOPT O.M. No. 36012/2/96-Estt. (Res) dt. 02-07-1997; and

(d) if so, the details of excesses/shortages found in all the above category of services as on 02-07-1997 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

New Seed for Production of Pulses

3743. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN :
SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the research work is being carried out at various places in the country under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research;

(b) if so, the names of the places where the same is being carried out under the above institution;

(c) whether new seeds have been developed to increase the production of pulses in the last few years following the above research work;

(d) if so, the names of such seeds and their per hectare production-rate; and

(e) the quantum of production of above seeds likely to be available in current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) At the national level, research on pulse crops is being carried out by Indian Institute of Pulses Research, Kanpur under Indian Council of Agricultural Research. In addition, four All India Coordinated Research Projects on Chickpea (Bengal gram), Pigeonpea (arhar), MULLARP (mungbean, urdbean, lentil, lathyrus, rajmash and peas) and Arid Legumes (mothbean, guar, horsegram (Kulthi), cowpea (lobia) are also in operation with research centres located in different States.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) List of the improved varieties developed during the last five years alongwith their per hectare average yield is given in enclosed statement.

(e) The quantity of certified/quality seed of pulse crops produced during 1999-2000 and likely to be available during current year is 5.18 lakh quintals.

Statement

List of improved varieties of pulse crops released during the last five years

Name of variety/	Year of hybrid	Yield release	Area of q/ha	Remarks adaptation
1	2	3	4	5
Chickpea				
KWR 108	1995	20-25	NEPZ	Resistant to wilt, root rot
GNG 663 (Vardhan)	1995	24	NWPZ	Resistant to wilt
GPF 2	1995	21	NWPZ	Resistant to wilt and tolerant to Ascochyta
Pusa 362	1995	24	NWPZ	Bold seeded, tolerant to wilt
Pusa 391	1996	15-20	CZ	Drought tolerant, wilt resistant
GNG 469	1996	25-30	NWPZ	Resistant to wilt and root rot
Pant G-186	1996	20-25	Uttar Pradesh	-
DCP 92-3	1997	18-20	NWPZ	Resistant to wilt
KDG 1168 (Alok)	1997	20-25	NWPZ	Resistant to wilt and root rot
Vishal	1997	30-35	CZ	Resistant to wilt
PDG 3	1997	16-18	Punjab	Tolerant to pod borer
CSG 8962 (Karnal Channa-I)	1997	18-20	NWPZ	Resistant to wilt. Suitable for saline condition.
GCP 101 (Gujarat Gram-I)	1999	18-22	CZ	Tolerant to wilt
Pusa 1003 (Kabuli)	1999	18-20	NEPZ	Tolerant to wilt, bold seeded
BGD-72 (Pusa Pragati)	1999	20	CZ	Bold seeded, resistant to wilt and root rot, drought tolerant

1	2	3	4	5
BG 1053 (Pusa Chamatkar)	1999	20	NWPZ	Bold seeded and moderately resistant to root diseases.
JG-11	1999	18-22	SZ	Toterant to Fusarium wilt
GCP 105	2000	18	NEPZ	Moderately resistant to wilt rot
Pigeonpea				
AL 201	1995	15	Punjab	Early maturing
BSMR 736	1996	12	Maharashtra	Resistant to sterility mosaic disease, wilt
Jawahar KM 7	1996	20	CZ	Tolerant to wilt and pob borer
PPH 4 (Hybrid)	1996	19	Punjab	–
COPH-1 (Hybrid)	1996	9	Tamil Nadu	Early maturing
COPH 2 (Hybrid)	1997	10	Tamil Nadu	Early maturing
Amar	1997	16-20	Uttar Pradesh	Resistant to sterility mosaic, tolerant to wilt
AKPH 4101 (Hybrid)	1997	20-22	CZ	Indeterminate to plant
Narendra Arhar-I	1997	20-22	Uttar Pradesh	Resistant to SMD, tolerant to wilt
AKPH 2022 (Hybrid)	1998	18-20	Maharashtra	–
Paras (H 82-1)	1998	15-20	Haryana	–
MA-3 (Malviya Vikalp)	1999	20-22	CZ	Moderately tolerant to wilt and pod fly
Durga (ICPL 84031)	1999	18-20	Andhra Pradesh	–
Mungbean				
Pusa 9072	1995	9	SZ	Tolerant to powdery mildew
Warangal-2	1995	14	Andhra Pradesh	Suitable for kharif, rabi and summer
Madhira 295	1995	14	Andhra Pradesh	–
LGG 407	1995	14	Andhra Pradesh	Tolerant to yellow mosaic virus
LGG 450	1995	13	Andhra Pradesh	Tolerant to yellow mosaic virus
JM 721	1996	12	Madhya Pradesh	Tolerant to powdery mildew
ML 613	1996	13	Punjab	Resistant to yellow mosaic virus, bacterial and pod leaf spot
PDM 84-178	1996	8	Andhra Pradesh	Tolerant to yellow mosaic virus and powdery mildew
TARM-I	1996	12(CZ) 6.5 (SZ)	Maharashtra	Resistasnt to powdery mildew
TARM 18	1996	12	Maharashtra	Resistant to powdery mildew
SML 134	1996	11	Punjab	Recommended for spring/summer
Pant Mung 4 (UPM 92-1)	1997	7	NEPZ	Resistant to yellow mosaic virus

1	2	3	4	5
HUM-1	1999	9 (CZ) 8 (SZ)	CZ and SZ	Resistant to yellow mosaic virus
Co 6	1999	10	Tamil Nadu	Resistant to yellow mosaic virus
PBM 2	2000	6	NEPZ	Resistant to yellow mosaic virus
Pusa 9531	2000	9	CZ	Resistant to yellow mosaic virus and tolerant to jassids and whitefly
Pusa Bold-1 (Vishal)	2000	11	NWPZ	Resistant to yellow mosaic virus and tolerant to jassids and whitefly
Urdbean				
WBU 108	1995	12	NWPZ, SZ	Tolerant to yellow mosaic virus
LBG 611	1995	14	Andhra Pradesh	Resistant to wilt
Mash 338	1996	8	Punjab	Resistant to yellow mosaic virus
Birsa Urd 1	1996	15	Bihar	Resistant to yellow mosaic virus
Mash 414	1996	9.5	Punjab	Tolerant to root rot
AKU-4	1996	10	Maharashtra	For rabi season
KBG 512	1996	7.5	Tamil Nadu	Tolerant to leaf spot and stem fly
Vamban-2	1997	8	Tamil Nadu	Resistant to yellow mosaic virus and tolerant to drought
Shekhar-1 (KU 301)	1997	13	SZ	Resistant to yellow mosaic virus and suitable for rabi season
TU 94-2	1999	15	SZ	Resistant to yellow mosaic virus, moderately resistant to powdery mildew and for rabi season
IPU 94-1 (Uttara)	1999	12	NWPZ, NEPZ	Resistant to yellow mosaic virus
KU 92-1 (Azad Urd-1)	1999	10	NEPZ	Resistant to yellow mosaic virus, suitable for spring season
RBU 38 (Barkha)	1999	12.5	CZ and NEPZ	Resistant to Cercospora leaf spot, bold seeded
WBG 26	1999	9.5	SZ	Resistant to powdery mildew and yellow mosaic virus
Lentil				
DPL 15 (Priya)	1995	15.5	NWPZ	Resistant to rust, tolerant to wilt and bold seeded
Pusa Vaibhav (L 4147)	1996	17.5	NWPZ	Resistant to rust and tolerant to pod borer
Garima (LH 82-6)	1996	14.5	Haryana	Tolerant to rust, wilt and blight, bold seeded
Narendra Masoor-1 (NDL 92-1)	1997	14	Uttar Pradesh	Resistant to rust, tolerant to wilt and bold seeded
DPL 62 (Sheri)	1997	17	NWPZ	Resistant to rust, tolerant to wilt and bold seeded
JL 3	1999	14.5	CZ	Resistant to wilt

1	2	3	4	5
IPL 81 (Noori)	2000	12.5	CZ	Tolerant to rust and bold seeded
Fieldpea				
DMR 7 (Alankar)	1996	23.5	NWPZ	Resistant to powdery mildew
Uttra (HFP 8909)	1996	22	NWPZ	Resistant to powdery mildew
KFP 144-1	1997	18	Uttar Pradesh	Resistant to powdery mildew
HUDP 15 (Malviya	1999 Matar 15)	23-24	NEPZ	Resistant to powdery mildew
DDR 23	2000	15.5	NEPZ	Resistant to powdery mildew
Lathyrus				
Bio L 212 (Ratan)	1997	15	NEPZ	Low neurotoxin, suitable for Utera and drought prone conditions
Prateek	1999	13	Madhya Pradesh	Resistant to powdery mildew and tolerant to pod borer and low neurotoxin (0.7%)
Mothbean				
RMO-225	1999	5-5.5	Rajasthan, Gujarat and Maharashtra	Drought tolerant
FMM-96	1999	5-6	All moth growing areas	Suitable for light alluvium to heavy soils under rainfed conditions
CAZRI Moth-1	1999	5.5-6.5	All moth growing areas	Drought tolerant
Cowpea				
GC-3	1999	10-11	SZ	Early maturing, suitable for arid and semi arid areas
Pusa Sampda	1999	9	NWPZ	Suitable for rainfed conditions
Horse gram				
Palem-2	1996	8-9	Andhra Pradesh	Early maturity, suitable for rainfed conditions
AK-21	1999	8-8.5	NWPZ	Tolerant to anthracnose suitable for rainfed areas
Guar				
RGC-1003	1999	11	All guar growing areas	Suitable rainfed and well drained soils.
RGC-1002	1999	10	All guar growing areas	Suitable for ranfed conditions
RGC-986	1999	10	All guar growing areas	Suitable for rainfed conditions

SZ (South zone)	Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu
NEPZ (North Eastern Plain Zone)	Eastern Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal and Orissa
CZ (Central Zone)	South West Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Gujarat
NWPZ (North Western Plain Zone)	Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, Delhi and Western Uttar Pradesh

[English]

Pending Claims of NAIS

3744. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :
SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large number of crop Insurance claims have been pending with the Governments, State-wise particularly in the Maharashtra State;

(b) if so, the details of the number of such cases alongwith the amount involved in these claims, State-wise;

(c) the reasons for not clearing these claims; and

(d) the time by which all these pending claims are likely to be cleared by the Union Government ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO) : (a) and (b) National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) has been introduced for implementation from Rabi 1999-2000 season. No claims have been reported by the implementing Agency under this scheme. However, the position of pending claims under the old schemes of Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme and Experimental Crop Insurance Scheme, as reported by the Implementing Agency, are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) Reasons for pending claims are also given in the enclosed statement.

(d) The pending claims would be settled on completion of investigation and on receipt of the required 1/3rd contribution from the respective State Governments.

Statement

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	State/UT	Season	Amount	Reasons
Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme (CCIS)				
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Kharif 1997	3.88	1/3rd State share awaited
		Kharif 1999	6173.32	-do-
2.	Assam	Kharif 1998	1.48	-do-
		Rabi 1998-99	1.15	-do-
		Kharif 1999	0.11	-do-
3.	Gujarat	Kharif 1998	571.62	Under investigation
		Kharif 1999	42601.00	-do-
4.	Maharashtra	Kharif 1998	0.12	1/3rd State share awaited
		Kharif 1999	587.35	-do-
5.	Tripura	Kharif 1998	0.04	-do-
		Rabi 1998-99	0.01	-do-
6.	West Bengal	Rabi 1998-99	89.41	-do-
		Kharif 1999	249.22	-do-
7.	A and N Islands	Kharif 1999	0.29	-do-
8.	Karnataka	Kharif 1999	963.07	-do-
9.	Kerala	Kharif 1999	37.44	-do-
10.	Madhya Pradesh	Kharif 1999	426.25	-do-
Experimental Crop Insurance Scheme (ECIS)				
1.	Assam	Rabi 1997-98	43.03	1/3rd State share awaited

[Translation]

Atrocities on SC/ST

3745. SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of cases pertaining to atrocities registered with National Commission for SC/ST from the State of Rajasthan;

(b) whether the people belonging to high castes have usurped the Dadalai agriculture land beegha occupied by the people belonging to SC/ST community since Samvat 2009 under Rajasthan Tenancy Act, 1995 by setting their Jhan-Jhopari ablaze;

(c) if so, the action taken by the Commission in this regard, so far;

(d) whether the heir of the above and have submitted the report with regard to the concrete evidence of fire incident, the medical report of the wounds of the affected people, the visit of police officers at the site, and the FIR registered under the SC/ST Act;

(e) if so, the reasons for terming the final report by the police under sections of SC/ST Act;

(f) the reaction of Commission thereto;

(g) whether there is a general restriction on sale purchase agreement and will of land in names of Harijans under the Rajasthan Tenancy Act;

(h) if so, reasons for donating the land for a school by the money lenders against law; and

(i) the action taken by the Commission for dispensing justice and preventing atrocities against scheduled castes people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) the National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes has informed that cases of atrocities are registered with the concerned Police Station and not with the National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. However, the Commission does receive representations relating to atrocity. The State Office of the Commission at Jaipur had received 168 number representations during April, 1999-March, 2000 and 44 number during April-July, 2000.

(b) No such representation has been received by the Commission.

(c) to (f) Question does not arise.

(g) and (h) Information is being collected from State Government of Rajasthan.

(i) As no representation was received in the Commission, the question of taking action by the Commission does not arise.

[English]

Discussion with Pope John Paul

3746. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the issues of discussion between Prime Minister and Pope John Paul at Vatican;

(b) whether till the time of departure to Rome the Prime Minister had received the entire feed back through the Home Ministry pertaining to the atrocities on Christians in India;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) Prime Minister called on Pope John Paul II on 26th June 2000 during his visit to Italy. Various issues of mutual interest were discussed during the meeting.

(b) to (d) Yes, Sir. Though crime prevention is the responsibility of the State Governments, the Central Government has been maintaining close contact with the various State Governments with regard to the incidents of attacks that have taken place on Christians and their institutions, as also about preventive and precautionary measures to safeguard the interests of the minority communities and ensuring peace and communal harmony.

Special Schools by NIHH

3747. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Institute of the Hearing Handicapped (NIHH) in Mumbai has any plan to operate and run special schools;

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

(c) the budget allocation for the year 2000-2001; and

(d) the other activities of the NIHH ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The plan allocation for the year 2000-01 for the National institute for Hearing Handicapped is Rs. 2.63 crores.

(d) The activities of the Institute include conducting diploma and degree courses in education, speech and audiology for hearing handicapped, running service centers for the speech and hearing impaired at Mumbai, Calcutta, Bhubaneshwar, New Delhi and Secunderabad, providing out-reach extension services in different parts of the country in collaboration with Government and Non-Government Organizations, research etc.

[Translation]

Setting up of Nuclear Energy Laboratory

3748. SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to construct Atomic Energy Laboratory to encourage research work in Atomic Energy;

(b) if so, the details alongwith the location thereof;

(c) the time by which such Atomic Energy Laboratory is likely to be completed; and

(d) the expenditure likely to be incurred 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) and (b) The Department of Atomic Energy has a large number of laboratories which promote research work in various aspects of the nuclear field. At present the Department does not propose to set up any new major laboratory.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

[English]

Wages to Workers

3749. SHRI SUNIL KHAN : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that wages are not being paid to H.S.C.L., I.D.P.L., Burn Standard, Cycle Corporation of India, Hindustan Cables Group and Tyre Corporation etc. during last 12 months;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) According to provisional information collected from various administrative Ministries/ Departments, wages in some of the units of HSCL, IDPL, Burn Standard, Cycle Corporation of India, Tyre Corporation of India etc. have been paid for several months. Wages in Hindustan Cable Ltd., however, are being paid regularly.

(b) and (c) Wages have not been paid mainly because of continuing losses leading to paucity of funds. The Government has already started the process of consulting concerned Departments for evolving a strategy for payment of wages and other dues of workers employed in Central Public Sector Undertakings.

Backlog of SC/ST Vacancies

3750. SHRI BUTA SINGH : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Dr. Ambedkar Birth Centenary Celebrations Committee recommended to fill the Backlog of vacancies reserved for the SCs/STs in the year 1993;

(b) if so, the action taken thereon and results achieved so far;

(c) the number of vacancies reserved for SCs/STs which remained unfilled as on January 1, 1993 in Class I, II, III and IV category under his Ministry and its autonomous/statutory/attached offices;

(d) action taken to fill these vacancies; and

(e) furnish backlog of vacancies reserved for the SCs/STs in Class I, II, III and IV categories as on August 29, 1997 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) Dr. Ambedkar Birth Centenary Celebrations Committee suggested the methodology to be adopted in situation where the backlog is very high and adequate number of candidates from the reserved communities with the prescribed qualification are not available. The methodology was to relax the minimum qualification and to make provision for giving them special training to enable them to perform their functions effectively.

(b) It is not possible to give relaxation in the basic acadimic qualification, as it would be against the spirit of Article 235 of the Constitution. However, relaxations have been provided in the matter of general standard and experience and the Ministry is taking appropriate action for special in service training.

(c) The relevant information is as follows :

Category	As on 01.01.1993	
	SC	ST
Class-I	12	04
Class-II	05	05
Class-III	08	08
Class-IV	10	06

(d) Vacancies have been intimated to Department of Personnel and Training in due course.

(e) The relevant information is as follows:

Category	As on 29.08.1997	
	SC	ST
Class-I	06	04
Class-II	07	09
Class-III	16	10
Class-IV	01	08

Vacancy Based Roster System for OBCs

3751. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR CHOUDHARY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the present rules in regard to promotions for Government employees belonging to OBCs in view of the post based roster system;

(b) whether the Union Government propose to bring changes in rules according to previous vacancy based roster system;

(c) 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) Under the existing policy, reservation in promotion in the posts and services under the Central Government is not provided to OBCs. No points have, therefore, been ear-marked for OBCs in the reservation rosters for promotion for SCs/STs.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

National Agricultural Technology Project

3752. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH :
SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI :
SHRI R.L. BHATIA :
SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether National Agricultural Technology Project has started on pilot basis in six States for testing new institutional arrangements for technology dissemination;

(b) if so, the impact on the project achieved in the introduced States;

(c) whether the Government are considering to expand it to other States as well; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO) : (a) Yes, Sir. Implementation of Innovation in Technology Dissemination (ITD) Component of the National Agricultural Technology Project (NATP) has commenced in six States namely Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa and Punjab.

(b) Impact achieved in the Pilot districts inter-alia include the following :

(i) New institutional arrangements for technology dissemination are operationalised by establishing Agricultural Technology Management Agencies (ATMAs) as autonomous bodies at district level representing stake holders responsible for technology dissemination. Also Block Technology Teams (BTTs) and Farmers Advisory Committees (FACs) at Blocks have been set-up and Farmers Interests Groups (FIGs) are being formed at village level to achieve integrated, farmer responsive and speedy technology dissemination.

(ii) Strategic Research and Extension Plans (SREPs) have been developed after consultation with farmers, to reflect the felt-needs of the farming community, such that research and extension

agendas are demand-driven in a "bottom-up" mode. Programmes and activities include field demonstrations, trainings, exposure visits to successful programmes, assessment and refinement of technology, organisation of farmers groups, etc.

(iii) Application of Information Technology including conectivity amongst various Project Implementing Agencies is being promoted to improve informtion access to the farmers.

(iv) Research-Extension-Farmer Linkages are being strengthened to achieve adoption of latest technology.

(v) Private Extension Service providers such as Non-government organisations, Farmers/women Farmers Organisations are being supported to facilitate technology transfer to farmers.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. There is no such proposal at present.

Post Based Roster

3753. SHRI RAMESH C. JIGAJINAGI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the DOPT has introduced 'Post Based Roster' in place on 'Vacancy Based Rosters' for implementing reservation system w.e.f. July 2, 1997;

(b) if so, reasons therefor;

(c) indicate excesses/shortages found in Class I, II, III and IV category of services under his Ministry and all the Autonomous/Statutory Organisations, Attached/ Subordinate Offices and Public Sector Undertaking as on July 2, 1997: and

(d) remedial measures being taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MININSTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

Backlog of Vacancies

3754. SHRI BHERULAL MEENA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Dr. Ambedkar Birth Centenary Celebrations Committee recommended to fill up the Backlog of vacancies reserved for the SCs/STs in the year 1993;

(b) if so, the action taken thereon since 1993 by the Government in respect to Backlog vacancies concerning his Ministry and results thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) number of vacancies reserved for SCs/STs which remained unfulfilled as on 01.01.1993 in Class I, II, III and IV category under his ministry and its autonomous/ statutory/attached offices and action taken to fill up these vacancies; and

(e) the details of vacancies reserved for the SCs/ STs in Class I, II, III and IV categories as on 29.08.1997?

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.

Backlog of Vacancies

3755. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Dr. Ambedkar Birth Centenary Celebrations Committee recommended to fill the Backlog of vacancies reserved for the SCs/STs in the year 1993;

(b) if so, the action taken thereon since 1993 and results achieved so far;

(c) the number of vacancies reserved for SCs/STs which remained unfilled as on January 1, 1993 in Class I, II, III and IV category under his Ministry and its autonomous/statutory/attached office;

(d) action taken to fill these vacancies; and

(e) furnish backlog of vacancies reserved for the SCs/STs in Class I, II, III and IV categories as on August 29, 1997 ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

[Translation]

Development of Naval Base by Pakistan

3756. SHRI JAI BHADRA SINGH :
SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE :
SHRI JAI PRAKASH :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a Naval Base called 'Jinna Port' equipped with modern war-heads and Submarines which are superior as compared to the Indian fleets is being developed in Arabian Sea by Pakistan to protect the Karachi port and the other cities from any external threat;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether these submarine are capable of destroying the enemy ships without making any noise beneath sea water;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether in this connection the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Paschim Bharat ke Pramukh Shahar va Audyogik Kshetra Sidhe Nisane Par" appearing in the Dainik Jagaran dated July 11, 2000; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) to (d) Government are aware of reports that Pakistan recently inaugurated the Jinnah Naval Base (JNB) at Omara. Media reports have projected the new naval base as providing Pakistan with greater tactical advantage. However, according to available information only berthing facilities for submarines are as yet available at JNB.

Pakistan Navy has recently acquired one state-of-the-art Agosta 90-B submarine from France. Two more Agosta 90-B submarines are being built in Karachi. The Agosta 90-B submarine is stealthy and effective characterized by silent operations.

(e) and (f) Government have seen the report appearing in the Dainik Jagran of July 11, 2000. Government continue to take all necessary measures to preserve the security and territorial integrity of the country.

[English]

Pak's Role in Terrorist Activities

3757. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY
SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state

(a) whether three Muslim Youths admitted during their interrogation recently that they had sneaked across mountains separating the divided Himalayan State;

(b) if so, the other information extracted from them;

(c) whether U.S., UK intelligence are in possession of enough proof about Pakistan's active support to terrorists and their violent activities in Kashmir;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the response of the union Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) and (b) In the absence of specific particulars about the three Muslim youth who infiltrated or were interrogated, Government is unable to give any further information. Government is, however, aware that Pakistan infiltrates armed terrorists as part of its policy of sponsoring cross-border terrorism in Jammu & Kashmir and elsewhere in India.

(c) and (d) Government have, appropriately and effectively, brought to the attention of the international community, including the appropriate authorities in USA and UK, facts regarding Pakistan's state sponsorship of cross-border terrorism in Jammu & Kashmir and elswhere in India. The international community now openly recognizes Pakistan's state sponsorship of cross border terrorism in Jammu & Kashmir and elsewhere in India, and the impact this has on the security of our country and the region. This great awareness is being reflected in statements by official spokesmen of several governments, and in the international media coverage on Pakistan.

(e) Government remains steadfast in its resolve to defeat Pakistan's state sponsorship of terrorism in Jammu & Kashmir and elsewhere in India.

National Cooperative Policy

3758. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK :
PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU :
SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI :
SHRI SUBODH MOHITE :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government have finalised the draft National Cooperative policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the salient features thereof;

(c) whether any committee has been setup to ascertain suggestions and views of the States to incorporate in the policy;

(d) if so, the details thereof.

(e) the other steps taken by the Government to encourage the cooperative movement;

(f) whether the Government have any proposal to convert the cooperative societies into companies;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) the time by which the policy is likely to come into effect ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) The finalisation of the National Policy on Cooperatives is under active consideration of the Government. A Conference of State Ministers of Cooperation was convened on 30.06.2000 at New Delhi to elicit the views of the State Governments on the proposed National Policy on Cooperatives. The draft policy was accepted in principle. However, it was decided to fine tune the policy document by a Group of State Ministers for Cooperation. The group have held two rounds of discussions on the subject. The issue is still under consideration of the group.

(e) The Government is actively considering to replace the existing Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act, 1984 by new legislation based on recommendations made by the Committee on Model Cooperative Law in order to provide greater functional autonomy to cooperatives and to professionalise the management of these institutions.

(f) and (g) There is a proposal to amend the Companies Act, 1956 providing for the conversion of Multi-State Cooperative Societies into producer companies at their option. As the proposal has not been firmed up as yet, no details can be revealed at this stage.

(h) The Policy would be finalised in view of the recommendaitons of Group of State Ministers of Cooperation.

[Translation]

Committee on Cooperative

3759 SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received the report of Brahma Prakash Choudhary Committee on cooperative;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith date on which the said report was received;

(c) whether Government propose to implement the recommendations of the said Committee;

(d) if so, by when; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) to (e) The Planning Commission in 1990 appointed a Committee under the Chairmanship of Choudhary Brahm Perkash in view of the increasing demand from cooperatives to allow them to function as truly autonomous bodies without undue Government intervention. The Committee submitted its report in May 1991. The Committee examined the provisions of the existing Cooperative Societies Acts and felt that some provisions of these acts were restrictive in nature. With a view to promoting the independent and autonomous functioning of these Coopertive Societies, the Committee recommended, inter alia, a Model Cooperative Law aimed at providing true Cooperative character to cooperatives by removing the restrictive provisions and to facilitate the growth of an Integrated Cooperative Structure.

The recommendations of the Committee were considered and accepted in Principle. It has been decided to replace the existing Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act on the lines of the Model Cooperative Law recommended by the Brahm Perkash Committee. Procedural formalities are being completed for replacement of the existing Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act, 1984.

Agriculture Science Centre

3760. SHRI ATMARAM BHAI PATEL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is essential to get the schemes approved by the Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) and to have the budget provision prior to sanctioning the fund to the Agriculture Science Centres;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Ministry has received complaints of irrigularities committed by the Indian Council for Agriculture Research regarding opening, closing and sanctioning fund to the Agriculture Science Centre; and

(d) if so, the action taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The EFC for the 9th Plan period for implementation of Agriculture Science Centres commonly known as Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) with budget provision was approved on 21.04.1999 prior to its sanction.

(c) and (d) The opening, closing and sanctioning of KVK are done with the approval of the competent authority of the Council.

Repayment of Land

3761. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of farmers/societies of various States benefited from Agriculture and Rural Cooperative Arrangement Scheme (Krishi Avam Gramin Sahkari Vyavastha Yojna);

(b) whether the Government propose to extend the benefit of the said scheme for the repayment of loan to the other Backward Class people also as is being done in the case of SC's and ST's who have taken loan from the nationalised banks; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO) : (a) There is no such scheme under operation in the Ministry of Agriculture.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Insured Persons Under ESIC

3762. SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) total number of employees insured under ESIC in the country;

(b) whether it is fact that not even 10 percent of the deserving employees are covered under ESIC Scheme;

(c) if so, the details alongwith the reasons thereof;

(d) the action taken to enlist almost all the deserving employees covered under the rules and regulation of ESIC; and

(e) the total number of employees received benefits during the years 1998-99-2000 according to the ESIC norms ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) to (d) As on 31.3.99 there were 80.85 Lakh employees covered under the ESI Scheme. In the notified areas the ESI Act/Scheme applies on its own volition. Accordingly the employers coverable under the ESI Scheme are required to pay the requisite contribution and get their employees insured under the ESI Scheme. Periodical inspections are made to detect defaulters who fail to report timely compliance under the ESI Scheme. Necessary legal and penal action is also taken against such defaulters.

(e) During 1998-99 and 1999-2000 a total of about 46.00 Lakh and 44.56 Lakh sickness and temporary disablement benefit payments were made to the insured persons respectively. During 1998-99 a total of 2.91 Crore visits by Insured Persons and 3.17 Crore visits by the family members were made to ESI Hospitals/dispensaries.

[Translation]

Exploitation of Labour

3763. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the large scale exploitaiton of labourers working in Gazipur Depot of Central Warehousing Corporation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) to (c) Labourers for Container Freight Stations and Inland Clearance Depots are provided by the Handling Transport Contractors appointed by the Central Warehousing Corporation who are required to obtain proper licence from the competent authorities. Some of the labourers engaged by the Handling and Transport contractor have filed a Writ Petition in the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi seeking regularization of their services in the Central Warehousing Corporation. The matter is subjudice.

[English]

ICAR Report on Agricultural Land

3764. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the agricultural lands are becoming deficient in micro-nutrients, soil health has degraded, moisture holding capacities have drastically been affected, even according to ICAR report for Punjab and Haryana;

(b) whether energy balance in agriculture has been disturbed and inspite to more and more of inputs productivity is declining;

(c) whether Canadian studies reveal that in modern system of agriculture energy input of non-renewable resources is 10, whereas output is only 1, what studies in this regard have been made on use of energy and water per kg. of wheat, rice, maize, sugarcane and others;

(d) the programme proposed to ractify imbalance of energy, mocro nutrients, soil health and moisture retention capacity; and

(e) since problems of small and medium farmers are quite-different, is there are programme for research suited to them ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. The requirement of energy for agricultural operations is going up. But, use of more inputs has not resulted in decline in productivity, barring few exceptions.

(c) Council is not aware of such Candian studies.

The average energy requirement per kg. of crop production is under :

Crop	Energy requirement (MJ)
Wheat	4.3-5.1
Rice	3.0-6.7
Maize	8.0-10
Sugarcane (Plant)	1.2-3.0
Mustard	8.2-9.3
Groundnut	5.7-12.2
Potato	2.2-5.5
Soybean	5.2-6.5
Pigeon Pea	4.0-5.0
Green Gram	6.0-8.0

The water requirement of wheat, rice, maize and sugarcane generally varies from 20-30, 75-120, 40-60 and 100-150 cm, respectively.

(d) New methods of commercial energy and proper supplementation and substitution with new and renewable resources of energy are being developed to reduce dependence of commercial energies.

Integrated use of farm yard manure, compost, green manures and bio-fertilisers with inorganic fertilizers and inclusion of legumes in the crop rotations are being advocated to restore soil mocro nutrient status, soil health and moisture retention capacity.

(e) On farm research programme are being taken up in mission mode ensuring greater participation of farming community using low cost technology and locally available resources.

Modification of Clause

3765. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) details of the certification of the clause 18 of the standing order of BCCL;

(b) whether any Trade Union was associated in that as required by loan law;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether it is a fact that the RLC (C) Dhanbad in his judgement modified the clause 18 by the management has gone on appeal against that; and

(e) if so, the steps taken on that?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) to (e) The General Secretary, Rashtriya Colliery Mazdoor Sangh (INTUC), Dhanbad had proposed modification in clause 18 besides other of certified Standing Orders of M/s. BCCL, Dhanbad. Clause 18(1) was not modified while clause 18(2) was slightly modified as it involved only grammatical correction. All the 32 Trade Unions were issued notice of which 15 Trade Unions' representatives were present on final hearing on 06.12.1999. The management has though filed an appeal before the Chief Labour Commissioner (Central), New Delhi and Appellate Authority vide appeal dated 25.1.2000 but it was not relating to clauses 18 and is for clause 7.1, 7.6, 16.2.2, 16.2.8, 16.4.6, 28.0 and 37.

[Translation]

Copper Technology Parks

3766. SHRI PUSP JAIN : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up Copper Technology Parks in the country particularly in Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action plan of the Rajasthan Government in this regard ?

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

MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

Safety to Workers

3767. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state

(a) whether it is fact that the workers of Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited in Calcutta are not getting personal safety equipment in time;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the effective steps taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Posting/Appointment

3768. DR. BALIRAM : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the SC/ST Parliamentarians in the representations submitted to the Prime Minister on 17.12.1996, 1.9.1997 and 23.7.98 have demanded posting/ appointment of adequate number of persons from SC and ST community as Heads/CMD and Official/Non-official Members of Board of Management/Governing Councils of the Public Sector Undertakings, Autonomous, statutory, Sub-Ordinate and Attached Offices of various Ministries and Depts;

(b) if so, action taken thereon;

(c) total number of posts in the rank of Heads/CMD/ Official/Non-official Members of Board of Management/ Governing Councils of the Public Sector Undertakings, Labour and number of persons from SC/ST community working against such posts as 1.1.1996 and 1.1.2000 and their percentage as compared to the total posts; and

(d) reasons if the demand of SC and ST Parliamentarians is not met satisfactorily?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) The Memoranda submitted by the Parliamentary Forum for SCs and STs urged the Government of India for taking comprehensive measures for development of persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes, inter-alia, requesting for posting of suitable persons belonging to the SCs/STs for posts of importance like Governors, Ambassadors, Members of Planning Commission, Secretaries to the Government of India, Members of the UPSC, PESB, Directors of PSUs etc.

(b) to (d) The policy as enunciated in the resolution No. 27(21)EO/86(ACC) dated 3.3.1987 constituting the Public Enerprises Selection Board (PESB) (the body which makes recommendation for appointment to board level posts in PSUs) is to appoint through a fair and objective selection procedure, outstanding professional managers to Level-I (Chief Executives) and Level-II (Directors) posts and posts at any other level as may be decided by the Government from time to time. Caste is not one of the criteria for selecting persons for appointments to the board level posts of PSUs. Therefore, information on the number of persons belonging to the SCs/STs among those appointed to board level posts in the PSUs is neither available nor maintained.

[Translation]

ESI Hospitals

3769. SHRI P.R. KHUNTE Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Number of ESI hospitals/dispensaries is adequate in the country for treatment of workers;

(b) if not, whether the government is likely to consider opening of more hospitals/dispensaries;

(c) the number of ESI hospitals/dispensaries available at present, State-wise;

(d) whether they are functioning properly and suitable arrangements have been made for their maintenance;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) to (c) There are 138 ESI hospitals and 1452 ESI dispensaries working in the country. A statement showing number of these hospitals/ dispensaries Statewise is enclosed. These hospitals/ dispensaries are considered adequate to meet medical care requirements of the insured persons covered under the ESI Scheme. New ESI hospitals/dispensaries are sanctioned/opened as and when a proposal in this regard

is submitted by the State Government and the same is found acceptable as per the norms prescribed by the ESI Corporation.

(d) to (f) The responsibility for administration of medical care under the ESI Scheme vests in the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations except in Delhi & Noida where it is being administered by the ESIC direct. Functioning of ESI hospitals/dispensaries is generally satisfactory. However, there have been sporadic complaints about shortage of doctors, nurses, medicines, dressings, equipments etc. in ESI hospitals/dispensaries. Such Complaints as and when received are forwarded to the concerned State Governments for taking appropriate remedial action. Necessary arrangement with the CPWD, PWD etc. has been made by the ESI Corporation and the State Governments for proper maintenance of ESI hospitals/dispensaries.

Statement

No. of ESI Hospitals and Dispensaries in the Country

Sl. No.	Name of the State	No. of Hospitals	No. of Dispensaries
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	10	133
2.	Assam	1	26
3.	Bihar	6	57
4.	Chandigarh Administration	–	2
5.	Delhi	4	49
6.	Goa	1	6
7.	Gujarat	11	124
8.	Haryana	5	69
9.	Himachal Pradesh	1	7
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	–	8
11.	Karnataka	9	151
12.	Kerala	13	136
13.	Madhya Pradesh	7	63
14.	Maharashtra	13	78
15.	Orissa	5	52
16.	Pondicherry	1	13
17.	Punjab	7	70
18.	Rajasthan	5	63
19.	Tamil Nadu	9	160
20.	Uttar Pradesh	16	147
21.	West Bengal	14	37
22.	Meghalaya	–	1
	Total	138	1452

[English]

Export of Isabgul

3770. SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether 40% of Isabgul is produced in North Gujarat are being exported to USA and Japan;

(b) whether there is no agro-based industries in North Gujarat;

(c) whether the above product is converted into Laxative Medicine in foreign countries; and

(d) if so, whether the Union Government propose to set up industrial units based on Isabgul in the country particularly in North Gujarat ?

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) There are around 32 agro-based industrial units producing Isabgul in North Gujarat.

(c) Yes, Sir. It is used as bulk forming laxative medicine in India and abroad.

(d) No Sir, in view of (b) above.

Growth of SSI

3771. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) the actual growth rate of SSI sector during each of the last three years;

(b) the export from SSI sector during each of the last three years;

(c) whether the Government have constituted a High Powered Committee recently to promote the growth of SSI sector; and

(d) if so, the time by which this committee is expected to submit its report ?

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 actual growth rate and exports in small scale industry sector at all India level during last three years are given below :

	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
Growth rate (%)	8.43	7.70	8.23*
Exports (Rs. Crore) (at current prices)	44442	48979	N.A.

*Projected.

(c) Perhaps the reference is to the Group of Ministers (GOM) constituted by the Government on 28th June, 2000, under the chairmanship of Shri L.K. Advani, Home Minister of SSI Sector.

(d) The deliberations of the GOM are not yet over.

[Translation]

Fund for SSI

3772. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY :
DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV :
SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR :

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

(a) whether the study group of Planning Commission has recommended to set up infrastructure and technology fund for Small Scale Industries;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto, alongwith the main objectives for setting up of the above funds;

(c) the total amount involved in the above funds;

(d) whether the funds are likely to be utilised during 2000-2001;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) to (f) Yes, Sir. The study group of Planning Commission headed by Dr. S.P. Gupta in its interim report has recommended, inter alia, the setting up of Infrastructure Development Fund of Small Scale Enterprices (SSEs) with a corpus of around Rs. 2000 crore to help States/UTs in creating, revamping and upgrading the industrial infrastructure. The Study Group has also recommended making available the funds for technology upgradation and modernisation of SSEs at concessional rate of interest as is available under Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme for modernisation of the textile sector. These recommendations are being examined by the Government.

[English]

Poverty Line Definition

3773. SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the definition of poverty line in India and its comparison with the definition as prevalent in developed countries;

(b) the names of the items in the consumption basket;

(c) whether the Government are aware of inter-personal and intra-personal variation;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the difference between people living below poverty line both at the National and State level; and

(f) the measures being taken to bridge the gap between the two ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF

ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) The Planning Commission based on the recommendations of the Expert Group on Estimation of Proportion and Number of Poor (Lakdawala Committee), uses state-specific poverty lines, derived from the national level poverty lines, using state-specific price indices and inter-state price differentials. The national poverty lines are expressed as monthly per capita consumption expenditure of Rs. 49.09 in rural areas and 56.64 in urban areas at 1973-74 prices corresponding to a basket of goods and services anchored on a norm of per capita daily calorie requirement of 2400 kcal in rural areas and 2100 kcal in urban areas. For developed countries, the World Bank has used the poverty line of two U.S. dollars per day of income or consumption at 1985 prices, adjusted for purchasing power parity.

(b) The items in the consumption basket contained in the National Samples Survey data on consumer expenditure in 1993-94 (NSS 50th Round) are given below :

1. Careals
2. Gram
3. Cereal substitutes
4. Pulses and Products
5. Milk and Milk Products
6. Edible oil
7. Meat, Egg and Fish
8. Vegetables
9. Fruits (Fresh)
10. Fruits (Dry)
11. Sugar
12. Salt
13. Spices
14. Beverages etc.
15. Pan, Tobacco and Intoxicants
16. Fuel and Light
17. Clothing
18. Footwear
19. Durable goods
20. Miscellaneous Goods and Services

(c) and (d) The Natioinal Sample Survey Organisation in its report on Level and Pattern of Consumer Expenditure has published the data on consumer expenditure at the level of households. Data at the personal level are not available.

(e) The per capita consumption expenditure of people below and above the poverty line at national and state level for the year 1993-94 are given in the enclosed statement.

(f) The gap between the consumption expenditure of the poor and non-poor are attempted to be bridged by increasing the income of the people living below the poverty line that occur from the joint impact of general growth process and direct income generation of the poor arising from various anti-poverty programmes introduced from time to time by the Government for their upliftment.

Statement

Per Capita Consumption Expenditure—1993-94
(Rs. Per month)

States	Rural		Urban	
	Poor	Non-Poor	Poor	Non-Poor
Andhra Pradesh	133.98	318.00	212.42	530.53
Assam	189.80	314.03	191.48	480.95
Bihar	158.86	301.10	185.40	441.32
Gujarat	166.14	342.42	332.59	539.88
Haryana	187.39	461.94	212.00	525.23
Himachal Pradesh	191.18	420.08	221.81	800.01
Karnataka	147.88	321.16	218.08	560.65
Kerala	191.50	459.43	219.84	582.98
Madhya Pradesh	148.42	322.93	229.87	575.07
Maharashtra	147.69	349.03	234.64	689.78
Orissa	147.79	291.00	217.75	534.39
Punjab	196.08	465.15	218.23	548.18
Rajasthan	170.95	376.88	218.40	515.24
Tamil Nadu	152.94	361.29	221.81	581.23
Uttar Pradesh	161.16	356.36	193.30	496.15
West Bengal	176.91	348.99	199.11	553.64
All India	159.18	354.01	212.82	575.36

Central Food Training Research Centre

3774. SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL :
SHRI ARUN KUMAR :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to open branches of the Mysore based Central Food Training Research Institute in the country;

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

(c) whether the Government have formulated any programme for development of post-harvest technologies for fruits and vegetable sector in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TH. CHAOBA SINGH) : (a) While the Central Food Technological Research Institute (CFTRI), Mysore has already six regional centers located at Ludhiana, Lucknow, Mumbai, Nagpur, Hyderabad, and Mangalore besides a liaison office at Bangalore, there are no plans to open up more branches of CFTRI.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The plan schemes operated by the Department of Food Processing Industries are for the development of processed food sector. One of the schemes envisages financial assistance for Research and Development facilities for Food Processing Industries including fruit and vegetable processing sector. Under this scheme a Food Engineering Centre has been set up in CFTRI, Mysore to meet the demand of the industry in the following areas :

(i) development of new products.

(ii) development, scale up and optimization of processes.

(iii) solving in-plant problems and trouble shooting.

(iv) preparation of technical reports, design data for plant and machinery.

(v) specialized in-plant training programmes.

(vi) turn-key assignments for total projects.

CFTRI has developed some innovative techniques/ technologies in the field of post harvest management which include modified atmosphere packaging, controlled atmospheric packaging, antifungal paste and waste emulsion treatment etc.

Financial Assistance to KVIC

3775. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received any request to reintroduce the system to extend financial assistance to Khadi and Village Industries Commission by way of loans which was discontinued in 1995; and

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

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

(b) Requests have been made to reintroduce the pattern approach instead of the project approach under the margin Money Scheme. The request cannot be agreed to as the KVIC is not percieved as a Financial Institution. Besides, the present system uses bank credit in addition to the govt. grants, for the implementation of the projects.

CBI Cases

3776. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the accused acquitted in the cases filed by CBI during the last three years;

(b) whether the Government propose to take steps to compensate the persons who faced harrassment in these cases; 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) The number of accused acquitted/discharged in cases filed by CBI during the last three years is as follows :-

1997	-	248
1998	-	307
1999	-	463
2000 (upto 30.6.2000)	-	143

(b) and (c) There is no provision in law for grant of compensation to accused persons in such cases. However, on conclusion of trials by the courts, analysis of all court judgements resulting in acquittal or discharge is undertaken. In all those cases where flaws in investigation are pointed out, the CBI initiates action against officials found at fault. But in cases where the CBI is of the view that evidence on record has not been properly assessed by the court, appeals are filed in the higher courts.

DMS Milk

3777. DR. S. VENUGOPAL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-items captioned "Supply Brahane ki Sari Koshis Nakam" appearing in Hindustan dated July 18, 2000;

(b) if so, the details of daily net sale and returned milk for the last six months and per litre losses;

(c) whether the Government are aware that pilferage of milk and plastic crates from Delhi Milk Scheme factory has increased;

(d) if so, the details of shortage of milk quantity and plastic crates; and

(e) what action has been taken against the concerned official for negligence ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The details of daily net sale and returned milk for the last six months is as under :-

(Figure in lakh litre per day)

Month	Average daily net sale of milk	Average daily return of milk
1	2	3
February, 2000	4.01	0.03
March, 2000	2.44	023
April, 2000	2.23	0.16
May, 2000	2.08	0.28
June, 2000	2.01	0.27
July, 2000	2.13	0.21

The average loss is 14 millilitre per litre of milk handled.

(c) No such case has been noticed.

(d) and (e) Not applicable in view of (c) above.

Misuse of Oxytocin

3778. SHRI RASHID ALVI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have so far not cleared the use of RBGH is milch animals for increasing milk production in the country;

(b) whether despite widespread misuse of oxytocin for let down in milk, its use has been banned in the country as it causes many harmful effects both in animals and to milk consumers as per People for Animals reports and website PFA; and

(c) whether the Government are aware that EU have very recently banned the use of rBGH in view of the R and D findings all over the world indicating many serious doubts on the need of rBGH and its many harmful effects both in animals and consumers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir. Department of Biotechnology have informed that rBGH seems to have been banned in Europe and Canada.

Expenditure on NATP and Bio-Technology Programme

3779. SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of funds spend on NATP and Biotechnology Programme in agriculture and agriculture related activities in the country during the last three years;

(b) the achievement made under the programmes, State-wise;

(c) whether funds provided for the said programme are lying unutilized in various States;

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

(e) the accountability fixed in this connection ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Below Poverty Line

3780. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state

(a) the number and percentage of people in the Northern States are living the below poverty line and the comparative figures for each State and UT as also the national average; and

(b) the steps taken and being taken to lift these States up to the national level ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) The latest estimate of number and percentage of people below the poverty line in the Northern States available for the year 1993-94 are given in enclosed Statement-I. The figures for other states and UTs are given in enclosed Statement-II.

(b) There is a three-pronged action to alleviate and reduce the poverty in the country. These are: (i) acceleration of economic growth, (ii) 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 (iii) direct attack on poverty through employment and income generating programmes and assets-building for the poor.

Statement-I

Number and Percentage of Population Below Poverty Line in Northern States — 1993-94

Sl.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.	Haryana	36.56	28.02	7.31	16.38	43.88	25.05
2.	Himachal Pradesh	15.40	30.34	0.46	9.18	15.86	28.44
3.	Jammu and Kashmir	19.05	30.34	1.86	9.18	20.92	25.17
4.	Punjab	17.76	11.95	7.35	11.35	25.11	11.77
5.	Rajasthan	94.68	26.46	33.82	30.49	128.50	27.41
6.	Uttar Pradesh	496.17	42.28	108.28	35.39	604.46	40.85
7.	Chandigarh	0.07	11.35	0.73	11.35	0.80	11.35
8.	Delhi	0.19	1.90	15.32	16.03	15.51	14.69
	All India	2440.31	37.27	763.37	32.36	3203.68	35.97

N.B.

1. Urban Poverty Ratio of Punjab used for both rural and urban poverty of Chandigarh.

2. Poverty Ratio of Himachal Pradesh is used for Jammu and Kashmir.

Statement-II

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

Sl.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.	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.	Karnataka	95.99	29.88	60.46	40.14	156.46	33.16
8.	Kerala	55.95	25.76	20.46	24.55	76.41	25.43
9.	Madhya Pradesh	216.19	40.64	82.33	48.38	298.52	42.52
10.	Maharashtra	193.33	37.93	111.90	35.15	305.22	36.86
11.	Manipur	6.33	45.01	0.47	7.73	6.80	33.78
12.	Meghalaya	7.09	45.01	0.29	7.73	7.38	37.92
13.	Mizoram	1.64	45.01	0.30	7.73	1.94	25.66
14.	Nagaland	4.85	45.01	0.20	7.73	5.05	37.92
15.	Orissa	140.90	49.72	19.70	41.64	160.60	48.56
16.	Sikkim	1.81	45.01	0.03	7.73	1.84	41.43
17.	Tamil Nadu	121.70	32.48	80.40	39.77	202.10	35.03
18.	Tripura	11.41	45.01	0.38	7.73	11.79	39.01
19.	West Bengal	209.90	40.80	44.66	22.41	254.56	35.66
20.	Andaman and Nicobar	0.73	32.48	0.33	39.77	1.06	34.47
21.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.72	51.95	0.06	39.93	0.77	50.84
22.	Daman and Diu	0.03	5.34	0.15	27.03	0.18	15.80
23.	Lakshadweep	0.06	25.78	0.08	24.55	0.14	25.04
24.	Pondicherry	0.93	32.48	2.38	39.77	3.31	37.40
	All India	2440.31	37.27	763.37	32.36	3203.68	35.97

1. Poverty Ratio of Assam is used for Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Manipur, Nagaland and Tripura.
2. Poverty Ratio of Tamil Nadu is used for Pondicherry and A and N Island.
3. Poverty Ratio of Kerala is used for Lakshadweep.
4. Poverty Ratio of Goa is used for Daman and Diu.
5. Poverty Line of Maharashtra and expenditure distribution of Goa is used to estimate poverty ratio of Goa.
6. Poverty Line of Maharashtra and expenditure distribution of Dadra and Nagar Haveli is used to estimate poverty ratio of Dadra and nagar Haveli.

Employment for Displaced Persons from Sri Lanka

3781. DR. A.D.K. JAYASEELAN : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up new industries for providing employment for persons who have been displaced from Sri Lanka;

(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) No, Sir.

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

(c) Displaced persons who have been categorised as refugees, have been given temporary shelter alongwith various facilities in India in Camps with the express idea of repatriating them at the appropriate time.

12.01 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Rehabilitation Council of India, New Delhi, for the year 1998-99, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English version) by the Government of the working of the Rehabilitation Council of India, New Delhi, for the year 1998-99.

(2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 2214/2000]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, POUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table :

(1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of section 3 of the All India Services Act, 1951:-

(i) The Indian Administrative Service (Appointment by Promotion) Amendment Regulations, 2000 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 633(E) in Gazette of India dated the 25th July, 2000.

(ii) The Indian Police Service (Appointment by Promotion) Amendment Regulations, 2000 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 634(E) in Gazette of India dated the 25th July, 2000.

(iii) The Indian Forest Service (Appointment by Promotion) Amendment Regulations, 2000 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 635(E) in Gazette of India dated the 25th July, 2000.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2215/2000]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Central (Amendment) Rules, 2000 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 574(E) in Gazette of India dated the 30th June, 2000 under sub-section (3) of section 35 of the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act 1970.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2216/2000]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:

(1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956 :-

(i) Review by the Government of the working of the Jammu and Kashmir Horticultural Produce Marketing and Processing Corporation Limited, Srinagar, for the year 1989-90.

(ii) Review Report of the Jammu and Kashmir Horticultural Produce Marketing and Processing Corporation Limited, Srinagar, for the year 1989-90.

(iii) Annual Report of the Jammu and Kashmir Horticultural Produce Marketing and Processing Corporation Limited, Srinagar, for the year 1989-90, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2217/2000]

12.01 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC UNDERTAKINGS

Statement

[English]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a statement (Hindi and English versions) showing Action Taken by Government on the recommendations contained in Chapter I and final replies in respect of recommendations contained in Chapter V of Ninth Report of Committee Public Undertakings (Eleventh Lok Sabha) on Burn Standard Company Limited.

12.02 hrs.

DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS – GENERAL

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): Sir, I beg to present a statement (Hindi and English versions) showing the Supplementary Demands for Grants in respect of Budget (General) for 2000-2001.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2218/2000]

12.2½ hrs.

DEMANDS FOR EXCESS GRANTS – GENERAL

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : Sir, I beg to present a statement (Hindi and English verions) showing the Demands for Excess Grants in respect of Budget (General) for 1997-98.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2219/2000]

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : There is a Bill to be introduced by the Minister of Civil Aviation If the House agrees, it could be taken up before the 'zero hour'.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : We agree.

[Translation]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj) : There is a plan to disinvest your office itself, what will you do by introducing the Bill. I feel very unhappy to see you. I have also sympathy with you, what can I do?

12.03 hrs.

AIRCRAFT (AMENDMENT) BILL*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Aircraft Act, 1934.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Aircraft Act, 1934."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : Sir, I introduce the Bill.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to bring two matters to the attention of the House. After the House adjourned on Friday, there has been a recess of four days. During this recess, we read in the newspapers about the distinguished Minister of Communications Shri Ram Vilas Paswan announcing a new policy decision in regard to privatisation of STD to enable the entry of multinationals and others into the sector. This is not proper. Propriety demands that policy decisions are announced in the House when the House is in session. The Minister could have made this annoucement today and could have avoided keeping the entire House in the dark. I, therefore, request that a direction be given to the Government not to repeat this in future.

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* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2 dated 16.8.2000.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hoogly): Sir, I associate myself with the hon. Member on this issue. The Minister should not have made this announcement during the recess.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : The other matter that I would like to bring to the notice of the House is a very important matter. It is not a matter of a party opinion or a political opinion. I hope the Government would respond to this after I conclude. This relates to Vishwa Bharati.

Gurdev Rabindranath Tagore handed over the copyright to Vishwa Bharti. Vishwa Bharti is seeking protection from the Government for thier copyright which would expire sometime next year.

MR. SPEAKER : Now, you are raising two matters and not one.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : I think, the Government should consider not to make misuse of the commercial use of these things. It is not linked with Tagore only, it is linked with the whole Visva Bharti's heritage and traditions. It is not my party's view. It is my individual view.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, this matter has been approached by the Students Union of the Visva Bharati, syndicate and the Vice Chancellor that they should be given more funds for the multi-lingual translation of Tagore literatures.

So, the Government should consider in right earnest to expand the copyright period also.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : It is regarding the statement of the Government outside the House when the House is already in Session. On a number of occasions, the Government has done like this. . . . *(Interruptions)* The Minister should not make any policy statement outside the House when the House is already in Session. . . .*(Interruptions)* But they are in the habit of making the statements outside the House even when the House is in Session. . . .*(Interruptions)* They cannot make policy statements outside the House when the House is in Session. . . .*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PROMOD MAHAJAN) : Sir, as far as the opening of national long distance telephony is concerned, this was announced by the hon. Prime Minister on the 15th July, 2000 in the IT Ministers' Conference itself. So, firstly it is not a new thing *(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : No. . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Will you allow me to complete ? . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : This is not good. Let him complete first.

(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : You must allow me to complete first. . . .*(Interruptions)* Sir, he is not allowing me even to complete one sentence. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Basu Deb Acharia, please take your seat. Let him complete first.

(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : What is this Sir? He is not ready to allow me to speak even a single sentence. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Let him complete his reply.

(Interruptions)

MR SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record except what the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs speaks.

*(Interruptions)**

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Let me complete my submission. Then, if you want to ask something, with the permission of the hon Speaker, you can do so. . . *(Interruptions)* But you are not allowing the Minister to speak even one sentence. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Rupchand Pal, let him complete first.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Sir, what I am trying to say is that as far as the opening of national long distance telephony is concerned, it was announced by the hon. Prime Minister. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : But not on the floor of the House. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Now, please allow me to speak. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Rupchand Pal, this is not the 'Question Hour'. This is 'Zero Hour'. Let the hon. Minister complete his reply. What is this ?

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : You are not allowing me to complete even one sentence. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Now, he is allowing. Please continue.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Sir, this House has been meeting since 24th July onwards. First thing, it is not

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*Not recorded.

a policy decision. It is not a policy at all. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : What are you saying? Is it not a policy decision ? . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Do not shout You have to listen to me first. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Rupchand Pal, please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Sir, he is not allowing me to complete even one sentence.

As far as the opening of national long distance telephony is concerned, it was announced by the hon. Prime Minister on the 15th July, 2000 in the IT Ministers' Conference. Secondly, the only thing he said was that, "as far as the details are concerned, the guidelines will be announced before the 15th August, 2000." He has given a time limit for the DoT to complete it.

So, in this regard the hon. Minister of Communications had only announced the guidelines for opening of national long distance telephony. So, there is no breach of propriety. .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is not correct. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : The hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs has made it clear that the hon. Minister of Communications had announced only in regard to guidelines.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : No, Sir. . . .*(Interruptions)* We can see how this House is being treated by the Government when it is already in Session. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA (Guna) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are some very healthy norms and conventions that have been laid down, which guide this Parliament for the last over 50 years.

I would request the Government not to hide behind the commas, full stops and technicalities. . . .*(Interruptions)*

Please listen to me. I listened to you very quietly. You are violating the very principle that you are trying to lay down. .*(Interruptions)*

This debate whether this is a guideline or this is a policy can go on endlessly. All of us feel very definitely that it is such an important fundamental issue that it becomes a policy. However, we may have a difference of opinion. But there is a spirit in which this Parliament is conducted.

Time and time again – this is not the first time – over the last six to eight months, at least, there have been several occasions when after a Cabinet meeting there is a Press briefing in which Shri Pramod Mahajan, who is the spokesman for the Cabined, briefs the Press when Parliament is in Session. I do not think that this is a very healthy practice. Therefore, I would request the Government to understand the spirit that has guided this Parliament and in that spirit, rather than hide behind technicalities, come forth in a candid fashion and announce whatever it wants to announce in Parliament. . . .*(Interruptions)*

You could have announced this on last Friday too. If you wanted to announce it before the 15th of August, you could have announced it on the last Friday, which was the last sitting of Parliament before the 15th of August. You did not do so. My request to you is to please keep those conventions and healthy practices in mind. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Sir, has this sovereign House not the right to know of such a major policy decision when Parliament is in Session? . . .*(Interruptions)*

I could have cited any number of examples of what is happening that involves the national security concerns. This House is being ignored and denigrated. You are the custodian of this House. We seek your protection. This Government should be told in the fittest language that they have no right to denigrate this house. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN Sir, as far as the conventions are concerned, I totally agree with the Deputy-Leader of the Congress Party that any political party, whether in power or in the opposition, should respect these traditions.

As far as the second issue about the Cabinet meetings is concerned, you would also appreciate that Parliament meets for four or five weeks. In the Budget Session, we meet for about two to two-and-a-half months. Naturally, the Cabinet meetings take place during these periods and we do brief the Press. I would like to recall here the instance of the Agriculture Policy. Though the Policy was cleared by the Cabinet, we did not announce at the Press Conference what the Agriculture Policy was. We only said that the Policy had been cleared and since Parliament was in Session, Parliament would have the first right to know what the Policy was. So, wherever the word policy comes in, technically or otherwise, we never announce it. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : This is also a policy.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Let me complete.

At the same time, you would appreciate that you cannot stop the briefings after the Cabinet meetings. Otherwise, there would only be speculations next day in the newspapers. So, it is not proper. We must inform them wherever there are administrative decisions. Barring administrative decisions, all policy decisions would first be communicated to Parliament and nobody else.

Lastly, as I have already said, as far as the issue in question today is concerned, the hon. Prime Minister had already announced that before the House met and the implementation of it is not a policy decision. . . . *(Interruptions)*

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : What about the right of this sovereign House to know what major decisions are going to be taken? . . .*(Interruptions)* What about this House? . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record now.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : Shiri Vijay Goel, the hon. Minister has already replied.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI (Khajuraho): I have also give notice. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : If you will cooperate to the chair, I will call all of you, otherwise the problem will arise.

[English]

SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR (Akola) : Sir, I am thankful to you, I am raising a very important issue. This is regarding the hoisting of the national flag. . . . *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL (Kanpur) : Sir, it is a very serious matter. . . .*(Interruptions)* We may also given time. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I have received notices from all, and will give time to each one.

[English]

SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR : In the year 1949, there was an agreement between Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and the RSS, in which it was clearly stated that on the 26th of January 1950 when all the political prisoners were to be released, the RSS will hoist our national flag at their Nagpur Headquarters.

12.16 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

Time and again, there have been agitations from various quarters. I will not go into the past history; but the year before last, an all party meeting took place at Nagpur, in which a decision was taken that if the RSS does not hoist the flag at their national headquarters, the party workers will go and hoist the flag at the Nagpur Headquarters of the RSS. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VIJAY GOEL (Chandni Chowk) : Sir, what is the motion? . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Hon. Speaker has allowed him.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Hon. Speaker has given him permission.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : What is the subject, please let us know. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR : Sir, last year when all party workers went there to hoist national flag they were lathi charged. 10-15 people were injured and they were hospitilised for 15 days. But in spite of all these things national flag was hoisted there. This year also when workers tried to hoist the flag. . . .*(Interruptions)* National flag be hoisted at Nagpur Headquarter of RSS. .*(Interruptions)* there was a protest against this. . . . *(Interruptions)* I urge upon the Government to give their statement. . . .*(Interruptions)* Whether RSS, a partner of the Government, a coalition in the Government, accept the national flag or not? . . .*(Interruptions)* This is the question of the House. . . .*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI ANIL BASU (Arambagh) : Sir, this is a very serious issue. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I am on my legs. Please sit down, Shri Goel.

(Interruptions)

*Not recorded.

[Translation]

SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR : The torch bearer of this country. . . .*(Interruptions)* is Minister of Home Affairs Murli Manohar Joshi Jee. . . .*(Interruptions)* I would like to know from the Government whether it will keep its relations with them. . . .*(Interruptions)* Who do not recognise the National Flag. . . .*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I have given the floor to Shri Prakash Ambedkar.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Prakash Ambedkar, you have been given the floor. Please speak in brief.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Ramdas Athawale, if you interrupt, you will not be getting a chance.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Hon. Speaker has allowed Shri Prakash Ambedkar to speak. You are not allowing him to speak.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : MR. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, Hon. Speaker has disallowed his adjournment motion. . *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : If you behave like this, how can I conduct the House. Shri Vijay Goel, please sit down.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You allow him to speak. You are not allowing even me to speak.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : All of you will get a chance provided you do not interrupt. He has been already called by the Speaker. You are not allowing him to speak.

(Interruptions)

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*Not recorded.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Hon. Members, will you please allow me to speak ?

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : How can I conduct the House if you behave like this ?

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Hon Members, will you allow me to speak ?

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record except Shri Prakash Ambedkar's speech.

(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR : Sir, those Ministers and Members who are not aware of it, may please refer to Home Ministry's Resolution dated 26th November, 1949. . . .*(Interruptions)* There they will find that there is an agreement between RSS and Sardar Vallabhai Patel which very clearly states that RSS will hoist the national flag on 26th January, 1950 at its Nagpur headquarters. . . .*(Interruptions)* From that day onwards, the RSS has never hoisted the national flag at its Nagpur headquarters. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Prakash Ambedkar, this is 'Zero Hour'. What do you want the Central Government to do ?

(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR: Sir, the RSS celebrates 14th August which is the Independence Day of Pakistan. . . .*(Interruptions)* For those who want a proof of it, I would like to say that one of their MLAs Shri Gosalia got his hand burnt while lighting the fire of celebration on 14th August. . . .*(Interruptions)* This is a matter of national importance. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : What do you want the Central Government to do ?

(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR : Yesterday, when all-party workers went to hoist the national flag at RSS headquarters, Nagpur, they were prevented from hoisting the flag. . . .*(Interruptions)*

Sir, it is a shame that the National Flag could not be hoisted by one of the political parties. The House should take cognisance of this. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now, Shri Ramji Lal Suman will speak.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Athawale, there is a limit.

(Interruptions)

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN (Coochbehar) : Sir, this is a very serious matter. We would like to know the reaction of the Minister. Let the Government react? . *(Interruptions)* Sir, this is a very serious matter. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, this is an insult to the National Flag by RSS. . . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Thomas, I have called Shri Ramji Lal Suman. I did not call you. If you do like this, I will not call you. I will not call you if you impose yourself on me.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Athawale, you will not get chance today. Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (Miryalguda) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, is it proper for the Government not to react to the reported incident which involves insult to the National Flag? The Government should react. *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Reddy, can I direct the Government to react ?

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER Now, the Minister is responding.

[Translation]

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, whether it is political organisation, or non-political organisation or common man, they should hoist the tricolour flag on the top of their houses or in open space. It should be unfurled all over the day and do so, with pride and furl with pride.

[English]

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (Calcutta North West) : Sir, the District Headquarter of CPI(M) did not hoist the National Flag on 15th August. . . .*(Interruptions)*

*Not recorded.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Sudip Bandyopadhyay, let the Minister complete.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : What is this happening ? Nothing will go on record, except the statement of the Minister.

*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : What is this happening today? Peace must prevail after four days of holiday.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I have been associated with the Sangh since childhood. I can authoritatively say that on thousands of offices of the Sangh in the country flag is unfurled on 15th of August and 26th of January. . . .*(Interruptions)* I may be allowed to conclude. . . .*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record, except the Minister's statement.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : When he is replying, you do not want to hear him.

[Translation]

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : If Shri Prakash Ambedkar is so much interested about Nagpur office than I may take him there on 26th of January and by his hand can get the flag unfurled. There is nothing to worry about it. You proceed. . . .*(Interruptions)* There is no problem in it. You must not take political mileage out of it.

[English]

I would like to make one more point. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record except the Minister's intervention.

*(Interruptions)**

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Lastly I would like to say that there may be many offices belonging to different political parties; there may be many individuals including Members of Parliament who have residences in their constituencies or here. I do not see every Member of Parliament having a national flag on top of his house. That

*Not recorded.

does not mean that he is not a patriot. It would be a foolish thing to even point it out. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now Shri Ramji Lal Suman. Except his submission, nothing will go on record.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, on 21st of May in Mathura Refinery. . . . *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I am taking note of all those people who are interrupting. Even if their names are here, I will not call them tc speak. I am announcing it here.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Ramdas Athawale, please resume your seat.

[Translation]

I have seen the members who are interrupting the proceedings. Even if they find place in the list, I will not call them.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the fire broke out in the chimney of Mathura refinery on 21st of May. This is a very serious incident. Four months back also the fire broke out in Mathura refinery and before that, in July, 1988 also the fire broke out there.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Ramjilal jee, do not make a speech. You come on the subject and what do you expect from the Government?

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN : I am not making a speech. I am telling you about such a big incident. Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, often Mathura refinery catches fire. No effective precautionary measures have been taken by the Government. If in the future no precaution is taken to control the fire in Mathura refinery, the neighbouring districts of Mathura i.e. Agra, Bharatpur etc. will come in its fold.

Through you, I request the Government to take precautionery measures to avoid recurrence of fire and to control it, if it happens, with latest methods. . *(Interruptions)*

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*Not recorded.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : If you interrupt in this way, I shall not give you a chance. I shall call everyone, why do you behave like this ?

[English]

SHRI SURESH KURUP (Kottayam) : Sir, for the last three weeks, there is constant fluctuation in the value of the rupee. It has been continuously falling down against the dollar and has touched an all-time low. In spite of the reported measures taken by the Reserve Bank of India, there is widespread apprehension that the trend may continue. This is going to create large scale inflation. The Government seems to believe that this fluctuation regarding the down-sliding of the rupee is good for the economy. Till this moment, the Government has not come before the House and made a statement. I think every section of the House will agree with me that the Finance Minister should come before the House and made a statement today itself as to what measures he has taken regarding this issue. The Minister for Parliamentary Affairs should respond to this point. This is a very serious matter. The sliding-down has been continuing for the last three weeks. . . .*(Interruptions)* Sir, kindly direct the Minister to make a statement on this subject.

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA (Delhi Sadar) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I would like that Hon. Minister of Finance should make a statement in the House over the record fall in the value of rupee. The enterpreneurs are concerned about their future due to hullabaloo in Indian industry at present as a result of record fall in the value of Indian rupee as compared at that of dollar. During the last financial year, the fall was 2.77% whereas between April and August itself this year, the fall has been 5.20%. In the forex market, people are queuing up to buy dollars. It is a common rumour that certain industrial houses have taken the forward exposure i.e. betting is going on in money market. Due to fall in the value of rupee in money market, foreign exchange reserve is falling down. We are having the adverse balance of payment and foreign debt is increasing by itself. Because of the import of technology in Indian Industry the raw material is getting costlier. As a whole the economy is feeling the pressure of inflation. RBI controls the currency and its exchange rate. Therefore, our request is that the Government must intervene immediately and the Union Minister of Finance should made a statement in the House in this regrd. . . *(Interruptions)* Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, Hon. Minister of Parliamentary affairs is sitting here. This is a very serious matter, he should respond in this regard.

[English]

SHRI SURESH KURUP : Sir, a very important issue has been raised. The Minister should make a response on this matter.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, do you want to respond?

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : He is not ready to respond to your point.

[Translation]

SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI (Jodhpur) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards Indian Wild Life Act, 1972. My constituency Jodhpur is a Bishnoi dominated area and wild animal roam their freely. Bishnoi community has always protected wild animals. On the noon of August 12, a hunter attacked a deer. A youth named Shri Ganga Ram Bishnoi belonging to Bishnoi community opposed the effort and the hunter shot him and the youth breathed his last. Sir, this is the third incident of this kind during the last two years. People of Bishnoi community are sacrificing their lives to save the deers. We have been demanding repeatedly from the Government of Rajasthan in this regard. But the challans related to the responsible persons in the case are not being produced in time as a result of which they are acquitted without being punished. Government of Rajasthan should comply with the Wild Life Act 1972, but the government is not doing so.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, except Sancturies in Rajasthan wild animals can only be seen in Bishnoi dominated areas.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, Bishnoi's do not hesitate in sacrificing their lives for protecting wild animls but since the Act 1972 is not being strictly followed, so wild animals cannot be properly protected. At the same time no effort is being made to protect the youths working for the protection of wild animals. No action is being taken against the persons who are killing them. While there are provisions in the laws and rules and regulations even then the government of Rajasthan is not taking any action against the hunters. Through you I demand from the Union Government that it should issue instructions to the Government of Rajasthan to adhere to the laws, protect the wild animals and Bishnoi community engaged in the protection of wild animals.

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, Kanpur is the biggest industrial town of Uttar Pradesh. There are many big and small industries in Kanpur and majority of the workers earn their living by working in these industries.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, an unfortunate incident happened there on the night of August 14 and I think such incident had not occured in the history of Uttar Pradesh earlier. On the most busy Arya Nagar. Crossing in Kanpur two bumbs blasted. Four people were killed and many injured as a result thereof.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the Superintendent of Police and DIG say that these blasts were in line with the blasts exploded by Kashmiri terrorists. No person has been arrested so far and it is not known with whose conviance these blasts were done.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, through you I demand that the Home Minister should make a statement in the House as to whether these bomb blasts were of the same nature as were blasted by Kashmiri terrorists and if so the manner in which the Uttar Pradesh government would protect the state from the terrorism I demand that the hon. Home Minister after getting information from Uttar Pradesh Government should make a statement in the House.

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (Gopalganj) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, at the time of independence Bihar was the second biggest sugar producing state of the country. At that time there were about thirty two sugar mills in our state. Out of these twenty nine were in North Bihar and ten in Central Bihar. At present, twenty two sugar mills have been closed down and as a result of this thousands of labourers and lakhs of cane grower farmers are on the verge of starvation.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I have to inform with distress that not even a single sugar mill has been established after independence in the second biggest state. I would urge upon the government that sugar mills should be set up in Gopalganj, Sivan, Mujaffarpur, Vaishali, Shivhar and Sitamarhi so that the farmers may be benefited.

[English]

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY (Chhapra) : Sir, I would like to rise a very important matter relating to a Member. Please give me two minutes. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : On 7th August, there was a peaceful meeting near the Kharagpur Station. The information for holding that meeting was given to the divisional Railway Manager, Kharagpur. The Railway Protection Force brutally attacked the youth and the teachers who gathered there. Even the respected leader of the Teachers' Association was also not spared. The President of the Democratic Youth Federation was also assaulated. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY: Sir, it is about the GRP. The GRP is a State police . . . *(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : It is not the GRP. But it is the Railway Protection Force. Hundreds of youth and students were holding peaceful meeting and demonstration. The Railway Protection Force brutally attacked the peaceful meeting and the domonstrators holding the demonstration. . . .*(Interruptions)* After that, two offices, one belonging to the AITUC and the other belonging to the CITU were ransacked.

Sir, I demand that an inquiry should be ordered as to why that action was taken and as to why the peaceful meeting was attacked. Action against the RPF personnel, who are responsible for that brutal attack, should be taken. .*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER Shri Basu Deb Acharia, whenever you get a chance, you deliver a speech in the Zero Hour also.

[Translation]

SHRI SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL (Varanasi) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, Varanasi is the most important cultural, music and literature city. While it has been the origin of artists and literary personalities, it is very unfortunate that Doordarshan Centre has been established here with very delay which is very essential for the development of arts. Many times the attention of the House has been drawn towards this and after much efforts a doordarshan studio has been set up but only half an hour time has been allotted in National Network in a week to the programmes prepared here and it is not only mockery but disrespect to the artists, dramatists, literary personalities and intellectuals. In this studio there is lack of such competent technicians who can lend international touch to the art of Banaras. Still there is no metro channel and people feel distressed. Through you, we demand. *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : What would you like to urge upon the Government ?

SHRI SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL : I would urge upon the Minister of Information and Broadcasting that the programmes of Varanasi Doordarshan Centre should be allotted more time in National Network.

[English]

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL (Patan): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, thank you very much for giving me an opportunity. Through you, I want to bring to the notice of the hon. Minister present here that the entire country is aware about the loss done to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribe employees and students on account of the five nasty circulars issued by the DoPT from January, 1997 to August, 1998. The hon. Prime Minister has given assurances more than four times in this regard. . . .*(Interruptions)* Yesterday also, the hon. Prime Minister referred to one of the amendments passed in this august House. I am extremely sorry that in spite of the entire House voting for the said amendment, it is not implemented in the field and the assurances of passing legislation to undo the remaining four DoPT circulars is yet awaited by the lakhs and lakhs of employees and students all over the country. I want that the Government should bring an approproate legislation in the form of the Reservation Act, which is the only solution, so that the courts are not allowed to intervene as far as the Fundmental Rights and the Constitutional Rights of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes are concerned.

MR DEPUTY-SPEAKER Shri Ramdas Athawale wants to raise the same matter So I thought I should give him a last chance.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur) : Mr Deputy-Speaker, Sir, on 22 December, 1999 Hon. Prime Minister had given us an assurance for enacting scheduled caste and scheduled Tribes Reservation Act. .*(Interruptions)* In this House, Hon'ble Prime Minister had given an assurance for introducing a new reservation Act for giving protection to scheduled castes/scheduled tribes. I would like to know about the action being taken by the Government The Government had also given an assurance regarding withdrawal of the remaining office memorandum's out of the five being issued. The Government should give some assurance.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER Now you please sit silently.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN Mr. Deputy-Speaker Sir, both the Hon'ble Members have raised a important issue The House is aware that five such circulars had been issued in the year 1997 for which even a Constitution Amendment had been passed in the House to solve the problems being faced by the students and employees of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. Next constitution amendment will be passed tomorrow in Rajya Sabha and next week in Lok Sabha. But many of the members have complained that there are difficulties being faced in its real implementation. Definitely I would draw the attention of the Department of Personnel and Training and the Prime Minister to this matter.

[English]

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the journalists of West Bengal are observing today as black day throughout the State. I hope the whole House will express its concern on this matter. Just day-before-yesterday, the election to the Uttarpara Municipal Corporation in West Bengal was held and the Trinamul Congress has won 17 out 24 seats in that election. On that very day, the journalists were beaten up.

Sir, a delegation of NDA had visited the disturbed areas of West Bengal where the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes and the minorities were being killed at random. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, this is not correct. *.(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Basu Deb Acharia, What is this? Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the rules cannot be misused like this. They are bringing up State subjects everyday in this House. . . *.(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : This is about the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes and the minorities. This is not a State matter. Do not interrupt him. Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Sir, they are taking sides with the landlords and killing people. *.(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Will you please allow Shri Sudip Bandyopadhyay to make his submission ?

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : This will not go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY : Sir, for publishing this news, the journalists and the electronic media people in West Bengal have been brutally beaten up. . *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record, except what Shri Sudip Bandyopadhyay says.

*(Interruptions)**

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*Not recorded.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : At this rate, whenever they take up a subject you will interrupt them and whenever you take up a subject they will interrupt you. This is not correct. Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Sir, law and order is a State subject. . . *.(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Rupchand Pal, I told you that it is not a State matter. It is about the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes and the minorities.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY : Sir, we demand the intervention of the Central Government for the protection of journalists and also for the protection of the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes and the minorities in the State of West Bengal. A black day is being observed there today.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : What is it that the Government of India has to do? Please say that first.

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY : Sir, I demand that the Central Government should take all efforts to protect the jornalists, the electronic media people and the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes and the minorities in West Bengal. . . *.(Interruptions)* To highlight the principle of parliamentary democracy, the Central Government should immediately intervene in this matter. . . *.(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I have also drawn the attention of the Union Home Minister and the Chief Minister of the State towards this matter. . . *.(Interruptions)* I think, a human tragedy like this where the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes and minorities have been killed should not be brushed aside. If you want peace in West Bengal, the violence, which is continuing there, should be stopped immediately. . *(Interruptions)* I raised this matter with the Union Home Minister and the Union Home Minister may call the Members of Parliament representing the State of West Bengal to discuss this matter with them, because a number of people have been killed. . . *.(Interruptions)* I think we should not take political sides on this matter. . . *.(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I have also given a notice on this topic.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : This is about the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes and the minorities.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Sir, this is a conspiracy. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Rupchand Pal, this has been admitted by the hon. Speaker, because this is not a State subject.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : This has nothing to do with the Schedules Castes and the Scheduled Tribes. It is a law and order problem. . . .*(Interruptions)* It is a State subject. .*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Will you please resume your seats?

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Achariya Ji, please let me speak.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I am calling Shri Vijay Goel.

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Let him ask to sit.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : What is this? Shri Goel, you are not to go across like this. You are a senior Member.

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : I am sorry, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER It is not a bilateral arrangement that you are doing so.

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : During the last few days Shri Pradeep Bhatia had been killed mercilessly, we paid tribute to him. We submitted that newspersons are being attacked and we would not tolerate it. Specially when the ruling party is behind these attacks, it is just dictatorship. I am reading a newspaper

[English]

"On the heals of Thursday's assaults on journalists at Writers' Building by workers owing allegiance to the CPM. . ."

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You do not read from newspaper.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Goel, this is not related to that matter.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Goel, that is not related to the subject raised by him.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Neither Shri Pal's nor Shri Goel's speeches will go on record.

(Interruptions)

MR DEPUTY-SPEAKER : This will not go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : It is different subject.

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Sir, I am on the same subject.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : This is a different subject. You have mentioned about the threat to reporters in West Bengal. The subject which he has taken up is about the visit of an Indian Delegation to West Bengal where people belonging to the SCs, STs and minorities were killed.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER I will call you later on.

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Either I shall conclude first or if you give me a chance later on I would like to sit down.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Goel, you have already read out so many things.

(Interruptions)

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*Not recorded.

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : I make the things clear to you. When Shri Bandyopadhyay raised the matter he said that newspersons are being attacked in West Bengal. He made a reference to the same subject therefore, I did so I clubbed it. If you think that this cannot be clubbled and you would give me a chance later on, then I sit down.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I will give you a chance later on.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Whatever you have said, has not gone on record at all.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I will give you a chance separately.

(Interruptions)

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH (Adoor) : It is a very serious situation. *.(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : The hon. Member of this House, Shri Sudip Bandyopadhyay has raised a very important matter. When perosns belonging to Scheduled castes and scheduled tribes and minorities are being attacked even in any part of the country such issues are raised in the House. With your permission these matters have been raised.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : This has nothing to do with the attack on the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes. *.(Interruptions)* This is not proper. What is this? *.(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : He is interrupting me. For the last few days such news have been reported in West Bengal as has been mentioned by the hon. Member. Naturally the whole country is concerned about the attacks on persons belonging to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Home Minister towards this issue.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now, Shri V.M. Sudheeran will speak.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record except what Shri Sudheeran says.

(Interruptions)

13.00 hrs.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Sudheeran, Please.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, there is a conspiracy going on here. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Sir, the real conspiracy is killing the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled tribes and minorities. They should take care of that. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record, except Shri Sudheeran's submission.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Pal, this is very unfair on your part. What is this? You are a senior Member.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Pal, will you please resume your seat. You are a senior Member.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Acharia, I am on my legs. Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Chakraborty, please go to your seat first. Hon. Members, this matter is listed here and the hon. Speaker has given permission for this. I have given my permission for this too.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Acharia, will you please allow me to complete? What is this?

(Interruptions)

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY : Sir, he is in the Panel of Chairmen and is behaving like this. *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Bandyopdhyay, please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

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*Not recorded.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Pal and Shri Acharia, please take your seats.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I have called the name of Shri Sudheeran.

SHRI V.M. SUDHEERAN (Alleppey) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, those Members who do not use muscle or lung power should also be allowed to speak. This is a very sorry state of affairs that we have been waiting here for quite a long time. Sir, you have to protect the interests of all the Members and not of only those who speak in a louder voice.

Sir, I am raising a very important issue regarding Kerala. It is yet another instance of injustice done to Kerala by the Railway Authorities. The Deputy-Chief Engineer's post being operated at Ernakulam is reduced to the post of Executive Engineer and a post of Deputy-Chief Engineer at Muvattapuzha and another at Palghat were desanctioned. The Chief Engineer's post which was sanctioned in 1991 was later cancelled. On the contrary, there are six posts of Chief Engineer at Chennai and three at Bangalore, but in Kerala there is no Chief Engineer.

Sir, all this will lead to non-implementation and non-utilisation of Budget grants allotted for the State and the unspent money will be diverted outside the State. This is happening for the past so many years. Sir, I strongly feel that some vested interests in Southern Railway re behind this foul play. Therefore, I request the Government to look into the matter and take appropriate steps to see the justice is done to Kerala in this matter.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha) . Sir, we support Shri Sudheeran in this regard.

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH : I also support Shri Sudheeran. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : All right, all of them are associating with this subject.

Shri Haribhau Shankar Mahale, please.

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH : Sir, my name is also there in the list. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Once you have already taken up the matter, at the end I will try to give you a chance.

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH : Sir, it is a very important matter. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : All issues are important.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please do not interrupt now. At the end I will accommodate you.

(Interruptions)

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH : Please allow me, Sir

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Not now. I have called Shri Mahale.

[Translation]

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE (Malegaon) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, railway bridge No. 278/1 is located in Pajhan place in Nadgaon Tehsil District Nasik, on Mumbai-Bhusawal railway line. It was an old railway bridge. All state transport buses, trucks etc. passed through this line. People of twenty five villages benefitted from this traffic. Now this bridge is being constructed. I request the hon. Minister of Railways that this bridge should be constructed as early as possible so that traffic may pass from there and the people of twenty five village may be benefitted.

[English]

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH : Sir, please allow me to raise an important issue. .*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER Shri Kodikunnil Suresh, if you interrupt like this, you will not get a chance. I want to exhaust the entire list first. I will call you at the end.

[Translation]

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN (Vidisha) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the persons whose both kidney's are damaged they take a kidney from their relatives. For this transplant of kidney the patients have to take a medicine called sadimenenroil. This medicine is manufactured in Switzerland and it is being imported from there. Previously no duty was being levied but now forty per cent duty has been levied on it. Not only Government of India but also Delhi Government has increased the sales tax by five per cent. Due to this, the medicine has become costlier. Due to this a patient has to spend Rs. four to five thousand per month on this medicine although their monthly income is only Rs. 4000-5000/-. What should the patient do, should he serve his family or just take the medicine. About twenty five lakh patients have written to the P.M. that forty per cent

[Shri Sivraj Singh Chouhan]

duty should be withdrawn and now this matter has reached in National Commission for Human Rights. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN (Khurja) : Sir, I support it.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Ashok Pradhan is associating with him.

Mr. Minister, do you want to respond ?

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Sir, I do not know the details. Since this is a very important issue. I will try to get the details. . . .*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRIMATI PRABHA RAU (Wardha) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the House and the Government towards a very important matter. You know, a part of Vidarbha had been in Madhya Pradesh and then it was included in Maharashtra. But the concerned laws remained in the same form. Among the laws revenue laws are very important. Record of Right is a called Nistar letter in Maharashtra. So far the laws of settlement been from 1912 to 1970 are being implemented but the laws of these five districts have not been changed. Resettlement survey has not been conducted and these five districts have been suffering. The laws have not been changed right from the time the language has been the base for the formation of state. On these five districts neither the laws of Maharashtra nor that the Madhya Pradesh have been implemented. In 1980 Forest Conservation Act came into force and that law was enforced in these districts wherever land prevails be it in village or in urban areas, people call it forest.

It is not forest, Buildings, playgrounds and various other facilities are existing there. A law is to be formulated to change the name of that area. This work should be accomplished by the Union Government through Forest Department. Through you, I would like to request the Union Government to pay attention towards it and take necessary steps to amend the law in this regard.

SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH (Arrah) : Mr. Deputy-Sepeaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards a very important issue. Hon'ble Prime Minister has announced to provide credit cards to farmers under which farmers will be provided the loan facility. However, banks are creating problems for the farmers. Though the farmers submit complete documents but they are being harrassed by the banks.

It is a very serious matter. . . .*(Interruptions)* My submission is that both marginal and big farmers are being provided Rs 25,000 from the rural bank. Therefore, I would like that marginal farmers should be given Rs. 25,000 and a ceiling of Rs. 50,000/- should be fixed for the big farmers . . . *(Interruptions)* The procedure for getting loan should be made simple and easy for the farmers. Farmers should get loan easily so that they could progress in the field of agriculture. . . .*(Interruptions)* I would like that the rules for granting loans should be made more flexible and instructions should be given to the banks to grant the loan in an easier way. . .*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY (Khammam) : Sir, I associate with the hon. Member on this issue.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Yes, you are allowed to associate with him.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Sir, the hon. Prime Minister has yesterday declared a scheme for rural roads. An amount of Rs. 5,000 crore has been sanctioned. Though the formal announcement came only yesterday, the matter was worked out earlier. It is matter of great sorrow that Kerala does not find a place in that scheme. There is no rural road scheme for Kerala. Kerala has been absolutely left out in the newly announced Rs. 5,000 crore scheme. I do not know why it has been left out. it is a scheme to connect the villages. It is a scheme where Rs. 5,000 crore is being spent. So, no State should be left out because it is a very, very important scheme. It is going to be a big scheme if it is going to be implemented. So, I request that some urgent action has to be taken to include Kerala State also and to connect all the villages by way of this new road scheme. . . .*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAMSHAKAL. (Robertsganj) : Sir, I have been elected from the area where 80% of the people belong to scheduled castes and backward classes. . . .*(Interruptions)* Several projects have been implemented there and lakhs of people are living there. In the absence of railway facility between Varanasi and Shakti Nagar, they are unable to get proper medical aid. Sir, everybody cannot afford car. Therefore, I request the hon'ble Railway Minister to provide the railway facility there.

SHRI DHARAM RAJ SINGH PATEL (Phulpur) : Sir, the ex-Prime Minister Shri V.P. Singh and Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav had laid a foundation stone for the construction of a bridge on River Yamuna in Allahabad. Thereafter, the foundation stone was again laid by the ex-Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi and the local Member Shri Amitabh

Bachhan. Then Bhartiya Janata Party came into power and it is in the news that the foundation stone is going to be laid third time also. However, construction work has not started there as on date. I request the union Government that the bridge should be constructed immediately and it should be named after Netaji Subash Chander Bose. . . .*(Interruptions)*

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajganj, U.P.) : Sir, today in Gorakhpur. .*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : No, Shri Kunwar Akilesh Singh, I will not allow this. it will not go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : No, I will not allow you. It has been disallowed because it is a State subject. Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : This is a State subject. It has been disallowed. I will not allow. Nothing will go on record. Shri Kunwar Akhilesh Singh, nothing is going on record.

*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You are wasting the time.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Nothing is going on record.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : This is a state Subject. This is disallowed by the hon. Speaker, I cannot allow. I cannot revoke it.

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH : Sir, I have given the notice. . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You have given the notice but it is a state matter.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH : Sir, there are various matters which pertain to states. . . .*(Interruptions)* Permission should be given to raise them in the House . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Permission will not be given.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You are just wasting the time.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Noting is going on record.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please listen, on receiving your notice, hon'ble Mr. Speaker observed that the issue pertains to state and has written here that

[English]

"may be disallowed."

[Translation]

What you are stating here, is not going on records, That's why you are wasting your energy. Therefore, if you like to speak again, please raise it in a different form.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH : I have listened to the members of CPM. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : If there is any such matter today, you check the list and inform me.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I have given the ruling and you have listened that. That matter was regarding SC/ST. That's why I allowed to raise it.

CAPT. JAI NARAIN PRASAD NISHAD (Muzzaffarpur) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, every year havoc is created by floods in Bihar and everytime union Government provides assistance from the relief fund. This year also Rs. 129 crores have been provided to Bihar by the union Government on account of flood relief works. However, you will be surprised to know that since 1990 to 1998, one crore 34 lakh rupees of people of Bihar are outstanding which have now increased to Rs. 2 crores.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, it is true that during floods only God and Sailors save the drowning people. At present, even an ordinary labourer is getting Rs. 52/- as his wages but sailors are being paid Rs. 27/- only and that too are still outstanding. I request the union Government to direct the Bihar Government that out of Rs. 129 crores provided by the union Government, Rs. 2 crores should be used to make payments to the sailors.

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*Not recorded.

SHRI SURESH CHANDEL (Hamirpur, H.P.) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, a few years ago road tax on national permit was increased and was implemented all over the country. Transporters from Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir moved to the court and the court issued stay order. Those transporters have not paid tax for the last 8-9 years. Now after the new judgement given by the court they have to pay the outstanding road tax. Now a strange situation has arised in Himachal Pradesh. Transporters met the Hon'ble Prime Minister when he visited Manali and had given them assurance to consider the issue sympathetically. I request the union Government to waived off the tax in the interest of the transporters so that they could live their life smoothly.

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, a few days ago, Journalist Pradeep Bhatia was brutally murdered in Srinagar. We had paid homage to him.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The subject you have given is

[English]

"Threat to reporters in West Bengal."

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : We have decided not to tolerate the attack on Journalists. It is essential for the protection of Democracy. However, if the ruling party itself is instrumental in these assaults, then it leads to dictatorship. Journalists were attacked in West Bengal.

[English]

"Close on the heels of Thursday's assault on journalists at Writers' Buildings by workers owing allegiance to the CPI(M)-controlled Coordination Committee of State Government Employees which left 12 journalists injured, seven journalists sustained injuries today when they were attacked by CPI(M) supporters."

[Translation]

This has not happened only on that day. On 10th August when journalists went to Uttarpada Hoogly for the coverage of Municipal elections they were attacked there. Those attacks were by none other than state sponsered CPM workers. On 8th August the Director of Bengali News Agency was badly beaten up because he went to police station to take stock of the situation after the murder of two school teachers. On 9th August a correspondent of Indian Express was beaten up because he was covering the public meeting of the leader of Trinmul Congress Mamta Banerjee at Chamkaitalla. If the press is not allowed to function independently and its activities are suppressed, then it will not be tolerated. Due to this, black day was observed in Bengal. Today the workers of Delhi Journalists' Associations are sitting on a Dharna at press club. I have seen this for the first time that some association has mentioned in their circular that this dharna is in protest against continuous attacks on the pressmen by the workers of CPIM, in Bengal. I want that Government should make a statement in the House regarding attacks on journalists and tell the house as to when these attacks will be stopped. Democracy should be saved and press should be given freedom.

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV (Parbhani) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I am elected from Parbhani Constitutuency in Maharastra. Its population is 22-23 lakhs and have 11-12 lakh voters. Even after so much population in this district. It is not having any Central Navodaya Vidyalaya earlier there was a Navodaya Vidayalaya but two years back my district was divided into two districts. Due to this Navodaya Vidyalaya went in Hingoli district. Ours is a backward region. It is necessary to open a Navodaya Vidyalaya there. I urge the Human Resource Development Minister to issue orders to open a Central Navodaya Vidyalaya there immediately.

[English]

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA (Contai) : Sir, I associate myself with the issue raised by Shri Vijay goel. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH Sir, today morning hundreds of cashewnut workers have organised a rally outside Parliament House under the leadership of Kerala Cashewnut Workers' Congress. These workers have come from Kerala. They have collected two lakh signatures from the cashewnut workers. They have submitted a memorandum to the hon. Prime Minister and to the hon. Minister of Labour.

Sir their demand is to withdraw the recent decision which was taken by the Central Provident Fund Commissioner on the provident fund and family pension. The poor, retired cashewnut workers, have been denied of their family pension.

Sir, I have raised this issue here so many times. However, the Government has not taken any step. The hon. Minister of Labour is sitting here. It is raining heavily outside Parliament. Hundreds of cashewnut workers, who came from Kerala, are agitating there. It is a very sensitive and burning issue in my constituency as well as in Shri Ramesh Chennithala's constituency. . . . *(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Mavelikara) : Sir, I would like to add one more thing. The cashewnut workers get employment for only three months. The recent decision has adversely affected the two lakh cashewnut workers in Kerala. The hon. Minister of Labour is sitting here. The hon. Minister should look into it and take an urgent and necessary step. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Sir, the only question is: are the labourers supposed to pay for a period when no wages are given?. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : It is all right. Hon. Minister wants to intervene.

(Interruptions)

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Sir, it is a very serious issue. I think, the poor labourers are in grave situation. Poverty deaths are also taking place there. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Thomas, the Minister is in a mood to respond.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, as the hon'ble Members know that the work of Cashew Workers is seasonal. They told me something about President Fund. We will definitely try to find out as to what help can be provided to them.

13.25 hrs.

RE: ALLEGED ILL-TREATMENT METED OUT TO HON'BLE M.P. BY RAILWAY AUTHORITIES

[English]

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Sir, it is a matter relating to hon. Member from Jodhpur.

[Translation]

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir I am sorry to draw the attention of the Minister of parliamentary Affairs, this house and hon'ble Members to the fact that Hon'ble Member Shri Jaswant Singh Bishnoi, who represents Jodhpur Parliamentary Constituency, arrived alongwith his wife at the old Delhi Railway Station on 11th after the session of Parliament was over. He had confirmed reservation Ticket from Delhi to Jodhpur in A.C. First Class. When he reached in the compartment, then the railway officials striked down their names from Reservation list and allotted the seats to other two persons boarding the train from Jaipur and he alongwith his wife was asked to get down.

[English]

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : MP may be transferred to Second Two Tier A.C. and Mr. P.P. Navalkar provided in First A.C. Coupe definite" was the instruction written on the Reservation Chart and he was removed from the seat. . . .*(Interruptions)* Sir, there is a documentary proof also. The Hon. Member himself wants to raise it. . . . *(Interruptions)* It is a very serious matter, Sir. . . *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, such behaviour with the Member. . . .*(Interruptions)* This issue should be referred to the Committee on privileges.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Bishnoi is speaking.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I and my wife had confirmed reservation ticket for 11th in A.C. First Class. I arrived at the Delhi Railway Station. Because I had a meeting at Jodhpur on 12th, so I had to left Delhi on 11th. I alongwith my wife was seated in the cabin in which we had reservation. One officer came to us and said that our reservation was cancelled and we should get down the train. I told him that we had confirmed reservation from the headquarters and we were seated in our cabin. Then he said that it has been cancelled and we should get down the train. He earnestly asked us to get down but when he resorted to indecent behaviour then we got down but when he resorted to indecent behaviour then we got down the train. After that the train left the station.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : It is a serious matter.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the matter raised by Hon'ble Member Shri Rudy regarding Shri Bishnoi is a serious one in my opinion. The papers given to me by Shri Rudy shows the confirmed reservation tickets. Though it is against rules to transfer. The confirmed reservation tickets in the name of someone else. Whosover MP may be there, it should not be done after the name of the MP appeared in the Reservation Chart.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : His family was also with him.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : His wife was also with him. It is transferred in the name of some other VIP and

[Shri Pramod Mahajan]

I should not tell his name in the house. As there was only one coupe in that bogie, so the name of Shri Bishnoi was cancelled, the remaining 4-8 passengers were not disturbed because it is evident from the paper. Those railway officers asked the MP to get down the train under pressure. I will not tell the name of that VIP.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Alright, you should not tell the name.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Please try to understand the seriousness of this issue. There is no reason evident in it, but even then this is the wrong thing done. I will try to persuade the Ministry of Railways to take strict action against the erring persons, because this matter has been raised the Hon'ble Members manytimes. *(Interruptions)*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Mr Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the action should be taken against the guilty officers and the house should be informed accordingly . . .*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I think this is a . . .

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : You should take action against the guilty officers and inform the house.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Please let me complete first. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You are not ready to listen.

[English]

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Sir, this is a serious matter. It should be referred to the Privileges Committee. . . . *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN S. DELKAR (Dadra and Nagar Haveli) : Sir, it is very serious matter. One Hon'ble Member was travelling by train alongwith his family and such behaviour should not be meted out to him. This should be sent to the Committee on Privileges immediately.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : You are saying it is such a way as if I am the T.C. and I am solely responsible for that. On the other hand, I am supporting your demands. I have also stated that on behalf of my government I would try to take actions in this regard. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : He is supporting your demends but you are making noises.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Thereafter what I said, was in your favour. So many members have this complaint and if the House wishes and you also want that this matter should be referred to the Committee of Privileges then I have no objections at all.

SHRI RAJO SINGH (Begusarai) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, this matter should be referred to the Committee of Privileges. Such type of incidents are happening frequently, and we have also been victims of such incidents. Without referring it to the Committee of Privilege, officials of the Railways will not respond properly. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : What is the opinion of the House.

SEVERAL HON'BLE MEMBERS : This matter should be referred to the Committee of Privileges.

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV : Sir, the officer responsible for this incident should be suspended first and a thorough investigation should be made in this regard . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : This matter should be referred to the Committee of Privileges.

[English]

The House is adjourned to meet again at 2.30 p.m.

13.30 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till thirty minutes past Fourteen of the Clock

14.35 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at thirty-five minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

[SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA *in the Chair*]

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House shall now take up matters under Rule 377.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(i) Need to release funds for early completion of laying of rail line between Jakhpura and Banspani in Orissa

[Translation]

SHRI ANANTA NAYAK (Keonjhar) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, there has been inordinate delay in the completion of Jakhpura-Banspani railway lines of Orissa. Earlier it was scheduled to be completed by 31st March, 1999 which has been extended to 31 March, 2003. This is one of the most important and oldest railway project of Orissa which was started during the First five year plan. The first phase of this project i.e. Jakhpura to Daitari was completed in 1969 and was opened for transport. But the second and third phase of this project. But the second and third phase of this project i.e. Daitari to Keonjhargarh and Keonjhargarh to Banspani have not witnessed sufficient progress. The reason for this delay is meagre allotment of funds.

After completion of laying of this rail line, it will be very easier to transport the quality minerals to Paradip port through shortest route whereas at present the same are being transported through a long route passing through three states i.e. Orissa, Bihar and West Bengal. The cost of transportation, time and revenue could be minimized if goods are carried through shorter route. Moreover, the important thing is that this railway line cross through backwards areas which are inhabited mostly by scheduled tribes So, I request that keeping in view the interests of these backward classes, Orissa and whole country, Government should allot adequate funds for Jakhpura - Banspani railway line so that it can be completed by the end of year 2003.

(ii) Need to place adequate orders with Loco and Carriage Works in Ajmer, Rajasthan

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : Mr. Chairman Sir, Ajmer is known as a railway city. Most of the middle class people living in this city depend on rail factories for their livelihood. The loco and carriage factory of Ajmer are the backbone of their economy. At present more than 15 thousand workers are engaged in these two factories. These factories are about 100 years old. The process of modernisation of these factories also go on from time to time and in the process new machines and plants have been installed with a cost of crores of rupees. But due to gauge conversion, from meter gauge to broad gauge, these factories are facing shortage of meter gauge work and are not getting work from railways in large scale as per their capacity and requirement of broad gauge work resulting in suspension of fresh recruitment and non-fulfilment of vacant posts. Ajmer has been declared industrially backward due to these factories.

I, therefore, request the Government to provide works to loco and carriage factories as per their capacity and efficiency and also introduce latest machines as per requirement of the broad gauge in order to get maximum advantage of broad gauge. Fresh recruitment should also be made after removing ban on new recruitment without any delay.

(iii) Need to ensure that Coach Repairing Shop at Renigunta near Tirupati is utilised to its full capacity

[English]

DR. N. VENKATASWAMY (Tirupati) : Sir, Coach Repairing Shop at Renigunta near Tirupti was established in 70s with the objective of repairing 200 coaches, i.e., 100 units. The land and machinery have been procured for the sanctioned strength of 200 coaches, i.e., 100 units. Adequate machinery and sufficient infrastructure are available but the work has not been allotted to the sanctioned strength. Only 35 to 40 units are working now. With a view to establishing 100 units, i.e., 200 coaches, the Government purchased huge machinery costing crores of rupees. Hundreds of acres of land was purchased from the marginal farmers around the area with a promise to provide employment to their children in the proposed CRS. Though it was decided two decades ago and the land was purchased, work has not been allotted up to the fullest extent of the sanctioned strength. Crores of rupees worth of machinery is kept idle and it is getting rusted. Having hundreds of acres of land, crores of rupees worth of machinery without sufficient work is a national waste. The Government owe responsibility to answer to poor people who have given their land with the fond hope of getting jobs for their children. The Government neither has given employment for them, nor allotted work to the sanctioned strength of units.

I, therefore, request the Government to see that work for the sanctioned strength is provided and employment is given to the children of poor farmers from whom land is taken is given.

(iv) Need to declare road between Takikere and Satyamangala in Karnataka as national highway

SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA (Hassan) : Sir, I am glad that the Centre has cleared the upgradation of Tumkur-Honnavara road via Arasikere and Beerur as a national highway. An amount of Rs. 60 crore has already

[Shri G. Putta Swamy Gowda]

been sanctioned for this purpose. But, Sir, with a view to reap the maximum benefit of this route, another very important road between Satyamangala and Tarikere via Chikkamagalur, Belur, Holenarasipura, Hassan, Honnavara, K.R. Nagara, Belikere, Mysore must be cleared by the Centre and it should be upgraded as a national highway without any further loss of time. In fact, this is a very long pending genuine demand of the people of Karnataka.

There are agitations in the State about the inordinate delay in this matter. This highway would link the Capital City Bangalore to Seaport, Honnavara and many important cities and towns in the southern part of India. This would give a great impetus to the industrial growth in Southern India. Transportation and in fact, the economy in this part of the country would get a big boost. The people of Karnataka have been awaiting for this upgradation for the last two decades.

I, therefore, urge upon the hon. Union Transport Minister to make this dream of the people of Karnataka a reality with immediate effect.

(v) Need to set up a science centre and a planetarium in Chandigarh

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh) : Sir, Chandigarh can rightfully claim to have a good standard of education. The performance of even the Government schools there is perhaps the best in the country. However, with the rapid developments in the field of science and technology, particularly, the Information Technology and marvels of outer space and the solar system still unravelling themselves, it is imperative that Chandigarh is given particular attention by the Government of India to provide its students the latest knowledge about the fast moving world. In this context, there is need to develop a modern science centre and a planetarium in Chandigarh city. I urge upon the Government to take up these projects on priority.

(vi) Need to set up more growth centres in Nagarkurnool parliamentary constituency in Andhra Pradesh

DR. MANDA JAGANNATH (Nagar Kurnool) : Sir, Nagarkurnool in Mahboobnagar district is one of the most backward areas in Andhra Pradesh inhabited by mostly tribals, Scheduled Castes and backward classes. The literacy rate in the area is very low (less than 29 per cent). So, unemployment problem in the area is growing day by day besides rising poverty. The galloping unemployment problem may, in turn, give rise to the incidents of unlawful activities like dacoity, murders and even terrorist activities. The Government must, therefore, take to provide growth centres at Kalwakurthy, Achampet and Kollapoor with a view to promoting industrialisation of the backward areas of the district. There is plenty of raw material available in the area like limestone, bamboo and other raw materials required for starting spinning, ginning, mini cement industries. These measures will also solve the unemployment problems. The Andhra Pradesh Government has also requested for starting a growth centre at Jadcherla.

With a view to promoting industrialisation of the backward area, I once again request the Union Government to sanction growth centres at Kalwakurthy, Achampet and Kollapoor so that Nagarkurnool parliamentary constituency will be industrially developed and youths will get employment opportunities. Such initiatives would also benefit the poor and the needy.

14.45 hrs.

[SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA *in the Chair*]

(vii) Need to review the decision to involve the Arthur Andersen Company for promotion of Khadi and village industry

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad) Madam Chairperson, the Government of India has entered into an agreement with a foreign company Arthur Andersen for promotion of khadi and village industries which is a matter of great concern. Khadi is not just a fabric but also an ideology. Khadi had been a symbol of the nation and self reliance during our National Movement. Lack of attention by the Government towards Khadi and Village Industry is the main factor for the prevailing condition of the industry. As a result, 57 lakh artisans engaged in khadi and village industry are on the verge of starvation. Exploring the potential of Khadi with the collaboration of a foreign company in India means dismantling the ideology of Gandhiji. Since promotion of Khadi and Village Industry is a long process, it is obvious that Arthur and Andersen company will earn crores of rupees in India. The business of khadi and village industry is based on hand works and we cannot deny this possibility that this foreign company may suggest for opting machines which will adversely affect khadi and village industry.

I, therefore, request the Government to reconsider its decision.

(viii) Need to allocate funds for construction of strategic bridges in Baramulla Parliamentary Constituency, Jammu and Kashmir

[English]

SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN (Baramulla) : Madam Chairperson, the State of Jammu and Kashmir has

been reeling under disturbances for the last twelve years. The era of death and destruction, while taking the toll on human lives, has heavily damaged the infrastructure, schools, colleges, Government buildings, roads and especially bridges. My constituency that comprises two districts of Baramulla and Kupwara bore the brunt of this destruction immensely.

I want to draw your attention to a very important bridge on the Srinagar-Baramulla national highway on the Sukhnag nallah near Hartreth Singpura that connects the Line of Control with Srinagar. For the past many years, such a strategic link is being maintained with just a makeshift bridge causing problems for civilian as well as military traffic. I request the Government, through you, that a durable system be put in place of this temporary structure.

Also, another bridge that connects two halves of Sopore town, a major trade centre of North Kashmir is craving for attention. This important bridge was burnt a few years ago, but nothing has been done practically so far to restore this important lifeline. This bridge serves as an immediate alternative to the national highway link.

There are certain other important links and bridges on different nallahs in the border district of Kupwara like Wodapora, Maqam and Chowkibal etc. that demand immediate construction and replacement. Keeping in view the security scenario and strategic location of my constituency, these bridges and roads should be repaired on a priority basis.

I request the Central Government to immediately allocate funds and ask both the Ministry of Surface Transport and the Ministry of Defence to take immediate action in this regard.

(ix) Need to protect the interests of sugarcane growers, particularly or Moradabad District of Western U.P.

SHRI CHANDRA VIJAY SINGH (Moradabad) : Madam Chairperson, Moradabad district is a major sugarcane growing area of Western U.P. and has a few sugar mills that are mostly sick units. Bilari and Chandausi Tehsils are particularly high growing areas of sugarcane and it is a major source of income for the farmers there. The sugar mill at Raja-ka-Sahaspur in Bilari Tehsil is under the BIFR and owes its farmers a lot of money in arrears. Repeated requests to the Government of Uttar Pradesh to provide relief to farmers and arrange for their arrears to be paid have been in vain. Initiative by the Central Government is imperative if the sugarcane producing areas are to be preserved, by either setting up a Centrally aided co-operative mill or by impressing upon the U.P. Government the great need to do so in the larger national interest. If this major problem remains unaddressed, the farmers will stop growing sugarcane and that would be a national loss, which we can ill afford.

14.50 hrs.

ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES (AMENDMENT) BILL

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : We will now move on to the Legislative Business. Dr. C.P. Thakur.

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR) : Madam, actually, this is a small Bill, seeking an amendment in Section 6 of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences Act of 1956. It has been passed by the Rajya Sabha.

All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) is an autonomous institution established by an Act of Parliament in 1956. The Institute was set up as a Centre of Excellence of national importance to develop patterns of teaching in under-graduate and post-graduate medical education in all its branches and to demonstrate a high standard of medical education to all medical colleges and other allied institutions in India.

Section 4 of the AIIMS Act governs the composition of the Institute Body. Section 4 (g) provides for the nomination of three Members of Parliament of whom two shall be elected from among themselves by the Members of the House of People and one from among themselves by the Members of the Council of States. In accordance with a proviso under Section 6 of the Act, the term of a Member elected under clause (g) of Section 4, shall come to an end as soon as he ceases to be a Member of the House from which he was elected.

It has been decided that a provision should be made in the Act to the effect that consequent to a Member of Parliament becoming a Minister or Speaker or Deputy-Speaker, Lok Sabha or Deputy-Chairman, Rajya Sabha, his or her nomination or election on the Institute Body shall be deemed to have been terminated.

The Bill seeks to achieve this object by amending the relevant provisions of the Act.

With this, I beg to move :

"That the Bill further to amend the All India Institute of Medical Sciences Act, 1956 as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

[Dr. C.P. Thakur]

Madam, there is nothing much to discuss; and so, I request that it may be passed also.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The BAC has decided to pass it without discussion. So, we are just going on further to pass this Bill.

DR. C.P. THAKUR : Thank you. . . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Motion moved:

"That the Bill further to amend the All India Institute of Medical Sciences Act, 1956, as pssed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into considetation."

SHRI ANIL BASU (Arambagh) : One of our Members wants to speak, since there are larger issues involving AIIMS . . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN I am sorry. In the BAC, all the leaders have agreed that it could be passed without discussion, as passed in the Rajya Sabha.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali) : The poor die with sickness, there should be a discussion on it. . . .*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR CHAIRMAN : If a Member of one Party speaks, then all the Members would want to speak. Then, it becomes a full debate. But no time has been allotted by the BAC because all the leaders agreed that it could be passed without discussion.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I think, the leaders of your Parties are members of the BAC.

(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : Madam, I think, every Member who belongs to a political party and more expecially, to a disciplined political party must agree that his leader was present in the BAC. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Your leaders made a commitment in the BAC meeting.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Secondly, at least unlike the other House, in our House, the report of the BAC is always presented to the House . . . *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Do you want it to be passed without discussion. . . .*(Interruptions)* Then you are free to get all the Bills Passed like this. . . . *(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI ANIL BASU : Madam, whatever happened inside the Chamber of hon. Speaker, should not be disclosed on the floor of the House. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : I am not disclosing. . . *(Interruptions)* Could you not listen to me? Could you not have the patience to listen to what I am saying? Please listen to me. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : I would say that the BAC is there to decide on the business of the House and to allot the time.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : You can ask the Members whether discussion is necessary or not.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Your leader decided the agenda in B.A.C. but these things are different. What can be done?

(Interruptions)

[English]

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME (Birbhum) : But we have to say something in relation to this subject. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Madam, the report of the BAC is adopted by this House. But if this is the status of the House every day, there is not point in having a Business Advisory Committee. Let the House decide everything. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj) : Let it not be put to the House. We agree that in the BAC, it was decided that way. There are more important Bills.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Then, I will put it to the House and let the House decide.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : If the hon. Members insist on a discussion, then I do not object. But I am of the view that we should agree to the decision of the BAC.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh) : Madam, I have a submission to make. It is a fact that the BAC has decided like this. But if some Members wish to speak, then we should not put this question to the House whether we want to have a discussion or not. That would not be good. All Members will not speak. If one Member wishes to speak, let him make some intervention for a short while.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Is it agreed that one Member will make a few points ?

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ANIL BASU : He wants to speak very briefly, please allow him.

[English]

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Madam, we do not mind if discussion is held. But it becomes very difficult to plan in the House. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am sorry I have also seen the conventions in both the Houses. Once the BAC agrees, it is unanimously agreed that the Members of those parties whose leaders are in the BAC respect the decision taken in the BAC. This has always been the tradition. If you want to depart from those traditions and say that anybody can stand up and speak, then it is very wrong.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : The Government want it to be passed without discussion.

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is not like that. You all have yourself agreed to it.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Since you are in majority, you can get any thing passed. There is a discussion in the House while making any law. People in the country and abroad come to know what has happened and what has not. Members have their different views. But the Government want it to be passed without discussion.

MR. CHAIRMAN : That is not happening. Leaders of the parties have decided this. This has been decided by them rather than by me. I am only following what has been decided.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That the Bill further to amend the All India Institute of Medical Sciences Act, 1956, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House will now take up clause by clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is :

" That clause 2 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula, and the long Title were added to the Bill.

DR. C.P. THAKUR : I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

14.59 hrs.

ARMY AND AIR FORCE (DISPOSAL OF PRIVATE PROPERTY) AMENDMENT BILL

[English]

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEOGRE FERNANDES) : I beg to make a few observations when moving this Motion.

15.00 hrs.

Sir, the Army and Air Force (Disposal of Private Property) Act, 1950 has a provision under Section 10 of the Act by which the private property of service personnel who are no more, is given to their next of kin or their dependants without any kind of probate or other document if the value of that property is less than Rs. 10,000. Now, this has been in vogue since 1970 when that Act was first amended. We are coming before the House second time for the amendment of this Act by which we propose to raise the quantum from Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 2 lakh. The Bill, as moved, was referred to the Standing Committee. The Standing Committee considered the Bill and unanimously recommended it for the House to adopt and the Rajya Sabha has accordingly passed this Bill.

I beg to move :

[Shri George Fernandes]

"That the Bill further to amend the Army and Air Force (Disposal of Private Property) Act, 1950, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

MR. CHAIRMAN : motion moved:

"That the Bill further to amend the Army and Air Force (Disposal of Private Property) Act, 1950, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani) : Madam, Chairman, it is a simple Bill and I support the Bill. I am sure every section of the House would support the Bill because it seeks to facilitate the quick disposal of movables and cash belonging to the service personnel who may have died in harness. Now, in order to better appreciate the Bill, some more information is wanted. The Bill says that the upper limit of Rs. 10,000 be increased to Rs. 2 lakh and when the movable property and the cash involved is not more than Rs. 2 lakh, the moveable property and the cash can be given to the heirs without requiring them to go into the trouble of producing succession certificates, probate, and so on and so forth.

Now, I would like to know from the hon. Minister what is the rationale behind deciding this limit of Rs. 2 lakh. We must be able to understand it. We support it. But why do you not fix it at rupee one lakh or at Rs. 3 lakh? Some exercise must have been undertaken in order to see that there is no arbitrariness in fixing the limit. For example, one would like to know as to what is the number of people involved in securing their movable property and cash say when the amount is less than one lakh rupee and what is the number involved when the limit is more than Rs. 2 lakh or when it is between Rs. 2 lakh and Rs. 3 lakh.

I mean to say that there must be some rationale. What is that rationale ? That will enable us to understand better an exercise, a good and well-intentioned exercise undertaken by the Minister of Defence ?

Another small question which came to my mind is – I am sorry that I could not study it further – that the Bill applies to Army and the Air Force. What is the position with respect to the Navy? Why is it not applicable to the Navy? Is there already a provision for the Navy and if so, is there a provision of two lakhs or is it a provision of upper limit or some other figure? A question would arise about our BSF who are doing a lot of good work. I understand that the BSF does not come under the Ministry of Defence but the Ministry of Home Affairs. But I am sure that when deciding this figure of two lakhs, the hon. Defence Minister would have also looked into the position that is with respect of the BSF also. What is the position with respect of the BSF? On these two points, let us be informed so that there is a better appreciation and realisation of the good work that has been done by the hon. Minister.

With these words, Madam Chairperson, of course subject to what comment comes from the hon. Minister, I support the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Therre is no other speaker. Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, would you like to say something ?

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali) : I do not want to speak. I would rather request that this Bill should also be passed without discussion.

MR. CHAIRMAN : There is no limited time frame for discussion on this Bill or is there any such agreement that the Bill should be passed without discussion.

[English]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : I would like to make the first point that it is not for me to discuss the Border Security Force or any other paramilitary body which does not come under the Army Act. In so far as the Navy is concerned, another Bill, which has the same provisions applying to the Navy but a separate Act altogether, is also sought to be amended accordingly, Now, so far as the rationalisation behind raising the quanturm from Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 2 lakh is concerned, it was felt that given the fact that the limit of Rs. 10,000 was decided during the amendment of the Act back in 1970; originally, it was Rs. 5,000 when the Act was first passed in 1950 and then, it was raised to Rs. 10,000 in 1970; and looking at the general value of the rupee and money, it was felt that fixing it at Rs. 2 lakhs would be a reasonable decision to take. I do not think there has been any kind of a special ratioinalisation that has been sought to be made in this.

The hon. Member also wanted to know the number of people who are covered by this kind of a law. We do not off-hand have any figure. But this applies only in situations where a person dies when he is on duty and when there is some private property which is in his possession and that has to be disposed of. The law is confined only to that limited extent in dealing with cash or some valuables or any other movable property that may have been in his possession. I think that satisfies the hon. Member's points.

MR. CHAIRMAN : What about the Navy (Amendment) Act? It is coming?

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : As I said, for an amendment in the Navy Act, we will be coming before the

House. There is a separate Act for the Navy which also has the same provisions. We will be coming with an amendment to that Act also.

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI (Khajuraho)): What stopped you from bringing both of them together ?

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : It so happened that this Bill was prepared earlier and had been moved in the Rajya Sabha back in January, 1999.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : Mr Chairman, Sir, the hon. Minister has however, made everything clear about the provisions in such cases in which some one dies while serving in the Army or in the Air Force. He has also referred to the case of Personal Property. But some time back an incident occurred in Uttar Pradesh was reported in Newspapers, which created a peculiar situation. The husband of a lady died while fighting the Kargil war. The Government granted 10-15 lacks of rupees to his family. His family members, however, killed his wife in order to grab that money. Such incidents occur for grabbing property. The said incident was precisely for grabbing the personal property, but it was concerned with an army personnel. The Government should take strong actions to stop recurrence of such incidents and it should also ensure that the wife of any other successor in such cases have not to meet the same fate.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Ladies have to face such situations. Shri George Fernandes, do you want to reply to him?

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Well, all that I can say is that the incident that took place in Lucknow is abominable and also it should make all of us hang our heads in shame. Unfortunately, I must say that this is not the first time that such a situation has arisen. Whether the person have been killed or not is not the issue. But there have been constant efforts to deprive or to deny the widow of the soldier, who may be slain, the monies that have been made available to her.

Insofar as the Defence Ministry is concerned, there is very little that we can do except taking care to see that the money is kept in the bank. Earlier, cash used to be given. Now, we have the arrangement to have this money deposited in the bank. But beyond that, I do not think that, as the Defence Ministry, we have the authority of any kind to intervene in this. As soon as this particular case was brought to our notice, it has been taken up with the State Government. From our side, whatever we can do shall be done.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That the Bill further to amend the Army and Air Force (Disposal of Private Property) Act, 1950, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The house will now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is :

"That clauses 2 to 4 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 to 4 were added to the Bill.

Clause I, the Enacting Formula and the long Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

15.14 hrs.

INDIAN POWER ALCOHOL (REPEAL) BILL

[English]

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SURESH PRABHU) : I beg to move :

"That the Bill to repeal the Indian Power Alcohol Act, 1948, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into considertion."

Madam, at the very outset, I would like to state that this is one such Bill which has not been used probably any time since it was passed in the year 1948. The other day, one of the hon. Members in the House was asking my colleague the Minister of law and Justice as to why the Government is not taking steps to repeal certain legislations which have not been used. A Committee was appointed by the Government in the past to study and find out which are such legislations which have not been used and why the Government is not acting on such recommendations of the Committee.

You may recall that there was the P.C. Jain Committee which was appointed and that Committee recommended

[Shri Suresh Prabhu]

the repeal of several Acts. This is one such Act. There is a reason to repeal it because the continuance of this Act in the Statute Book does not really serve any useful purpose and it has never been used. In the modern days, we are all thinking that there should only such laws which are used and also there should be minimum legislation that is required.

Sensing the mood of the House – which was expressed by the hon. Member only the other day when he was asking a supplementary – I recommended to the House that this Bill be passed which will ensure that the repeal of the Act would take place.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Motion moved :

"That the Bill to repeal the Indian Power Alcohol Act, 1948, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into considertion."

People are interested in alcohol and not in power alcohol !

SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN (Sivaganga) : Respected Chairperson, according to me, it is really a very important Bill. I have gone through the debate which had taken place in 1948. I would request the hon. Minister to go into the provisions of the Indian Power alcohol Act, 1948. This is what the preamble says :

"Whereas it is expedient in the public interest that the power alcohol industry should be developed under the control of the Central Government."

That was the aim of the Government at that time. The concerned Power Minister at that time, the Minister for Industry and Supply, the hon. Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee, while introducing the Bill said to provide for the development of the power alcohol industry this Bill may be taken into consideration. He said :

"The object of the Bill is to develop the production of power alcohol and also to take power in the hands of the Central Government to direct the use of power alcohol as motive power."

He goes an explaining as to how much power fuel was available at the time of the Independence and subsequently and also gives the reason as to why we need this Bill. He gives a lot of reasons. But I would just quote one or two alone so that the Minister can consider. He is a very young and enthusiastic Minister. He can also find out as to how the forefathers of our august Assembly had thought about it. In one of the speeches it was said :

"One other thing to bear in mind in developing this industry is the springing up of several subsidiary industries like the manufacture of butyl alcohol, amyl alcohol, acetic acid, acetal-dehyde, ethel acetate, ether, chloroform and potash. I hope the State will also come forward to help these subsidiary industries."

I would just like to quote another Member's debate, Shri S.V. Krishnamurthy Rao, where he wants to say :

"Something more must be done for the development of this industry. In fact, there is a vast scope for the development of this industry in our country. As it is, about 250,000 tons of molasses are being wasted. During the war, Australia developed this industry to a very great extent. And the success of an industry depends upon two things, firstly, the subsidiary industries that developed round about it and the State aid which it gets for its development. In fact, the Planning and Development Report of the Panel on Sugar Alcohol and Food Yeast industries on Page 25, in para. 98 says :

"The Panel is of opinion that distillery plants ought to be fabricated in this country, patent right to be acquired where necessary by the Central Government from the foreign manufacturers. Licences for the manufacture of the plants should be given only to approved parties who should receive all necessary assistance from the licensing authorities in receiving raw materials for manufacture at a reasonable cost."

Again, I am just quoting a small portion of the speech made by hon. Member, Shri H.V. Kamath. He said :

"It is a happy augury for the future that this vital industry, the power alcohol industry, will be developed by the Government of India under its own auspices. . . ."

I am again quoting a small portion of this speech which says :

"Mr. Chairman, Sir, our Free National Government was born only about 7½ months ago, and though not in its swaddling clothes it is still in the cradle. But it is a happy sight to see it alive and kicking-the baby is very much alive and kicking and is doing well."

This is the ambition of the hon. Members who had passed this Bill. Now, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister as to whether the Ministry has applied its mind before advising for repealing the molasses which is defined under this Act :

"3(a). 'Molasses' means the heavy, dark-coloured residual syrum drained away in the final stage of the manufacture of sugar by vacuum pans in sugar

factories either from sugarcane or by refining gur, when such a syrum has fermentable sugars (expressed as reducing sugars), but does not include the final residual syrum left in the manufacture of sugar by the open pan process."

The molasses is the raw material on which the alternative source of energy can be created. That was the ambition of the forefathers of our nation. When they enacted this law, they thought that they would produce an alternative to petrol. They also discussed as to how the Russians and the Americans would not help us in future in this field. Section 3(c) of the Indian Power Alcohol Act, 1948 says :

"Power alcohol means ethyl alcohol containing not less than 99.5 per cent by volume of ethanol measured at 60% F corresponding to 77.4 over proof strength."

We should see whether 75 per cent of petrol can be mixed with this chemical and used now as an alternative source of energy. I would like to know whether the Government, particularly, the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers has looked into it before deciding to repeal this Act. This is the main question that I would like to pose to the hon. Minister.

Section 6 of the above Act says :

"No petrol shall be sold or kept for sale except with an admixture of power alcohol. . ."

When they enacted this law, they thought that 75 per cent of petrol can be mixed with power alcohol and use it so that petrol can be saved. That was the thinking of the then Minister, at that time. Similarly, Section 2(b) talks about the power to make rules. It says :

"Prescribe specifications and tests in respect of power alcohol intended for admixture with petrol in order to ensure its suitability for use in the motor vehicles."

Then, Section 2(c) says :

"Fix the price at which power alcohol may be sold for the purpose of admixture with petrol."

I would like to submit that we have got plenty of molasses in our country which is thrown out as waste. Our sugar industry produces huge quantity of molasses and we have to think as to how to convert it into power which can be utilised in a useful manner. In those days, when they enacted this law, they thought of using it as an alternative source of energy. They said that many countries have already tested it and that they were successful in implementing it. I would like to read the relevant portion of the debate that took place in 1948 while passing this Act. It says :

"Now it appears that power alcohol is being mixed with petrol in various countries. In Great Britain, France, Germany, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Italy and Australia this is done and power alcohol is obtained in those countries mainly from beet, potatoes, corn and from imported molasses. In Brazil it appears that the bulk of the power alcohol is produced from molasses just as we propose to do in India."

I would like to know whether we have tried it in our country in the past 52 years. Why should we repeal our laws on the basis of the recommendation of the Administrative Reforms Commission saying that they are redundant? But this particular Act is not redundant. They enacted this law just seven-and-a-half months after our Independence. Our sugar industry was prosperous at that time. Now, it has prospered more. Therefore, when sugarcane is available in plenty in our country and when molasses is thrown away as waste, why should we not do some research and find out whether it can be used for producing an alternative source of energy? So, I would like to suggest that the hon. Minister should reconsider his proposal before passing this Bill. He should take some time to reconsider his proposal, do some homework and research so that we can produce an alternative source of energy.

But we have got every right to come forward with the same Bill again when you think that it is possible in India and it will also create employment and alternative power which are now very important things at this juncture when we are facing the crises in fuel and other things.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) Madam Chairperson, I rise to support this Bill introduced by the Government. I think, this Bill should be passed unanimously since this Bill was redundant and had become meaningless. Even otherwise, change is the law of nature. There are so many other laws, which are redundant. In this very context some time back there was a discussion in the country that old laws which are useless and redundant should be repeated and replaced with new laws. The present new Bill has been introduced with that very motive. Just now an hon. Member has spoken about generating fuel with alcohol. There is a lot of residue in sugar mills, which can be used, if it is possible, for generating energy or power. There is a shortage of power in our country. If such use of residues proves beneficial and if it also reduces our expenditure then in my opinion the Government should undertake some research and experiments in this regard.

I again support this Bill.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : There are no more speakers. Now, the Minister may give the reply.

SHRI SURESH PRABHU : Madam, I am indeed thankful to the two hon. Members for their interventions. One of them, hon. Shri E.M. Sudarsana Natchiappan, has drawn my attention and attention of the House to a very important aspect and historical perspective which gave birth to this legislation. It is absolutely right and I fully share the perceptions of those Members of this august House who have passed the legislations. But 52 years have passed since then. What we are really to look at is a particular legislation required to facilitate certain actions. From that perspective, we must really analyse and find out because we passed this law. Did we fulfil the obligation? Did we fulfil the objective for which these legislations were passed. That is one aspect.

Secondly, we can even look at it the other way round whether a repeal of this legislation would result into non-fulfilment of objective for which this Bill has passed. I think, again, the answer would be the same. Therefore, the repeal of a legislation like this would not result into compromising with the objective for which this Bill was primarily passed. But the moot point is whether the law which was passed has ever been used. And if it has not been used, the recommendation of the Commission, which was appointed, and, as I said, the hon. House itself felt the other day that those legislations, which have not been used, should not be there in the Statute Books. In view of that, I feel that this legislation should be repealed. It has already been done by the hon. Rajya Sabha.

I would also like to share the views that are expressed by my colleague and our hon. Member, Shri Sudarsana Natchiappan. It is true that in India, today, there is a large generation of molasses as a result of increase in sugarcane production as well as the consumers of sugarcane. It is also true that there is a tremendous possibility that exists in India today for admixtures of alcohol with molasses. Then, we can make a different type of fuel to be used by motor vehicles. It is possible. It has been done in Brazil. It has also been possible in some other countries. It is definitely possible that we can also try it in India. In fact, the Government is already considering the use of such admixtures in different forms. The point is whether, to do this, we need a legislation like this or we really need to do it through incentives – fiscal and otherwise – and promote an activity like this. What is more important is the sugarcane industry which was there. Since what we have seen in 1948 and now in 2000, a lot of water has flown in the intervening period.

The sugarcane industry itself has been delicensed. We really thought about it. There was a time when every applicable to set up a new sugar mill used to be approved by the Government under the Industrial Development (Regulations) Act. But for some time it is not there. However, we really need to give proper incentives and try to harness this tremendous potential that exists in this sector, which I fully share. But let me assure the House that the repeal of the Bill will not result into compromising with the objectives which I really mentioned and I fully agree with that.

In fact, I really congratulate the hon. Member for drawing my attention to such an important aspect and adding a sense or a note of history to the legislation that we are passing now. But I would strongly feel that repeal of this Act will not result into compromising with any of the principles that he has mentioned.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is:

"That the Bill to repeal the Indian Power Alcohol Act, 1948, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into considertion."

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House shall now take up clause by clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is :

"That clause 2 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the long Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI SURESH PRABHU : Madam, I beg to move :

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

15.32 hrs.

CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION BILL

[English]

SHRI SURESH PRABHU : Madam, I beg to move :

"That the Bill to give effect to the Convention on the Prohibition of Development, Production, Stockpiling

and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

Madam, the Indian Chemical Weapons Convention Bill, 2000 has already been passed by the Rajya Sabha. This Bill is, in fact, a part of the implementation process. We have already been signatory to the Convention. We have ratified the Convention and now this Bill which has been brought before the House would, in fact, give effect to the ratification process which has already been intiated in the past.

India has been one of the first countries to have signed the Convention alongwith some other countries and has been one of the strong supporters of the objectives for which this Convention has been effective. We have already taken certain steps India is one of the few countries which has already made some disclosures, which were required. Now we have got this Bill before the House which will, if fact, help and enable us to complete our international obligations which we have already made to the international community.

15.34 hrs.

[DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA *in the Chair*]

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR (Mayiladuturai) : Sir, I rise to support, without reservation, this important and historic Bill.

Sir, this Bill is of such great historic importance that I am astonished to see that it is being moved by the hon. Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers rather than the hon. Prime Minister of India and that it is being moved in the absence of the hon. Minister of External Affairs.

We are not dealing with a technical matter here about how to disinvest fertilizer or invest our chemical factories with only peaceful significance. We are dealing with the very first step ever taken by the international community in all history since the beginning of warfare to completely ban and completely eliminate an entire category of weapons.

It was in the First World-War that chemical weapons were for the fist time used on a large scale. They had a devastating effect. They were used largely by the Germans but they were also used by the allied powers. It was the League of Nations which, in the 1920s itself, attempted to take up the question of banning chemical weapons as a part of the overall general programme of general disarmament. While the League of Nations failed in all its attempts at disarmament and had to be replaced by the United Nations after the Second World War, even in the United Nations it has taken over half a century since its establishment for such a major step to be taken as to ban an entire category of weapons. Not only did the international community agree to do so but this became the precursor for a convention dealing with the elimination of biological weapons, and yet another convention, which is in an advanced stage of negotiation relating to the banning the elimination of radiological weapons, which leaves us, Sir, with only one really important category of weapon of mass destruction, which still awaits a convention, even a process of negotiation leading to convention for their elimination, and that is of nuclear weapons. And thus, when we pass this Bill today, we are not merely limiting ourselves to technical matter relating to the implementation of one of many conventions which India has acceded to at the United Nations, we are dealing with a truly historic development in the development of the history of mankind. And, therefore, I am a little concerned that the Government appears to be taking this matter as technical matter, as a routine matter, as a piece of legislation which has no significance other than for itself and in itself.

By the same token, Mr Chairman, I must confess that I also feel concerned that the Opposition Benches today wear as deserted a look as they do, but unfazed by the fact that whether it is the emptiness in the Treasury Benches or the emptiness in the Opposition Benches, I believe it is my duty and certainly it is the intention of my Party, that we should use this occasion to draw the attention of the Government to the close and integral link between this convention on the elimination of one category of weapons of mass destruction and a convention which is required by the international community for the elimination of nuclear weapons.

Sir, when one considers the immense damage that can be brought by the use of chemical weapons and then considers that this as nothing compared to the damage that could be brought by any use of nuclear weapons, it is clear that in itself this measure would not be of any significance were it not to prepare the ground for the elimination of that much more dangerous category of weapons of mass destruction, namely, nuclear weapons.

Sir, the argument that has been used hitherto by the countries possessing nucler weapons – I am referring here to all the countries which possessed nuclear weapons before May, 1998; I shall deal with the two countries that became nuclear weapons in May 1998 in a little while – those countries have been arguing that if nuclear weapons have been invented, they cannot be disinvented. But that argument applies as well to chemical weapons. They have

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been invented, they cannot be disinvented, and yet, the international community has concluded that they can nevertheless be destroyed and eliminated. And thus, the basic argument made by those who want the retention of the nuclear weapons is repudiated by the Chemical Weapons Convention.

The second important aspect of this convention to which attention needs to be drawn especially in the current international context, is that even as the United States negotiators had, with no very great difficulty, affixed their signatures to the Chemical Weapons Convention, and they also did so with regard to the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty; when the negotiators went back to Washington, they found resistance on the Capitol Hill, where under the United States system, unlike the Indian system the Legislature has to ratify acts of the Executive. Whereas the Chemical Weapons Convention, after a fair amount of negotiation between the US Congress and the White House reached a point where the US Congress ratified the Chemical Weapons Convention, this has not happened with regard to the CTBT. Now, we have waited until the United States of America, which is a prime element in anything to do with weapons of mass destruction, undertook the definitive step of ratifying the Chemical Weapons Convention, before coming to this House with the Bill. Yet rumour has it, and I trust it will be limited to rumour, that the Government in the context of the Prime Minister's forthcoming visit to the United States of America, have under very, very serious consideration the possibility of Indian acceding to the CTBT before the Americans have retified it.

Now that the existing US Congress has definitively rejected the CTBT and has not agreed to ratify it under American law it will not be until a new President is elected and possibly a new Congress comes into existence – there they renew their House of Representatives every two years – that the question of taking up the CTBT for any further consideration would arise if it were ever to arise. Now, in these circumstances, if for the Chemical Weapons Convention Bill you have waited close on seven-and-a-half years from the date of signing to come to this House with this Bill for the procedure for implementation I think it shows that caution demands that merely in order to acquire yet another feather to put into our poet PM's cap, we do not rush into signing the CTBT.

There are very good reasons on the left and the right for not signing the CTBT. I am a dove. I believe in peace. I belong to a Party to which Mahatma Gandhi belonged. Therefore, I am not in favour of this CTBT.

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI (Visakhapatnam) : The whole country belongs to Mahatma Gandhi.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : Yes fortunately, he did not found the TDP. He helped founding the Congress. So, the Indian National Congress has had a continous history from 1885. But I would not expect the rebels to understand that. . . .*(Interruptions)* I belong to a Party with which Mahatma Gandhi was associated. Therefore, my objection to the CTBT is not the objection of the hawks that it might prevent us from conducting further tests or from becoming an even greater nuclear weapon power. My objection to our getting involved with the CTBT is that unless and until in integral link is established between a specific measure of disarmament such as the CTBT and the time bound, if phased elimination of nuclear weapons, we should not be rushing in to assist a process in which some will remain nuclear weapon powers and some would not; where those who are will be favoured and those who have just become will be less favoured; and those who are not will be totally disfavoured. It is for these reasons that I have objected to the CTBT. But this is not the place to discuss that at any length. However, I am availing to this opportunity to mention this because it does not appear as if the Lok Sabha in the Monsoon Session is going to be taking up any issue of foreign policy. Thus, we would have passed through an entire year of the Thirteenth Lok Sabha without discussing the CTBT. Yet, the Government appears to be teetering on the brink of doing so in the context of the Prime Minister's forthcoming visit. That is why I need to draw attention to the link between two apparently disparate things. The Government deliberately withheld bringing this Bill for the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention until the United States had ratified the Convention and the Convention as such had come into force. The CTBT, which has not yet come into force and which is not going to come into force until at least the United States ratifies the Convention and the required number of countries undertakes similar measures to deposit the required instruments with the authority concerned

If you look at the Schedule attached to this Bill, which is the text of the International Convention, and see only Article 1 which is at page 18 of the document which has been circulated to us, you will see that in the "General Obligations" under Article 1, if in the first four Clauses we were merely to substitute the word 'chemical weapons' with the words 'nuclear weapons' you have the beginning of a Treaty on the elimination of nuclear weapons. Here itself it becomes :

"1. Each State Party to this Convention undertakes never under any circumstances :

(a) To develop, produce, otherwise acquire, stockpile or retain Nuclear Weapons, or transfer, directly or indirectly, Nuclear Weapons to anyone;

(b) To use Nuclear Weapons;

(c) To engage in any military preparations to use Nuclear Weapons;

(d) To assist, encourage or induce, in any way, anyone to engage in any activity prohibited to a state Party under this Convention."

Similarly –

2. Each State Party undertakes to destroy Nuclear Weapons it owns or possesses, or that are located in any place under its jurisdiction or control, in accordance with the provisions of this Convention.

3. Each State party undertakes to destroy all Nuclear Weapons it abandoned on the territory of another State party, in accordance with the provisions of this Convention.

4. Each State Party undertakes to destroy any Nuclear Weapons production facilities it owns or possesses, or that are located in any place under its jurisdiction or control, in accordance with the provisions of this Convention."

You can see that simply by changing the word "chemical" to "nuclear" we have already got a draft Convention, there is not logical reason that countries which possess chemical weapons and agree to their elimination in terms of this Convention cannot also negotiate an agreement under which they will agree to the elimination of nuclear weapons.

The Government of India, have before them a document which dates back to 1988. The Action Plan relating to the elimination of Nuclear Weapons in a time-bound framework. To a question that I posed to the Minister of External Affairs a little earlier in the last Budget Session, I got a reply which startled me – startled me but pleased me – that the Government of India were aware of this 1998 Action Plan and further that they subsribed to the Action Plan. If they subscribed to the Action Plan, then one expects them to do something about it.

Yet, in answer to a letter that I had addressed to the Minister of External Affairs asking him to give me a single instance of any official of the Government of India having stated outside this House that they knew of the existence of the Rajiv Gandhi Action Plan and had done something about supporting it, I am still to receive a reply. I think it would be embarrassing to the Minister to reply to me that apart from the answer to my Unstarred Question, they have not stated this anywhere else and this is, perhaps why I have not received a reply. But I am really unconcerned with whether the Government of India mean it or do not mean it, but I am concerned with fact that in this House they had stated in black and white that they too were aware of the Rajiv Gandhi Action Plan and that they do subscribe to it. In the light of that we are having from now in a few weeks from now, a golden opportunity, the Millennium Summit of the United Nations, and this Millennium Summit is going to be attended not only by our Prime Minister but a delegation comprising party leaders drawn from the entire spectrum of this House.

This is the occasion for India to retrieve its traditional position in the vanguard of the disarmament movement. What has happened since May 1998 is that our former companions in the disarmament movement, have disowned us. They just do not trust us. They say that "You were a non-nuclear power. You deliberately became a nuclear weapon power and when you protest that your policy of global nuclear disarmament policy as a nuclear weapon power is the same as it was when you were a non-nuclear weapon power, we simply do not trust you.

This is the attitude of the international community, the consequences of which has been that both in 1998 and in 1999, in the United Nations General Assembly, where resolutions have been moved with respect to the elimination of nuclear weapons, the co-sponsoring powers have not even invited India to join them. Where we were a world leader in the disarmament movement, we are today one of the usual suspects and all the protestations of the Government of India with regard to its fidelity to the objective of the elimination of nuclear weapons is not being taken seriously by the international community. We have now an opportunity to retrieve our reputation. The Government of India have stated on the floor of the House and elsewhere that they continue, notwithstanding our having crossed the nuclear weapons threshold, for the elimination of nuclear weapons in a time-bound and phased manner. They have further stated implicitly that this will be in accordance with the Action Plan of 1988.

Now, all of us know that over a period of 12 years, there are bound to be significant changes in the international community, particularly relating to weapons of mass destruction, and, therefore, an element of updating of the Action Plan of 1988 is called for. But, as of now, the document that is before the international community is an Action Plan and not a draft Convention. As I attempted to indicate by reading out the first four clauses of the Chemical Weapons Convention, merely by substituting the words 'Chemical Weapons' with 'nuclear weapons', you have got a frame work within which a draft convention can be submitted by India to the international

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community for purposes of negotiation. We have been long enough in the international community to know that you do not present draft conventions, or any kind of draft, in a take it or leave it manner. There is always scope for negotiations. Fortunately, in Geneva, we have been for a very long time, thanks to the efforts of people like Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and Shri Krishna Menon, India being a member of the Conference on Disarmament. It is a permanent body which sits in Geneva and is the body which has negotiated this Chemical Weapons Convention. It is also the body that negotiated the CTBT.

Sir, in these circumstances, while supporting wholeheartedly and without reservation the Bill that has been brought forward before this House, I would urge upon the hon. Minister of Chemicals and Fertilisers to carry to the Minister of External Affairs and to the hon. Prime Minister a very special plea from this side of the House that we should use this as a launching pad to make the Millennium Summit at New York an Indian Summit and which can be made an Indian Summit, if the hon. Prime Minister of India, in accordance with the Action Plan of 1998, which, it has been confirmed to this House, is known to the Government of India and is subscribed to by the Government of India were to update and render into treaty language, into the language of international convention and presented at the Millennium Summit, I think, we may be making a major advance towards ensuring that by the time the next centenary comes, humanity and this planet will still be in existence.

If we fail in our duty, if we fail as a neo-nuclear weapon power to do what we have been doing for 50 years as a non-nuclear weapons power, I do not think humanity will forgive us. Perhaps humanity will not be there to forgive us. Nuclear weapons can spell holocaust for all of us. Therefore, please do not take this as a routine Bill and please do not take this as a routine step. I would plead with this House to be aware of the extreme historic importance of what we are about to do and, in accordance with that, to ensure that the Millennium Summit becomes an Indian Summit, by being the summit at which India presents a draft Convention on a time-bound programme, for a phased nuclear weapons elimination programme, with a verificatory procedure that draws upon the principles and procedure for verification embodied in this convention.

Sir, with that earnest request to the Government of India, I reiterate my and my Party's support to this Bill.

Sir, I congratulate the hon. Minister for having brought this Bill.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Bill and to congratulate the hon. Minister for having come forward with this historic legislation.

I need not try to be eloquent on the disaster consequent to the use of any chemical weapons. Chemical weapons are the most inhuman of all the weapons of warfare. It is a matter of pride that India, true to its ethos, took the lead and was one of the first signatories to the Chemical Weapons Treaty. Even as far back as the Second World War, Winston Churchill once gave the warning to its own forces to be ready to use chemical weapons against Germany. This was when Britain was facing the V-I and the V-II missiles of the Nazis and was helpless against them. I do not go into the detail now but, fortunately, the war ended and these chemical weapons were not then used. Today, we have a Treaty. India, as I said, true to its ethos, came forward wholeheartedly and was one of the foremost nations to sign this particular Chemical Weapons Convention. I would like to emphasise on one particular aspect of the Chemical Weapons Convention. It holds great importance, specially in our policy towards securing world peace, with our democratic ideals. This Chemical Weapons Convention is certainly non-discriminatory in character. All are almost dealt with equally. This is an important step because that is the policy of having non-discriminatory international treaties, which is of great importance, and that is to our attitude towards CTBT also; the attitude that we have with respect to the Chemical Weapons Convention, with its non-discriminatory clauses, we also want that CTBT should also be non-discriminatory and the so-called powers in the Nuclear Club cannot hold any better position, discriminatory position. The CTBT has also to be similarly non-discriminatory in clearly declaring that the nuclear weapons are outlawed and have to be eliminated by one and all, without any discrimination and in a given time schedule.

Today, this is of great importance because India has, in fact, entered the Nuclear Club.

16.00 hrs.

Having, in fact, entered the nuclear club and thereby having certain position, it still stands by the other countries that are factually not members of the nuclear club. India wants non-discrimination for all and in spite of the fact that we are nuclear power, we still say that the CTBT should be non-discriminatory in character for one and all. I, therefore, say that this Bill that we are adopting today with this particular glorious provision of being non-discriminatory in character, considered in the context of even the CTBT and other international treaties, is a matter of great pride for us.

I heartily congratulate the hon. Minister. There are, however, certain aspects of the Bill that need to be considered. In the first place, the provisions of the Convention form part of the Schedule. This Schedule will also be adopted by us. Therefore, the Schedule, being exactly the provisions of the Convention, is a substantive law. It will have the force of law. And here we have a peculiar situation in clause 3. According to clause 3, the Government, without consulting even this House, without taking this House into confidence, can make any amendment in the Schedule, in the substantive law, in the provisions, in order to bring it in conformity with any amendment that may have been made to the Convention there.

Yes, the amendments may be made there. But still, we will have to consider whether those amendments are in consonance with our own national interest and national security. Today this Parliament tries to give the force of law to all the provisions of the Convention. Tomorrow, if any provision of the Convention is amended there, then before our Government comes forward without consulting the Parliament to amend our law itself, this Parliament or this House must have the right to consider those amendments as to whether those amendments are acceptable to our country, to this House and whether they are in our interest, in the interest of national security and whether they are just and fair or not. Therefore, I have given an amendment to that particular effect also.

Sir, you look at the position. The United States of America reserves the right of the Senate, under the Constitution, to add to any amendments or reservations in the provisions of the Convention. The U.S.A. is so zealous in protecting the authority of its Senate that if there are any additions on reservations, any additions to the provisions of the Convention, then the Senate will consider it. But, here, I am afraid a cavalier attitude is taken . . . *(Interruptions)* Sir, kindly do not be impatient. I have nearly seven amendments to move and, therefore, I would like to have a little more time to explain them also.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Kindly be brief.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Sir, I will try to be as brief as possible.

Therefore, I say that let us not have a casual attitude towards the entire question of chemical weapons.

We have just been told of the importance of the Bill, but the very substantive provisions of the Convention may be amended by the Government without taking the House into confidence. That does not speak well of the entire attitude towards the Parliament and towards this question of chemical weapons. Indeed, the Bill and the Convention augurs well for peace, but that does not mean that the democratic procedure be given a go-by.

Sir, the Bill seeks to create a National Authority, but then, this National Authority must also be given specific right to create a Technical Secretariat, of course, with the approval of the Government because the entire subject is highly technical and the Chairperson and the Directors appointed by the Government in the National Authority will need to be assisted and aided by the Technical Secretariat. The second amendment that I wish to propose deals with that particular aspect.

Sir, look at the functions that are to be performed by the National Authority which is going to be created as per the provisions of the Bill. Certain important functions have been simply omitted. We must see that the National Authority created under the Bill has the power and the function to review the general operation of the Convention. It must not only be able to review the general operation of the Convention – that is with respect to all the countries and the overall world view – but also, at the same time, that Authority must present an Annual Report to this House so that the House is alert to the developments on such a major front. There is no provision whatsoever under the Bill for the National Authority to submit an Annual Report to the Government which should be laid on the Table of the House. This omission is a glaring omission and must be removed. Of course, the National Authority must also have the function of advising the Government on all matters relating to the Convention.

Mr. Chairman Sir, by an Order made under clause 11 of the Bill, the Government may constitute a Committee to oversee the functioning of the National Authority. That is well and good. But why should this Order be simply notified in the Gazette but be not required to be laid on the Table of the House? The National Authority will be constituted under the provisions of the Bill which we may adopt. In addition to this, if the Government wants to have any other Committee to oversee the National Authority created under the law, then at least, there must be the courtesy of that Order being laid on the Table of this House. This House will permit, so to say, the Government to create the National Authority, but when the Government is constituting an additional Committee to oversee the functioning of the National Authority, then at least, the Government must have the courtesy of placing that Order on the Table of the House. This Committee which is appointed to oversee the functioning of the National Authority must also present its Annual Report to the Government and that Annual Report should also be laid on the Table of the House.

It seems that at every step this House is being overlooked. Today, this is a necessity that after the ratification

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of the treaty, a law should come into force. Therefore, because of the necessity, under compulsion, under this pressure, a Bill has come. But in future, the Parliament is to be shut out. The functioning and the operation of this important Chemical Weapons Convention is to shut out, the activities of the National Authority are to be shut out. This House is to be shut out from the activities of the Committee that the Government may impose for over-seeing the functioning of the National Authority. I therefore, say that this rather casual attitude, not befitting the democratic framework and democratic ethos, has been taken with respect to such a Treaty, namely the Chemical Weapons' Convention.

Sir, I would like to make one technical point and then I would conclude. When did this Treaty come into operation? It was on 29th April, 1997. This Bill in respect of punishing any person for non-registration etc. is retrospective in nature. I can understand that a person who tries to manufacture etc. of these kinds of things without registration should be punishable and should be punishable if he had done so before the commencement of this Bill. But he cannot be made punishable for an act done even before the commencement of the international Treaty. That is, before 29th April, 1997. So, the Act could be retrospective. Its retrospective nature has to be restricted by the date as 29th April, 1997. It is because the world has adopted this Treaty or the Treaty came into force on the 29th of April, 1997.

Sir, these are the few remarks offered to help the democratic framework under which the whole thing has to be viewed. I hope, these would meet with due consideration of the House and the Government.

Sir, finally I thank you profusely for your indulgence, patience and for your bearing with me.

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI (Viskhapatnam) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, thank you. It is an important piece of legislation. I rise to whole-heartedly support anything that is meant for peace and global harmony. Our country should be the pioneer in such metters since it is the land of the Gandhi. We cherish Gandhian ideals. Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru had said about peace and neutrality. We have always stood for these ideals.

Sir, this international Convention of Chemical Weapons has come into force on the 29th of April, 1997 after much deliberations and due diligence. We are now, through a Bill in the year 2000, accepting this Convention Resolutions. Any weapon of chemical nature has harmful effects and have caused great disasters.

Even in the absence of chemical weapons we had grave chemical disasters in the country. We cannot forget the havoc caused by the Bhopal incident. Many innocent people have been killed in that incident. The after-effects of that incident are still affecting the people there. The disaster caused by Chernobyl incident in Russia is known to everybody. The effects of radiation on the humanity can be seen in Nagasaki even today. Therefore, India should always be in the forefront of being a party to such treaties and conventions.

In fact, as Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar has stated, we should go a step further in achieving an understanding and signing a treaty on nuclear disarmament. India has time and again assured that it is not going to be the first-user of nuclear weapons. While that position of ours is clear, we should take every opportunity to talk to other countries in regard to nuclear disarmament. We should take it up at every platform including the forthcoming Millennium Summit Session of the United Nations.

Prime Minister Vajpayee is the apostle of Gandhian principles in the country. He should take lead in the global effort to ban nuclear weapons. The neighbouring countries are living in great tension. There is a tremendous race for possession of nuclear weapons. Nuclear weapons have taken the place of chemical weapons now. That could be one of the reasons why the developed countries have titled towards signing the convention on chemical weapons. Since more sophisticated weapons are kept in store by the advanced countries they chose to sign this treaty. They do not seen to have done it on moral ground.

We should enter into any pact that seeks to ban the weapons that can cause mass destruction. India should, as always, stand in the forefront in this endeavour. With these words, I once again support the Chemical Weapons Convention Bill, 2000 to be passed.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hoogly) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, while I welcome the Bill, I cannot but make one observation. As my esteemed colleague Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar has stated, such a Bill should have come from the Prime Minister's side and the hon. Minister of External Affairs should have been present in the House while such a Bill is taken up for discussion.

After seven long years, the Bill has come for the concurrence of this august House. This has been done at such a time when there is every reason to think that there is some correlation between the hectic preparation to get it passed and the Prime Minister's visit abroad of next month. This is in line with the great heritage of this country which this nation derived from the days of our great freedom struggle.

Even immediately after we attained freedom, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru along with a good number of stalwarts of Asia, Africa and Latin America had pronounced some policy initiatives which could have changed the world from what it is today. They were to have a better place to live in with less tension, with no scope for arms race, which has been built up and being built up again.

So, with the latest measures of national missile defence, the paradoxical situation is that those very people, countries and power who had been pressurising others to adhere to certain provisions – be it CTBT, NPT or many other such conventions and measures – have initiated again such programme and a serious of measures involving several hundred of crores of rupees. They will be spending this huge amount in it in spite of their initial failure.

Although more than 1,500 noble laurels and a good number of eminent people of the world have come out openly declaring that this should not be pursued by America but still they are doing it.

Sir, as you know, the chemical weapons have been is use with certain measures and certain degree from the days of the First World War. In the Second World War also, at some places, they were used. But the most glaring example of the use of these chemical, technologicl weapons, such other lethal weapons is Vietnam. In Vietnam, America had used all sorts of these weapons. Similarly, in Iran also such weapons have been used and are being used still now. About a fortnight back, while reading a newspaper, I came to know that it is still continuing still now.

Now, the Bill has come. We are retifying it at such a crucial time. We need to remember that India has lost its old prestigious position in the comity of nations. Earlier, the very country and the leadership had been occupying the place of honour as a leader, be it from the days of Bandung to the New Delhi Declaration. Even subsequently, as rightly mentioned by Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar, we followed the philosophy of a total disarmament within a time frame, emphasised by Rajiv Gandhi during his small tenure of leadership. Be it in the United Nations, be it any international for a, we had been in the leadership.

But now, becuse of our lack of political will which they are amply demonstrating for the last several months, we have failed in providing the leadership and our prestige has been lowered.

But now, there is one more opportunity before us. In the Millennium Summit, we can say that 'this is India, we have ratified the Chemical Weapons Bill.' Of course, there was an aberration with the Pokhran-II. It should not have been taken with a sort of chauvinism as it is being tried to be done. We have the capability for nuclear weapons with its dual use. We can particularly use it for peaceful purposes.

This is a known fact to the whole world that our nuclear scientists, in no way, are inferior to anyone. Taking into account, the global situation, our relationship and our position of honour, we had amply made it clear that in spite of all our capabilities, we should use it for peaceful purposes only.

Even in 1974 Shrimati Indira Gandhi had, after the experiment, made it categorically clear to the world with regard to nuclear weapons that there was a consensus. I am not saying that I have everything in agreement with Shrimati Gandhi. My party, many others and myself had a lot of differences. But Foreign Policy was an area where we had an agreement, we had a national consensus. When the Prime Minister does not consult us, there is a break of the consensus and there is a destruction of the consensus. These aberrations are contributing to the destruction of this national consensus, which we have built up from the days of our freedom struggle.

There is a reference in page 5 and page 7 to toxic chemical elements like phosphorous and sulphur. I cannot but help making a reference to what has already been mentioned by my esteemed friend from the TDP. We know what happened in the Bhopal gas tragedy They have been indulging in the production of toxic materials and certain other things without the permission of the Government. We know what sort of a disaster had taken place in 1984. We are now in the year 2000. Sixteen years apart, till now, the offenders are yet to be booked.The Government is sitting callously without taking any action. There is no attempt by this Government to bring them back to this country and punish them according to the law of our land although there are ample legal provisions for that.

Hundreds of thousands of people have been permanently injured – psychologically, physically and emotionally. Hundreds of thousands of them have lost everything – life and property. There is no compensation for them though some NGOs have been struggling on their behalf and going to the court. They have gone to the international fora also, demanding justice. The Government of India is here making a reference to toxic materials and chemicals, their inspection, production, maintenance, use, etc. This Government owes it to tell the nation what steps it has taken to ensure justice to these poor victims of this ghastly Bhopal gas disaster. This is the worst tragedy that might have ever taken place in any nation during the last century.

[Shri Rupchand Pal]

I am not going into the details of the several provisions of the Bill. There are certain issues involving inspection as it happens in the case of the atomic weapons. It is being said that if it attracts something in relation to our national security, the Government would not be in a position to allow them. But we find that there are reports that sometimes it is done without the permission of the Government.

I am concluding with a remark that the Government is ignoring this Parliment. As far as CTBT is concerned, we gather that they have already agreed to sign the CTBT. Some very important people in the American Administration have publicly made their observations and comments that the Government of India, through its representative, in the twelfth round of negotiations with the American counterpart, has agreed to it. It is being said that the Government of India has already agreed.

But the Parliament is kept in the dark. The Government should come out categorically and not in a vague way; or it should not circumvent. There is ample scope for the Government of India to publicly say that India will not sign it, particularly after the Senate has rejected it. Differing views are being made – that we may sign or that there may be negotiation about marriage, but the marriage may not take place; the ratification may not take place, as it happened in the case of America, etc.

But this Parliament is being deprived of knowing what is going on. There is every reason to suspect that this Government is surrendering in the name of strategic alliance, in the name of opening up of Indian market and subjugating itself to pressures from various fronts.

I can give you one example. In 1985, when Shri Rajiv Gandhi was the Prime Minister, India has given recognition to a very small country, that is, SADR. Morocco has been putting pressure saying that the Government of India should withdraw the recognition, although there was a reference that the United Nations will arrange a referendum, but only after the issue of SADR is considered by the Government of India. There is American pressure and the Prime Minister is also going to America. Recognition to SADR is given by this country; it was given by Shri Rajiv Gandhi Government, under his leadership. We are engaged in an anti-colonial struggle and we are trying to protect the small country, for its independence.

India has always stood by the side of any freedom struggle or independence struggle. But this is for the first time that this Government – under pressure from the imperialist forces, the American forces and such other pressures – is just breaking the national consensus that was there. They are dismantling the great heritage that has been built up from the days of freedom struggle.

The Government have brought forward the Chemical Weapons Convention Bill. The Government should have waited for a little more time. There are certain developments taking place very fast in the world and so, we could have taken a better decision. The Government has brought forward this Bill, with a very narrow interest to satisfy the American Government before the visit of the Prime Minister, but still, I welcome this Bill. There are many areas where this Bill could be enriched and forcefully presented. We are in India and Pokhran-II is an aberration. We do not believe in arms race, we believe in friendly relations, we believe in non-alignment and we believe in anti-imperialist struggle. We are not ready to subjugate ourselves to any pressure – be it in respect on NPT, be it in respect of CTBT, be it in respect of any other WTO provisions or any such pressures to open up economic market and any other thing.

With these words, I support the Chemical Weapons Convention Bill. I believe that the Government will retrace its steps and try to uphold the great anti-imperialist heritage, in the matter of its foreign poilicy. Thank you.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (Kalahandi) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Chemical Weapons Convention Bill is piloted by the hon. Minister. I wholeheartedly support it because it is a step towards non-violence and it projects India as a propounder of Gandhian principles and peace.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, as you know and as the House knows, a Convention was held in Paris on the 14th of January 1993, to which India was a signatory.

So, it becomes mandatory that this type of legislation should be brought in the House and passed. I thank the hon. Members belonging to the opposition benches. If you see the sense of the House, everybody has supported this Bill because it is a Bill for peace. It is about the destruction of chemical weapons which is very harmful way of warfare in the time of battle and in the time of conflict.

Sir, I would like to go back to the time of World War I, Battle of Ypres and Battle of somme. Deadly poisonous gas was used when the world war was on. In World War I it was found that the after-effects of these poisonous gas on the soliders were such that the gas had impaired them for life. The after-effects of the chemical weapons were so horrifying that in the World War II, neither the Germany nor the Allies not the Warsaw Pact countries

dared to use these chemical weapons. After that, only in 1945, atom bombs were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. People never used these chemical weapons because the after-effects it had on the human body and on the human being were terribly disastrous.

You will see that till date, the people, who fought in the Iran-Iraq war where mustard and sarin gases were used by Iraqi forces and retaliated by Iran also, are not able to lead normal life even now. They are still suffering from that dastardly warfare.

Therefore, this Bill is an eye-opener for those people who are suspecting India to be in the weapons race after the Pokhran blast and after the five nuclear test which were held recently. When we entered the nuclear club, people thought that we are also in for the nuclear arms race. This piece of legislation clearly proves that the distruction of chemical weapons is a step towards non-violence.

A lot of hon. Members suggested that this Bill should have been piloted either by the Defence Minister or by the Prime Minister himself. But I see the justification why this Bill is being piloted by the Minister of Chemicals and Fertilisers. It is because, in the chemical factories, even after production, shelf life for certain chemicals exist and they can be used for making chemical weapons. For example, improvised bombs can be made immediately and they can be completely used for sobotage. Russia and America which were possessing the biggest nuclear arsenals, after the competition between them was over and after the end of bipolar world and after it became the unipolar world because of America, have come together and in collaboration spending billions of dollars for destroying the masive chemical stockpile which they have.

Sir, I would like to quote Mr. Kenneth Waltz. He says :

> "Uncertainty about outcomes does not work decisively against fighting wars in conventional worlds. Countries armed with conventional weapons go to war knowing that their suffering will be limited. Calculations about nuclear war are made differently. If countries armed with nuclear weapons go to war, they do so knowing that their suffering may be unlimited. In a conventional world one is uncertain about winning or losing. In a nuclear world, one is uncertain about surviving or being annihilated."

In the case of chemical weapon war, one thing is certain, that is, the future generation will get annihilated to the maximum because the after-effects of chemical weaponry is supposed to be devastating on the society and on the future of the nations which are involved in this war.

Sir, you will see that the aftermath of chemical and biological war is terrible. That is why, neither Germany nor Soviet Russia used chemical weapons in the Second World War. Therefore, this piece of legislation which the hon. Minister has brought, will encourage those nations who possess chemical weapons to destroy them.

Sir, I would like to cite an example of Ural Mountains where the Americans and the Russians are working jointly to cut down the effects of chemical leak and the destruction of chemical weapons. Sir, in this piece of legislation a National Authority will be constituted and an Enforcement Officer will be appointed to look into the chemical weaponry and the chemical factories.

Sir, today, chemicals are produced by the factories. They might be for medicines or for research or for agriculture. But they could also be used as weapons during warfare. Therefore, I suggest that legislation should be enacted to form a laboratory, which could assess the degree of those chemicals which are manufactured by different factories.

Sir, now destruction of chemical weapons is becoming a big problem in the world. Now, America requires 500 billion dollars to destroy its chemical weapon stockpile and Russia requires 380 billion dollars to destroy its stockpile. Sir, I would like to just quote from the strategic analysis which is given in strategic digest. Sir, the Director of Russian's Munitions agency, Mr. Zinovi Pak said that Moscow would not be able to destroy the four hundred tonnes of weapons by the end of this month as laid out in the International Chemical Weapon Ban. So, you could know from here that once the chemical weapons are produced, destroying them is the bigger problem like disposal of nuclear waste. Sir, the big problem facing America and Russia today is how to dispose of nuclear waste and the chemical waste which will later on be flooding their armaments.

Sir, I support the Bill brought by the hon. Minister. It is a historic piece of legislation. Sir, it will show the way to other countries to stop production of chemical weapons. If you read the history of Iraq-Iran war, you will be surprised to see that mustard gas was used, sarine was used, and nerve gas was used. With these words, I support the Bill.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Chemical Weapons Convention Bill, 2000 which has been brought by the Minister Shri Suresh Prabhu who belongs to Maharashtra, is an important piece of legislation. Traditionally, we believe in non-violence. Our country has always followed the path of peace. The philosophy of Lord Budha is based on the principles of

[Shri Ramdash Athawale]

peace and non-violence. I rise to support the Bill. This bill should have been introduced even earlier.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, two and half thousand years ago, Gautam Budha was born and as a result of the philosophy preached by him, more than 80 perent people accepted Budhism. It is a well known fact that King Ashoka accepted the Budhism after the Kalinga war which resulted is huge loss of life and properties.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, at that time this Budhism and Budhist religion was spread in the whole world. There would have been no need to bring such a Bill had all the people been Budhist in the country, but people of the country became Hindu. And that is why is became imperative to bring the Bill. It is a fine piece of legislation, but why this Bill has been brought at this juncture? Hon. Prime Minister is likely to visit US and I feel this Bill has been brought to please U.S. If such is the case then this Bill should be opposed, however today I shall not oppose the Bill instead I shall support it because Hon. Prime Minister through this House has endeavoured to assure not only this country but also the whole world that he will not be a signatory to C.T.B.T.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, as I have said earlier, this piece of legislation is good, but you are provoking Pakistan by enacting this legislation. You are imposing ban on the chemical weapons, and it is correct, from the point of view of security but you are provoking Pakistan. How many countries have enacted such legislation as has been brought by the House. Has Pakistan enacted such legislation if not, then why India is in a hurry to pass such a legislation? I feel this Bill has been brought to appease to U.S.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, once the Bill is passed there shall be legal ban on the chemical weapons, Parliament is there to enact legislation and every day new laws are being made and passed, but they are not being implemented. Hence it seems to me that the Bill will meet the same fate like other Bills. Bills are passed and they become laws, but they are not properly and strictly implemented.

Mr Chairman, Sir, the Bill provides for establishment of a National Authority, but the number of members in addition to chairman and their in addition to chairman and their requisite qualifications have not been specified. It has not been mentioned whether those members will be Government officials or non-government officials. I would like the National Authority to be powerful and should have good impact.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to request Hon. Minister through you that once the Bill is passed a ban will be imposed on the factories or industries manufacturing weapons, and thus legal production of weapons shall be stopped, but number of factories manufacturing illegal weapons will grow unless there is check on the illegal manufacturing of weapons, it will not have the desired result. Even after enactment of this legislation if production of illegal weapons continues, then what is the point in enacting such legislation.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, it would have been appropriate had this Bill been brought in the House after Prime Minister's visit to U.S. There is need to warn Pakistan in the context of recent Kargil war with Pakistan, increased terrorist activities in Jammu-Kashmir and the manner in which Pakistan is trying to occupy Kashmir. Besides, negotiations with Pakistan is also required and if regotiations do not bring it round then Pakistan must be dealt with strictly because they are not ready to negotiate with us, instead it is encouraging terrorist activities in Jammu & Kashmir. That is why I wanted this Bill to be brought at a later stage.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, ours is a peace loving country of Mahatma Gandhi. Baba Saheb Ambedkar. Hence, I support this Bill.

[English]

SHRI V.P. SINGH BADNORE (Bhilwara) : Sir, I rise to support the Bill. I think, we are making history this evening by ratifying the International Convention on Chemical Weapons because it took 120 countries over 25 years to get together to pass this Chemical Weapons Convention. It is a very important ratification that we are doing today because it is a dastardly and very ugly form of warfare, which has been proved. My friend, Shri Bikram Deo described how in the First World War and Second World War, even in the Vietnam War and Gulf War, it was being used. Now, the only non-signatories to this Convention are Egypt, Libya and a few other countries. I think, India should take a lead to convince them also to come alongwith the other 120 countries. My scepticism is only to the area of terrorists. Suppose these chemical weapons fall into the hands of terrorists, how and what are we going to do about it? I think this Bill that is coming here has to be strengthened in such a way that the chemical weapons should not fall into the hands of the terrorists and we are very worried about it. This has not been mentioned in the Bill. I think it is a novel Bill and it was a novel Convention. It was not a restrictive Convention because in the NPT which was being mentioned had restrictions but this does not have restrictions on any of the countries. Everybody

has signed meaning that they want to do away and eliminate the chemical weapons.

I support the Bill wholeheartedly.

SHRI SURESH PRABHU : Sir, first of all, I wish to thank all the hon. Members for their interventions and also for unanimously supporting the Bill. It is true that it is very historical development in which a ratification had already taken place and is now given effect in the form of legislation. What had already been done at the executive level is now getting approval at the legislative level also. Therefore, I really wish to thank all the hon. Members of the House for this support and I consider myself to be very fortunate in participating in this historical development.

It is true that this Bill could have been legislated upon or this ratification could have been converted into a legislation quite sometime back but for some reason or the other, it was delayed. But it is wrong to infer that it is taking place at a time when our hon. Prime Minister is supposed to be visiting the US. In fact, this Bill was introduced in Rajya Sabha during the Budget Session. It could not be passed by the Rajya Sabha then and therefore, it could not be brought here in the Lok Sabha. This Bill was passed by the Rajya Sabha in the current Session and as soon as it was passed by that House, I have brought forward it in the Lok Sabha. So, I would like to assure the House that there is no other reason to move this Bill at this particular time than the legislative precedence which has decided at what time the Bill should be considered in this House.

I am, of course, thankful to Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar for really raising the level of this discussion to a level in which we are now legislating this Bill for a reason which is really amply clear that India believes in a process which has been followed by successive Governments for a long period of time. This Bill is yet another step in the same direction. It is, of course, not only Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar but also the other hon. Members who wanted me to convey to our hon. Prime Minister the feelings of this House about the CTBT or the NPT or the issues related to nuclear weapons. I can assure the House that I would certainly do that. I am sure the Prime Minister is already aware of your views. Maybe, he is watching this debate. He need not be present in the House but he would definitely be watching this debate. I would definitely take note of that.

Shri Banatwalla has, of course, raised certain issues. He has also moved some amendments. I will come to them in a few minutes. I thank him for that. So also, I thank Shri Murthy and Shri Rupchand Pal for their contribution. I am going to answer a Question tomorrow which is numbered fourth in the List of Questions about the Bhopal Gas Tragedy, I can assure the hon. Members that not only this Government is monitoring it in the Department of Chemicals and Petro-Chemicals but also a Group of Ministers, which acts like a Standing Group. Of course, this does not obviate the ordeal that so many of the victims of the Gas Tragedy have to undergo. But this is only to illustrate the point that we are also watching this as closely as possible. But, of course, the sentiments and the views that you have expresed would now help me probably in disposing of it expeditiously. I can assure the hon. Members that we will also take some immediate steps to ensure that we take some quick action on that.

Shri Bikram Deo and Shri V.P. Singh also have supported this Bill, so is my friend from Maharashtra Shri Ramdas Athawale. Probably the only reason why he is also supporting this Bill besides the other hon. Members is that I happen to be his fellow colleague from the State of Maharashtra. I think it is a fortunate fact that he happens to be from a State which also has supported the Peace Movement from time to time. This is another step to prove the point that we join the national mainstream in welcoming all the initiatives of this type.

Shri Banatwalla has moved some amendments. In fact, that is only to prove the point that his watchful, alert and vigilant eyes always look through what is written between the lines. But I can assure him that all his concerns have been expressed in this Bill itself. I will try to explain it to him.

Shri Banatwalla, your first amendment pertains to line 14 of the Bill. The amendment says :

> "Provided that all amendments shall first be submitted to the Parliament for its advice and consent."

Your apprehension is that probably the Government of India would agree to something outside the Parliament and Parliament may not be knowing about it. Article 15 of the Convention is so clear and precise and modification or amendment to this is so complicated that unless it is approved unanimously by all the parties to the Convention, it is not possible to bring in any amendment. Unless we really amend that Convention, it is not possible for a Schedule, which is forming part of this Bill, to amend this. The Bill can never be amended in that fashion. Therefore, I can assure you that there is no reason to feel that the Government of India can ever do something outside the Parliament surreptitiously without the knowledge of Parliament. Even then, I can assure the House and give an assurance very explicitly that whenever such amendments are made to the Convention, the Government will come before the Parliament at the earliest opportunity and place it before the House. . . . *(Interruptions)*

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Why do you not incorporate that assurance here itself?. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SURESH PRABHU : It is because there is enough provision. In fact, the Convention itself had been negotiated for a long period of time. Basically, it is not really likely to have any effect. But I can assure that if at all there is something, we will bring the matter forward before you.

Shri Banatwalla, your second amendment is pertaining to the National Authority. You say that it should have a Technical Secretariat. In fact, the Authority itself is going to be consisting of such persons. It is a point which was also raised by Shri Ramdas Athawale that the Authority should consist of technical people. In fact, the whole Committee itself is going to be consisting of technical people. So, I do not think there is really any reason to have a Technical Secretariat because, as I said just now, the Committee itself is going to be a technical one and it would consist of technical personnel. Therefore, to have another Secretariat would probably mean that we are only creating additional bureaucracy which can be avoidable.

Shri Banatwalla's third point is this. He has moved amendments 4(a) and (b). He has proposed some amendments after line 19. Amendment 4(a) says: "review the general operation of the Convention."

17.00 hrs.

I would draw the attention of the hon. Member to clause 7(1) and 2(a) and (b). These are very elaborate. In fact, in that one of the functions of the National Authority inter alia we are also going to include the review of the Convention itself, which is the intention of the hon. Member in proposing this amendment. Therefore, if you read clause 7(1)(a), it says :

> "7(1)(a). It shall be the general duty of the National Authority to fulfil, on behalf of the Government of India, the obligations under the Convention;"

That itself means that you are actually reviewing the Convention. If you go further, it says :

> "7(1)(b). It shall be incumbent on the National Authority to act as the national focal point for effective liaison with the Organisation and other States Parties on matters relating to the Convention."

Clause 7(2)(a) says :

"Interact with the Organisation. . ."

Clause 7(2)(b) also says specifically – "monitor compliance with the provisions of the Convention" itself. Therefore, I think this particular clause captures the point that the hon. Member wanted to insert as an amendment. Therefore, I truly feel that a measure is available within the proposed legislation itself.

The other point is well taken. In fact, I remember the days when I used to sit in the Opposition benches and also used warn that Parliament should not be taken for granted. I can assure you that I have not forgotten the days and even now, though I am a Minister, I continue to be a Member of Parliament, and, therefore, Parliament cannot be taken for granted.

I can assure the House about clause 56 which confers the right on the Government to make rules that we would make it incumbent on the part of the Government to make place the Report before the Parliament. As requested by the hon. Member it would be placed before the Parliament. I am giving an assurance in the House that as soon the Government receives the Report, the same would be placed on the Table of the House.

In fact, the other point had already mentioned about amendment Nos. 2 and 3 that the hon. Member had proposed. I can assure the House that under clause 56, the rule-making powers of the Government would be exercised to ensure the Report would be placed before the Parliament as soon as it is possible.

The hon. Member had also proposed an amendment, the last amendment, which in fact talks about why the 'dates' are not mentioned – whether it is 29th April, 1997. If you read, probably, one gets a feeling about it. When you read the first part, if you go on and you make a complete reading of clause 39(a) which would show in line 32 that along with words "before the commencement of this Act", there is also line 37, which refers to, "and continues to be after such commencement, so engaged;". So, if you read it together, it definitely means that there is really no need to bring the amendment proposed by the hon. Member.

However, I really thank Shri Banatwalla, for being, as he is, so vigilant to keep tab on the Government to make sure that we draw salaries for which we really work. Thank you very much.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL (Latur) : I have one explanation to ask from the hon. Minister. . . . *(Interruptions)*

Clause 5 of the Bill reads as follows :

> "The Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, declare that this Act shall cease to be in force in case the Government of India withdraws from the Convention in accordance with the provisions of Article XVI. . ."

Now, there are two portions. One is about the notification declaring that this law ceases to be effective, that is –

> "The Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, declare that this Act shall cease to be in force. . ."

And the second is the withdrawal from the Convention. These are the two things. As far as the first part is concerned, why should we have a provision of this kind in the law?

Supposing the Government has withdrawn from the Convention and the Government wants that this law should not remain on the Statute Book, they can do it by issuing an Ordinance. If Parliament is in Session, they can come before Parliament and get the law passed. Why should this legislative authority be given to the Executive?

Secondly, the Government has very rightly kept the right to withdraw from the Convention. There would be situations in which it may be required, in the interest of the sovereignty and the interest of the country, to withdraw from the Convention. I think, almost all the countries in the world, which have acceded to the Convention and which have passed laws of this nature, have this kind of a clause. But we would like to know from the Government as to what are the circumstances in which the Government would think that this country should withdraw from the Convention.

These are the two points that I wanted to make and I would feel obliged if the hon. Minister gives and explanation to both the points.

SHRI SURESH PRABHU : Sir, first of all, I really cannot spell out the circumstances in which the Government will be withdrawing from the Convention. It is only an enabling provision. It is a provision which is there in the proposed Bill only because, in the event that, in the national interests, the Government really feels that is should withdraw from this Convention, it should able to do it. At the same time, in case we withdraw from the Convention, what it really means is, we withdraw from the Convention through a Notification. But even under Article XVI of the Convention, there are certain actions which have already been initiated and taken and those actions will be protected. Here, I would like to quote clause 5 of the Bill which says :

> "The Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, declare that this Act shall cease to be in force in case the Government of India withdraws from the Convention in accordance with the provisions of Article XVI, and on such declaration this Act shall cease to be in force, but is expiry under the operation of this Section shall not affect."

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : I was trying to understand as to why this kind of a provision should be there. Supposing you withdraw from the Convention and supposing you want that this law should not be enforced, you can do it by issuing an Ordinance if Parliament is not in Session and if Parliament is in Session you can come before Parliament and can get this law nullified. Why should you have a provision of this kind? The Legislature is saying that the Executive has the law-making power and that law-making power includes making the law and removing the law from the Statute Book. So, why should you have a provision of this kind? Why should the Legislature give this right to the Executive?

SHRI SURESH PRABHU : As you know, as per the Constitution of India, for any Treaty that the Government of India signs, it requires an authority to sign from the Cabinet. Then, the ratification is also done by the Cabinet, unlike the system in the United States of America where the Senate has to actually ratify any Treaty signed by their Government. Here, what we are saying is that the Act would still remain. The Ordinance can repeal the Act. What we are really trying to say here is about withdrawing from the Convention which can be done by the Cabinet by a Notification. But what this clause means is that despite whenever that happens, what is going to be protected are the actions taken under clause 5(a), (b), (c) and (d), because these are the actions which have already been initiated. So, if you really look at it, it says:

> ". . .but its expiry under the operation of this Section shall not affect –
>
> (a) the previous operation of, or anything duly done or suffered under, this Act or any rule made thereunder or any order made under any such rule, or..."

So, these actions have already been taken because this Bill is giving effect to the Convention and when we are withdrawing from the Convention, certain actions could have been taken under the Act because this Act has already been passed by Parliament. The following acts could have been taken, as stated in Clause 5(a), (b) and (c) :

> "(a) the previous operation of, or anything duly done or suffered under, this Act or any rule made thereunder or any order made under any such rule, or
>
> (b) any right privilege, obligation or liability acquired, accrued or incurred under this Act or any rule made thereunder or any order made under any such rule, or

[Shri Suresh Prabhu]

(c) any penalty, forfeiture or punishment incurred in respect of any offence under this Act, or. . ."

In the absence of such a provision, what could happen is that we would be withdrawing from the Convention and then, probably, the actions we have taken for giving effect to this particular Convention, could be questioned and this is only to protect that.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : Sir, I would like to ask one more question and this will be the last question. We need not have a discussion of this kind here. We can discuss it outside also. Clause 5 of the Bill says :

"The Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, declare that this Act shall cease to be in force. . ."

SHRI SURESH PRABHU : The convention is a precursor. I take your point. I will consult the lawyers in the Legal Department. If there is anything, we will definitely do that.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That the Bill to give effect to the Convention on the Prohibition of Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House shall now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

Clause 2

Definition

The question is :

"That clause 2 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

Clause 3

Application of the Convention

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri G.M. Banatwalla, are you moving your amendment?

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : I am moving my amendment.

I beg to move :

Page 3, –

after line 14, insert –

"Provided that all amendments shall first be submitted to the Parliament for its advice and consent." (1)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I shall now put amendment No. 1 moved by Shri G.M. Banatwalla to vote.

The amendment no. 1 was put and negatived.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That Clause 3 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 3 was added to the Bill.

Clauses 4 and 5 were added to the Bill.

Clause 6

Establishment of National Authority

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Banatwalla, are you moving your amendment No. 2 ?

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Sir, I am moving my amendment. I beg to move :

Page 3, –

after line 45, insert –

"(4)(a) The National Authority may, subject to prior approval of the Central Government, set up such Technical Secretariat as it may deem fit and appropriate." (2)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I shall now put amendment No. 2 moved by Shri G.M. Banatwalla to vote.

The amendment no. 2 was put and negatived.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is:

"That clause 6 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 6 was added to the Bill.

Clause 7

Powers and Functions of National Authority

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri G.M. Banatwalla, are you moving your amendment ?

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Sir, I am moving my amendment. I beg to move :

Page 5,–

after line 19, insert –

"(4) (a) review the general operation of the Convention;

(4) (b) advise the Government on all matters relating to the Convention;" (3)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I shall now put amendment No. 3 moved by Shri G.M. Banatwalla to vote.

The amendment no. 3 was put and negatived.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That clause 7 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 7 was added to the Bill.

Clause 8 was added to the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Banatwalla, are you moving your amendment?

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Why should we relegate the matter to the Rules? Why should we not have it in the Bill itself that the Annual Report should come to the Parliament and be laid on the Table of the House. Therefore, I move my amendment No. 4.

I beg to move :

Page 5, –

after line 29, insert –

"8A. The National Authority shall prepare annual report on its functioning, including therein a general review of the operation of the Convention and submit it to the Government who shall cause it to be laid, as soon as may be after it is so submitted, before each House of Parliament along with a Memorandum of Action Taken on any specific suggestion made in the report." (4)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I shall now put amendment No. 4 moved by Shri G.M. Banatwalla to vote.

The amendment no. 4 was put and negatived.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That clauses 9 and 10 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 9 and 10 were added to the Bill.

Clause 11

Power of Central Government to Constitute Committee

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Banatwalla, are you moving your amendment No. 5 ?

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Sir, I beg to move :

Page 6,–

after line 14, insert –

"(2) Any order made under this section shall be laid, as soon as may be after it is made, before each House of Parliament.

(3) The Committee constituted under this section shall prepare annual report on its functioning and submit it to the Government who shall cause it to be laid, as soon as may be after it is so submitted, before each House of Parliament." (5)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I shall now put amendment No. 5 moved by Shri G.M. Banatwalla to vote.

The amendment no. 5 was put and negatived.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That clause 11 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 11 was added to the Bill.

Clauses 12 to 38 were added to the Bill.

Clause 39

Punishment for Failure to Register

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Sir, it is very important. How can you punish people even before the Treaty came into operation? I beg to move:

Page 13, line 32, –

after "Act" insert –

"but on or after 29 April, 1997" (6)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I shall now put Amendment No. 6 moved by Shri Banatwalla to vote.

The amendment no. 6 was put and negatived.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That clause 39 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 39 was added to the Bill.

Clause 40 to 56 were added to the Bill.

The Schedule, Clause 1, the Enacting Formula, the Preamble and the Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI SURESH PRABHU : Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

17.17 hrs.

SEMICONDUCTOR INTEGRATED CIRCUITS LAYOUT DESIGN BILL

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House shall now take up Item No. 15.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : Sir, I beg to move :

> "That the Bill to provide for the protection of the semiconductor integrated circuits layout-designs and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

Sir, the Semiconductor Integrated Circuits Layout-Design Bill, 2000 is a piece of legislation to protect the Intellectual Property Rights of the designers of Semiconductor Integrated Circuits. The design of such complex circuits involves a great deal of effort by skilled scientists and engineers. It is, thus, important that such efforts receive the protection of law from infringement.

The Bill provides for protection of layout-designs which are original in that they are the result of the creator's own intellectual efforts. For a Semiconductor Integrated circuit layout to receive protection under this Bill, it must first be registered with a Registrar. The registered layout design would receive protection against infringement under this Bill upto a period of ten years from the date of registration. This Bill provides for appeal to the Appellate Board against the order or decision of the Registrar.

The Bill provides appropriate penalty and punishment for dealing with wilful infringement of registered layout-designs.

The Bill was introduced in the Rajya Sabha on December 20, 1999. This was then referred to the Departmentally Related Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment and Forests. We are grateful to the Standing Committee for examining the Bill in depth over several sittings. The Standing Committee submitted its report on February 29, 2000. The Standing Committee had suggested several amendments to the Bill. We have accepted all the amendments suggested by the Standing Committee except one with a minor change. The Rajya Sabha has already passed the Bill, with amendments as above, on 15 of May, 2000.

I would request this hon. House to pass the Bill, as passed by Rajya Sabha, unanimously.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Motion moved :

> "That the Bill to provide for the protection of the semiconductor integrated circuits layout-designs and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL (Latur) : Sir, I may be permitted to speak on this Bill a little later, maybe after 15 minutes. Someone else, who wants to speak, may be given a chance. I have to just get my papers. I was thinking that this would not come up today.

SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN (Sivaganga) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, this is a very important Bill. In the 21st Century, it is our duty to have the intellectual property right, which is a very important right, which gives a lot of money for the people who have this intellectual capacity to create.

Even though we are very late in bringing this type of legislation, which will bring benefit to the actual thinkers, we have done it in apt time. Therefore, I fully support this Bill except one Clause. I have just made a request to the hon. Minister to move it as a Government amendment. As a member in the Committee on Science and Technology, I gave a dissent not regarding this particular provision. This will be very helpful to the lawyers because in any intellectual property right, the growth of the particular area

will be done only by the lawyers who are going to specialise in this prticular field, and the decisions made by the Appellate Authority, which has been created, is also going to make laws, according to the growth of the days. Therefore, the lawyers are very important players in the growth of this particular intellectual property right enactment.

The next one is about the engineers, the software engineers or the hardware engineers, who are having some knowledge and who are going to put their knowledge in this particular field. I would like to draw the attention of the hon.. Minister of article 124 (3)(b) of the Constitution of India, which prescribed a qualification for a Supreme Court Judge. I quote article 124 (3)(b): "has been for at least ten years an advocate of a High Court..." That is the qualification prescribed for a Supreme Court Judge. I quote article 217 (2)(b) of the Constitution of India: "has for at least ten years been an advocate of a High Court..." This is the qualification to be appointed as a High Court judge. This is the constitutional provision, which I am quoting. I have made this point before the Select Committee also. This matter was not accepted at that time but subsequently there was an enactment, Information Technology Act, 2000. It was a very successful Act, which gave a great respect to the hon. Minister, to the Government and also to the nation. There, Section 50 provides the same Clause, which I had suggested in the previous meeting. Section 50 reads :

> "The qualification of a Presiding Officer of a cyber Appellate Tribunal, unless he....
>
> (a) is, or has been, or is qualified to be, a judge of a High Court or. . ."

This proposal has been accepted by the Legal Department and the same Ministry is now proposing this Bill. The earlier Bill had been referred to the Committee but subsequently it had come before this House and had also been adopted, and it became the Act, that is, Information Technology Act, 2000.

Only one lacuna is there, that is, now it has to go back to Rajya Sabha, if the House decides like that. We have to protect the interests of the millions of the lawyers who are looking at us how best we are going to bring new lawyer force in the intellectual property right regime. Therefore, I request the hon. Minister to make it as a Government amendment and the proposal may be taken as it is. I am just proposing Clause 34 (1)(a) in which this, "is qualified to be" is to be made as one of the amendments and also subsequently, in Clause 34(3), "has been or at least ten years been an advocate of a High Court or any Court."

17.25 hrs.

[SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA *in the Chair*]

I request that this may be taken as a general view. It is going to help specifically the legal fraternity which is now investing a lot of money in learning the Intellectual Property Rights. It is actually a growing law in the Western countries. Many people are studying, specialising in Master degrees. They are also doing research. Many people are going to foreign countries to learn the Intellectual Property Rights law. After having learnt, they attended seminars and presented papers. Now, we are the pioneers in the world seminars. Especially, in UK and USA, we are leading people in Intellectual Property Rights law. Therefore, I request the Government, as a general gesture, to accept it as a Government amendment and make it here itself.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : Madam Chairperson, I strongly support the Semiconductor Integrated Circuits Layout-Design Bill, 2000 piloted by hon. Pramod Mahajanji and I think that this Bill will bring revolutionary changes for scientists and engineers working in the field of information technology, electronics, micro-electronics etc. There is no dearth of talent in our country. The credit for developments made so far in the silicon valley of U.S. goes to the Indian experts and scientists of the Information technology field. Indians are not lagging behind in the other fields also.

I would like to submit that we are bound by the terms of WTO which was signed by the previous government. This Bill is being brought to fulfill the obligations under the said agreement so that the interests of Indians could be protected and provisions of WTO are also complied with. Earlier we got delayed in respect of patent Bill and Design Bill and hence WTO passed strictures against us. We had to bring copy right Bill, Patent Bill, Trade Design Bill in this context. Being a member of world community we are bound to fulfill the obligations of international treaties or agreements. But we should give prime importance to national interests in the national perspective while fulfilling the obligations of WTO. We keep attending international conferences being held in connection with information technology, intellectual property rights, trips etc. But in India also there are such institutions at Mohali etc. Which have developed semiconductors etc. wherein lacs or crores of rupees are spent on developing micro-chips or computer-chips. There is paucity of economic resources in our country, if we mobilise economic resources, all these items can be manufactured in India also.

[Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat]

This Bill will bring significant changes in the economic sphere also. It is well known that we are living in an era of cut throat competition. Hence we should consider both the aspects of the Bill-Information technology aspects and trade aspects.

The bill provides for six aspects. First is process of registration. I would like to know what will be procedure of registration of semi conductors integrated circuits lay out designs. After registration Indian talents or Indian scientist or Indian companies will design their product. Can they get those registered. There is provision of its process also.

[English]

A mechanism for distinguishing lay out designs which are to be protected.

[Translation]

Whether any provision has also been made regarding the mechanism to be adopted for the identification of those lay out designs which are to be protected.

[English]

Rules to prohibit registration of lay out designs which are not original and which have been commercially exploited.

[Translation]

This too is a good provision. To prevent registration of such designs which are basically not original, which are only imitation, which have already been exploited commercially, and product belongs to some body else adopted by imitation, there are rules made regarding all these aspects.

[English]

Provision with regard to infringement of payment of royalty for registration of lay out designs.

[Translation]

This is a very good provision.

17.32 hrs.

HALF-AN-HOUR DISCUSSION – INDIRA AWAAS YOJANA

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : We will now take up the Half-an-Hour Discussion.

SHRI G.M. BANTWALLA (Ponnai) : What about the Bill?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : We will take it up after Half-an-hour discussion.

[Translation]

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN (Vidisha) : Madam Chairperson, food, cloth and shelter are the basic needs of the mankind. A person manages food and cloth either this way or that way but the shelter is merely a dream to the people as 33 percent people of the total population of the country live below poverty line. Indira Awaas Yojana has realised this dream. This Yojana is very good but the implementation of the Yojana is not good. Due to rampant corruption the Yojana is not achieving the desired targets. Under the Yojana corruption starts from the selection of the beneficiary. Gramsabhas select the beneficiary. Gram Sabha is Sarpanch Sabha. The poor people who do not belong to the faction of the Sarpanch are not selected as beneficiaries. One panchayat allot one or two Awaas Kutir. Sarpanch send names of 15-20-25 and sometimes 40-50 persons in the Block for the allotment of Awaas Kutir. Corruption originates from this point. Block officers select the names of those persons as beneficiary who given them money. First instalment of Rs. Ten thousand is given to them and in liew of it Rs. Four-five thousand are realised from them. The person who offers more money is selected as beneficiary. The situation is such that if money is not paid they are not selected. When they go to take second instalment, Block officers demand money. I know it very well that there are such beneficiaries who have not received their second instalment for the last two years. I have talked with the officers. They told that construction work of the house is not completed. Later on when the beneficiary goes to them for getting second instalment they tell them to go the leaders or some other person. No bribe and no instalment. Due to rampant corruption the said Yojana is not achieving it targets. According to the annual report of the Ministry of Rural Development 53 lakh houses have been constructed in India from 1985-86 to 1998-99 under this Yojana. I challenge that you should count the number of these houses. Out of 53 lakh houses more than 50% houses have not been constructed. I know very well about Madhya Pradesh.

I can give an example of Madhya Pradesh. You can conduct an inquiry in respect of district Vidisha, villages like Gader and Khatpura of Khitwai, Machwai and Budhi block of district Sihor. You will came to know that amount has been released for Awaas Kutir, but in fact these Awaas Kutir have not been constructed at all. These Awaas Kutir exist on paper only. It happened at many places that whole

block is converted into Awaas Kutir. New houses were constructed but all these houses collapsed on the very first day. Therefore, no beneficiary went there to live. Whole amount was utilised to construct the houses. When the beneficiaries were asked as to why they did not go to live in those houses, they told that instead of getting a house there were chances of losing their lives. You have the data that how many Awaas Kutir have been constructed but nobody went there to live in. Who will conduct the inquiry that who have embezzled, how much money has been embezzled and who is the offender ? I tell you an incident of Balaghat district. Funds were released during the last four years but the funds have been diverted and the beneficiaries have not received money. Sarpanch and the beneficiary both are upset that under which head the officers have spent the money.

Madam Chairperson, recently provision has been made by the Ministry of Rural Development that 20 percent amount would be spent to convert a Kuchcha house into a Pukka house under the said scheme. I would like to say that the whole amount was given to construct a house even then the house was not constructed then how the kuchcha house would be converted into a pukka house I have got every doubt about it. The owners have invested the said money in their homes in the names of the labourers. But those poor people did not get anything. Similarly, the Ministry of Rural Development has issued guidelines that smokeless chulhas and dry latrines should be constructed in the house. Now the question arises that when the house is not constructed then where the smokeless chulhas and dry latrines would be constructed. Madhya Pradesh Government has issued guidelines about infrastructure that amount would be given to the beneficiary. But amount for the construction of Awaas Kutir is not given then the amount to be given for infrastructure would go also in the pockets of the officers. Because there is rampant corruption at implementation stage. Therefore, the said scheme is a utter failure in Madhya Pradesh. It could not be imagined that Awaas Kutir can be constructed with a small amount of Rs. Twenty thousand in such a time when things are very costly. The amount given for the said purpose is going waste.

Madam Chairperson, I would like to know from the hon. Minister that on what basis they allocate money to the states or the districts-whether on the basis of the population or on the basis of the people living below poverty line? Madhya Pradesh is a large state. Panchayat allots two Awaas Kutirs in one or two years to those poor persons who do not have any home. You can easily have an idea as to when their needs would be fulfilled. Though it is a good scheme but there is not any arrangement of monitoring in this scheme. Centre or the State Governments get the data which indicate that the Awaas Kutirs were constructed or not? Therefore, the main thing is that the selection of the beneficiaries should be fair. The amount earmarked for the beneficiaries should be spent properly for the construction of houses. Other thing is that arrangement should be made for proper monitoring. Total Awaas Kutir constructed till now should be reviewed and it should be inquired that how many Awaas have been constructed actually and the remaining Awaas which have not been constructed, the reasons thereof? Action should be taken against the guilty.

Madam Chairperson, the Member of Parliament do not have any role in this scheme. When the Minister in charge visits the district, then the sittings of the Zila Parishads are convened. 30 percent share of the Awaas should be given to the district otherwise the Minister allot such Awaas as per his discretion ignoring the genuine needy persons. Members of Parliament does not have any say. Therefore, I would like to say that hon. Minister is a grass root worker and he knows the ground realities. Therefore, he should make arrangement of monitoring in the selection of the scheme. Member of parliament should be made Chairman of the State or district level monitoring committee. So that the participation of Member of Parliament could be ensured in this scheme and he could implement the said scheme properly in his constituency so that the genuine beneficiary could take advantage of it.

Madam Chairperson, I wanted to raise the said issues in the Half-an-hour discussion. I hope that the Hon. Minister will assure the House at least about monitoring and will make on announcement to this effect in the House.

[English]

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI (Visakhapatnam) Madam Chairperson, Indira Awaas Yojana is primarily meant for the weaker sections' house building. Whether this is being focussed in the various States is doubtful. Many of the States are not properly utilising the Indira Awaas Yojana funds because they have been given to the Zila Parishads through DRDA. Both DRDA and the Zila Parishad have not been monitoring the allotment procedure. Sixty per cent of the houses under Indira Awaas Yojana are being provided to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and the balance forty per cent of these houses are being allotted to the people belonging to other categories under BPL. But when it comes to actual allotment, this sixty per cent is not being properly followed for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. In many areas, these houses are being diverted to other categories. The mute, the voiceless people are keeping quick because they are innocent. So, there should be a proper monitoring policy. There should be a system to see that whatever benefits are being created under IAY, should reach the beneficiaries for whom they are intended.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Murthi, you are supposed to ask a question, not to make a speech.

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI : Unless I tell something about the subject, how can I ask the question, Madam?

The other thing that I would like to point out is that 80 per cent of the funds are being given by the Union Government and 20 per cent are being given by the State Government.

SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA : Now it is 75:25.

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI : In the brief, it is mentioned as 80:20. Maybe, it is 75:25.

Last year, approximately Rs. 1,600 crore were allotted. So, if the balance 25 per cent also is given by the Central Government, the procedure for constructing the houses will become much easier.

Again, it is Rs. 20,000 for the plain areas and Rs. 22,000 for the hill areas. That is also very insufficient. It should be increased to at least Rs. 30,000 for the plain areas and Rs. 35,000 for the hill areas. I would like to know from the Minister whether he is really contemplating to create houses for the poorer sections, for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. If so, then he should provide Rs. 30,000 and not Rs. 20,000 for the plain areas. They are not able to build the houses with the money that is being given to them. Also, they are not getting proper treatment because of the system not being monitored properly. So, I would like to know from the hon. Minister for Rural Development whether he is intending, as the promised in this House, to have an effective monitoring policy for setting up Monitoring Committees in each constituency to the Chaired by the Members of Parliament, for construction and allotment of these houses.

There is also rule that it should be written prominently on these houses that they have been built under Indira Awaas Yojana. I have a doubt whether any hon. Member has noticed such a thing written on these houses.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Murthi, you please ask the question. There are three more Members to ask their questions. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI : If they allow me, then only I shall ask. Otherwise, how can I ask? They are unnecessarily interfering.

So, that is also a conditionality while allotting these houses, but this is not being written prominently. Therefore, I would request the hon. Minister to make this rule to be followed rigidly and also form Monitoring Committees headed by the Members of Parliament as Chairmen, to monitor these houses so that these houses could be effectively provided to the weaker sections of the society. Thank you very much.

[Translation]

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI (Khajuraho) : Hon'ble Madam Chairperson, the subject for today's half an hour discussion actually relates to Indira Awaas Yojana and its irrelevancies. Madam, you must be remembering that the Union Government floated a number of schemes for the weaker sections during the last few years and the State Governments were given the responsibility of implementing those schemes. The State Governments release the funds allocated to them to the concerned authorities at district level or block development level and thereafter implementation of schemes takes place through Panchayat and other various institutions.

Madam Chairperson, I do not want to give political colour to this issue. However, if we try to peep into our heart, the reality will emerge itself. I would like to submit that the situation regarding the implementation of all the schemes whether it is Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh or any other state, is more or less same. There is hardly and state which has implemented the schemes properly.

Madam Chairperson, workshops were opened particularly for women and also for other persons. However, not even a single workshop worked properly. The Jawahar Rozgar Yojana is being implemented, however, you must be aware of the corruption prevailing therein. Several hon. Members have already raised the issue here. The situation is similar with regard to every project whether it is Rozgar Yojana or Rajiv Gandhi water catchment Area Development Schemes.

Madam Chairperson, I would like to concentrate on Indira Awaas Yojana, which is the subject for today's discussion. The first point of corruption lies, as pointed out by many hon. Members, in the selection of the beneficiary. That is where the corruption starts.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please ask your question.

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI : Madam Chairperson, I am concentrating on the question only.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You did not give prior notice in this regard.

[English]

However, as a special measure, I am allowing. There have been no names given in this.

[Translation]

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI : Madam Chairperson, you must have observed that day, we gave a notice for Half an Hour discussion.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You might have demanded for that, but you did not give advance notice to participate in the discussion. Inspite of that, I am giving you the opportunity to speak as a special measure.

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI : You have been very kind to me for giving me an opportunity to speak. I am grateful to you for this.

MR. CHAIRMAN : That is why I request you to concentrate on your question. Because the discussion has to be completed by 6.00 P.M.

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI : The first irregularity is committed in selecting the deserving persons becuse the village Sarpanch finds his own supporter to be the most suitable candidate – irrespectable to the fact whether he is really a deserving person or not. In this manner, the actual deserving persons are deprived of the benefit.

Madam Chairperson, through you, I would like to submit to the Minister that the Government should pay attention to various other factors – like the area being allotted and the person to whom it is being allotted under the said scheme. For instance if the land is being given to a farmer, he has not only to build a house for his family but he also requires some space to keep his domestic animals and their feed. An area of 30 ft. x 30 ft. is quite insufficient to fulfil the purpose.

Madam Chairperson, I am concentrating on the question itself. Similarly, it is not feasible for people to live in areas where there is no provision of drinking water, electricity, schools etc. The settlements constructed under Indira Awaas Yojana are quite far off the villages. I know my own area. There are a number of such settlements in Uttar Pradesh near my constituency from where I pass daily. There are all lying vacant with not even a single person residing there. The funds under the said scheme are being misappropriated by block level and Panchayat level officials. We have witnessed how funds are misused. Ultimately the deserving persons remain deprived of the benefits.

Madam Chairperson, through you, I would like to submit to the hon. Minister that keeping in view the large scale misappropriation of funds, the Members of the concerned constituencies should be given power to monitor and supervise the schemes sponsored and proposed by the Union Government inorder to ensure that the funds allocated by the Government are not misused and the deserving persons are benefitted. If the Government agree to this, why provision to this effect is not being made? I am aware of the fact that a similar question was raised in the House a few days back and the Minister had stated that the matter related to the State Governments and the Union Government could not intervene.

I do agree that all those limitations are there. However, when the Union Government allocate funds, and provide resources to the state, they should keep their right to supervise and monitor the entire process so as to avoid the misuse of funds. This is my only submission.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Bharturihari Mahtab. Under the rules, the names are supposed to come in advance. As a special measure, I am calling some of the names which have come in writing.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : (Maharajganj, Bihar) : I had sent my name through post. It might have been misplaced in Post Office or elsewhere.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Your name is not there in the list I have. To whom have you sent your name?

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (Gopalganj) : Funds are misappropriated at that level. All funds are misused. . . . *(Interruptions)* Please let him speak for a few minutes. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : You may speak during full discussion. I can call only those four persons whose names are there is the list.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Under the rules, only four people can raise questions. I cannot change the rules.

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI (Salem) : From each party, one Member should be allowed to speak on this subject which is very important. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Then, you can have a full discussion and not a half-an-hour discussion.

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHATAB (Cuttack) : Madam Chairperson, I would draw the attention of the Minister to the housing problem of our country. . . .*(Interruptions)* The last census was held in 1991 whereby the housing shortage in rural areas was of 13.72 million, consisting of

[Shri Bhartruhari Mahatab]

3.41 million households who were without houses and 10.31 million people who were living in unserviceable kuchcha houses. This was the position in 1991. I would like the Minister to apprise us of how much he has achieved during the last nine or ten years.

Indira Awaas Yojana was started in 1985-86. Initially, it was demarcated only for the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes and the freed bonded labourers. Later on, in 1991-92, it was expanded and people living below the poverty line were included. After the severe super-cyclone in Orissa, it was again expanded to include people who had been affected by the super-cyclone. The hon. Minister himself and many others from the Central Government were kind enough to visit our Capital Bhubaneswar and also other places which were affected by the super-cyclone. Around 2.5 lakh houses have been sanctioned for Orissa under Indira Awaas Yojana, but the basic problem which we are facing in our State is that the cost of building a house has gone up. The cost of cement has gone up. The cost of the brick has gone up. The cost of sand has gone up. The cost of a mason has gone up. But the money which is sanctioned under Indira Awaas Yojana is the same. I would like to know from the Minister whether he is considering to enhance the amount of Rs. 20,000 or Rs. 22,000 which is sanctioned under this scheme on 80:20 basis.

Sir,. more than 19 lakh families have been affected by the cyclone and more that 10 lakh people are supposed to get houses under Indira Awaas Yojana, but only 2.5 lakh have been sanctioned. I would like to know from the hon. Minister what more he is going to do for the affected people, especially those who were affected in the super-cyclone.

I would also like to inform him that this caters only to 14 districts of Orissa which were affected by the cyclone. There are 16 more districts where a large number of people are there who live below the poverty line.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : He had given a notice. Now you may ask question.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Madam Chairperson, this is very important question because the Government of India's policy is to provide shelter to the weaker and handicapped people living in villages who can't make a home by their own means and under this very policy the Government of India allocates funds to the State Governments who inturn function as Implementing agencies through their officials. Central Government has laid down guidelines for their implementation which are not being complied with in the states. Our friends from Madhya Pradesh were discussing the matter where Panchayat elections have been held and as a result of these elections Sarpanchs and Mukhias have been put in place Our state has not seen Panchayat elections for the last 22 years which is being ruled by the Government headed by your friend's party. As you have given instructions to select names through Gram Sabha, you will be surprised to know that our state does not have such bodies as Gram Sabha. The B.D.O. of the block alongwith Sevak draws a list of 1000-2500 names of villagers. Later on he informs that your name figures in this list as a result of this villagers start approaching B.D.O. for inclusion of their names through middle-man who demands for Rs. 5000 per unit. And your estimate is extremely faulty. I don't know which engineer has prepared this estimate of Rs. 20,000. I can't understand how a house can be built with a paltry amount of Rs. 20,000. The common practice in Bihar is, that Rs. 10,000 are given to the next of kin of the people who die prematurely. I am of the opinion that if people die due to house collapse that is all the more better so that their next of kin can be granted Rs. 10,000. I think it would be better to increase the estimated cost to certain extent so that such a situation does not arise wherein the need of payment of Rs. 10,000 in ease of untimely death is averted. Mr. Minister, Sir, please get this estimated cost reviwed and certainly get it enhanced. Money is being misappropriated there. All honourable members of Parliament have concurred that MPs have no role to play in this scheme. Once you have also given an assurance in Lok Sabha. I don't know what were your compulsions that prevented you from fulfilling this assurance. That time you were very much interested to fulfil this assurance. I have met with you in person and discussed about it. I would like to point out that MPs' role must be ensured in the scheme floated by the Central Government, since MPs are elected from amongst the villagers and are conversant with their problems. You also represent one of the constituencies as Member of Parliament. It is possible that the number of malpractices in Madhya Pradesh is less but since you are a Union Minister therefore you have various agencies functioning under you. Please get the problems sorted out whereever malpractices are noticed. Here I would like to suggest that instead of building slums at different places you may raise a colony on a bigger plot of Government land because you will not face any problem in acquiring Government land. If you can increase estimated cost a bit and even get the double storeyed houses constructed, the money so invested will be utilised properly and will serve the very purpose of allocation of funds.

Now I would request you to kindly pay attention towards review of estimated cost and malpractices and ensure the role of MPs. With these words I conclude, thanks.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Yes, now, the hon. Minister.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : There are so many people who are raising their hands. But I am sorry about it. It is because under the rules I can call only four people who have given their names in advance. It is already 6 o'clock. Half an Hour is over now.

[Translation]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore) : In Orrisa landless people are not allotted houses under Indira Awaas Yojana. . . .*(Interruptions)*

Hon'ble Minister is requested to look into this.

[English]

PROF. UMMAREADDY VENKATESWARLU (Tenali) : Madam, may I ask a question ?

18.00 hrs.

MR. CHAIRMAN : No speech is allowed now. You just ask the question straight.

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Madam, Indira Awaas Yojna started fifteen years ago in 1985. In several areas, the houses built in the years 1985-86 and 1986-87 under this scheme are on the verge of collapse. When we visit such places, we are asked by the people to sanction some amount for repairing their houses. Some of these housing units are about to become uninhabitable. Even after ten years after construction, there must be some provision to sanction some amount for carrying out repairs to the housing units built under this scheme.

It has been stated in the Budget speech that a National Mission for Rural Housing, and a Rural Habitat Development Corporation will be constituted. I would like to know from the Minister as to when these institutions are going to be set up.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please do not open a discussion now. What is your question?

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI : Madam, the amount allotted by the Government of India under Indira Awaas Yojana is inadequate. There are States which provide RCC roofing to this type of houses which cost enormous amounts. Is the Government of India contemplating to compensate the additional amount the State Governments are spending in this regard ?

Under the Jawahar Razgar Yojna there are two aims – creation of asset and creation of employment. There are cases where material for RCC roofing may not be available locally. In those cases one cannot make use of either locally available material or locally available men to employ in the construction of the housing units. Will there be any relaxation on this point?

The Members of Parliament are ignored in the process of selection of beneficiaries in almost all areas. Will the Minister consider appointing a Committee at the District Level to see that the Members of Parliament are also involved in the selection process in their constituencies?

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : I would request the Minister to kindly constitute an all party committee and examine a district of Bihar for this I make the offer of district Gopalganj which I represent as MP. You kindly get it inquired and see how malpractices have been committed there on a large scale. Those who were entitled to get the houses have been deprived of and opulent people have been allotted houses, you are requested to get it inquired.

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV (Parbhani) : Honourable Minister has made a commitment in the House that one of the MPs will be appointed the Chairman of Indira Awaas Yojana and D.R.D.A., will Hon'ble Minister reply to this also. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Give him sometime to reply otherwise how the reply will come.

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV : This is his commitment to the House. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Its all right, let him reply. If it is not given, then you could ask later on. Hon'ble Minister may give his reply. Please do not disturb him.

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV : Right now, there is no role of M.P. in Indira Awaas Yojana.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have now called the Minister. Please sit down. Nothing will go on record now, except the Minister.

*(Interruptions)**

SHRI ANIL BASU (Arambagh) : Madam, it is already six o'clock. You have to take the sense of the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN : This is a half-an-hour discussion. I hope you all agree that the Minister has to be given some time to reply to the questions you have raised.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : Yes.

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*Not recorded.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Minister will reply now.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA) : Madam Chairperson, I concur with the concern expressed by the honourable members of the House. We have to take into consideration the real position of subject under discussion. Housing is a subject of state under the constitutional provisions. The Central Government just plays a subsidiary role. In so far the allocation of funds for Indira Awaas Yojana, to the state is concerned it is done according to a formula. According to the census of 1991 the residential population of states and people living below poverty line each allocated 50 percent of funds, allocated to states. The district-wise allocation of funds is also made by the centre taking into account the ratio of scheduled and scheduled tribes as basis. Keeping all these things in view centre allocates the funds of states. The district-wise allocation of funds is also made by the centre taking into account the ratio of scheduled and scheduled tribes as basis. Keeping all these things in view centre allocates the funds to states right upto district level. This amount reaches upto district level. It was mentioned here that some of the state Governments have diverted the funds and didn't utilise these in time. Even after diversion of funds states have to utilize these funds. But the prime concern of malpractice in utilisation of funds has mainly been focussed by honourable members for which I am indebted to the members and would particularly thank Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan who has raised this matter quite seriously. The basic concern and complaint or malpractice is that of the selection of the beneficiary. For selection of beneficiaries a provision has been made that Gram Sabha would select the beneficiary. In the places where Sarpanchs are strong and influential, the meetings of Gram Sabha are either mere formality or these are not convened at all and just put on record or such meetings are convened at their homes itself etc. All these complaints have been made. Gram Sabha is non political body if it is competent, able and active then hardly there is any chance of malpractice. But Gram Sabha is a non-political body which constitutes the representatives of all the voters of the village. Hence, it is there responsibility to select the beneficiaries on these parameters. If Gram Sabha itself is not active then whom tc approach for solution of their problems.

SHRI PRBHUNATH SINGH : What to do there, where Gram Sabhas do not exist?

SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA : This is also a problem that some of the states do not have Gram Sabhas. As far as I know Bihar did not see Panchayat Polls. May be, in Bihar the Supreme Court. . .

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : No such stay has been granted.

SHRI A.F. GOLAM OSMANI (Barpeta) : Assam also did not see Panchayat Polls.

SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA : Yes, I can only request the State Government but it will neither be fair nor possible to stop allocation of funds to the states just because there are not Gram Sabhas. After all the present state Governments are also a Government elected by the people of the state, whatsoever, I don't want to make more comments regarding this.

All of us are aware the ours is a federal republic. Right from the Panchayat to Parliament we have to reply to certain extent upon our elected representatives but as regards the selection of beneficiaries it has not been left to any elected body alone. There may be some complaints regarding prejudice of voters etc. but Gram Sabha did not have any election. Since all electorate are voters, it would be proper to make this system effective and Gram Sabhas competent that we must all endeavour to educate people about their rights and tell them to elect a Gram Sabha without favour and fear. I don't think that there can be any other neutral arrangement better than this. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please don't disturb.

SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA : Please listen the whole thing. I would request the hon'ble Member not to loose temper against me. Please smile and ask question to me. . . .*(Interruptions)* Do not make me a victim of your wrath. Like you, I am also angry with the people doing wrong. Ho'ble Members have expressed their grievances. . . .*(Interruptions)*

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharjganj, U.P.) : People ask questions to Pramod Mahajanji with smiling faces. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA : I have asked to smile, not to shout. You are saying that which I did not say. Everybody has told their grievances but I would be obliged to all of you if you support us what we should do. Arrangement of monotirong. . . .*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let the hon'ble Minister complete his reply. Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have already asked your question. Let him reply to them please.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA : I have already expressed my desire in the House but my desire is not supreme. There are certain values of the Constitution, of the Union Republic. After all we cannot impose our wishes on the states and whatever amount of money is sanctioned by the Union Government for providing help and assistance to the States, that is not sanctioned to them as a mercy but it is their right and that is why it is given to them. We must understand and adhere the technicalities of the Union Republic and only then we should proceed further. We will have to maintain a balance and as such certain things such as money has been diverted in Balaghat, corruption is prevailing and there are Kuchcha houses there etc, have been mentioned.

So far as the question of increasing the amount of assistance to the States is concerned, I would like to submit that the amount has been increased from Rs. 14,000/- to Rs. 20,000/- w.e.f. 1.8.1996. The amount of Rs. 15,800/- meant for remote and hilly areas have been increased to the tune of rupees 22,000. A question has been raised that some of the States have increased the amount at their own level, whether the amount would be reimbursed to them. The centre has provided assistance and played the role of co-operative one. It is the responsibility of the State Government to solve the basic problem of housing. So far as the question of amount is concerned, we have got the limited budget allocation, if the amount is increased, the number of beneficiaries would come down.

Having received the amount as an assistance, we should work and extend our contribution rather than constructing the houses. If the State Government contributes, better houses could be constructed. Some of the states especially Tamil Nadu, as far as I know have constructed better houses. The State Government extended its co-operation and the people also worked hard to construct these houses. Similarly I also know about Gujarat. But if every penny given to the State Government is monitored, then tomorrow charges may be levelled against Bihar in this House that you are doing injustice, doing discrimination and doing all that due to prejudice and that you are harassing us. If such a complaint is brought to our notice, we enquire the matter from the State Governments. We have got no arrangements of deputing inspectors from our end. We also arrange for our own monitoring but the whole country and Indira Awaas Yojana is a big programme. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV : Sir, there are only two questions – the first is about increasing the amount and the second is about the role of Members of Parliament. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA : We are not in a position to increase the amount. If the amount is increased then number of beneficiaries would come down. This cannot be the basis of allotment that we should co-operate, assist and even arrange implements etc. As such we should find out the beneficiaries which can be the biggest arrangement. We have issued guidelines for the same. If the hon'ble Members wish to have the guidelines with regard to Indira Awaas Yojana and selection of the beneficiaries, I would provide the same to them. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Guidelines are not complied to; what the Union Government are doing thereon? Please state what the Union Government are doing at the places where Panchayat elections have not been held? You please listen to the Minister's reply, we are going. . . .*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The hon'ble Members want to know as to what is their role in the programme.

[Translation]

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV : It is not a pointed reply. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI : Madam Chairperson, all the hon'ble Members have asked the same question. You have said that how it is possible keeping in view the relation between the Union and the States. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA : So far as the role of Members of Parliament is concerned, they are exofficio Members of the D.R.D.A. The complaint is that whenever meetings are called, intimation for the same is not given to them. The meetings are called at a time when the Parliament is in Session. Directives have already been issued for this purpose.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Meeting of the district board is held at a time when Members of Parliament are busy in the Parliament Session.

SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA : We have issued new directives in this connection. Meeting should be called as per convenience of the hon'ble Members. We have issued such directives. We have issued such guidelines and directives. It is not possible to read out these directives in just two minutes, but I would make them available to the hon'ble Members. . . .*(Interruptions)* So far as the question of Orissa is concerned, as many number of

[Shri Sundar Lal Patwa]

residential units under Indira Awaas Yojana have been asked for by State Government of Orissa. After cyclone, we have allotted them and fulfilled their entire demand. Two lakhs residential units have been allotted having relaxed the directives. Now it is the duty of the Government of Orissa to complete the allotment within the given time frame. . . .*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Thank you very much more discussions. We have already spent one hour for Half-An-Hour-Discussion.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI : I am not arguing. . . .*(Interruptions)* Mr. Minister you cannot encroach upon our rights that we have got over so many years. . . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : You can talk to him later on.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, this is not correct. All the question have been answered.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Minister, do not reply now.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA : Hon'ble member hails from Madhya Pradesh. . . .*(Interruptions)* D.R.D.A. has been dissolved. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI : State Government has dissolved D.R.D.A. . . .*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon'ble Members, please sit down. No more questions please.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI : So much discussions have taken place. It is not going to serve any purpose. . . .*(Interruptions)* We are still at the same place where from we had started. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Half-An-Hour Discussion has taken twenty minutes more.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : You can ask all your questions directly to the Minister.

18.22 hrs.

SEMICONDUCTOR INTEGRATED CIRCUITS LAYOUT DESIGN BILL – Contd.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : Madam Chairperson, I was saying that many provisions have been made in this bill. . . .*(Interruptions)* Punitive provisions have also been made therein, provisions have also been made for people who knowingly attempt to defraud. . *(Interruptions)*

There is a provision for Registrar in it. He will make arrangements to register the layout design and chalk out the mechanism for it. There is a provision for Appellate Board in it. . . .*(Interruptions)* The provisions made therein for protection of physical estates, I think fulfil the requirements of World Trade Organisation at the international level. Through you, I would request the Government to give top priority to national interests at national level. Today revolutionary changes are taking place in the field of Information technology in the country but there is need to chech the mushrooming of the companies in the name of infosys technology and fluctuation in the shares. There is another drawback in the country on one side entire capital investments are being in the field of software but on the other no attention is being paid towards hardware whereas in countries like America etc. a lot of progress has been made in this field. Pentium company there has maintained coordination among the both. Hence it would be better if we take care of hardware alongwith the software.

Madam, the very serious problem is, till now required attention was not given towards product patent but we were giving more attention towards process patent because we are not having so much money. We used to process patentisation and adopted any product such as our medicines invented in America, England or other western countries. Such medicines have been invented in those

countries but we have adopted the processing of these medicines. Thereafter we have been selling the new medicines after preparation. That is why we are getting the medicines at the cheaper rates. It is appreciable that there is a provision of protection for product patent in it. By this Indian talents and scientists of India will get opportunity. When there would a product patent then the layout design for which crores of rupees are spent here would facilitate them all. If we would not draw our attention towards the process patent then I fear that we may lag behind in this field.

Therefore, there is need to keep both the options open so that our country do not incur any loss due to paucity of resources. The entire process, which is reverse engineering process, started here could not be exploited for process patent because these would not come in the way of our physical estates rights. Most of the countries like America, Japan and Canada have adopted this process. We should not give up the process of reverse engineering and it should continue. Alongwith this our industry machinery should be linked with R and D. At this stage when we are taking such a revolutionary step then many industries are coming up, there should also be R and D process so that we could protect our scientific research activities. Thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

[English]

PROF. R.R. PRAMANIK (Mathurapur) : Hon. Chairperson, I rise to support this Bill but with some amendments. I will confine my speech precisely and pointedly to the amendments which I have moved.

The Bill has been brought before this House by the Minister under international obligation. It is to be framed according to Section 6 of Part II of the Agreement of TRIPS relating to Layout Design of Integrated Circuits under articles 35, 36, 37 and 38, of the final Act of Uruguay Round which was framed in Marrakech in 1995. It is to be framed strictly according to the provisions under these four articles of TRIPS.

Now, here the Long Title and the Enacting Formula of this Bill which has been brought by the Minister before this House says: "The Semiconductor Integrated Circuit Layout Design Bill, 2000". Now, I want to ask the hon. Minister where from he has got the term, 'Semiconductor'. Why has it been included there? In the final Act of Uruguay Round under articles 35, 36, 37 and 38 nowhere the term 'Semiconductor' is used. It is 'Integrated Circuit Layout Design'. So, where from has he got the term 'Semiconductor'? There are many active elements in an integrated circuit. Why has he selected one of them? He has to give an answer as to why he has included Semiconductor in this Bill. It is to be framed according to the provisions under this article. He cannot add or subtract anything. It will be bad in law and it may be questioned in a court of law.

So, my first amendment to this Bill is that the word 'Semiconductor should be omitted. It should be Integrated Circuit Layout Design. There are many active elements also. There is not only 'Semiconductor' but there are other active elements also. He cannot do that. So, it should be Integrated Circuit Layout Design. Now, wherever the word 'Semiconductor' has been mentioned in this Bill, it has to be omitted. My second amendment is that wherever the word 'Semiconductor' has appeared in the Bill, it should be omitted. Semiconductor cannot be brought in the Bill. It is not there in the final Act.

Now, in page 2, the definition is there for lines 22 to 24 because the Semiconductor Integrated Circuit is to be properly defined. It is a law. Therefore, it should be precise. It should be pointed and it should be without any ambiguity. Commas and semicolons have a different meaning in the language of law.

Here, 'integrated circuits' should be defined. This is my amendment. In clause 2 where definitions are given, nowhere 'integrated circuits' has been defined. We have to include the term 'integrated circuits' under definitions. I have said that :

> "Integrated circuits mean products in final form or intermediate form in which the elements, (at least one of which is an active element) some or all the interconnections are integrally formed (in and/or on a piece of material) and which intended to perform an electronic function."

Semiconductor is one of them and he has selected semiconductor only omitting others, which he cannot do. This is the correct scientific definition, the precise definition of 'integrated circuits'. This should be included in clause 2 where definitions are given.

In line 7 in this draft Bill at many places the words 'Chairman', 'Vice-Chairman' are there. I am a member of the Standing Committee on Science and Technology. I mentioned that these words should be replaced by 'Chairperson' and 'Vice-Chairperson'. We are pleading for the empowerment of women. If only the words 'Chairman' and 'Vice-Chairman' are kept in the Bill, then no lady can occupy that chair.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Minister, you better note his amendment.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : It is true that the Standing Committee has mentioned it. In the original Bill everywhere it was changed from Chairman to Chairperson.. Inadvertently in one clause it is remaining. If the House so wishes, we can accept that and send it back to Rajya Sabha.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I think the House will accept it.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : I do not understand one thing. When I went through the Hindi version, Hindi does not have one common word as 'person'.

[Translation]

It is Adhyaksha or Upadhyaksha only.

[English]

There is nothing like 'person' in Hindi which can denote both genders. It can be

[Translation]

Adhyaksha

[English]

and not 'person'. In law you cannot say

[Translation]

Adhyaksh or Adhyaksha. What would you write while writing in hindi? In English you would say Chairperson.

[English]

I do not have the exact translation of 'Chairperson' in Hindi. Hindi either understands

[Translation]

Adhyaksh or Adhyaksha.

[English]

It does not understand 'Chairperson'.

Anyway if the House wishes, we will have to go back to Rajya Sabha. I do not have any objection because at twenty-five or thirty places I have changed that and only inadvertently at one place it remains. If you go through the whole Bill, it is not that you find this word everywhere. The word 'Chairperson' is mentioned everywhere. At one point the Committee missed it and that is why it is there like that.

PROF. R.R. PRAMANIK : In the original Bill everywhere there were 'Chairman' and 'Vice-Chairman'. It was changed in the Standing committee. I admit that by mistake at one place it has come here. So, the word 'Vice-Chairman' should be replaced by 'Vice-Chairperson'.

Now I come to the appointment of the Registrar. Everywhere for appointment to a particular post qualifications are mentioned. But, in the case of the Registrar no minimum qualification is mentioned in the draft Bill.

Here it is mentioned: 'appoint a person to be known as the Registrar'. Who is that person? The Minister cannot pick up a man from the street and appoint him as the Registrar without the minimum qualification. When you elect a person to the post of the President, there is the minimum qualification. For the post of the Supreme Court Judge there is the minimum qualification. Even to become a Member of Parliament there is some minimum qualification. But in the case of the Registrar, there is no qualification. He can appoint any person to be known as the Registrar. So, my amendment is that 'appoint a person not below the rank of a Judge of a High Court or a senior IAS Officer in the Central Service to be known as the Registrar'. Because, if this is not clearly mentioned, then the power remains withe the Minister or the bureaucracy to appoint any person suitble to him as the Registrar. It is a very high post. So, the Registrar must have the minimum qualification.

On Page-3, it is mentioned that the Central Government may appoint such officers with such designations as it thinks fit. But the Registrar is not there. Now the power rests with the Central Government. It may appoint such officers – which officers is not mentioned – with such designations. That means it depends upon the Minister. So, my amendment is that 'the Central Government may appoint such officers nut below the rank of a Secretary in the Central Service with such designations as it thinks fit'. So, the minimum qualification should be there. He will act as the Acting Registrar in the absence of the Registrar.

On Page-4 there is a very important clause. Please see lines 22 and 23.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Are you going to go page by page speaking about all the amendments? Then you will speak for one hour. At least, have all the amendments been circulated?

PROF. R.R. PRAMANIK : Yes Madam, they have been circulated. I have moved the amendments and I will confine myself to those amendments and not to lecturing.

On Pge-4, clause 7, sub-clause 3 where the original lay-out design has been created in execution of a commission by a contract of employment, the right of registration of such lay-out design under this Act shall belong in the absence of any contractual provision to the countrary to the person who commissions the work or to the employer. So, the right holder by this clause belongs

to the employer, to the contractor who has got the money and not to the creator or the inventor of the innovation.

Under TRIPS Agreements, it is clearly mentioned that the intellectual property rights are claims of persons over creations of their minds. Intellectual property is a creation of the mind of the intellectual. The property being the creation of the intellect of the intellectual, the holders should be innovators and not the employers or the contractors. But, if sub-clause 3 is kept as it is, then the innovator will be deprived of all the rights of innovation.

Take for example the Raman's effect. It was discovered by Sir C.V. Raman who got the Noble Prize for that. But the employer was a different person. That is there in the cultivation of science. The employer was one Shri Shah. But the credit went to Sir C.V. Raman and not to the employer. Innovation has been innovated by the inventor who is working under a contractor or under an employer. The rights of the holder should go to the innovator and not to the employer. If this clause is there, the innovator being a financially weak person, will get deprived of everything.

In West Bengal there was a dispute between the landlord and the bargadar over the ownership of land. It was there when the Left came to power. According to the prevailing law at that time, the court took the statement of the landlord and the bargadar used to plead for the right of the land. The landlord said that he had cultivated the land and the court took that statement.

Now, the bargadar is to say that it is not the landlord but he has cultivated the land. According to that law, many bargadars were deprived of their due share of land. When we came to power in West Bengal, we changed the theme. It is that the court will take the statement of the bargadar and the landlord is to prove in the court that the statement of the bargadar is not true. So, the onus will lie on the landlord. Here, to get the right of the innovation – if the sub-Clause is there – the onus lies on the inventor who is a weak person financially. Thus, in most of the cases, they will be deprived of their right. So, I want to amend it and make it topsy-turvy. It should be upside down. It should be "to the person who invented such layout-design." I only wanted to give my amendment which will read like this

> "Where an original layout-design has been created in execution of a commission of a contract of employment, the right to registration to such layout-design under this Act shall belong, in the absence of any contractual provision to the countrary, to the person who invented such layout-design."

Whereas in the Bill, it is given as "to the person who commissioned to work or to the employer."

MR. CHAIRMAN : Prof. Pramanik, if you are going to explain each of your amendments – I do not know how many adendments are there in your name – then we will be sitting the whole night only on your amendments.

PROF. R.R. PRAMANIK : No, madam. Not the whole night.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You speak generally and when each amendment will be put to the vote of the House, then you may speak on it.

PROF. R.R. PRAMANIK : I am explaining only to make the Minister understand.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Each speaker cannot take one hour to speak.

PROF. R.R. PRAMANIK : It is a very complicated Bill. I am explaining only to make the Minister understand.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I know it. But if you are going to explain each of your amendments for 15 minutes, then where is the time? You are a Member of the Standing Committee. It has been discussed there also. The amendments are circulated.

PROF. R.R. PRAMANIK : I tried there but I failed.

MR. CHAIRMAN : These amendments have not been accepted in the Committee. You are moving them now.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Each Party has got a limited amount of time. You alone cannot take one hour.

PROF. R.R. PRAMANIK : I have spoken for only 15 minutes. I seldom speak, Madam.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have to speak generally on the Bill and not clause by clause. One Member cannot take one hour to speak just on the amendments.

PROF. R.R. PRAMANIK : I will confine myself only to my amendments.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Each amendment is taking so much time. There are so many more amendments. You cannot make a speech on each amendment.

PROF. R.R. PRAMANIK : It is not a speech. I am speaking only on my amendments.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I know that. There are 18 more of your amendments. I want to know by what time you are going to conclude.

(Interruptions)

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI (Garhwal) : Madam, you have to restrict the time of the Party, whether he wants to speak on the amendments or a general speech.

PROF. R.R. PRAMANIK : On page 6, clause 18, I have an amendment as :

> "A registered layout-design in infringed by a person who, not being the registered proprietor of the layout-design or a registered user thereof,—
>
> (a) wilfully and knowingly does any act."

MR. CHAIRMAN : Each Member cannot take one hour on amendments.

(Interruptions)

PROF. R.R. PRAMANIK : I am sorry to say that much of my time is lost by interruptions. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI : Madam, would you tell us as to how much more time is left for his party? . . .*(Interruptions)*

PROF. R.R. PRAMANIK : Only the person in the Chair will have to conduct the House and not you. *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : I cannot give one hour to each Member to speak. I can restrict it to only 15-20 minutes. But you have spoken for 35 minutes.

(Interruptions)

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI : Madam, you must give a ruling on this. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia) : Shri Khanduri, you cannot gag the Member. You cannot curtail the speech of the hon. Member. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI : It is not correct. I am asking the Chairperson and not you. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Prof. Pramanik, I am giving you another five minutes to conclude your speech. You can make use of it properly. Do not get it disrupted.

(Interruptions)

PROF. R.R. PRAMANIK : Madam, please ask the hon. Member not to disturb me. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Prof. Pramanik, I am giving you five minutes to conclude.

PROF. R.R. PRAMANIK : Now, I draw your attention to page 12, line 3. The hon. Minister has said that by mistake the expression "Vice-Chairperson" has come in. So, my point is that it should be worded as "unless he or she". In the case of the Chairperson, the expression "she" is not there. If it is not made so, a lady will not be able to come to that post. So, it should be "he or she". . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : You may include "it" also!

PROF. R.R. PRAMANIK : So, my point is that wherever "he" is there, there should be "he or she". It is a law. We must understand the complications of the law.

I now come to the next point. Mr. Minister, in page 12, you have also mentioned that a person should have held a post equivalent to the post of joint Secretary to the Government of India or any higher post for at least five years.

Madam, as you are impatient, I will conclude now by saying this.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am not impatient. I am just telling you that there is a limited time for each Member. That is all.

PROF. R.R. PRAMANIK : I will conclude now. Please see page 12 – clause 34, sub-clause (6). It has been mentioned:

> "No appointment of a person as a Chairperson shall be made except after consultation with the Chief Justice of India."

So, the President has to appoint the Chairperson is consultation with the Chief Justice of India. In Chapter IV – The Union Judiciary, the Constitution says :

> "Every Judge of the Supreme Court shall be appointed by the President by warrant under his hand and seal after consultation with such of the Judges of the Supreme Court and of the High Courts in the States as the President may deem necessary for the purpose and shall hold office until he attains the age of sixty-five years."

So, only for the Judiciary, the President has to consult the Chief Justice of India. But here, for the appointment of a Chairperson of a Tribunal also, the President has to consult the Chief Justice. Therefore, if the clause is there, the President has to consult the Chief Justice of India for the appointment of a Chairperson of a Tribunal. I think it is

too much for the President. So, I think you have to omit clause (6) It should not be binding on the President for the appointment of a Chairperson of a Tribunal in consultation with the Chief Justice of India.

Then, clause 35 (b) says :

"in the case of Member, the age of sixty-two years"

The point is everywhere the age of retirement is 65 years. Here, why is it made 62 years? My amendment is that for sixty-two years, you should substitute it by 65 years For,the Chairperson and for the Vice-Chairperson, it is 65 years. But for the Member only it is 62 years. Why is this injustice meted out to the Member? It should be 65 years for a Member of the Tribunal.

Madam, with these words, I conclude. If I have taken much time, I am sorry. I think you will appreciate my position. I never speak. I seldom speak. Today, I have spoken on the technical point. My party has asked me to speak. I seldom speak. Thank you very much.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I appreciate your very clear points. Thank you very much. Now, Shri Subodh Mohite to speak. How much time are you going to take?

[Translation]

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE (Ramtek) : Honourable Chairperson, thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak. I would get an opportunity to learn something.

Honourable Chairperson, I would not like to discuss the Bill, Semiconductor Integrated Circuit Layout Design Bill, 2000 which has been introduced in the House because it is to be passed. It is a commitment of W.T.O. That is why I would specially thank the honourable Minister for bringing this bill as he has brought it timely. I support this Bill but at the same time I feel sorry for the disparities in the Bill. Supporting a Bill is a different thing but I feel it necessary to place the shortcomings in the Bill before the House. Therefore, with your permission I would like to say something on the Bill. It does not mean that I intend to criticize the honourable Minister. In view of the shortcomings in the Bill I think the Bill has been not brought in proper pattern.

[English]

Rajya Sabha has already passed this Bill.

[Translation]

This bill was passed on May 15, 2000. I had carefully heard the matters raised by the honourable Member in regard to this Bill. When a Bill is introduced in the House each word, paragraph and sentence in it has its own importance. Such Bill before introduction passes through the hands of many experts.

[English]

Every work is of vital importance.

[Translation]

In regard to the factual errors he said that the purpose and object for which the Bill is brought, the spelling itself is incorrect. I would also mention the page number, the object for which the Bill has been brought, the origin word.

[English]

The object of the Bill is to protect the original thing. page 4 (a) –

[Translation]

If the meaning of the object for which this bill has been brought, changes, then

[English]

It is not proper to change the origin.

[Translation]

There are lot of mistakes in it. It is not only a printing error but the whole aim has been changed.

[English]

There are a lot of mistakes. I can only show the page Nos. 4, 9, 11 and 12 where we can find the mistakes. At page 9, instead of 'requested' it is printed as 'reqested'.

[Translation]

In regard to the introduction made by the honourable Member, I understand that this bill is a gender biased bill, it is a men dominated bill. In regard to the Chairperson it won't be enough to amend Chairman to Chairperson. I can even mention the page number to say that the female have been neglected here. I would not say like this.

[English]

Madam, you are the Chairperson of the Women Empowerment Committee.

[Translation]

Therefore, it is a matter of pleasure that the Bill is being presented in your presence. It is not enough to count Chairman as Chairperson. In regard to the qualification given on the page number 12 at the point 34 it is written that.

[Shri Subodh Mohite]

[English]

The person shall not be qualified for appointment as Chairperson unless he/she. . . . In every place, you have to introduce he/she. This is the routine practice.

[Translation]

The point number 4 given at this page is vital point. It is very unfortunate that the experts are committing such a big mistake.

Secondly it is a technical point.

[English]

This is not only a preliminary point but also a technical point.

[Translation]

I am going to tell here about the technical point.

[English]

There is an international paper – International Semi-Conductor Topography Legislation.

[Translation]

This is an international paper. Whenever I speak I speak quite logically as we are talking to protect the origin.

[English]

What is the definition of 'origin'?

[Translation]

When we talk about international globalisation, then the concept which has been adopted by European countries.

[English]

What is the original thing? 'Europeans had accepted the option paper No. 2 – Creators' Own Intellectual Property. This is the definition of original things in European countries.

[Translation]

The definition adopted in United States and Australia is not common in the industry. The definition adopted by India is there on page 4 clause 7 point 2. I don't understand the point when united states, Australia have their own definitions, why we have clubbed both the points to make the definition of origin – I specially demand a reply from the honourable Minister to this point.

Second vital point is about registration. Hon'ble Minister was telling in his speech in the beginning that the registration would be for ten years. I remember each and every word said by the hon'ble Minister. He said

[English]

from the date of registration

[Translation]

but it is written in the bill

[English]

date of filing of the application.

[Translation]

It should be clarified whether it would be valid for ten years from the date of registration or from the date of filing. If you are permitting from the date of filing then whether we would have the authority to do business. Suppose he is doing business and if there is a gap of six months between the date of filing and registration and if his application is rejected then whether his business would be illegal. Who would be responsible for the illegal business carried out by him till the time of registration.

We very proudly talk about national security under clause 68, which read as under :–

[English]

In the interest of the security of the country, the Government of India may cancel any registration in the interest of the nation.

[Translation]

But it is very sad that we are talking about national security, but we have put it in the miscellaneous items. Can national security be a miscellaneous item? Therefore, I said earlier that the pattern in which this bill has been brought, is not the proper one. The design bill, which has been brought, is a bill concerning hardware. We have made sufficient progress in the field of software, but comparatively we have not made much progress in the field of hardware. This bill is deeply related to the future development of this country. How much interest of the country we are protecting by introducing this bill.

[English]

This is the main point. This is the theme of the Bill. What is the main benefit to the nation through this Bill?

[Translation]

Hon'ble Minister is requested to clarify this point also during his reply.

I will put forth four points to which I have querry in my mind. Hon'ble Minister is competent enough, he will clarify those points. My first querry is, if we look at the present situation, we want to introduced television of soni and semsung companies in the field of hardware. Ninety per cent of hardware companies are multinational companies. My question is as to what are the provisions in the bill to protect the Indian investors. Indian investors are not fully protected by the provisions existing under clause 67 of the bill. The designs pertaining to small and medium layout would fall sick or no more exist after providing protection to the multinationals. What is the security available for them in this bill. I would like to inform regarding public sector, the discussion for the disinvestment there has been going on for the last several months that there is no provision to protect on public sector units such as Metron and Keltron where there is lack of design and technology and the cost is also higher.

[English]

How are we going to protect the public sector units after the passing of this Bill? This is my main question.

[Translation]

Prior to bringing this Bill, have you analysed by identifying the number of investors in India and the innovations carried out by Indians. How you are going to protect these identified units?

19.00 hrs.

I have already supported this bill. But the issue of national interest is the formost and for that it is very necessary to look into all the four points which I have mentioned. I have great respect for Shri Pramod Mahajan. I recognise his as a P.M. First P.M. is Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayeeji and 2nd P.M. is Shri Pramod Mahajan, P.M. means Shri Pramod Mahajan. I have great respect for him.

[English]

He is very competent Minister.

[Translation]

He had introduced bill on I.T. earlier also.

[English]

Within the completion of six months, no Minister has introduced a Bill on I.T. which is such a complicated subject.

[Translation]

He also cannot go through it thoroughly, but through this august House I want that the officers sitting here are going through the bill and after that they will discuss it with Shri Pramod Mahajan. Such type of mistake may not occured again that on one hand we talk about 33 per cent reservation for women, whereas on the other hand the name of women Chairperson has not been mentioned here, then what is the meaning of talking about 33 per cent reservation for them. Therefore, keeping all these things in view I want that

[English]

technology has not life,

[Translation]

you would correct all these things by taking timely steps.

Supporting all these things I beg your pardon and conclude my speach.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Thank you very much, as you have mentioned so many things about women.

[English]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL (Latur) : Madam, I would like to be very brief. The first point I would like to take up is the gender equality involved in this Bill. In fact, there is the General Clauses Act which says that 'man' includes 'woman'.

MR. CHAIRMAN : That no longer holds good, Shri Patil.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL We can amend the General Clauses Act and say 'woman' includes 'man'. But if the word 'Chairperson' is included, there is no difficulty in appointing a lady Member as the Chairperson or a Member of the Board. So, there should not be any apprehension that the ladies will not be allowed to participate in the development of this aspect of electronics. We should keep in mind that there is the General Clauses Act and it protects the interests of the women also.

I am indeed happy that these Bills are being introduced in the House. The Information Technology Bill

[Shri Shivraj V. Patil]

has been passed. The Chemical Weapon Convention Bill has been passed just a few minutes before. We have taken up the Semiconductor Integrated Circuits Layout Design Bill. I am sure, – if not in this session, in the next session – the Biodiversity Bill will be introduced and we will take up that Bill also for consideration. All these Bills have their own characteristics. They have international implications. They are being brought before the House in accordance with the international agreements. When this Bill will be passed, the international agreements will be used in our country in a manner to support those who are in this field.

My objection to these Bills is that the titles of these Bills do not convey the meaning of the activities they are covering. The Information Technology Bill did not convey as to what it contains. The Chemical Weapons Convention Bill also does not convey that meaning. The Semiconductor Integrated Circuits Layout Design Bill also does not convey the meaning of the contents of the Bill. It would have been proper if these titles would have been a little different conveying the meaning of the activities which are going to be controlled or promoted through these Bill. I do not want to say anything more than this.

Fortunately for us, these Bills are going to support the knowledge-based industry.

They are going to help those people who are in the business or industry of producing knowledge, using knowledge or trading in knowledge.

Now, this is a very good idea because 21st Century is going to be a Century of the knowledge based industry. The knowledge is going to be one of the most expensive things of the world. Nothing is going to be more expensive than the knowledge and we are taking steps in the direction of protecting, preserving and promoting this knowledge.

This Bill is mainly meant for giving protection to those persons who are in the software business or production. It does not touch upon the hardware business or industry. If we really want to develop this area, it would be necessary for us to pay attention to the software as well as to the hardware. I do not know whether the Government is going to come up with another Bill or another policy or some design or some plan to promote the hardware industry in electronics. In my opinion this Bill gives protection to those who are in the business and industry of producing software. But, I think, something more could have been done in this respect.

I am in full agreement with the hon. Member from West Bengal. She was distinguishing between the inventor and the promotor. The inventor is a person who is using his brain to produce knowledge and the promotor is a person who is providing facilities or funds for production of knowledge. As far as the production of knowledge is concerned in the present day world, the brains are important and the funds are also important. People may have brains and yet they may not have funds to produce knowledge. So, there has to be synthesis between brain and fund to produce knowledge in the present day world.

Is there anything in this Act, which is really providing protection to those persons who are going to use their brains to invent and discover new things. I have not seen anything which can give that kind of protection. The protection is provided to the proprietor and the proprietor is one who is providing facilities and funds.

19.08 hrs.

[Shri Basu Deb Acharia *in the Chair*]

If there is anything and if the hon. Minister is in a position to point out that this provision can protect the inventor, we would be very happy about it. But if it is not there, if not today, let us apply our mind and let us modify this Bill in future to give protection to those who are really using their brains to produce this kind of knowledge because this is a knowledge based industry and the knowledge is coming out of the brains. Funds are required. Without funds they cannot do anything at all in the present day world in electronics or genetics or in advanced technology or science. But without brains they will not be able to do anything at all. Let us apply our minds to this aspect and if there is something which can give protection, it is very good; if it is not then let us do something more to it.

My next point, which I want to make is that let us have a long term plan for the development of this knowledge also. This is a regulatory authority. This is giving protection and preserving the knowledge which has already been produced. But we should not stop here. We should promote the knowledge and we should create facilities for producing this kind of knowledge.

What is it that we are going to do? We may not do it through the laws, we may do it through the policies also, and we can come up with the policies. But what is required in this respect is a long-term policy. Then, what is required is a long-term plan. What is required is a machinery for developing that knowledge. What is required is the funds. Where are the funds going to come from? Now, these days, the funds are coming from the Government only. I know personally that for technological development and scientific development, the funds are coming only from the Union Government, not even from the State Governments. Only

the Union Government is spending the funds on technological development and scientific development. The State Governments are also not spending the money. The public sector units are not spending the money. The private sector units are also not spending any money on technology development. Now, if we want to give any impetus or any encouragement to this, it would be necessary at least for some time to come, for the Union Government to take concrete steps in this respect and provide the facilities, funds, plans, and policies for this purpose.

Somebody spoke about the hardware industry. My respectful submission to this House and, through this House, to the Minister is that we should take some concrete steps in this respect. Silicon Valley can be an example for us to follow or we can do better than Silicon Valley also. There are some Technology Parks which are being developed in Andhra Pradesh, in Karnataka, and in some other States also. They are going to help us. We should encourage them but something more than that is required. What is required is a long-term plan for hardware development also. A lot of funds would be required and those funds may come either from the multi-national corporations or from the Government of India. I am not sure whether the public sector and the private sector would be able to spend the money in this. They can spend the money on things which are not visible as a horizon but are some things which have already been done. Now, we can have big chunks of land in different States and specially in a State like Uttaranchal, Arunachal Pradesh, where it is not possible to have the textile industry or the coal-based industry, but the electronic industry can be developed. There, let the roads be planned, let the electricity be provided, let the transport facility be given to them, let there be plots made and sold to the private sector, and let them come there and assemble the electronic goods. That would be the first step. Then, the second step would be to have the components manufactured by them in that area. The third step would be to give them the facility to develop the material which is required for making the components. The last step would be to give them the technology, to give them the facility to develop the technology, and the knowledge required for this purpose. This kind of an effort is going to require a very long-term planning, a clear policy, and a lot of funds. If the Government of India is in a position to do that, later on if the State Governments help, and later on if the public sector industry and the private sector industry are going to help, that will help us to develop the hardware industry in this area also.

I think, it is not necessary for me to say anything more than this on this Bill. Now, the Bill has come. We do have objections to some of the points. It will not be necessary for us to speak on all the issues separately and differently. Now, the Bill says that the number of members of the Appellate Board would be decided by the Government. It could have been mentioned in the Bill also. But supposing the Government decides on the number of members, well, let them do it.

But afterwards this Bill may be found to be suffering from some defects. As and when those defects become visible, we can certainly modify these things. But the steps are very welcome. They deserve all the support. I am sure the speeches made by the hon. Members are supportive of this Bill.

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI (Visakhapatnam) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Semiconductor Integrated Circuits Layout Design Bill, 2000. Relatively, this is a new law in the emerging field of intellectual property rights. This became necessary in view of the WTO agreements which we have entered into since 1994 onwards. The fast emerging field is information technology. Our Indians are working everywhere. Most of the developing and developed countries are also inventing several design circuits boards. Unless their intellectual property rights are protected, it is going to be a confusion. You know there is piracy in every field in our country. So, this Bill takes care. Unless you protect, there will be no comprehensive activity that could grow in our country. New entrepreneurs, mostly the small entrepreneurs, have several designs. They have invented. Just because they are not able to patent them, they are approaching the large industrial houses. By virtue of approaching the large industrial houses, they do not get proper remuneration for their intellectual property rights. But this Act protects their intellectual property rights to be properly harnessed, and really market them in the world market.

Our India scientists, particularly, in the information technology are second to none. They are first rate people. Whatever the present inventions that are taking place in the circuit boards in the Silicon Valley are being piloted by Indian entrepreneurs, Indian students and those Indians who have gone abroad. They are making all this success. Unless you make this sort of protection in our country, they cannot come back to India and work for themselves. By making this law, we will be protecting them to come to India, stay in India and invent. They could protect such inventions. Just now we have received an amendment from the hon. Minister to be made in clause 2 on page 3. In clause 2, for "Vice-Chairman" means the Vice-Chairman', an amendment has been moved to substitute "Vice-Chairperson" means the Vice-Chairperson'. Such things should have been done at the homework level.

[Shri M.V.V.S. Murthi]

These are all technicalities. Technical mistakes ought not have occurred. Most of the hon. Members who spoke on this Bill pointed out that there appears to have many gender, grammatical and punctuation mistakes. The Hon'ble Minister could have given one more reading to these things while coming to both the Houses. I think the Bill has to go to Rajya Sabha again with this amendment to make these changes. This is a delay. In the age of information technology, we are making delays even in the Bill of Information Technology. So, I hope in future the hon. Minister will take care to see that such mistakes do not occur.

These innovations, knowledge-based innovations particularly, are a welcome sign. I heartily support that this Bill should be passed at the earliest and our Indian scientists and our Information Technology based industries will be protected for their inventions.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani) : Mr. Chairperson, the Semiconductor Integrated Circuits Layout Design Bill, 2000 is before the House. The Bill has been considered by the Standing Committee on Science and Technology. We do understand that the Bill is indeed to fulfil our international obligations. India is a signatory to the TRIPS Agreement and in order to fulfil our commitments under the TRIPS Agreement, in order to fulfil our commitment to the WTO we have this Bill before us.

But in our eagerness to fulfil our commitments to the WTO and under the TRIPS Agreement, we have also to take necessary steps to see that the national interests are safeguarded. It must be appreciated that in our eagerness to fulfil our international obligations we have also to protect the interest of our own registered proprietors. It must be appreciated that as compared to the developed countries, India is at a different stage of development and progress. Therefore, considerable attention has to be paid to the protection of our own interests.

The developed countries are protecting their own interests but here as we go through the Bill we find the unfortunately there are several gaps. There are many gaps in the level of protection that has been provided under the Bill. Even where the WTO agrees, even where the TRIPS Agreement lays down certain safeguards, I do not know why the Government has thought of throwing those safeguards to the winds. We want to be more loyal than the King Himself is!

I may point out that under Clause 15 of the Bill the period of protection of layout-designs of integrated circuits is restricted to ten years. It is only for 10 years that the registered proprietors will have the benefit of registration; no further. What does the intellectural property rights mean, what the international standards are, should be considered. Article 38 of TRIPS says that "the protection shall not end before the expiration of the period of 10 years."

So, this ten-year period laid down in TRIPS is the minimum period. The article 38 clause 3 says :

> "That a member may provide that protection shall lapse after 15 years after the creation of the lay-out designs."

So, while WTO permits to have a period up to 15 years, we want to restrict under our law, the period only up to ten years. I would like to ask the Government to kindly clarify whether such reduction and restriction to ten years is justified, at least, in the national context.

Sir, only a few days before, we had passed the Designs Bill and that Designs Bill provided that initially the registration will be for ten years, but it can be renewed for five more years. Thus, the benefits of registration can be obtained under the Designs Act now for a period of 15 years.

Now, here, a lot of funds is involved in the creation of a lay out design and the period of the benefit of registration is limited only to ten years. This is a matter of serious considera'ion. I plead with the Government that though the Bill may provide for registration benefits initially for ten years, we should also have a provision that this period of registration, after ten years, can be increased up to 15 years as the WTO permits, as the TRIPS Agreement article 38, clause (3) itself permits.

Another point has already been made out very distinctly and very clearly and that is the interest of both the promoter and the inventor. The promoter has the funds. Are we to be so glamoured by funds and the capitalist attitude that all the benefits under the Bill are to be restricted only for the promoter? I do understand that a person has taken up the employment under the conditioin that the benefits of registration of its invention would go to the employer. But, then, we have to be fair and reconcile and see that justice is done both to the promoter and to the inventor. Otherwise our Bill, unfortunately, would remain a rather unbalanced Bill in the scale of justice. This is a subject, I can understand, which can be further probed into and considered by the Government. I hope the Government, the Ministry or the Department concerned will consider what kinds of provisions can be made under the Act later on, through amendments, so as to see that this unbalanced nature of the provisions is properly sorted out.

Sir, it is surprising that there is no provision in the Bill for compensation to the registered proprietor of a lay-out design by a person who infringes his rights. Somebody infringes upon the rights of a registered proprietor. He may be punished by court; he may go to jail; or he may pay the fine or both.

That is a different aspect. But due compensation should also come and should also be paid by the person held guilty of contravention of the provisions of the Act, person held guilty of infringing upon the rights of a registered proprietor. The person has to be obliged to pay compensation to the registered proprietor also. We had such provision in the Designs Bill, to which I had referred. Even article 44 of the TRIPS Agreement itself contemplates payment of compensation or damages suffered by the registered proprietor. I do not know why this particular provision for the payment of compensation or damages to the registered proprietor by a person who infringes upon his rights, has not been laid down in clear-cut words. This is a very important deficiency, as I say, of the Bill that we have.

Now, Sir, look at the restrictions with respect to registration of the lay-out designs. Clause 7 provides, inter alia that a lay-out design which has been commercially exploited anywhere in India or in a Convention country, shall not be registered. So, if a lay-out design has been commercially exploited, then it cannot be registered any further. One can understand that particular provisioin. But now there is an exception made that where the design has been exploited for not more than two years from the date of registration of the application, then that registration can be granted. So, two-year exemption is there. Here, a particular injustice will be done to a person who has registered his design before the commencement of the Act, say, under the Registration Act. After the present Bill gets enacted and becomes an Act, that registration comes to an end. He may have enjoyed the benefits of registration hardly for 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 or 7 years and not for 10 years. But then, he is helpless. Under the provisions of the present Bill, he will not get the registration and, therefore, that will be doing grave injustice to the person concerned. I, therefore, submit that there he has not been in a position to exploit his design commercially for a period of ten years, then, in conformity with the pattern of giving the benefits of registration for a period of ten years, the applicant must be able to enjoy the registration benefits for the balance number of years. There is a need to provide that under such cases a lay-out design may be registered under the present Bill.

Take up the question of clause 56 which deals with offences and penalties. We are told that any person who contravenes knowingly and wilfully – I emphasise the words 'knowingly and wilfully' – the provisions of the Act, he is punished.

We all know very well how difficult it would get to prove the word 'wilfully'. A person, who not merely contravenes the provisions of the Bill but who knows that he is contravening and then wilfully tries to contravene the provisions of the Bill is liable for punishment. This will create lots of complications in courts of law.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude now.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Yes, Sir. Let us go to the very wording in the TRIPS. What are the wordings in the TRIPS? What are the wordings given to us by the WTO? Article 37 of the TRIPS laid down by the WTO, which we have agreed to, itself says: "Who did not know or had no reasonable grounds to know".

So, a person should be held guilty of contravention – a person, except one who did not know or had no reasonable grounds to know that he is infringing upon somebody's right is liable to punishment. A person knowing that he is contravening and is still not liable to punishment, is something very wonderful way of going through it in addition to his knowledge that he knew that he is contravening. We have also to prove in the court of law that he not only knowingly but also wilfully contravened the provisions of the law.

This is not legal language. I think these words were not in the original Bill. Somehow, later on, from somewhere, they have come. I do not know whether they have come from the Rajya Sabha. But then, let us correct it. The real legal language and the language accepted by WTO, the language accepted by TRIPS is that a person, except one, who "did not know or had no reasonable grounds to know", then he is supposed to have contravened it.

In your own Bill, under clause 18, sub-clause 5, you have correctly used the term as "person who did not know or had no reasonable grounds to know". So, you have used that TRIPS or acceptable legal language in your own clause 18(5) and here you are using a different language altogether creating confusion.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude now.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Sir, we are on a legislation which is the principal business of the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Yes.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : You look at the studies of how Parliament functions and the studies will tell us that during the past two decades, slowly and gradually the time

[Shri G.M. Banatwalla]

that is given to legislation is shrinking and decreasing. It is considered as an adverse reflection on the functioning of the Parliament.

MR. CHAIRMAN : This is also because of the Standing Committees.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : But here we are restricting ourselves in cases of legislation which is the principal business of this House.

Anyhow, I will not be going any further. I will be moving the amendments and then if you wish, at each and every amendment, I will speak in order to clarify my amendment if you so wish. Right now I can conclude by referring to...

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : You have already spoken on one amendment.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : There the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is very vigilant.

Sir, I would conclude by saying that under clause 10(5) the Registrar may reject an application on grounds which have not been taken up when he was hearing the parties.

The only point is that in case he rejects an application on grounds not taken up by the parties, then those grounds must also be brought to the knowledge of the parties concerned and they should be heard.

Sir, the Bill may have a number of dificiencies, but we know that we are on a plain, on matters which are still to develop and take shape. Under this particular impression, I support the Bill with the hope that the points raised by me shall receive their due consideration.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Sir, at the outset, I would like to thank those seven Members who participated in this debate and rest sitting here without participating.

MR. CHAIRMAN : And listening.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : I must thank them more than those who spoke. Though about an hour was given to this Bill, we have almost taken more than two hours.

I am really happy that many points made where worth consideration. Now, I do not have the legal or language competence to meet out the arguments of Shri Banatwalla or Prof. Pramanik, but with all pramanikpana, with all honesty, I would like to react to all the points raised and put up the Government's viewpoint on them.

Sir, the first speaker hon. Shri Natchiappan has made a point that as far as selection of persons on the Appellate Board in concerned, we have said that somebody who is or has already been a judge should be appointed. Even in the Standing Committee Report, he made his point very forcefully and not only that, the Standing Committee Report shows that he put up a two-line Note of Dissent to the Standing Committee for not accepting his viewpoint. But I respectfully disagree with him when he says that I am taking away the chnace of millions of lawyers. Frankly Sir, in this Tribunal, there may be about half-a-dozen people. So, it is a question only of half-a-dozen people whether I appoint ex-judges or present judges or persons who are capable of judging. So, it is not a question of millions of lawyers being prohibited from being here. Theoretically, it may be right, but practically, we are appointing only about half-a-dozen people on this Board. Here, looking at the importance of technical and legal angle which they will have to look into, we thought that we should select a person who has already gone through a selection process. That is why, neither the Standing Committee nor the Government could accept the suggestion made by him. Though he put up a Note of Dissent to the Standing Committee Report, here, he will agree with me that I am not taking away the right of any lawyer because even judges were lawyers one term or the other. So, I am not taking away the rights of the lawyers. It is nothing like 'government against lawyers'. The only thing is that we thought that it will be better to choose persons who have already gone through a selection and nothing more than that. Sok, respectfully, I cannot agree to his amendment or suggestion. As I said, I hope that he will respect the Standing Committee's decision and the decision of the other House.

[Translation]

Secondly Sir, as Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat has said that we are bringing it as per the instruction of World Trade Organisation. It is a fact and the whole world knows that we have signed a treaty with the World Trade Organisation and for this reason, it is our duty to enact similar laws and we are enacting laws in that manner.

But, in this regard I would like to say this much only that we are not enacting such law in haste. Perhaps, you may be remembering that we had signed the treaty on World Trade Organisation in the year 1995 and we had to enact these laws before December 31, 1999. But in this regard, we did not enact laws immediately in haste as per the instructions by the World Trade Organisation. Even the period of eight to nine months have passed after such date. We enacted laws and presented them in the Parliament and the Parliamentary Standing Committee studied them and after their study we now want to get ghose laws passed. I can say it earnestly that we do not want to enact any law in haste at the behast of the world trade organisation.

[English]

Though it is true that it is a part of the WTO Agreement, yet at the same time we are not blindly following it. On the contrary, Shri Banatwalla was saying that we are not following where we should follow the TRIPS.

Sir, secondly in regard to the issue raised by him about the product and process patent, I would like to submit that this does not come under this Law. So, it is a different Patents Law and whenever it would come for a discussion, I think, the House would have the privilege of his views on it, and then the House could take a decision on that. So, as far as this Semiconductor Integrated Circuits Layout Design Bill is concerned, the process and products are not really part of it.

Sir, he has also raised one very important point about reverse engineering. I totally agree with him that reverse engineering should be permitted. If you look at clause 18(8) of the Bill, you would see that this clause provides for reverse engineering. In this clause we say 'layout design which is identical'. When you use the world 'layout design which is identical' it provides for reverse engineering. So, as he has suggested that reverse engineering should be permitted, I would like to submit that this has already been permitted and his point has been well taken before even he made it.

Sir, Prof. Pramanik has made very important points as far as this Bill is concerned. He also had the privilege of being a Member of the Standing Committee. He very forcefully made all these points in the Standing Committee as well. But unfortunately, the Standing Committee could not agree with him. He knowingly did not attach any note of dissent on the wording of this Bill. Shri Banatwalla is a little upset about it. I think, this is the contribution of Prof. Pramanick to the Committee. The Committee accepted it on his insistence. So, it is not that the Committee did not take advantage of his knowledge in this. But I can only say that, I am not an expert as he is, if you talk about integrated circuits, these are basically used on Silicon which is a semiconductor. That is why we have used the wording as the 'Semiconductor Integrated Circuits Layout Design Bill'. I do not think it makes much of a difference by deleting or adding a word.

Sir, I totally agree with Shri Shivraj Patil – he said this even when he spoke on the Information Technology Bill – that we should find out the title of the Bill in such a way that just by reading the title, a layman should be able to understand what law we are talking about. He has given a few examples. I do not have his legal competence, but I can only talk from the point of view of the Legislative Department that while framing the titles of the Bills they should take proper care to see that the names should, as far as possible, be able to tell the whole meaning of the law. That point is well taken.

PROF. R.R. PRAMANIK : Sir, semiconductor is one of the active elements. There are other active elements also. In the final Act of the Uruguay Round, there are only 'integrated circuits layout design'. Nowhere is there any mention of 'semiconductor'. Semiconductor is one of the many active elements. Then, why is it only semiconductor? There are capacitors also. Then, why is it only semiconductors?

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Sir, to the best of my knowledge, subject to correction, even advanced countries like the USA and Japan when they followed this TRIPS Agreement and made laws, they also have used the word, 'semiconductor'.

I do not think deleting 'semiconductor' and using 'integrated circuits' will make a difference.

As far as the word 'chairperson' is concerned, I already explained that the Committee suggested us to change the word 'chairman' to 'chairperson'. This applies only to the English language. In the Hindi language it still remains as 'adhyaksh'.

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI (Khajuraho) : The word 'chairman' has no gender to it.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : It has no gender to it but the Standing Committee insisted on it and we accepted the amendment. We changed the word at 50 places in the Bill. Inadvertently, it was left unchanged at one place. I am moving an amendment to change it. I am sure the Rajya Sabha will agree to it.

Sir, I respectfully submit to Shri Subodh Mohite that the word 'he' or 'she' does not make a difference. Shri Shivraj Patil has already helped me in this regard. He has given me advice and helped me without charging me any fee, by saying that in the General Purpose Clauses Act 'he' includes 'she', though it should be the other way round. Normally 'she' includes 'he' and 'woman' includes 'man'. But in the General Purpose Clauses Act 'man' includes 'woman' and 'he' includes 'she'. In the Standing Committee also it was debated upon. It was brought to their notice that this was the reason behind the usage of the word and that there was no gender bias in it.

I would like to make one point in this regard. The test really lies for the country in appointing more women as 'chairpersons'. Even if the word 'chairman' in every Bill is changed to 'chairperson', if men only are continued to be appointed to these posts, the word 'chairperson' will remain in the Bill and no woman would be happy about it. So, whether you call the post at 'chairman' or

[Shri Pramod Mahajan]

'chairperson' the difference is only notional and not practical. I think, the women in the country are more interested in getting appointed on different Committees than merely the post being called 'chairperson'. Anyway, we have already changed it.

As far as the Appellate Tribunal is concerned, these are statutory appointments. Naturally, qualifications and other eligibility conditions in regard to statutory posts are mentioned in the Bill itself. Normally the rules take care of the post like Registrar. It happened not in this law only but in all other laws like Patents Act, Copyright Act, Trademarks Act, etc. I can take the names of umpteen laws in which such posts are not of statutory or quasi-judicial nature. These posts are always decided upon by the Government by making provisions under the rules and we have taken care of the same. As such I do not expect the Member to agree with me but I am submitting the Government viewpoint on this issue.

A very important point was raised by Shri Pramanik, Shri Banatwalla and Shri Shivraj Patil. I would like to take a little time of the House on this point because it is a very important point. The point relates to the question of the invertor versus the proprietor, or financier, or promoter. It is true after all that any intellectual property is the creator's property and naturally the whole credit of any invention should go to its creator. However, as somebody rightly said, one needs money also to get his creation into commercial use. What we did here is, we followed the general practice in this business not only in our country but all over the world. All over the world, those who have the brightest brains either work in different companies or are commissioned by different companies to invent things. Money is spared for them to do their work. Sometimes money goes down the drain without a person inventing anything and sometimes something is invented very cheaply. Sometimes you spend a few thousand dollars to get an invention and sometimes you spend billions of dollars and do not get anything out of it. Under such circumstances, normally the person who is the promoter, or who is running the company, or who has commissioned the job, gets the intellectual property right and not the inventor.

Now, here what we have done, I would like really the House to try to understand. If I am making mistakes, Shri Shivraj V. Patil can correct me.

In clause 7(3), we have said :

> "Where an original layout-design has been created in execution of a commission or a contract of employment, the right of registration to such layout-design under this Act shall belong, in the absence of any contractual provision to the contrary, to the person who commissioned the work or to the employer."

But suppose, somebody with his brightest brain makes a contract with his employer or a person who has commissioned, and says, 'look, I can work with you only and only if the right comes to me'. Then, what will happen? Even then under this Bill, if he has a contract, he can have a property right. But if he does not have that kind of a thing – normally, as I said, business practice says – it should go to the employer or the person who commissioned.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : Well, think, you are certainly following the international practice. But is it necessary for us to follow the international practice in all cases? We can go a step ahead of what other countries are doing. Now, here, as per this clause, as you rightly said, if there is a contract, it says that "certain share of the profit shall go to the inventor." It will go to the inventor because that would be registered.

But as the situation stands, as the things are there in our country and outside also, it is the money which is dominating. In fact, in the knowledge base industry or in this area where knowledge is important and the man who is inventing is more important, will it be beyond our ingenuity to have a law which really protects the interests of the person who is really responsible for creating the knowledge?

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Sir, I would love the inventor to get the entire credit. . . .*(Interruptions)*

PROF. R.R. PRAMANIK : Sir, on this clause 7(3), my amendment was there. This clause 7(3) says, "Where an original lay-design has been created. . . ."

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : I have not come to the amendment. I am just mentioning it generally.

PROF. R.R. PRAMANIK : In the clause 7(3) in place of "to the person who commissioned the work or to the employer" you may substitute "to the person who invented." That is my amendment.

Here, this protection is given to the employer. No, the intellectual property is the creation of intellect. So, the real protection should go to the inventor and not to the employer. The employer can get his share by a contract. The provision is there about this contract.

So, in the intellectual property, the right of registration should go to the holder of right, and the holder of the right is the inventor, not the employer. So, what is the harm if

we change the wording "to the person who commissioned the work or to the employer" by "to the person who invented"?

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Sir, let us agree to disagree. As I said, if the law gives all rights to the inventor, I am afraid. . . .*(Interruptions)*

PROF. R.R. PRAMANIK : The contract is there. If there is a contract, that would be shared by the employer. Then, the employer would get the share. It has been mentioned there.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : As I have already said, if he enters into a contract with his employer or a person who commissioned, then the contract will prevail.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : He is not equal to the proprietor.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Firstly, as far as the contract is concerned, that will prevail. So, we are not taking suo motu the right of the inventor and putting into the proprietor or the employer. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Inventor is a weak party. Give him protection.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : That is why I said that let us I agree to disagree. I too agree with you, Sir that it is a weak party. But at the same time, this weak party, to produce something worth intellectual property right needs money. Suppose, by law, I make it and tomorrow the companies do not come forward to make financing, then again, there will be a problem.

So, if he thinks that he has something which he can make a contract, maybe with some noble ideas, he can, even under this law, make a contract and get money whatever he wants with it. But I cannot suo motu say that the employer or the person who is commissioning, will not have anything, and everything will be left to the inventor. That is not an international practice.

PROF. R.R. PRAMANIK : In the sub-clause, a provision is there, and the employer will get his share.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon. Members, please listen to the hon. Minister. Let the hon. Minister first complete. Afterwards, if there is any clarification, you may ask for it.

20.00 hrs.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : I think, I have already answered most of the points.

The hon. Member asked why the age was kept at 62 years and why it was not kept at 65 years. In all Appellate Boards and Tribunals, it is the normal practice to keep it at 62 years. Left to me, I would like to come a little down but not go to the upside of 65 or 70. This is the youngest industry in India. So, let us appoint people who are younger. Please do not ask me to raise the age from 62 years to 65 years.

I now come to the point raised by hon. Member Shri Subodh Mohite. As he rightly said, there are some spelling mistakes in this. Though the Minister may not directly see it, when it comes to the House, he is the person responsible even for spelling mistakes. I apologise for the 'original' spelling mistakes! In fact, there is a mistake here in the spelling of the word 'original'.

He has also asked whether he would have the right from the time of registration or from the time of filing the application. He will have the right from the time of filing of the application for ten years. But it will be given to him only if he is registered. If for any reason he is not registered, mere filing does not give him a right.

He went almost very much by the words. He pointed out the fact that 'National Security' is mentioned under 'Miscellaneous'. When you write a law you have a subject heading for each subject and when there is no subject heading is left, you give the subject heading 'Miscellaneous'. We are not treating 'National security' as a 'Miscellaneous' item. It is a very important subject. But under the available subject headings, it naturally comes in at 'Miscellaneous' because of the style of writing. I hope, he would accept this.

Shri Shivraj V. Patil has mentioned about the title of the Bill. I have already explained it. He has said that this Bill protects 'designs', which is normally a software activity but semi-conductor layout-design does not get converted into chips, which is a hardware activity. This Bill does not support only the software activity but it supports both. I have taken your point – though it might not be directly related to the present Bill – that India has to concentrate on IT if we have to really become a global power in information technology. We are already a global power in software. But if you look at the hardware aspect, we are definitely lagging behind. For some country to be a real global power or an influential global player, the development could not be lop-sided. So, we have to concentrate on hardware also. He knows that hardware means a lot of investment. It is not so easy to have that kind of an investment but definitely at the Government, public sector or private sector level, we will have to take initiatives to strengthen the hardware development in this country.

He has made a lot of good suggestions. He has said that in areas like the North-East, where we cannot have

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other kinds of businesses though we have educated people and a good environment, we should exploit the conditions.

Shri M.V.V.S. Murthi has also spoken about gender and grammar. I think, I have answered it.

Lastly, I come to the very important points made by Shri G.M. Banatwalla. I am not coming to these points lastly deliberately but he was the last to speak on this Bill. I have already told that this is a WTO compliance but on our own terms. He has raised three or four points about inventors and promoters. I have already explained the position. He has asked why there should be a provision of ten years when the TRIPS agreement permits us to have it for 15 years. It is a very valid question. I am not sure whether I should articulate very freely in this House but I will try to answer it.

The first thing is that this is a fast moving technology where the life cycle is a cycle, which has come down from 6-8 years to 3-5 years. Really, ten-year period is also a lifetime as far as this technology movement is concerned. So, ten-year period is more than that.

As I said, I am trying to articulate, but at the same time, I have little hesitation, and I request the hon. Members to understand what I am trying to tell. This is in India's interest. I do not want somebody to register in this country and get a right for 15 years. If you look at the proportion of registration done by the Indians and the non-Indians, Indians do not dominate the technology or inventions of this nature. If I give that right, which TRIPS permits me to give, it is for all. I am not fighting on whether it should be 10 years or 15 years. If I give a right for 15 years, it is not that it is right only for Indians. Anybody who registers here would get that right for 15 years, which I really do not want to give because most of us use it and not invent it.

I cannot be clearer than this in the House and I hope, the House will appreciate that using 'ten-year period' is a pro-India line because that will go in our favour. It is because if somebody registers here, he will get only a ten-year protection, instead of a fifteen-year protection. So, on the eleventh year, anybody and everybody in India can use and I think, this goes in India's favour. That is the precise reason why I used it.

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI (Visakhapatnam) : What is the international practice?

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : It is also ten years. Many countries have done it.

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI : So, you cannot make any changes in that.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : As far as the issue of compensation is concerned, I can say that there are two types of things done here. The first thing is that if somebody unknowingly infringes the intellectual property right, then, we have provided that (a) he can go for a settlement; (b) if he cannot go for a settlement, he can go for an appeal, where the Appellate body can give him a royalty. Suppose he says, "No, I do not do it", then, the Criminal Procedure Code is there. In the Criminal Procedure Code, both the things are written – that there can be imprisonment or/and fine. This is what we usually write in such kind of legislation. I am sure – if you look at this kind of legislation – nobody would like to face imprisonment. I am very sure that, even the provision of imprisonment to the type of people we are likely to deal with in this kind of legislation, they will go for a settlement of royalty instead of going to jail even for one day.

As far as giving compensation out of that penalty is concerned, I would say this. Hon Member, Shri Banatwalla has moved one amendment saying that we should say that out of this panalty, compensation should be given to the person whose right has been infringed. I can only draw the attention to Section 357 of Cr. P.C., which talks about 'order to pay compensation.' In that 'order to pay compensation', it says, when a court imposes a sentence of fine or a sentence inclusive of death of which fine forms a part, the court may, when passing judgement order the whole or any part of the fine recovered to the applied, or in payment of any person, compensation for any loss or injury, and so on and so forth.

There is already such a provision and so, we thought that making another provision here was not necessary.

I tried my level best to answer; I do not want to say 'answer', but I tried to give the clarifications of the Government to the objections raised here.

I again thank all the hon. Members of supporting it. I hope that late in the night, Shri Bantwalla and Prof. Pramanik will not insist on moving their amendments; I hope that the House will pass it only with the amendment of the Government.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That the Bill to provide for the protection of the semiconductor integrated circuits layout-designs and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House shall now take up clause by clause consideration of the Bill.

Clause 2

Definition

Amendment made :

Page 3 line 7, –

for "Vice-Chairman means

the Vice-Chairman"

substitute "Vice-Chairperson

means the Vice-Chairperson" (28)

(Shri Pramod Mahajan)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Prof. R.R. Pramanik, are you moving your amendments?

PROF. R.R. PRAMANIK : Yes, I am moving the amendments.

I bet to move :

Page 2, –

for lines 22 to 24 *substitute* –

"integrated circuits' meant Integrated circuits are defined as products in final form or intermediate form, in which the elements (at least one of which is an active element), and some or all of the interconnections are integrally formed (in and or on a piece of material) and which are intended to perform an electronic function." (14)

Page 3, line 7, –

for "Vice-Chairman"

substitute "Vice-Chairperson" (15)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I shall now put amendments No. 14 and 15 moved by Prof. R.R. Pramanik to the vote of the House.

The amendments were put and negatived.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is:

"That clause 2, as amended, stand part of the Bill".

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 3

Registrar of Semiconductor Integrated Circuits Layout Design

MR. CHAIRMAN : Prof. R.R. Pramanik, are you moving your amendments?

PROF. R.R. PRAMANIK : Yes, I am moving my amendments.

I beg to move :

Page 3, lines 13 and 14, –

for "appoint a person to be known as the Registrar"

substitute "appoint a person not below the rank of a Judge of a High Court or a senior IAS Officer in the Central Service to be known as the Registrar" (16)

Page 3, lines 16 and 17, –

for "The Central Government may appoint such officers with such designations as it thinks fit"

substitute "The Central Government may appoint such other officers not below the rank of a Secretary in the Central Service with such designations it thinks fit" (17)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I shall now put amendments No. 16 and 17 moved by Prof. R.R. Pramanik to the vote of the House.

The amendments no. 16 and 17 were put and negatived.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is:

"That clause 3 stand part of the Bill".

The motion was adopted.

Clause 3 was added to the Bill.

Clauses 4 to 6 were added to the Bill.

Clause 7

Prohibition of registration of certain layout designs

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri G.M. Banatwalla, are you moving your amendment?

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : No.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Prof R.R. Pramanik, are you moving your amendment?

PROF. R.R. PRAMANIK : Yes, I am moving my amendment.

I beg to move :

Page 4, lines 22 and 23, –

for "to the person who commissioned the work or to the employer"

Substitute "to the person who invented such layout-design" (18)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I shall now put amendment No. 18 moved by Prof. R.R. Pramanik to the vote of the House.

The amendment no. 18 was put and negatived.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is :

"That clause 7 stand part of the Bill".

The motion was adopted.

Clause 7 was added to the Bill.

Clause 8

Application for registration

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri G.M. Banatwalla, are you moving your amendments?

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani) : Yes, I am moving my amendments.

I bet to move :

Page 4, line 35, –

after "Registrar may" *insert* –

"by a written and reasoned order" (10)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I shall now put amendment No. 10 moved by Shri G.M. Banatwalla to the vote of the House.

The amendment no. 10 was put and negatived.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"The clause 8 stand part of the Bill".

The motion was adopted.

Clause 8 was added to the Bill.

Clause 9 and 10 were added to the Bill.

Clause 11

Opposition to registration

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri. G.M. Banatwalla, are you moving you amendments ?

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Yes, I am moving my amendments.

I beg to move :

Page 5, –

after line 24, insert –

"Provided that the dicision shall be in writing and reasoned :

Provided further that where the Registrar considers any ground of objection not relied upon by the opponent, the parties to the proceedings shall be offered the opportunity to be heard on it." (6)

Page 5, line 27, –

after "security" insert –

"as per the prescribed norms" (11)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I shall now put amendments No. 6 and 11 moved by Shri G.M. Banatwalla to the vote of the House.

The amendments no. 6 and 11 were put and negatived.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That clause 11 stand part of the Bill".

The motion was adopted.

Clause 11 was added to the Bill.

Clauses 12 to 14 were added to the Bill.

Clause 15

Duration of registration

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri G.M. Banatwalla, are you moving your amendment?

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Yes, I am moving my amendment.

I beg to move :

Page 6, –

after line 21, insert –

"(2) If, before the expiration of the said ten years, application for the extension of the period of registration of the lay-out design is made to the Registrar in the prescribed manner, the Registrar shall, on payment of the prescribed fee, extend the said period for a second period of five years from the expiration of the original period of ten years."

(3) Where a lay-out design has ceased to have effect by reason of failure to pay the fee for its extension of registration under sub-section (2), the owner of the such lay-out design or his legal representative may, within one year from the date on which the lay-out ceased to have effect, make an application for the restoration of the lay-out design in the prescribed manner on payment of such fee as may be prescribed.

(4) An application under sub-section (3) shall contain a statement, verified in the prescribed manner, fully setting out the circumstances which led to the failure to pay the prescribed fee, and Registrar may require from the applicant such further evidence as he may think necessary.

(5) If, after hearing the applicant in cases where the applicant so desires or the Registrar thinks fit, the Registrar is satisfied that the failure to pay the fee for extension of the period of registration was unintentional and that there has been no undue delay in the making of the application, the Registrar shall upon payment of any unpaid fee for the extension of the period of registration together with prescribed additional fee restore the registration of the design.

(6) The Registrar may, if he thinks fit as a condition of restoring the lay-out design, require that any entry shall be made in the register of any document or matter which under the provisions of this Act, has to be entered in the register but which has not been so entered.

(7) Where the registration of a design is restored, the rights of the registered owner shall be subject to such provisions as may be prescribed and to such other provisions as the Registrar may think fit for the protection or compensation of persons who may have begun to avail themselves of, or have taken definite steps by contract or otherwise to avail themselves of, the benefits of applying the lay-out design between the date when the registration of the layout-design ceased to have effect and the date of restoration of the registration of the layout-design.

(8) No suit or other proceeding shall be commenced in respect of infringement of the registered layout-design committed between the date on which the registration of the layout-design ceased to have effect and the date of the restoration of the layout-design." (7)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I shall now put amendment No. 7 moved by Shri G.M. Banatwalla to the vote of the House.

The amendment no. 7 was put and negatived.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That clause 15 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 15 was added to the Bill

Clauses 16 and 17 were added to the Bill

Clause 18

Infringement of layout design

PROF R.R. PRAMANIK : Sir, I beg to move:

Page 6, line 36, –

for "does any act"

substitute "wilfully and knowingly does not act" (19)

Page 6, line 40, –

for "does any act"

substitute "wilfully and knowingly does any act" (20)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I shall now put amendment Nos. 19 and 20 to clause 18 moved by Prof R.R. Pramanik to the vote of the House.

The amendments no. 19 and 20 were put and negatived.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is:

"The clause 18 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 18 was added to the Bill.

Clauses 19 to 33 were added to the Bill.

Clause 34

Qualifications for appointment as chairperson, vice-chairperson or other members

SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN : Sir, I beg to move :

Page 12, line 4, –

after "been,"

insert "or is qualified to be," (1)

Page 12, –

after line 11, insert –

"(c) has been a practising Advocate of not less than ten year's standing." (2)

PROF. R.R. PRAMANIK : Sir, I beg to move :

Page 12, line 3, –

for "unless he"

substitute "unless he or she" (21)

Page 12, line 6 and 7, –

for "unless he"

substitute "unless he or she" (22)

Page 12, line 12, –

for "unless he"

substitute "unless he or she" (23)

Page 12, line 16 –

for "unless he"

substitute "unless he or she" (24)

Page 12, line 19 and 20, –

omit "and has held a post equivalent to the post of Joint Secretary to the Government of India or any higher post for at least five years" (25)

Page 12, –

omit lines 24 and 25 (26)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I shall now put Amendment Nos. 1 and 2 moved by Shri Sudarsana E.M. Natchiappan and Amendment Nos. 21, 22, 23, 24, 25 and 26 moved by Prof. R.R. Pramanik to clause 34 to the vote of the House.

The amendments no. 1, 2, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25 and 26 were put and negatived.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That clause 34 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 34 was added to the Bill.

Clause 35

Term of office of chairperson, vice-chairperson and members

PROF. R.R. PRAMANIK : Sir, I beg to move :

Page 12, line 30, –

for "sixty-two years"

substitute "sixty-five years" (27)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I shall now put Amendment No. 27 to clause 35 moved by Prof. R.R. Pramanik to the vote of the House.

The amendment no. 27 was put and negatived.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That clause 35 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 35 was added to the Bill.

Clauses 36 to 55 were added to the Bill.

Clause 56

Penalty for infringement of layout design

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Sir, I beg to move :

Page 17, lines 6 and 7, –

for "knowingly and wilfully any of the provisions of section 18."

Substitute "any of the provision of section 18, save where such person does not possess any knowledge or has no reasonable ground to know that his act involves infringement of a registered layout-design." (8)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I shall now put amendment No. 8 to clause 56 moved by Shri G.M. Banatwalla to the vote of the House.

The amendment was put and negatived.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That clause 56 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 56 was added to the Bill.

Clause 57 was added to the Bill.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Sir, I beg to move :

Page 17, –

after line 27, insert –

"(57A) The owners of a registered design shall be entitled to such compansation as may be prescribed from the person held guilty under the provisions of sections 56 and 57." (3)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I shall now put Amendment No. 3 for insertion of a New Clause 57A moved by Shri G.M. Banatwalla to the vote of the House.

The amendment no. 3 was put and negatived.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That clauses 58 to 96 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 58 to 96 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1

Short title, extent and commencement

PROF. R.R. PRAMANIK : I beg to move :

Page 2, line 3 and wherever it occurs in the bill, –

omit "Semiconductor" (13)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I shall now put amendment No. 13 to clause 1 moved by Prof. R.R. Pramanik to the vote of the House.

The amendment no. 13 was put and negatived.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is :

"That clause 1 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 1 was added to the Bill.

The Enacting Formula and the Preamble were added to the Bill.

The Title

PROF. R.R. PRAMANIK : I beg to move :

Page 1, –

for "semiconductor integrated circuits layout-designs"

substitute "Integrated Circuits Layout Design" (12)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I shall now put amendment No. 12 to the Title moved by Prof. R.R. Pramanik to the vote of the House.

The amendment no. 12 was put and negatived.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That the Title stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

The Title was added to the Bill.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : I beg to move :

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House stands adjourned to meet tomorrow, the 17th August, 2000 at 11 a.m.

20.22 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, August 17, 2000/ Sravana 26, 1922 (saka).