

# **LOK SABHA DEBATES**

## **(English Version)**

**Ninth Session**  
**(Thirteenth Lok Sabha)**



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## LOK SABHA DEBATES

### LOK SABHA

### Statement

**Monday, May 6, 2002/Vaisakha 16, 1924 (Saka)**

*The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock*

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER in the Chair]

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, It is a very serious matter.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please raise it during the Zero Hour and not during the Question Hour.

Q. No. 561. Shri Iqbal Ahmed Saradgi.

11.01 hrs.

#### ORAL ANSWER TO QUESTIONS

[English]

#### Purchasing of Aircraft

561. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI :  
SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Airlines has signed a Rs. 10,089 crore deal with Airbus Industries for the supply of 43 aircraft to replace its ageing fleet;

(b) if so, whether the bid was around 10-15 per cent less than the quotation received from Boeing;

(c) whether this is the biggest purchase made by Indian Airlines so far;

(d) if so, the details of sources for funding the massive acquisition; and

(e) the time by which these aircraft are likely to be obtained?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN) : (a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

(a) and (b) : The Board of Directors of Indian Airlines in its meeting held on 27.3.2002 have approved a proposal for acquisition of 43 aircraft at a net project cost of Rs. 10,089 crores. The Project Report submitted by Indian Airlines is under consideration of the Government.

(c) Since no final decision on this has been taken yet, it is not possible to comment on it at this stage.

However, the previous major purchases of aircraft by Indian Airlines were as follows :-

- 19 A-320 aircraft in the years 1989 and 1990 at the approved project cost of Rs. 1238.37 crores.
- 12 A-320 aircraft in the years 1993 and 1994 at the original approved project cost of Rs. 958.78 crores.

(d) When a final decision is taken, modalities of funding Will be worked out.

(e) Since no decision on the purchase of aircraft has been taken yet, the question of finalisation of induction schedule of Aircraft does not arise at this stage.

[English]

SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI : Sir, as per the statement made by the hon. Minister, the Board of Directors of the Indian Airlines have approved a proposal to acquire 43 aircraft. I would like to know from the hon. Minister, through you, what is the total number of aircraft which have become overaged, long have they been in operation, what is the average life of each of these aircraft, whether the Indian Airlines have incurred a loss of Rs. 270 crore during 2000-01, and is it because of the ageing aircraft.

[Translation]

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to inform the hon. Member the average age of various types of aircrafts. We have seven A-300 aircrafts which have an average age of 20 years, that of airbus-320 is 10 years and 7 months, we have 11 boeing-737 with an average age of 20 years, three domier aircrafts having average age of 16 years. At present, we have a total of 57 aircrafts with an average age of 14 years.

[English]

SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI (Gulbarga) : Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister, through you, whether it is a fact that during the Haj pilgrimage, more than 400 Haj pilgrims had arrived in Delhi from different States like Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh, and reached Delhi on 14.2.2002 with their passports, tickets, etc., but the Air India did not allow them to fly and they were sent back. If so, was there any shortage of aircraft or what is the main reason that these pilgrims were not allowed to fly even though they were duly recommended by the Haj Committee and were issued passports and tickets also? I would like to know the steps taken by the Government so that Haj pilgrims do not suffer in future.

[Translation]

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN : This is not related to the main question which was about the purchase of aircrafts. Even then, I would like to inform the hon. Member that the Haj operation this year was better than any other time. This year the percentage of on time performance is 98. I cannot give the details as this is not related to main question. I shall send the information later.

[English]

SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI : Sir, there was a news item which had appeared in the Papers that if the Airlines had arranged one more aircraft, the pilgrims would have been allowed to go ... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Iqbal Ahmed, even though your Supplementary is not connected with the main Question, still he has replied to your question.

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY : Sir, the question is specific. Part (b) of the question says – "whether the bid was around 10 to 15 per cent less than the quotation received from Boeing". The hon. Minister says "It is in process." I do not see any harm in telling it.

There is another thing. Is there a plan for the Ministry to take aircraft on lease? They have already taken four to five aircraft on lease. The Indian Airlines and Air India are taking aircraft on lease. Are they planning to get more aircraft? Another aspect is that for this leasing, the Airbus

company, a leasing company, Singapore Airlines and Premisoky, another company have come forward and the expert Committee and the Government wanted to favour only Premisoky company though they have not offered to place their aircraft in our stations like Mumbai, and they were trying to persuade them to get that and give the order to them. How far is it correct? What is there behind this?

[Translation]

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN : Sir, the main question was related to purchase of new aircrafts. I shall send this information to the hon. Member separately. As far as the question in regard to new aircrafts is concerned the Indian Airlines board has passed a proposal and sent it to the Government on the basis of the recommendations of the Evaluation Committee for permission to purchase new aircrafts. It is under consideration of the Government. As far as taking aircrafts on lease is concerned, it is done under a procedure and we take aircrafts on lease under the same procedure.

[English]

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY : Sir, the hon. Minister is contradicting his own answer. The answer says that the Government is considering it. But now he says the permission was given to purchase.

[Translation]

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN : Mr. Deputy, Speaker Sir, the question was not about lease.

[English]

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY : Sir, I am asking a different thing. You have to come to our protection.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You are asking about lease.

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY : Lease is the second thing. My main question was whether the Government has given clearance or not. The hon. Minister's written statement : "The Government has not given clearance and so the supplementary does not arise." But now his own statement says that the Government has permitted the airlines to purchase.

[Translation]

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN : Sir, I have already said that the Indian Airlines board has submitted a proposal to the Government and that is under consideration but no final decision has yet been taken.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The Indian Airlines Board have decided that.

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY : I understand that. But the hon. Minister said while replying to the supplementary that the Government has permitted it. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : No, he says it is not there.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : He has already replied it.

[Translation]

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN : Sir, I did not say so what I said is that there is a procedure for it. Airbus-320 was purchased during Shri Rajiv Gandhi's period. It became controversial and so no new aircraft was purchased. Now, I have had discussions with the Minister of Finance and have requested him to grant permission to Indian Airlines to purchase new aircrafts. Now permission has since been granted. Since the inquiry into the purchase of Airbus-320 was already on and thereafter the process of disinvestment in the Indian Airlines started, new aircrafts were not purchased. Now the Minister of Finance has given permission to buy new aircrafts. I said that purchase of new aircrafts is necessary if the Indian Airlines is to be strengthened. That is why, I asked Indian Airlines to hold a meeting of the Acquisition Committee. Now the Indian Airlines board has passed a proposal and forwarded the same to the Government for consideration.

[English]

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY : He is putting some other theory. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : No. He has answered.

[Translation]

SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I am fortunate that when I am asking supplementary question to the hon. Minister, the Minister of Tourism is also present. The two Ministries are closely connected, so

through you, I request the hon. Minister to attend to my question.

Sir, everyone is aware that only flights of Dornier Aircrafts are available in Himachal Pradesh. It is a common knowledge that it is very expensive because its fuel consumption is high. It is more expensive to go to Kullu than going to Nepal. How can tourism be promoted in such a situation? Through you, I would like to point out to the hon. Minister that the airstrips of Kullu and Shimla of Himachal Pradesh and of North Eastern States are such that only Dornier Aircraft could land and take off. The geography of these areas is such that the runways cannot be expanded and the hon. Minister has himself said that that Dornier Aircrafts have become obsolete and there is a need to purchase new aircrafts. The hon. Minister has said that such aircrafts which can land on shorter runways would be purchased. If I am not wrong, the hon. Minister had made a mention of ATR-which is a 50 seater aircraft. There were news reports quoting the hon. Minister that new ATRs would be purchased. The Union Government do not provide subsidy in air fare to Himachal Pradesh- a facility which is available to Jammu-Kashmir and North Eastern States which ensures air journey at cheaper rates. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he would consider purchasing ATRs and also whether he would expand the runways to the extent possible so that ATR planes could land and air journey becomes available at cheaper rates.

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN : Sir, the question of the hon. Member has two parts. First part relates to development of tourism in Himachal Pradesh and the second part relates to purchase of ATRs. I have already announced in the House that we are going to take 6 ATRs on lease but the company that manufactures ATR sold the planes to another party. We are going to take a decision today itself to purchase 6 ATRs. Earlier we had to buy it from one company since they had a monopoly on it. We had announced in the House that we would purchase the planes and the hon. Members were also putting pressure for it. They know that we are going to purchase, that is why they reduced the rate from 1.10 lakhs to 92000. The North-Eastern States have pledged to give us Rs. 35 crore. That was an expensive deal and the operational cost per annum was going to be around Rs. 40 crore. It would have been a loss. We are going to take a decision today itself. I am glad to announce that the question of the lease of the ATR is not going to be sidetracked. As for the expansion of runways in the North-East and in remote

areas which includes Lakshadweep, the constituency of the hon. Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Dehradun and Himachal Pradesh where only ATRs could land is concerned, it is under consideration of the Government and we would take action as soon as possible.

SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH : Hon. Minister should also tell us about the places where the expansion of the runways is possible.

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN : Please ask about it when the question comes up.

[English]

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is indeed very alarming to note that Air India and Indian Airlines today have one of the oldest fleet capacities in the world, an average age of sixteen and a half years compared to that of Singapore Airlines and other airlines who are roughly four to five years old. No modernisation or aircraft acquisitions have taken place for a long period of time. In order to be competitive in the international scenario today and we need to stop looking insular, revitalisation from time to time of manpower and aircraft is extremely necessary.

The airplane manufacturing industry today is going through a downturn. The time is ripe for acquisition, however, on favourable terms. Has the Government deployed a cogent strategy for deployment of these aircraft between the profit-making and social responsibility routes? What is the assurance and return on investment calculations for these funds being deployed?

Indian Airlines, today, is plagued with many problems apart from obsolete aircraft.

Ground equipment and servicing infrastructure in terms of running costs also need to be examined. Service standards need to be raised in order for customers to return to the Indian Airlines fold. What plans does the hon. Minister have in order to ensure that the Indian Airlines returns to the path of sustainable profitability?

[Translation]

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAJ HUSSAIN : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is true that our aeroplanes are a bit old but this impression is not correct that, Indian Airlines is the only airlines which is flying and operating the oldest fleet of aircrafts in the world. Now we are flying Boeing 737 whose average age is approximately 20 years but the

aircrafts much older than it are being flown in America, Canada and other countries. As their interior is good and well maintained and people sit in those nobody bother about their age. The interior of our is not that much good which we are trying to improve. It is due to the bad condition of the interior that the people feel that they are travelling in a very old aircraft. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am happy to tell that ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am talking about the average age of the aircraft. The average age of all US aircraft, the average age of the fleet, is not beyond ten years. So, I beg to differ with the hon. Minister.

[Translation]

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN : You are not providing the right information. First you listen my complete reply ...*(Interruptions)* I told that this type of aircrafts are also flying in America and this information is fully correct. I will send its full details to the hon. Members because earlier also I have told about it. I am happy to tell that we are renovating the interiors of all the aircrafts. Recently Indian Airlines has done a much better business and its market share and credibility has also increased as compared to the earlier years. The load factor has increased a lot on Indian Airlines fleet because we have brought many improvement in it.

[English]

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, if the hon. Minister views the life of the aircrafts as longer, then the life of the passengers would be shorter because we fly frequently.

Sir, there is no definite answer to part 'b' of the question which says: "If so, whether the bid was around 10-15 per cent less than the quotation of the Boeing." I would like to ask the Minister, while purchasing 19 A-320 aircraft in the years 1989 and 1990, and 12 A-320 aircraft in the years 1993 and 1994 at a cost of Rs. 958 crore, whether the bid was around 10-15 per cent less than the quotation received from the Boeing. I would like to get a clarification from the Minister on this.

[Translation]

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAJ HUSSAIN : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, 95 percent financial bid and 5 percent

technical bid is made at the time of purchasing the aircrafts because there are only two aircraft manufacturing companies-Boeing and Airbus. Their bid is almost the same, the Board of Indian Airlines has informed that as far financial bid is concerned, it has registered a decline of 10 to 15 percent. The Government are considering and examining it and likely to take decision after that.

[English]

SHRI K.A. SANGTAM : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to put a very important question to the Minister. North-East, as we all know, has been neglected totally, as far as the airline service is concerned. The Capitals of two States, that is, Sikkim and Nagaland, do not have an airport, what to speak of an air service. I was told that four smaller aircraft of 50-seater capacity would be in place by 25th of December, 2001, but till today no decision has been taken. I would like to ask the Minister whether two airports in these two State Capitals of the North-East would be constructed at an early date, and whether those four 50-seater ATR aircraft which were to be in place would remain as a dream only or it would be a reality.

[Translation]

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we are making a lot of efforts regarding North East. We have introduced an international flight from Guwahati to Bangkok for North Eastern region. I have already told in my reply to a question that we propose to buy 6 ATR, out of which four are meant for North East. I have already replied that the concerned company instead of selling ATR to us prepared some other airlines to sell them and those aircrafts were sold to some other airlines. Now we propose to buy a better aircraft for the North East. It will not be delayed. We proposed to take aircrafts on lease from one manufacturing company hence they had a monopoly in this area. Now we propose to have ATR-320 from the leasing company. Hence I am hopeful that the problem of the North East will be resolved at the earliest.

SHRI ALI MOHD. NAIK : Deputy Speaker, Sir, will the hon. Minister give one aircraft for Kargil from those smaller aircrafts which are proposed to be bought? Being a far off place whose approach roads remains closed for 6 months in a year. Whether the Kargil airport will be expanded or not?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The discussion is about the purchase of aircraft not about the airports?

[English]

SHRI ALI MOHD. NAIK : when the supplementary on Himachal Pradesh was put, it was allowed at that time but when it is not allowed when it comes to Jammu and Kashmir.

[Translation]

Will there be an aircraft for the Kargil also from the smaller aircrafts proposed to be bought by the Government and also whether the runway at the Kargil airport will be widened or not? ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Bwiswmuthiary, you have to get my permission before you speak.

*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN : The question of the Kargil airport is not related to the original question but as the hon. Member has asked. I would like to tell that the Kargil airport is already a big one, there is a need to fly aircrafts from there and not of expanding it.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, it is a fact that both the Indian Airlines as well as the Air India are doing well, and especially, Indian Airlines has made a remarkable improvement in its functioning - which has been admitted by the hon. Minister himself - in spite of the threat of its being disinvested.

Sir, I would like to ask a policy-related question to the hon. Minister. In order to cope with the market and with the substantial increase in the traffic load in the Gulf and in the South-Asian region in the last five years, where Indian Airline flights are operating, would the Government consider purchasing aircraft, whether it is A-320 or any other model, immediately? If so, when would a policy decision in this regard be taken? It is a fact that had the Government of the late Rajiv Gandhi not inducted Airbus 320 there would not have been any existence of Indian Airlines today. So, the situation as obtaining from 1989 to 2002 is that (a) there has been an increase in the traffic load (b) operation of Air India flights to Gulf and the South Asian region has increased substantially, and (c) there is need for timely procurement of aircraft to operate the flights.

So, keeping these facts in view, would the Government consider purchasing new aircraft? If so, what time schedule for purchase of aircraft is being fixed by the Cabinet? If the Government is not considering purchase of new aircraft, then does it not imply that the growth rate of the Indian Airlines is being put to jeopardy by the Government in order that it could be handed over to Shri Arun Shourie for quick disinvestment of this sector?

[Translation]

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, hon. Dasmunshiji has rightly said that when the purchase of A-320 aircraft was made it yielded good results. It was the latest models of that times. However the Board of Indian Airlines had decided about Boeing. However, the Government reversed the decision to purchase Airbus-320.

[English]

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA : I was in the Board of Indian Airlines. The Board can always revise the decision.  
...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Dr. Sengupta, the hon. Minister is replying to his question. You cannot intervene in between his answer.

[Translation]

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZHUSSAIN : Sir, Airbus-320 was purchased by reversing the decision taken by the Board and CBI is looking into the purchase of the 19 aircrafts. A PIL has also been filed by a person Dr. B.L. Vadhera in the year 2000 in which many allegations have been levelled.

The Government is replying in the Court. Hence.  
...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Does the inquiry prevent the Government to purchase new aircraft? I am very confused in the Parliament! The Minister is saying that since an inquiry is going on into the purchase of Airbus 320 aircraft, they are not purchasing new aircraft. Is this the policy?

[Translation]

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN : Mr. deputy Speaker, Sir, Dasmunshiji had asked a very lengthy

question which I had replied in two lines and again he is on his legs. I don't intend to evade his question I am replying his question in details this time. 12 aircrafts have been purchased after inquiry. 19 aircrafts were purchased earlier and 12 Airbus-320 were purchased later. As the disinvestment of the Indian Airlines was on the cards, I met with the Finance Minister. He has given the permission after that meeting. It is after the meeting that a decision to the effect of purchasing new aircrafts has been taken. I fully agree with the suggestion given by hon. Shri Dasmunshiji that we should purchase new aircrafts if we were to strengthen the fleet of the Indian Airlines. A month ago, a meeting between myself, the Finance Minister Shri Yashwant Sinha and the Disinvestment Minister Shri Arun Shourie took place in which the permission to us was granted. Kelkar Committee had recommended to provide a sum of Rs. 325 crore to the Indian Airlines which will be given to us on equity basis. Then we decided that the Indian Airlines will purchase the aircrafts forth rupees 10,089 crore, the details about which I have already given. The Board of India Airlines has sent its recommendations to the Government under this process.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you are aware that it is a matter of purchase of aircrafts, hence there is a need to take the steps very cautiously and carefully. We are taking full care in the matter. Indian Airlines have also sent this recommendation to us that files regarding the purchase of aircrafts should be sent to CVC and CAG. We want to maintain transparency in it. However, we don't intend it delay it besides maintaining transparency. This job will be done at the earliest.

[English]

#### Situation at International Airports

+SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY :

\*562. SHRI SHRINIWAS PATIL :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the news-items under the caption 'International Airport? More like a Rly. Station' and 'New Delhi International Airport neither airport nor international' appeared in the Indian Express dated April 5, 2002 and April 9, 2002 respectively;

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

(c) the details of the measures proposed to be

taken by the Government to improve the situation at all the international airports, particularly at Mumbai and Delhi international airports?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN) : (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

#### Statement

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The news items under the captions "Airport? It's more like a Railway Station" and "New Delhi international airport neither airport nor international", which appeared in Indian Express dated 5.4.2002 and 9.4.2002, respectively, mentioned short-comings and problems relating to Mumbai and Delhi airports. All efforts are made by Airports Authority of India (AAI) to maintain a high standard of facilities at the international airports. Dedicated staff is deployed both at Mumbai and Delhi airports for keeping the toilets clean. Good quality trolleys have been provided. Adequate restaurant facilities and tea/coffee vending machines are available in different parts of the terminals. Duty free shops are managed by India Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC), which has experience/expertise in this business, and is initiating measures to revitalize the duty free shops at the international airports. Efforts are also being made to strengthen the Immigration set up at these airports to reduce the time for clearance of passengers.

AAI is coordinating with the State Government for encroachment removal at Mumbai airport in a phased manner, and with the Mumbai Corporation for handling the problem of stray dogs. Signages have been provided as per the international norms. At Delhi airport, the aerobridges are functioning normally. Two car parks have been provided, one of them next to the terminal building. Congestion, due to bunching of flights is a problem, and efforts are being made to enhance the terminal capacity in the short-term by shifting/re-arranging some of the facilities to reduce congestion.

(c) A number of measures are being taken to improve the standard of service/facilities at all international airports, including Mumbai and Delhi airports. These include expansion of terminal areas, increasing length of baggage Claim conveyors, providing new aerobridges, improving passenger facilitation etc.

[English]

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY : Sir, the four international airports in the four metros of India are below standard in comparison to the international airports not only in European and American countries but also in Asian countries like China, Japan, Malaysia, Singapore, etc. They lack infrastructure, passenger amenities and other facilities. This is no doubt a result of the incompetence and inefficiency of the Minister's Department. We are aware that the Government has decided to lease out the four international airports in the four metros to private operators. May I know from the hon. Minister whether the private operators would be allowed to use and operate the air traffic control at those international airports of our country? This is a very important question from the viewpoint of our safety and security.

[Translation]

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Member has mentioned a problem related with airport in first part of his question and in the second part of the question he has asked about the remedial measures.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Minister of Finance has mentioned in his budget speech that the Government is going to give four international airports at Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai on lease. The Government have already taken decision in this regard and it's process has begun. The roadshow was conducted for the purpose on 5th April in Delhi and on 19th April in London. In these shows many big airports of several countries showed their interest in improving these airports. Whenever somebody from foreign visits our country, he gets first impression of the country at these airports only.

Therefore, the Government have decided to construct the Delhi, Mumbai Chennai and Kolkata airports as per international standards. The Government is moving ahead in the process of lease for encouraging this process. ATC will remain with Airport Authority, and the ownership rights will also remain with ATC. The security will also be the responsibility of Airport Authority.

[English]

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY : Sir, there was a news-item which appeared in one of the important national Dailies, that is, *The Indian Express* on 5th April, 2002 and again on 9th April, 2002 about the conditions of the Indra



Gandhi International Airport and about Anna International Airport at Chennai. It wrote that 'Indira Gandhi International Airport at Delhi looks like a railway station. It is neither airport nor international.' Same is the case about the international airport at Chennai. Whenever two or three aeroplanes take-off at the same time, the passengers queue spills over to the road.

Sir, the city of Kolkata is one of the important cities of the country. It is the gateway of Eastern India, North-Eastern India and South-East India also. My second supplementary is this. Considering the importance of the Kolkata city whether the Government of India is considering to improve and upgrade the Netaji Subash Chandra Bose International Airport, Kolkata by the departmental mechanisms without leasing out to the private operators.

Also, I want to know whether the Government is considering more international flight operations from Kolkata International Airport.

*[Translation]*

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Member begin with Delhi Airport, and via Chennai he reached Kolkata airport. It seems to me that hon'ble Members frequently visits the Delhi and Kolkata airport, but at present he is asking question on the basis of newspaper reports. The hon'ble Member could tell on the basis of his experience whether Delhi Airport looks like a railway station. I can say that if Nitish ji...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY : The newspaper reports are true. You should not defend your Department.

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN : It seems to me that they do not want to defend the Government inspite of so much improvement. In view of international standards of airports, the Government has decided to give Kolkata airport on lease when good facilities would be provided after leasing it out then they will defend us. As the hon'ble Member has asked about Delhi, I have given reply in regard to Delhi Airport, on the basis of newspaper's clippings. The proposal in regard to new international terminal phase-2 on IGI airport is with Civil Aviation Ministry. Kota stone flooring has been done on Terminal-2 and much improvement has been done. Today, I am not having the letters written by many hon'ble Members in regard to improvement in Delhi Airport. Many times, I alongwith my officials visited Kolkata and Delhi Airport separately at one o'clock at night. I realised the problems

over there and the Government is resolving those problems. Therefore, the Government have decided to provide facilities of international level at the earliest by giving Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata airport on lease. Much improvement has been done at Kolkata airport. If the hon'ble Deputy Speaker permits me and if I give the reply on the basis of what has appeared in the newspaper, I will have to go in detail. I can reply in writing regarding the stand of airport on what was written in the article.

*[English]*

SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY : My question is about more international flights from Kolkata Airport.

*[Translation]*

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN : This question is not related to the original question.

*[English]*

SHRI A.C. JOS : Sir, the first and the only private international airport in the country is Kochi Airport. Everybody agrees with the fact that it is a very beautiful airport. But the only disadvantage that it suffers from is this. Unfortunately, the ground handling has been handed over to the Air India, which is quite unprofessional and irresponsible.

The location of the Nedumacherry Cochin Airport is very pivotal for international traffic. Considering that fact, will the Government and the hon. Minister be kind enough to come forward in permitting other international airlines including Emirates Airways and other airlines from Europe also, to land and take off from Cochin? What we understand is that the Air India is putting all sorts of obstructions in doing that. The operations in the Airport will be profitable only if more aircrafts land and take off, and also if traffic starts. Will the hon. Minister be kind enough to permit more airlines, especially from Gulf including Emirates Airways, and also other airlines from Europe and other countries, overruling the objections of Air India, if at all there is any?

*[Translation]*

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Member has asked two questions. In Cochin, Air India has got the right for ground handling. I can only give assurance to the hon'ble Member for improvement in this regard, but at present Government are not considering to give ground handling to somebody else.

The other question is that the Government should permit more and more flights to land and take off from there. The hon'ble Member is aware that the Government have already permitted many flights to land and take off from there. Recently, the permission has been given to Kuwait Airways and Emirates Airways. Whenever bilateral proposal come to us about airport in South, we propose them the name of Cochin Airport because Cochin Airport is a good one but since it is running in loss, though huge investment is made on it, therefore, the Government is considering to give permission to more and more flights to land and take off from there.

[English]

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA : Thank you. My question to the hon. Minister would be this. One of the reasons why Delhi and Calcutta Airports appear to be very-very inferior to Airports abroad is the absence of or inadequacy of aero-bridge facilities. There was an opportunity provided when the Indian Airlines Terminal Building was burnt up. In reconstructing that, why is it that aero-bridges were not provided?

Secondly, in the case of Calcutta, when the International Terminal was set up long, - I think in the late 70s or somewhere - the aero-bridges were provided through fixed terminals. They were not provided for mobile things, and somehow or other, those aero-bridges provided through fixed terminals are just lying unused. With a little bit of effort, they can be made useful. I would like the hon. Minister to answer this.

[Translation]

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Member has asked the question of 1970 and at that time I was just two years old. I am not prepared to give reply to it.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Is it connected with the Main Question?

[Translation]

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN : He has raised matter related to the year 1970. I am not having its details at present. I can send in writing to the hon'ble Member as to why it was not constructed. As far as our Government is concerned, the airport of Delhi was constructed during our Government's tenure, the provision of aero-bridge

could not be made. Therefore, we are going to make it better by giving it on lease, Hon'ble Member, Shri Nitish Senguptaji gets at least one aerobridge while going from Delhi to Kolkata which is in Kolkata, but it is very unfortunate that there is no aero bridge for international flights, whereas domestic flight is getting, it in future, when Kolkata airport would be extended, the provision for aero-bridge would be made. When we will begin renovation of Delhi airport, then here also provision for aero-bridge would be made. It is true that when a new terminal is setup, the planning for next 10-12 years should be kept in view. We have started paying attention that the efforts should be made to use technology which would come after 10 years, so that this type of question should not arise such as why aero bridge was not constructed 30 years ago in 1970.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Sir, the capital of America is Washington but the economic capital of America is New York. Similarly, the capital of the country is Delhi, but economic capital is Mumbai. Mumbai is a source of huge revenue for Delhi and it is because of this that your Government is running. The condition of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj international airport is not in very good condition though maximum number of flights from India to foreign country takes off from Mumbai. Shiv Sena people will ask to speak in Hindi and it should not be called Bombay, but Mumbai. We have made a demand to develop Mumbai's airport, but the Prime Minister and Civil Aviation Minister are not paying the attention. I demand that more and more money should be invested to improve the condition of Mumbai airport, there is also a need to relocate slums near the airport. We can get enough space after rehabilitating them. Therefore, a scheme for rehabilitation of slums dwellers should be formulated and more and more funds should be given for Mumbai airport. Similarly, Japan had provided an amount of 300 crore rupees for airport in Aurangabad because buddhist caves of Ajanta and Elora are situated over there. I want to know whether the development of that has completed or not.

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN : Sir, I have recently inaugurated terminal 1- A at Mumbai airport where the construction of three aero- bridges costing 20 crore rupees has begun on March 15. When somebody arrives by plane on one side beautiful town could be seen and on the other side of runway lot of jhunggi jhopris appear, the removal of which has been discussed many times.

Government of India had held several discussions with the Chief Minister of the State for removing the Jhuggi clusters alongwith the runway. The Government of India have decided to give rupees twenty crore for this purpose out of which seven crores have already been given by us. The State Government has made an arrangement of 2016 flats for them in there. Now we are going to remove them as early as possible. Last time also we had talked with the State Government in this regard.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : There is no need to remove the people, rather there is a need to rehabilitate them.

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN : As the jhuggis are there in huge numbers three meetings have already been held with the State Government for their removal. Our next meeting would be held between the Secretary, union Government and the Chief Secretary of the State in which further deliberations will be made because the State Government have not expressed any difficulty in regard to scrapping of those people who have come there after 1995 but as for the jhuggi dwellers who have been living there for long were concerned, their rehabilitation is very much essential and it is the responsibility of the union and the State Government to do so. Though we have provided our share of funds in this regard. The State Government is cooperating with us and I hope that with their cooperation we will be able to shift them.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Tell about Aurangabad also.

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN : The funds have not been provided for that so far.

SHRI RASHID ALVI : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the airports of even the smallest countries in the world are better than our's. Hon. Minister has mentioned that the Government propose to provide minimum facilities to the passengers. But he did not mention as to what facilities are proposed to the provided. The flight scheduled to depart at 11 O'clock was initially shifted for 2 O'clock then 3 O'clock then 4 O'clock. A person could have reached that destination. While traveling by train in a that much time. I would like to know as to by when the Government propose to improve the condition of the airports and also whether there is a proposal to operate more aeroplanes on those routes on which the number of passengers is more? For instance flight between Delhi to Shimla operates for three days a week.

The kind of recent arrangement made on the airports is humiliating for the passengers. There are security-clerks at three to four places. Why an arrangement is not made for a one time security check up? I would like to tell that while flying to Mumbai, my nailcutter was taken by the security personnel in the name of security.

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK) : It happened because you were going to Bombay, it won't happen so if you go to Mumbai.

SHRI RASHID ALVI : Sir, there was a large knife alongwith the food served. hat kind of security it is that my nailcutter was taken away in the name of security and such a big knife is placed alongside the food served. What kind of security it is?

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, Alvi Saheb has asked two to three questions one of which is related to the original question. I would like to tell him that airport is never in bad condition. The change in flight schedule is made due to the technical snag in the aircraft. Runway is constructed only once and often it never goes in bad condition like this.

SHRI RASHID ALVI : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the passengers were told that runway is not in good condition. This is even more serious that the passengers were misinformed.

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I would conduct a probe into as how the passengers were misinformed.

As far the complaint of the hon. Member about his nailcutter and also the point he raised about the presence of a large stainless steel knife alongwith the food served is concerned, I would like to tell him that nowadays not the stainless steel but plastic knives are given to the passengers alongwith the food. It seems as if the hon. Member has not performed journey recently.

SHRI RASHID ALVI : A stainless steel knife was given alongwith the meals which was served to me. I have yet not received my nailcutter back which was seized and promised to be returned back in Mumbai.

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN : Sir, I will try to return back the nail cutter of the hon. Member.

*[English]*

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL : Sir, it is not the question of a nail-cutter alone. The other day, I was not allowed to

carry an apple. I was told to eat it there itself which I refused and when I asked them the reason, they said that any article which is of a round shape will not be allowed. I said that my head is also of round shape. There was no answer to that. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Pravin Rashtrapal, you should ask supplementary only relating to the main question and not with regard to the apple or the nail cutter.

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL : I gifted that apple to the security people.

Today, my Starred Question No. 570 is also there in which the Minister has very humbly admitted that following entry of private airlines, the domestic market share of the Indian Airlines has declined by 50 per cent since 1991. Though they have admitted that, I would like to know how the Government is charging from the 40 private airlines - which are operating on the same area which is constructed and developed by the Government for the Indian Airlines or the Air India - for the services rendered by the airport or at the airport. I am told that on the airport we have invested Rs. 300 crore and now it is being used by the private airlines. So, I would like to know as to how these private airlines are being charged. Are we issuing tender? I would particularly like to know about the service charges being charged from the Jet Airlines for utilising all the important airports of the country. How are you taking service charges from all these private airlines?

*[Translation]*

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAJ HUSSAIN : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the question of hon. Member is not related to the main question.

*[English]*

#### **Removal of Restrictions on Farm Sector**

\*564. SHRIMATI D.M. VIJAYA KUMARI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to remove restrictions on farm sector and allow farmers and traders to export their produce freely; and

(b) if so, the steps initiated in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH) : (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

#### **Statement**

(a) and (b) Government has removed restrictions on farm sector for export of wheat and wheat products, grain and flour of barley, maize, bajra, ragi, jowar (excluding hybrid jowar grown as kharif crop), butter and on all types of pulses, lentils, grams and flour made therefrom with effect from March, 2002. Registration requirement for export of non-basmati rice and the requirement of export of pulses in package of 5 kg have also been removed.

Further, the restrictions on exports of cashew to Russia, groundnut oil in 5 kg. packs and above and agricultural seeds except cashew, jute and onion, have also been lifted with effect from 31.3.2002. The registration requirement on export of butter and wheat and wheat products have also been removed with effect from 31.3.2002.

*[English]*

SHRIMATI D.M. VIJAYA KUMARI : Sir, I would like to thank the Government for removing restrictions on farm sector for export of certain foodgrains. At the same time, I may point out that the farmers will be suffering loss of crop due to drought and also due to the use of spurious seeds. I would, therefore, like to know whether there are any strategies adopted or devised in farm sector to help the farmers who have suffered due to failure of crops on account of drought or due to supply of spurious seeds etc. I would also like to know whether the Government proposes to write off farmers' loans or defer repayment of loans etc.

*[Translation]*

SHRI AJIT SINGH : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon. lady Member has asked several questions like the supply of inferior quality of seeds, crops damage and whether the loans will be waived off etc. however I could not hear as to about which crop seed the hon. Member has asked. I would like her to repeat the question.

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Can you repeat the question?

SHRIMATI D.M. VIJAYA KUMARI : Sir, I would like to thank the Government for removing restrictions on farm

sector for export of certain foodgrains. At the same time, I may point out that the farmers will be suffering loss of crop due to drought and also due to the use of spurious seeds. I would, therefore, like to know whether there are any strategies adopted or devised in farm sector to help the farmers who have suffered due to failure of crops on account of drought or due to supply of spurious seeds etc. I would also like to know whether the Government proposes to write off farmers' loans or defer repayment of loans etc.

*[Translation]*

SHRI AJIT SINGH : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the State Government makes the declaration about the drought affected districts. Thereafter the State Government provide facilities to the farmers in these districts and also undertake the works under various schemes like Food for work Programme or the Drought affected or Calamity Relief etc. It is the duty of the State Government to decide as to which areas are the drought affected wherein the loans of or the revenue collections from the farmers are to be waived off. State Governments have relief fund for drought affected areas. It has provision for that.

*[English]*

SHRIMATI D.M. VIJAYA KUMARI : Sir, I would like to know whether the Government propose to focus on raising agricultural productivity through cost reduction technologies on foodgrains sector in the country. If so, will the Minister explain the proposed reforms in agricultural sector?

*[Translation]*

SHRI AJIT SINGH : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Government make efforts for increasing productivity and quality. We have an excellent agricultural research system. We have a large pool of scientists. We try to provide varieties of improved seeds and new fertilizers to our farmers. If hon. Member has any suggestions, she can send the same to me. I shall definitely consider them.

*[English]*

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : Sir, the reply has been given that restriction has been removed on most of the items except onion. There is a surplus production of onion. The farmers are facing serious problems as the prices have totally collapsed. But still the Government is not adopting any positive approach. Will the Minister take an early decision on this particular item?

*[Translation]*

SHRI AJIT SINGH : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the earlier export limit of onion was 5 lakh tonnes. This year it has been increased to 7 lakh tonnes. I would like to inform the hon. Member that the export of onion is yet to attain the target of 7 lakh tonnes. During the previous year, 5 lakh tonnes of onion were exported and in the year prior to that the export of onion was 3 lakh tonnes. Therefore, the export limit for the current year has been raised to 7 lakh tonnes. We have raised the export limit and the year has just started from this April.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the problem is not of export of onion. The problem is of over production of onion - this year the production has been 55 lakh tonnes. During the previous year the production was 47 lakh tonnes. The Government of India has a market intervention scheme. If the State Government are ready to share half the burden of losses, the Union Government can intervene under the market intervention scheme and could procure onion from the farmers.

*[English]*

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : I know that quota has been given up to seven lakh tonnes. But there are a number of problems. Getting a licence for export is in itself a problem. It takes a lot of time. So, why do you put restriction? when the Government has become a party to WTO and when we are allowing other countries to import, why is there restriction on Indian farmers to export?

*[Translation]*

SHRI AJIT SINGH : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the restrictions have been lifted on a number of items but it continues on onion. Hon. Member is very right that onion is a sensitive item. We all are aware of its impact. There is one more problem with onion. If we have the need to import onion, it won't be easy as only a few countries grow onion. Hence restrictions have been imposed to protect the interest of Indian consumers. As I have said it is not possible to attain the export limit for onions. Most of the restrictions have been withdrawn because their import is not that difficult but import of onion is not that easy. When we had onion crisis, we tried to import onion but it was not possible. We shall consider all the aspects keeping our past experience in view and the Government would also consider whether the quota of restricted items should be increased or the restriction itself should be withdrawn.

DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, my question is not directly related to it but it has some indirect relation. I had the opportunity to visit border areas of Jammu-Kashmir and Punjab. The farmers there have not been able to till their land for one year or more. They are a distressed lot. There was a proposal of giving them some compensation. I have already said that my question is not directly related to it but it does have relation with the problem of farmers. I would like to know from the hon. Minister of Agriculture whether the Government have any proposal to give the farmers either relief or compensation?

SHRI AJIT SINGH : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Ministry of Defence is considering this issue. As far as I know, a decision has been arrived at and the farmers are being paid compensation. As I have been told, the first installment has been released but I do not have the details. I shall provide the detailed information to the hon. Member.

[English]

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : There is a lot of scope for export of coconut products. In fact, as per the statistics of the Coconut Development Board, there are fifty products which could be made from coconut. I think there is very good market if we really try to boost the export of these coconut products. I would like to know what specific steps have been taken by the Ministry or the Department to boost the export of coconut and coconut products, including coconut oil, especially in view of the large scale import of palm oil which is taking place in India.

[Translation]

SHRI AJIT SINGH : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is a Coconut Technology Mission wherein we try to find out the items which may be made from coconut. Hon. Member is right in saying that a number of things can be made from Coconut. To deliberate on it, I had called a meeting of the Ministers of the Southern States yesterday because coconut is as important in Southern States as Oheat is important in Punjab, Haryana and western U.P. A meeting had been called yesterday to discuss the problem of coconut growers. For that purpose, the hon. Prime Minister during his visit to Kerala, had announced the setting up of coconut technology mission which has already started working. A number of items can be made from coconut and for that, a number of companies have been working in India and we are giving all sorts of encouragement to them.

SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, since the farmers are not aware of agrarian export rules

and regulations, they are being exploited by middlemen. Of the total farmers of India, 70 per cent are small and marginal farmers. The farmers are not educated, so they cannot comprehend the export regulations and thus the middlemen take away the full profits of their products. In my constituency, there are five lakh guava plants but the growers have to face difficulties as there is no arrangement of export for guavas. I would like to know from the hon. Minister, whether the Government have any scheme to educate the farmers about export regulations through any media, so that they are able to make profit from their products.

SHRI AJIT SINGH : The Ministry of Commerce has just announced 20 export zones out of which 15 have become functional. I have written to State Government about the remaining five for giving their approval to agro export zones. Thus the remaining five are also going to be functional soon. The Government do have schemes for enhancing quality of the products for exports, we also have schemes for post harvest management and for the construction of cold storage. This time, we have announced transport subsidy for agro-exports so that our products could compete in the world market. Similarly, there are a number of schemes for increasing exports and our agro-export is increasing. I would like to inform that during the previous year, the share of agriculture in total export was 14 per cent while its share in import was 5 per cent. I have the figures from the year 1998-99 to 2000-2001. Our agriculture export has increased from Rs. 25313 crore to RS. 28909 crore. We are aware that our farmers have increased production through their hard labour. We will have to export that in the world market and we need to improve our quality so that we are able to compete and the Government are making efforts for that.

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, onion has been put in the list of essential commodities. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether Government would remove onion from that list? will the Government increase the support price of onion keeping in view its high production cost?

SHRI AJIT SINGH : As I have said about onion, the Union Government have market intervention scheme. If the State Government are prepared to bear half the losses, the Union Government is ready to procure onions at reasonable prices.

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**WRITTEN ANSWER TO QUESTIONS***[English]***Tourism Circuits**

\*563. SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN :  
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN :

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the tourist circuits proposed to be set up in the country, State-wise;

(b) the financial assistance provided for the development of these circuits, circuit-wise;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to co-ordinate with other departments and State Governments for improvement of infrastructure at the circuits;

(d) whether the Government have any proposal to invite foreign participation for funding infrastructural development at the circuits; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN) : (a) to (c) During the 10th Five Year Plan the Department of Tourism, Government of India proposes to identify six travel circuits in the country on an annual basis and develop them to international standards. During the Annual Plan 2002-03, an amount of Rs. 41.50 crores has been earmarked for the integrated development of six circuits. These circuits will be finalised and developed in close coordination and partnership with the State/UT Governments and the concerned Government of India Departments.

(d) and (e) There is no proposal at present to invite foreign investment for development of these circuits.

**Recommendations of Kelkar Committee**

\*565. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY :  
SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the recommendations made by the kelkar Committee to provide sufficient funds for the fleet expansion during 2000 which were duly approved by the Cabinet have not yet been implemented;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the present status of each of the recommendations of the committee on the safety of aircraft?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN) : (a) and (b) Government had constituted a Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. Vijay K. Kelkar, the then Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas to look into the reasons for losses in Indian Airlines and to develop strategies in the context of competitive market environment. The Committee, inter-alia, recommended financial restructuring of Indian Airlines which included financial support of Rs. 475 crores by the Government in the form of subordinated loan for Rs. 150 crores, equity infusion to the extent of Rs. 125 crores and payment of Rs. 200 crore as compensation for the decisions taken by the Government that affected the financial performance of Indian Airlines.

As part of the implementation of the Kelkar Committee recommendations, it was decided by Government in May, 1999 to infuse Rs. 325 crores as equity in Indian Airlines in the form of margin money for acquisition of new aircraft. The fund could not, however, be released due to ongoing process of disinvestment in the company.

In October, 2001 Indian Airlines was asked to formulate proposal for acquisition of fleet, so that release of Rs. 325 crores could be considered as and when Government takes a final view on the proposal of Indian Airlines.

(c) Kelkar Committee Report does not contain any recommendation on the safety of aircraft.

*[Translation]***Vehicular Pollution**

\*566. SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHRI : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have launched any drive to control vehicular pollution in major cities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any directions have been issued to the State Governments in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the progress made by different States in controlling the vehicular pollution?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) and (b) The Government has notified stringent emission norms for motor vehicles from time to time to control vehicular pollution in the country including major cities. To comply with the emission norms, upgradation of automobile technology and supply of commensurate quality of fuel were made. These include the following :

- India 2000 emission norms akin to Euro I norms for registration of four wheeled private (non-commercial) vehicles were made effective from 1.6.1999 in the National Capital Region (NCR) and from 1.1.2000 in Mumbai. These norms were made effective for all categories of vehicles manufactured on and after 1.4.2000 in the entire country.
- Bharat Stage-II emission norms akin to Euro-II norms for registration of four wheeled private (non-commercial) vehicles were made effective from 1.4.2000 in the NCR, from 1.1.2001 in Mumbai (including Greater Mumbai) and in Kolkata and Chennai from 1.7.2001. These norms have been made effective for commercial vehicles from 24.10.2001 in the National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi and from 31.10.2001 in Mumbai (including greater Mumbai), Kolkata and Chennai.
- Unleaded petrol has been introduced in Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai from 1.4.1995 and in the entire country from 1.2.2000.
- Diesel with 0.25% sulphur content (maximum) was introduced in metros from 1.4.1998 and in the entire country from 1.1.2000. Diesel with 0.05% sulphur content (maximum) has been introduced from 1.4.2000 in Delhi, from 1.1.2001 in Mumbai and from 1.7.2001 in Kolkata and Chennai.
- Petrol with 1% Benzene maximum is made available in the NCT of Delhi from 1.11.2000 and from 1.1.2001 in Mumbai. Petrol with 3% Benzene maximum is made available in Kolkata and Chennai from 1.4.2000.
- Emission norms for Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) driven vehicles have been made effective from 9.2.2000. Comprehensive emission

norms for CNG driven vehicles including safety and procedural requirements for type approval of CNG and LPG operated vehicles were notified on 19.11.2001. CNG is supplied for automobiles through a number of retail outlets in Delhi and Mumbai to cater to the CNG fitted vehicles.

- Emission norms for Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) driven vehicles have been notified.

(c) and (d) The State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) and Pollution Control Committees (PCCs) have been asked to identify the polluting sources, assess the pollution load and prepare city-wise action plans for control of pollution from automobiles, industries and other sectors.

Some of the SPCBs/PCCs, namely, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, west Bengal, Andhra Pradesh have prepared action points for the city of Mumbai, Chennai, Bangalore, Kolkata and Hyderabad respectively and these action points are at various stages of implementation. Action Plan for Delhi is under implementation and is monitored by the Environment Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority for the National Capital Region.

#### **Corruption in Employment Exchanges**

\*567. SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the reported wide-spread corruption in several employment exchanges;

(b) if so, whether any inquiry has been conducted in this regard during the last two years;

(c) if so, the findings thereof; and

(d) the number of officers and employees found guilty after the said inquiry along with the number of officers/employees punished out of them as on date?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) :

(a) to (d) Employment Exchanges, except the Central Employment Exchange (CEE), function under the financial and administrative control of the respective State/UT Governments. State/UT Governments take necessary



action to ensure free and fair services to the job-seekers. Ministry of Labour in the Central Government has not received any specific complaint regarding corruption in the Employment Exchanges, including Central Employment Exchange.

[English]

### Transportation of Minerals

\*568. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state :

- (a) whether minerals worth crores of rupees are lost in transportation;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the estimated loss suffered by the Government during the last three years, year-wise as a result thereof;
- (d) whether the Government propose to introduce some safe mode of transportation of minerals to avoid huge losses; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) to (e) Precise estimates of loss suffered in transportation of minerals can not be made. However important minerals like coal and coke are mostly transported by railways. For transportation loss incurred, claims are lodged and compensation paid by the carrier.

The Ministry of Railways has reported the amount of compensation paid on coal and coke consignments on account of various reasons during the last three year is as follows:

Year	Amount (Rs. in lakh)
1998-1999	170.80
1999-2000	191.20
2000-2001	59.26

Mineral and Metal Trading Corporation (MMTC) has reported loss incurred during transportation/handling/shipping operations for iron ore. The details of loss indicated by MMTC during the last three years are as under:

Year	Quantity Handled (Lakh tonnes)	Transportation/Handling Loss		Loss to quantity Handled
		(Lakh tonnes)	(Rs. in Crore)	
1998-1999	137.92	1.04	8.07	0.76%
1999-2000	149.96	0.46	4.18	0.31%
2000-2001	185.79	1.26	12.33	0.68%

For safe transportation of goods and prevention of claims, the Ministry of Railways has reported that inter-alia following measures are taken:-

- (1) Escorting of goods trains by Railways Protection Force on vulnerable sections.
- (2) Intensive beat patrolling in yards and other affected areas/sections by Railways Protection Force (RPF).
- (3) Based on intelligence reports raids and searches are conducted in the premises of criminals/receivers of stolen property.
- (4) Proper marking and labeling of packages to avoid their los/over carriage.
- (5) Use of metal tape on wagons to avoid mis-despatches and prevent them from becoming unconnected.

[Translation]

### Insurance Scheme for Agricultural Labourers

\*569. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

- (a) the details of the insurance schemes in operation at present for the benefit of agricultural labourers;
- (b) whether the Government have conducted any survey in regard to the insurance schemes in operation in other countries for the benefit of agricultural labourers;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) how our schemes are different from those in operation in other countries; and

(e) the steps being taken to enhance the benefits of such schemes to bring them at par with the schemes of other developed countries?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) The Government has launched 'Krishi Shramik Suraksh Yojana-2001' to provide social security to the agricultural workers. The scheme is being implemented by the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) in selected 50 districts with the objective of covering 10 lakh agricultural workers @ 20000 agricultural workers from each district over a period of three years. Agricultural workers between the age of 18 to 50 years are eligible for coverage under the Scheme. The agriculture worker is required to contribute Re.1/-per day or Rs. 365/- per year and Government's contribution is Rs.2/-per day or Rs. 730/- per year per beneficiary. It envisages to provide life-cum-accident insurance, money back, pension and superannuation benefits. Further, Jan Shree Bima Yojana implemented by Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) among others also covers agricultural workers below and marginally above the poverty line and provides insurance cover in case of natural/accidental death and total or partial disability.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) to (e) Does not arise.

[English]

#### **Airport Facilities used by Private Airlines**

\*570. SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the names of private airlines who are allowed to use Airport facilities at Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Bangalore, Hyderabad and Ahmedabad;

(b) the procedure followed in this regard;

(c) the service charges recovered from these private airlines for these facilities;

(d) the total investment made by the public sector undertakings i.e. Air India and Indian Airlines and the Union Government at these airports as on March 31, 2002;

(e) whether permission to the private companies has resulted in reduction of traffic on IA/AI; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the remedial steps taken or proposed to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN) : (a) to (c) All Schedule and Non Schedule domestic airlines holding valid operating permit are authorised to use the facilities at Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Bangalore, Hyderabad and Ahmedabad airports. The names of Private Schedule and Non-Schedule domestic airlines holding valid operating permit as on date are given in the enclosed statement. A total amount of Rs. 6589.15 lakhs as service charges has been recovered by AAI from private airlines during the year 2000-2001.

(d) to (f) Airports Authority has invested Rs. 2,412.40 crores in the above airports. The major investment of Air India and Indian Airlines is in aircraft fleet. However, Airlines maintain certain facilities for aircraft maintenance, passenger check-in and facilitation, reservation, X-ray screening etc. The gross value of investment by Indian Airlines at airports in India is estimated to be Rs. 300 crores. Government of India has not provided any budgetary support for the above airports after formation of Airports Authority of India. Following entry of private airlines the domestic market share of Indian Airlines has declined by 50% since 1991.

Indian Airlines is taking various marketing initiatives and other inaugurative measures like improved capacity utilization, on time performance and flexi-fare policy, holiday packages corporate deals, increased standards of customer services etc. to maintain its market share.

#### **Statement**

##### *List of Private Operator's Permit Holders*

1. Jet Airways
2. Sahara Airlines
3. Ace Airways Pvt. Ltd.
4. Aerial Services Pvt. Ltd.
5. Ahmedabad Aviation Academy
6. Airworks India (P) Lts.
7. Asia Aviation Ltd.
8. Azal India Pvt. Ltd.
9. Bilakhia
10. Blue Dart

11. Century Textiles and Industries Ltd.

*[Tanslation]*

12. Deccan Aviation

**Decline in Tourists' Arrival**

13. Escorts Ltd.

\*571. SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY :  
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL :

14. Embee Aviation

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be  
pleased to state :

15. Dwarka Air Taxi

(a) whether the number of tourists has declined by  
more than fifty percent in the current year;

16. East India Hotels

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

17. Government of Rajasthan

18. Great Eastern Shipping Co. Ltd.

(c) the number of tourists who visited India during  
the last three years, country-wise; and

19. Himalayan Heli Services Pvt. Ltd.

20. Hindustan Institute Engg. Technology

(d) the steps taken by the Government to attract  
more tourists in the country?

21. India International Airways

22. Indo Pacific Aviation

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI  
JAG MOHAN) : (a) No, Sir.

23. Jagson Airlines

(b) The estimated number of tourist arrivals to the  
country during the period January-April, 2002 is 8,32,535.  
The number of tourist arrivals in the same period of the  
year 2001 was 9,80,359. Thus there has been a decline  
of 15.1 per cent. The decline in foreign tourist arrivals is  
mainly due to the after effect of the general economic slow  
down world over and the security scenario after the terrorist  
attack on the world Trade Centre in the USA.

24. J.K. Corp.

(c) Tourist arrivals from 15 countries which contribute  
significantly to the total tourist arrivals to the country during  
the last three years are as follows:

25. Jindal Strips Ltd.

Country of Nationality	Tourist Arrivals		
	1999	2000	2001
1	2	3	4
U.K	345085	432624	405472
USA	251926	348292	329147
Sri Lanka	120072	129193	112813
France	85891	100022	102434
Canada	82892	84013	88600
Japan	79373	98159	80634
Germany	85033	83881	80011
Malaysia	52613	60513	57869

26. Kudremukh Iron Ore Co. Ltd.

27. Megapode Airlines

28. Orient Flying School

29. Pawan Hans

30. Rajputan Aviation Academy (P) Ltd.

31. Raymond Ltd.

32. Reliance Transport Travels Ltd.

33. Sahara India Airlines

34. Saraya Aviation (P) Ltd.

35. Span Air Pvt. Ltd.

36. Taneja Aerospace and Aviation Ltd.

37. Tata Tea Ltd.

38. Trans Bharat Aviation

39. U.B. Air

40. Vidyut Travel Services

1	2	3	4
Australia	73041	53995	52691
Singapore	53310	46612	42824
Netherlands	48820	46370	42368
Italy	50677	50419	41351
Nepal	25859	38801	41135
Israel	23417	25631	28774
Korea (South)	19188	23411	27150

(d) Various steps taken by the Government to attract more tourists in the country include the following:

1. Positioning and maintaining tourism development as a national priority activity;
2. Enhancing and maintaining the competitiveness of India as a tourism destination;
3. Thrust on product improvement by integrated development of new circuits and creation of world class infrastructure;
4. Special thrust to rural and agro tourism.
5. Internet Marketing and net advertising campaign;
6. Attracting tourists from South Asia and South East Asia in view of prevailing international economic and political milieu as a part of reorientation of marketing strategy towards 'Look East' policy;
7. Pursuing enhanced air connectivity;
8. Redesigning and revamping website [www.tourismofindia.com](http://www.tourismofindia.com)
9. Attention to civilisational issues and issues pertaining to civic administration and good governance;
10. Organising promotions, seminars, film shows and workshops for various levels of staff in the travel industry and potential tourists for creating general awareness among the trade and consumer about the India tourism product and its rich cultural and spiritual heritage;

11. Organising joint destination promotions with various airlines flying to India including Air India;
12. Participation in travel shows, travel marts and reinforcing the message that India is a safe and secure destination.
13. Formulation and implementation of aggressive advertising and publicity campaigns responsive to specific market needs;
14. Production of destination films and other promotional materials, including audio visuals, television presentation programmes, posters, brochures, folders, leaflets, etc; and
15. Utilising Indian missions abroad in tourism promotion.

[English]

#### **Development of Tourism**

\*572. SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH :  
DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH :

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have chalked out any programme to boost tourism involving the places of "cultural revolution" in the country;

(b) if so, the names of monuments identified for sprucing particularly in Bihar, location-wise;

(c) the amount earmarked for this purpose for the year 2001-2002 and 2002-2003; and

(d) the time by which the renovation work of these monuments is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN) : (a) The Department of Tourism, Government of India grants financial assistance every year to the State Governments/UT Administrations for the projects relating to development and promotion of tourism identified in consultation with them. During the year 2001-02, 180 tourism projects amounting to Rs. 4896.39 lakhs have been sanctioned and an amount of Rs. 1646.70 lakhs has already been released for all the States including the State of Bihar.

(b) to (d) During the 9th Five Year Plan, Department of Tourism has sanctioned 44 projects amounting to Rs. 912.68 lakhs for the States of Bihar. An amount of Rs. 356.29 lakhs has already been released for implementation of these projects. Ministry of Tourism is also in the process of developing Bodhgaya, Rajgir, Nalanda into an integrated Buddhist circuit. The following projects have accordingly been taken up on priority basis :

- (1) Improvement and strengthening of NH 82 and 83 from Bihar Sharif to Gaya, Bodhgaya and Rajgir. An amount of Rs. 21 crores has been sanctioned by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways
- (2) Preparation of a Master Plan for Bodhgaya – Rs. 15 lakh.
- (3) Renovation of the Bodhgaya Temple
- (4) Excavation work near Sujata Kutir.
- (5) Upgradation of Archaeological Survey of India's Museum at Bodhgaya
- (6) Improvement of the following Jain Temples and monuments.
  - (a) Jaina Temple Vaibhar Hill, Rajgiri, Distt. Nalanda. Estimated cost Rs. 6.00 lakhs.
  - (b) Vasokund, Vaishali Amount sanctioned Rs. 452 lakhs
  - (c) Pawapuri Amount sanctioned Rs. 241 lakhs

The renovation of archeological monuments is an ongoing process.

#### **Pollution in Delhi**

\*573. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI :

SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE :

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

- (a) whether the Government have taken several steps to reduce the pollution level in the capital, recently;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned, "Pollution level drops:

clear air still a far cry" appearing in the Hindu dated April 12, 2002;

- (d) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein;
- (e) whether most of the policies are still on paper and remained to be implemented as expressed by the Director of Centre for Science and Environment;
- (f) if so, the details of these policies;
- (g) the reasons for not implementing the same; and
- (h) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) to (h) The Government have from time to time taken several steps to reduce pollution in the capital, the more important of which are as follows:-

- (i) A number of hazardous and polluting industries have been closed down.
- (ii) All the Hot Mix Plants and brick kilns have been shut down.
- (iii) Stone crushers have been shifted away from Delhi.
- (iv) For control of water pollution from clusters of small scale industries, fifteen Common Effluent Treatment Plants have been taken up.
- (v) Delhi has been covered under Yamuna Action Plan for the control of water pollution.
- (vi) Sewage Treatment Plants have been installed to upgrade the capacity for treatment of municipal waste water.
- (vii) Bharat Stage II emission norms akin to Euro-II norms for registration of four wheeled private (non-commercial) vehicles were made effective from 1.4.2000 in the NCR (National Capital Region). These norms have been made effective for commercial vehicles from 24.10.2001 in respect of National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi.
- (viii) Unleaded petrol has been introduced in Delhi from 1.4.1995.

- (ix) Diesel with 0.05% sulphur content maximum is being supplied from 30.6.2001 to the NCR.
- (x) Petrol with 1% Benzene maximum is made available in the NCT of Delhi from 1.11.2000 and from 1.4.2001 in the NCR.
- (xi) Emission norms for Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) driven vehicles have been made effective from 9.2.2000. CNG is supplied for automobiles through a number of retail outlets in Delhi.
- (xii) Emission norms for Liquified Petroleum Gas (LPG) driven vehicles have been notified.

The news item referred to the drop in air pollution during the period 6th April to 10th April, 2002. The ambient air quality in respect of Sulphur dioxide, Nitrogen dioxide and Respirable Suspended Particulate Matter has shown lower values as compared to the values observed during operation of diesel buses.

#### **Damage to Monuments by Natural Calamities**

\*574. SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN :  
SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADODA MANDLIK :

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of Monuments damaged due to natural calamities during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the extent of damage caused to each such monument;

(c) whether all the damaged monuments have since been repaired/restored;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the amount spent on their restoration, monument-wise; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN) : (a) The centrally protected monuments damaged due to natural calamities during the last three years, are as under:-

#### **Earthquake**

1999-2000

Uttanchal 1

2000-2001

(i) Gujarat 69

(ii) Rajasthan 1

(iii) Diu 3

#### **Cyclone**

Gardens and monuments in Orissa 13

(b) In Gujarat, 67 monuments were partially damaged while the superstructure of 2 monuments collapsed totally. One monument in Uttanchal was partially damaged.

(c) to (e) 49 monuments are in different stages of restoration. The expenditure incurred thereon is as per enclosed statements-I and II. Action is in hand to take up the conservation of the remaining monuments.

#### **Statement-I**

Sl. No.	Name and Location of Monument	District	Extend of Damaged	Expenditure Rs.
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Rudra Nath Temple Gopeshwar <b>State Gujarat</b>	Chamoli	Minor Damage	61,228.00
2.	Ahmed Shah's Mosque Laldarwaja	Ahmedabad	Minor Damage	1,77,919
3.	Achyut (Kuki) Bibi's Masjid and Tomb Dudheshwar	-do-	Major Damage	1,42,363

1	2	3	4	5
4.	Bibiji-Ki-Masjid, Rajpur, Hirappur	Ahmedabad	Minor Damage	471,399
5.	Bhadra Tower, Beside Bhadra Kali Temple	-do-	-do-	2,72,105
6.	Baba Lauli's Masjid, Behrampur	-do-	-do-	28,735
7.	Jami Masjid Manek Chowk	-do-	-do-	17,271
8.	Malik Alam's Mosque Tola Naka, Dani Limda	-do-	Minor Damage	6,492
9.	Raipur Gate Raipur	-do-	Major damage	4,10,526
10.	Shah Alam's Tomb with all surrounding ancient building with Mosque Shah Alam Darwaja	-do-	-do-	1,33,506
11.	Sidi Bashir's Minar and Tombs (Shaking) Usmanpur	-do-	Minor damage	81,693
12.	Saiyed Usman's Mosque and Tomb Ussmanpura	-do-	Major damage	50,782
13.	Tomb of Mir Abu Turab Back of Calico Mill, Jamalpur	-do-	-do-	89,608
14.	Pavilion Sarkhej	-do-	Major Damage	21,953
15.	Great Mosque Sarkhej	-do-	-do-	
16.	Khan Masjid Dholka,	-do-	-do-	
17.	Jami Masjid Mandal	-do-	-do-	2,28,850
<b>Anand District</b>				
18.	Jami Masjid khambhat	Anand	-do-	41,469
<b>Bhavnagar District</b>				
19.	Darbargarh Sihor	Bhavnagar	Minor Damage	4,103
<b>Jamnagar District</b>				
20.	Dwarkadhish Group of Temple	Jamnagar	-do-	36,600
21.	Durvasarish Ashram Pindara	-do-	-do-	17,776
<b>Junagadh District</b>				
22.	Ashokan Rock Edicts Junagadh	Junagadh	-do-	5,241
23.	Jami Masjid Mangrol	-do-	-do-	2,890

1	2	3	4	5
<b>Kachchh District</b>				
24.	Rao lakha Chhattri Bhuj	Kachchh (Bhuj)	Major Damage	41,00,635
<b>Mehsana District</b>				
25.	Sun Temple Modhera	Mehsana	Minor Damage	19,793
<b>Patan District</b>				
26.	Khan Sarovar Gate Jakatnaka way to Modheera	Patan	-do-	1,62,936
27.	Shaikh Farid Tomb North side of Sahastraling Tank	-do-	Major Damage	20,9,075
28.	Rani-ki-Vav Patan	-do-	Minor Damage	5,500
29.	Limboji Mata Temple Chanasma- Harij Road Delmal	-do-	-do-	46,602
<b>Porbandar District</b>				
30.	House where M.G. was born Porbandar	Porbandar	-do-	3,253
<b>Surat District</b>				
31.	Tomb of Khwaja Safar Sulemani Surat	Surat	-do-	66,668
<b>Surendra Nagar District</b>				
32.	Sun Temple Thangadh	Surrendranagar	Major Damage	87,850
<b>Vadodara District</b>				
33.	Tambekarwada Raopura	Vadodara	Minor Damage	1,171
<b>DIU (UT)</b>				
34.	Saint Paul's Church Diu	DIU	Minor Damage	18,980
35.	Old Mosque (Jami Masjid)	DIU	Minor Damage	1,110
<b>State Rajasthan</b>				
36.	Jaisalmer Fort	Jaisalmer	Breaches in fort wall	29,944/-

**Statement-II***State of Orissa*

Sl. No.	Year	Name of Monument	Extend of Damage	Expenditure on restoration
1	2	3	4	5
1.	1999-2000	Sun Temple Konark	The gardens were totally damaged	Rs. 3,94,386



1	2	3	4	5
2.	1999-2000	Museum complex Konark	The gardens were totally damaged	Rs. 1,19,800
3.	-do-	Khandagiri and Udaygiri, Bhubaneswar	-do-	Rs. 1,55,633
4.	-do-	Rameshwar Temple Bhubaneswar	-do-	Rs. 1,19,634
5.	-do-	Raja Rani Temple Bhubaneswar	-do-	Rs. 1,57,583
6.	-do-	Bhaskareswar Temple Bhubaneswar	-do-	Rs. 33,910
7.	-do-	Megheshwar Temple Bhubaneswar	-do-	Rs. 12,406
8.	-do-	Relic Stupa Dhauli Bhubaneswar	-do-	Rs. 79,571
9.	-do-	Brahmeshwar Temple Bhubaneswar	-do-	Rs. 21,306
10.	-do-	Santrapur Nursery Bhubaneswar	-do-	Rs. 77,896
11.	-do-	Chitrakarani Temple Bhubaneswar	-do-	Rs. 20,861
12.	-do-	Mukteswar Temple Bhubaneswar	-do-	Rs. 3,568
13.	-do-	Ratnagiri Museum Bhubaneswar	-do-	Rs. 35,683
Total				Rs. 12,64,237

### Protection to Wildlife

\*575. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have dissolved a High Powered Committee which had been set up last year to suggest ways to preserve and promote healthy wildlife in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the steps taken to protect the wildlife have been found to be inadequate and proved ineffective;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to formulate plans to protect the wildlife in the country?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS  
(SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) Large number of vacancies at the field level, inadequate mobility, paucity of modern fire arms, lack of expertise in the field of intelligence gathering, investigation and prosecution have been found to be the main impediments in effective protection of wild life particularly, tiger, leopard, elephant and rhino. The products of these animals have considerable demand in the clandestine international markets. Prime Minister has written to the Chief Ministers to address the aforesaid problems on priority. Further, wild Life Conservation Strategy, 2002 has been adopted during the said meeting of Indian Board for wildlife. The salient features of the strategy are given in the enclosed statement. The State Governments have been requested to implement the strategy effectively.

### Statement

The salient features of the wildlife Conservation Strategy-2002 adopted by the Indian Board for wildlife are:-

1. wildlife and forests shall be declared priority sector at the national level for which funds should be earmarked.
2. Law enforcement agencies must ensure that those engage in poaching, illicit trade in wildlife and wild life products, destruction of their habitat, and such other illegal activities are given quick and deterrent punishment.
3. The potential in wildlife tourism should be fully tapped, taking care that it does not have adverse impact in wildlife and protected areas. The revenue earned from increased tourism should be used entirely to augment available resources for conservation.
4. No diversion of forest land for non forestry purposes from critical and ecologically fragile wildlife habitat shall be allowed.
5. Lands falling within 10 km. of the boundaries of National Parks and Sanctuaries should be notified as Eco-fragile zones under section 3(v) of the Environment (Protection) Act and Rule 5 Sub-rule 5(viii) and (x) of the Environment (Protection) Rules.
6. Removal of encroachments and illegal activities from within forestlands and Protected Areas.
7. The settlement of rights in National Parks and Sanctuaries should not be used to exclude or reduce the areas that are crucial and integral part of the wildfire habitat.
8. More than 2000 vacant posts in the frontline staff of Protected Areas shall be filled immediately and provided basic infrastructure for efficient discharge of duties. Ban on recruitment of staff against vacant post should be lifted on lines with the Police Department.

### Indo-US Joint Project on Safety in Coal Mines

\*576. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE : Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indo-US Joint Project is being implemented to improve safety standard in Indian coal mines;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the financial assistance provided by US Government in this regard; and

(d) the schemes to be implemented under the project in various coal mines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise in view of reply to (a) above.

### Heritage Tourism

\*577. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO :  
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposals from State Governments to promote heritage tourism in the States;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Union Government to provide financial assistance to the State Governments to develop heritage tourism?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN) : (a) to (c) The Department of tourism, Government of India grants financial assistance to the State Governments/UT Administrations every year for development of infrastructure at various tourist centres including at heritage sites in consultation with them. A Statement showing number of projects sanctioned, amount sanctioned and amount released Statewise during 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 for all tourism projects including heritage tourism is annexed.

**Statement**

*State-wise Financial Assistance Sanctioned/Released during  
1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002*

Sr. No.	State	No. of Projects sancd.	Amount sancd.	Amt. Released	No. of Projects sancd.	Amount sancd.	Amt. Released	No. of Projects sancd.	Amount sancd.	Amt. Released
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1.	Andhra Pradesh	14	242.22	124.43	7	180.00	129.60	6	167.85	67.71
2.	Assam	17	357.35	92.76	12	298.35	125.02	—	—	—
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	11	239.28	102.18	6	49.78	17.50	14	224.90	104.40
4.	Bihar	7	150.75	49.01	13	324.48	98.22	1	1.35	1.35
5.	Chhatisgarh	—	—	—	3	115.28	36.75	2	30.00	15.00
6.	Goa	11	279.82	70.08	9	89.54	27.91	9	93.73	49.85
7.	Gujarat	23	407.64	136.42	19	510.85	152.86	11	315.50	100.30
8.	Haryana	9	238.33	155.94	6	112.63	46.86	7	125.44	40.02
9.	Himachal Pradesh	17	691.79	437.75	19	397.29	200.79	12	157.64	63.83
10.	J and K	16	311.43	226.03	11	470.93	247.15	3	65.50	55.95
11.	Jharkhand	—	—	—	6	206.49	61.92	2	80.00	0.50
12.	Karnataka	38	890.70	459.67	19	489.30	248.41	8	206.26	71.00
13.	Kerala	19	772.28	289.56	7	407.85	122.65	10	841.87	239.52
14.	Madhya Pradesh	16	431.08	174.04	12	243.21	78.22	11	256.37	94.54
15.	Maharashtra	30	1003.69	260.21	10	270.81	142.01	13	1098.21	284.51
16.	Manipur	10	229.00	70.10	18	282.77	235.42	—	—	—
17.	Meghalaya	6	80.72	20.26	5	105.59	36.10	—	—	—
18.	Mizoram	13	297.23	235.08	13	309.19	208.66	6	75.25	41.77
19.	Nagaland	16	303.30	229.65	7	145.03	42.84	5	41.54	20.20
20.	Orissa	20	306.90	90.92	4	156.94	47.07	4	38.05	27.12
21.	Punjab	8	175.00	55.63	6	203.50	61.33	3	17.50	12.34
22.	Rajasthan	12	131.22	36.59	22	455.00	143.47	2	5.00	2.50
23.	Sikkim	12	118.98	48.57	33	376.49	172.32	—	—	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
24.	Tamil Nadu	27	531.95	168.07	8	113.83	37.30	17	542.83	128.77
25	Tripura	7	340.76	187.80	13	333.23	151.55	—	—	—
26.	Uttaranchal	—	—	—	7	70.19	29.78	3	65.51	32.04
27.	Uttar Pradesh	36	749.58	242.56	17	154.21	62.54	5	56.54	24.87
28.	west Bengal	6	194.01	76.56	20	412.68	268.14	11	229.85	88.63
29.	Andaman and Nicobar	1	32.37	16.18	1	1.78	0.89	—	—	—
30.	Chandigarh	4	68.44	15.37	5	22.13	8.50	5	22.13	8.50
31.	Dadar Nagar Haveli	1	30.00	9.00	1	8.00	2.40	—	—	—
32.	Delhi	5	24.50	12.20	1	16.28	8.57	7	58.96	39.50
33.	Daman and Diu	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
34.	Lakshadweep	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35.	Pondicherry	10	163.89	56.24	3	26.18	9.09	3	78.61	31.98
Total		422	9794.21	4148.86	343	7859.81	3256.84	180	4896.39	1646.70

### National Water Policy

\*578. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :  
SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether National Water Policy has left many loopholes for the market forces to take advantage;

(b) if so, whether the new policy belied the people's expectation of decentralisation of water development and management and encouragement to community based Water harnessing; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to decentralise water development management and encouragement to community based Water harnessing?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN SETHI) : (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) The Revised National Water Policy lays

emphasis on the participation of community, i.e. all stakeholders including beneficiaries and adversely affected persons, in planning, construction and management of Water resources in the country. Para 6.8 on "Project Planning" provides that :

"The involvement and participation of beneficiaries and other stakeholders should be encouraged right from the project planning stage itself."

A separate new para 12 addresses itself to "Participatory Approach to water Resources Management" and provides that :

"Management of the water resources for diverse uses should incorporate a participatory approach; by involving not only the various Governmental agencies but also the users and other stakeholders, in an effective and decisive manner, in various aspects of planning, design, development and management of the water resources schemes. Necessary legal and institutional changes should be made at various levels

for the purpose, duly ensuring appropriate role for women. Water Users' Associations and the local bodies such as municipalities and gram panchayats should particularly be involved in the operation, maintenance and management of water infrastructures/facilities at appropriate level progressively, with a view to eventually transfer the management of such facilities to the user groups/local bodies."

Further, Para 23.3 on "Maintenance and Modernisation" provides that :

"Formation of water Users' Association with authority and responsibility should be encouraged to facilitate the management including maintenance of irrigation system in a time bound manner."

In the concluding Paragraph, the Policy reiterates that :

"The concerns of community need should be taken into account for water resources development and management."

#### **Setting up of Eco-clubs**

\*579. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any decision has been taken to set up 'Eco-Club' in the schools of all the districts of the country to raise a National Green Army and to create awareness among the children about environment;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of schools identified in each district; and

(d) the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) to (d) The Government has decided to set up Eco-clubs in 100 schools in each district of the country to raise a National Green Corps and to create awareness among the children about environment. The locations of the schools in each district for participation in this programme are selected by the Nodal Agency, identified by the State Government, in consultation with the

District Education Officer. The total expenditure incurred for setting up of Eco-clubs during 2001-2002 is Rs. 5.58 crores approximately. The State wise break up of this amount is given in the enclosed Statement.

#### **Statement**

*State Wise breakup of the expenditure incurred during 2001-2002 for setting up Eco-clubs*

S.No.	State	Amount (In Rupees)
1	2	3
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	12,61,770
2.	Andhara Pradesh	24,90,000
3.	Assam	20,72,130
4.	Bihar	36,03,360
5.	Chandigarh (UT)	90,480
6.	Chhattisgarh	14,41,740
7.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli (UT)	90,480
8.	Goa	1,80,960
9.	Gujarat	36,77,205
10.	Haryana	17,12,190
11.	Himachal Pradesh	10,81,800
12.	Jammu and Kashmir	12,61,770
13.	Jharkhand	18,92,160
14.	Karnataka	24,33,060
15.	Kerala	12,61,176
16.	Lakshadweep (UT)	90,480
17.	Madhya Pradesh	40,53,780
18.	Manipur	8,10,360
19.	Mizoram	7,20,870
20.	Meghalaya	8,11,350
21.	Maharashtra	29,73,770
22.	Orissa	44,12,646

1	2	3
23.	Punjab	15,30,900
24.	Pondicherry (UT)	3,60,930
25.	Uttaranchal	11,71,290
26.	U.P	63,05,880
27.	West Bengal	16,21,710
28.	Rajasthan	28,83,480
29.	Sikkim	3,59,940
30.	Tripura	5,88,976
31.	Tamil Nadu	25,22,550
Total		5,57,69,193

#### National Lake Conservation Plan

\*580. SHRI Y.V.RAO : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are implementing the National Lake Conservation Plan;

(b) if so, the details of projects and lakes taken up under this plan so far;

(c) the targets fixed and the achievements made thereunder so far; and

(d) whether the Government are considering to take up any new lakes under this plan during 2002-03 and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) A total of 10 urban polluted lakes were initially identified for conservation which are as follows:-

S.No.	Name of lake	State
1	2	3
1.	Dal	Jammu and Kashmir
2.	Sukhna	Chandigarh
3.	Sagar	Madhya Pradesh
4.	Nainital	Uttar Pradesh
5.	Kodaikanal	Tamil Nadu

1	2	3
6.	Ooty	Tamil Nadu
7.	Udaipur	Rajasthan
8.	Rabindra Sarovar	West Bengal
9.	Powai	Maharashtra
10.	Hussain Sagar	Andhra Pradesh

Depending upon the pollution status and availability of funds, additional new lakes have also been considered. So far, the conservation plans of the following lakes have been approved:-

S. No.	Name of the lake	Approved cost (Rs. in crores)	Cost sharing pattern
1.	Powai	6.62	100% Central Funding
2.	Ooty	1.95	- do -
3.	Kodaikanal	6.33	- do -
4.	Bangalore lakes (Jaraganahalli, Kamakshipalya, Nagavara and Vengainahakere)	12.32	70% Central share, 30% State share

works on the approved lakes will be completed at different times ranging between 2 and 3 years from the date of initiation of the project. Improvements in the water quality of the lakes will be achieved after the projects are completed.

#### Protection of Environment

5922. SHRI B.K. PARTHASARATHI : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that studies abroad indicate that incinerators emit super toxic chemicals, causing health hazards;

(b) if so, whether any such study has been conducted in India;

(c) if so, the findings thereof; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to protect the environment from such toxic chemicals?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) Incinerators, if not designed and operated in a scientific manner, may emit highly toxic chemicals such as dioxins and furans.

(b) and (c) No comprehensive study has been carried out to inventorise emission of dioxins and furans.

(d) The Biomedical wastes (Management and Handling) Rules, 1998 notified by the Government of India, contain provisions, inter alia, for regulating the use of incinerators in the country for disposal of biomedical wastes. Under these Rules, incineration of chlorinated plastics has been prohibited. Only double chambered incinerators under controlled temperature conditions and with necessary pollution control devices are allowed under the Rules. The operating and emission standards for incinerators have also been prescribed as a part of these Rules.

#### **Focus on Agricultural Productivity**

5923. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to raise agricultural productivity through cost-reduction technologies in foodgrains sector in the country;

(b) if so, the reforms sought in agriculture sector; and

(c) the strategies adopted/devised in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) Yes, Sir. The reduction of cost per unit of output by increased crop productivity and judicious use of inputs is the major focus of research under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research.

(b) and (c) Protection of plant varieties and farmers rights, greater emphasis on rural infrastructures development including market research, availability of quality inputs, larger investment in agricultural research, use of biotechnological tools, creation of auxiliary services, crop health counseling, facilities for essential farm machineries, liberal credit policies, organized seed production and committed extension services, participation of private sector in agriculture research and development need special focus for enhancing agricultural production

and productivity. Development of nutrient use efficient genotypes coupled with resistance to biotic and abiotic stresses, use of integrated nutrient and pest management technologies, introduction of hybrid technology, adoption of zero tillage and resource conservative technologies, appropriate mechanization of various agricultural operations, crop substitution and diversification will help in enhancing production, productivity and profitability of the farmers.

*[Translation]*

#### **Labourers suffering from T.B.**

5924. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the number of labourers suffering from tuberculosis in Rajasthan;

(b) whether the Government are facilitating for their health checking from time to time;

(c) if so, whether the Government have decided to open health care centres for the labourers in Rajasthan; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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.

*[English]*

#### **Illegal Coal Mining**

5925. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Coal India Limited (CIL) is aware that illegal coal mining operation from the abandoned coal mines/open cast projects of Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL) is going on;

(b) if so, the quantum of coal mined illegally during each of the last three years;

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

(d) the remedial steps taken/being taken by CIL in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) Yes, Sir. Cases of illegal mining operations have been reported from the abandoned coal mines/opencast projects of Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL) in the States of west Bengal/Bihar/Jharkhand.

(b) and (c) Illegal mining activities are being done in the nature of clandestine extraction and pilferage of coal from abandoned/closed/disused mines or from outcrop regions. As such, the exact quantum of loss suffered cannot be specified. However, on the basis of raids conducted, the quantities of coal recovered during the last three years are given as under :-

#### Eastern Coalfields Limited

1998-99		1999-2000		2000-2001		2001-2002 (upto Feb., 2002)	
Quantity recovered (tonnes)	Approx. value (Rs. in lakh)	Quantity recovered (tonnes)	Approx. value (Rs. in lakh)	Quantity recovered (tonnes)	Approx. value (Rs. in lakh)	Quantity recovered (tonnes)	Approx. value (Rs. in lakh)
5271	42.17	403	3.22	5636	46.09	21301	170.00

(d) Coal India Limited has taken the following action to prevent illegal mining in leasehold areas:-

- (1) Intelligence collection.
- (2) Dozing off/filling up of illegal mining sites wherever possible.
- (3) Erection of fencing walls in abandoned/disused openings.
- (4) Round the clock patrolling by own security force and CISF.
- (5) Surprise checks/raids by Security Force/ CISF.
- (6) whenever illegally mined coal and implements of illegal mining are seized during the course of raids, the same are handed over to local police and FIRs lodged.
- (7) Closed liaison is kept with district authorities seeking their help and cooperation in curbing illegal mining.

To curb illegal mining, the Government have also taken up the matter with the coal producing States.

#### Privatisation of Airports

5926. SHRI SUNIL KHAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Kolkata Airport is likely to be sold out to the private entrepreneur in the month of September, 2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the fate of the employees likely to be rendered jobless?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN) : (a) and (b) It has been decided to restructure the airports of Airports Authority of India (AAI) as and when found suitable through long term lease. At present, the airports located at Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata have been taken up for this exercise. The Financial consultant has submitted the phase-I and II of the reports, regarding Due Dilligence and Valuation and Sales Memorandum and Marketing Plan. Pre-Investment meets have been held to brief the prospective bidders. The lessee for the airport shall be selected through a transparent competitive global bid process.

(c) There is no proposal to retrench any employee of AAI at Kolkata airport. The legitimate interests of the employees will be safeguarded in the leasing process.

#### Fruits and Vegetables Export Zones

5927. SHRIMATI MINATI SEN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the country's first pineapple export zone is coming up in North Bengal;



(b) if so, whether a MoU is under process for signature between the Government of West Bengal Horticulture Department and a Private Firm;

(c) whether a proposal to set up a mango export zone in Malda district and a vegetable export zone in north 24-Parganas is under consideration of the Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A MoU has been signed between Oest Bengal Food Processing and Horticulture Development Corporation Ltd., and MMJ Exports Ltd., on 30th April, 2002.

(c) and (d) No such proposal has been received from the Government of West Bengal.

#### **Replacement of Existing Sale Policy of Coal**

5928. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to replace the existing sales policy of coal so as to have a uniform pit head price of different grades of coal;

(b) if so, the details of the existing policy in this

regard and the rates of different varieties of coal;

(c) whether the new policy has been formulated; and

(d) if so, the extent to which the new policy is likely to be beneficial to the coal industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) The price and distribution of all grades of coal have been deregulated with effect from 1.1.2000. In the deregulated scenario, Coal India Limited (CIL) is in the process of formulating and implementing new sales policy, primarily in respect of non-core sector. Pricing will be a part of the new sales policy. Pricing mechanism is proposed to be flexible and may vary from one colliery to another for a particular grade of coal.

(b) In the existing policy, different basic prices are charges for different collieries and different grades of coal uniformly for all consumers. The existing rates of different varieties of coal are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) and (d) In view of the liberalised and deregulated economy, CIL is formulating a sales policy which will be simple, transparent and customer friendly. With increased consumer satisfaction, the coal industry is likely to grow faster. Thus the new sales policy would be beneficial for the customers as well as CIL and therefore would serve the larger interest of coal industry in the long run.

#### **Statement**

*Prices of various grades of coal revised by Coal India Limited and its subsidiaries w.e.f. 1.2.2001*

*Prices of Run of Mine (ROM) Coal)*

#### **Non-Coking Coal**

(Rs. per tonne)

Grade	WCL		SECL			CCL		BCCL		NCL		MCL	
	LF	NLF	In Certain Specified Mines	LF	NLF	LF	NLF	LF	NLF	LF	NLF	LF	NLF
1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
A	1083	1017	1100	999	934	1177	1100	1121	1047	1147	1072	979	912
B	1022	956	1034	939	872	1065	989	1014	942	1039	964	885	819
C	955	890	862	784	717	890	813	847	774	867	792	740	674

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
D	902	835	736	669	600	758	680	722	648	740	664	633	566
E		708			497		539		514		527		445
F		590			396		431		410		420		351
G		445			283		308		294		300		250

**Note**

- |  |                                      |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| 1. WCL - Western Coalfields Limited        | 5. NCL - Northern Coalfields Limited |
| 2. SECL - South Eastern Coalfields Limited | 6. MCL - Mahanadi Coalfields Limited |
| 3. CCL - Central Coalfields Limited        | 7. LF - Long Flame                   |
| 4. BCCL - Bharat Coking Coal Limited       | 8. NLF - Non-Long Flame              |

The above list is only for ROM Coal. Separate rates for Steam, Rubble and Slack.

*Price of ROM Coal for Eastern Coalfields Limited*

**Non-Coking Coal**

(Rs. per tonne)

Grade	Rates in certain Specified SP Mines	Rates in Certain Specified Mines in Raniganj	Mugma		Raj-Mahal Project		Salanpur	Coal Produced in other Collieries of Raniganj	
			LF	NLF	LF	NLF		LF	NLF
A	1628	1388	1440	1345			1177	1263	1184
B	1447	1312	1290	1197			1059	1192	1115
C	1211	118	1093	1000			870	1018	939
D	974	905	895	804	915		694	824	748
E				591		703	524		524
F				476		597	417		417
G				327		479	298		298

**North Easter Coalfields**

(Rs. per tonne)

Assam Coal	Grade of Coal and UHV Range (K. Cal. kg.)	Run of Mine
A	6200-6299	998
B	5600-6199	741

**Note:**

- In Grade A, for every additional useful heat value (UHV) of 100 kilo calories per kg. exceeding 6299 kilo calories per kg., additional Rs. 65 per tonne is added to the price of grade.
- For UHV exceeding 7099 kilo calories per kg., the price of coal is Rs. 1836 per tonne for run of mine coal.

*Price of Coal (ROM)***Coking Coal**

(Rs. per tonne)

Grade	BCCL		ECL MUGMA	CCL	SECL	WCL	Subsidiaries other than BCCL, ECL and CCL
	Rates in Certain Specified Mines	Other than Specified mines					
Steel Grade I	1914	1695					
Steel Grade II	1598	1416					
Washery GR – I	1385	1227	1575	1287	1096	1075	
Washery GR – II	1147	1016	1305	1067	907	890	
Washery GR – III	848	751	964	789	671	803	
Washery GR – IV	789	699	896	734	625	659	
Semi Coking Grade-I	1335	1183	Raniganj 1360	1241			1096
Semi Coking Grade-II	1106	979	Raniganj 1126	1027			907
Direct Feed		1899	(Ash exceeding 20% but not exceeding 21%)				

**Coking Coal in Certain Specified Mines.****Pulses Production**

5929. SHRI A. NARENDRA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the per capita availability of pulses during 2001 as compared to 1981;

(b) whether there has been a fall in the per capita availability of pulses;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the production of pulses has been declining/stagnating over the last few years;

(e) if so, whether this has adversely affected the prices of pulses in the open market; and

(f) if so, the details of steps taken to make available pulses at reasonable prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) :

(a) to (c) The per capita availability of pulses during 2001

is 10.2 kg./per annum as compared to 13.7 kg./per annum in 1981. The per capita availability of pulses remained fluctuating since 1981.

The availability of pulses depends upon their production which fluctuates from year to year depending upon the behaviour of monsoon as these are cultivated on marginal and sub-marginal lands and under rainfed conditions.

(d) The production of pulses remained fluctuating over the last few years depending upon the behaviour of the monsoon. The production of pulses during the last five years is given in the following table:

(Million tonnes)	
Year	Production
1	2
1997-98	12.97
1998-99	14.91

1	2
1999-2000	13.41
2000-01	10.67
2001-02 (estimated)	13.80

(e) and (f) The increase in prices of pulses depends on a number of factors including the domestic production. The Government of India is making all efforts to meet the demand of Pulses in the country by increasing the production of pulses. For increasing the production of pulses a Centrally sponsored scheme of National Pulses Development Project (NPDP) is under implementation in 30 States/U.Ts. The scheme envisages financial assistance to the States for production and distribution of seed, seed minikit, rhizobium culture, sprinkler sets, improved farm implements etc. In addition, field demonstration and farmers training are also being organised for transfer of improved production and protection technology to the farmers for increasing the production of pulses in the country.

The import of pulses is under Open General Licence (OGL) and takes place in case of short supply of pulses in the market. Moreover the consumption of pulses is interchangeable with vegetables.

#### Employees working in Ministerial Cadre

5930. SHRI BIKASH CHOWDHURY : Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether some employees who are working in Ministerial cadre since their appointment are treated as category workers by the management;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and since when these workers are working as category worker; and

(c) the steps the management propose to take to ensure giving proper grades to these employees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

#### Pagladiya Dam Project

5931. SHRI M.K. SUBBA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether a delegation of the Pagladiya Dam Project Affected area Sangram Samiti apprised the Minister the difficulties being faced by the Dam-evacuees; and

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the number of oustees provided with resettlement units and other benefits and the number of those who are still awaiting rehabilitation?

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

(b) The families to be displaced were estimated to be 3271 Nos. as furnished by the District Authorities in June 2000 before the clearance of the project. However, the Zirat survey has been taken by the District Civil Administration, Nalbari and the actual number of oustees can be determined after completion of the survey. Relief and rehabilitation benefit to the oustee families, therefore, depends on the completion of Zirat survey by the District Authority.

#### Proposal for Farm Reforms

5932. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal for farm reforms from the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India; and

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

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

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

#### Assistance to Haldimunda Diversion Project

5933. SHRI VISHNUDEO SAI : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal for seeking financial assistance for ongoing Haldimunda diversion project in Chhattisgarh;

(b) the irrigation capacity and estimated cost of the project; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY) : (a) to (c) Union Government has not received any proposal for Central Loan Assistance under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme for the Haldimunda Scheme in Chhattisgarh.

[English]

#### **Middle Vaitarna Project**

5934. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether any feasibility report on Middle Vaitarna dam project of Mumbai has been submitted to the Union Government;

(b) if so, the details of the project indicating its estimated cost alongwith its date of submission to the Union Government and present status thereof;

(c) the manner in which the cost of the said project is likely to be shared;

(d) the reasons for delay in granting approval to the said project; and

(e) the steps taken for early clearance of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY) : (a) to (c) On the advice of Ministry of Urban Development, which is the agency to clear the Water Supply Project, Municipal Corporation of Greater Bombay had submitted the feasibility report for the construction of Middle Vaitarna Dam Project to Central Water Commission (COC) during September, 1993 for technical scrutiny regarding construction and safety of the dam. The estimated cost of the project was Rs. 570.00 crore including the project components like Head works, raw Water conveyance system, treatment plant and pumping plant and other miscellaneous works. COC approved the alignment of Dam and Spillway and Municipal Corporation

of Greater Mumbai was informed on 9.2.2000. In the month of April 2002, revised cost estimate of Rs. 404.793 crores of Middle Vaitarna Dam (with revised section) for head works has been received in COC.

(d) and (e) The project proposal is under correspondence with the State Government. The State Government is also required to obtain statutory clearance from Ministry of Environment and Forests.

#### **Tourism Development in West Bengal**

5935. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of huge tourism potential in West Bengal including a significant part of North Bengal;

(b) if so, the areas identified where the Union and State Governments could jointly develop the tourists complexes in the State;

(c) whether any comprehensive plan has been formulated; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Development of tourist places is primarily undertaken by the State Governments. The Department of Tourism, Government of India, however, provides some financial assistance for tourism projects identified in consultation with them every year. The proposals to be taken up during financial year 2002-2003 have not yet been identified.

#### **Impact of Industrial Waste on Wildlife**

5936. SHRI J.S. BRAR : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the industrial waste being discharged in rivers passing through wildlife sanctuaries has been proving fatal for wild animals and birds;

(b) if so, the details of wildlife sanctuaries facing such problems; and

(c) the steps taken to prevent discharge of industrial waste in and around wildlife sanctuaries?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

#### Coastal Tourism

5937. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have allocated any funds for the development of coastal tourism in the country, especially in Kerala during the last three years; and

(b) if so, the details thereof during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN) : (a) and (b) Development and promotion of tourist centres/places is primarily undertaken by the State Governments/UT Administrations. However, Department of Tourism, Government of India provides funds for tourism-related projects including development of coastal tourism, prioritised every year in consultation with them.

The Department of Tourism, Government of India has sanctioned the following projects related to coastal tourism for Kerala Government :

Year	Name of the Project	Amount sanctioned (Rs. in lakhs)
1	2	3
1999-2000 (1)	waterside amenity at:	
	Nedmudi	50.00
	Kotharathode	50.00
	Pallathuruthy	50.00
(2)	Integrated development of an eco-friendly floating Resort at Pathiramanal	100.00
(3)	Integarated Development of Kovalam Beach (Sewage and waste disposal system at Kovalam)	71.19

1	2	3
2000-2001 (1)	Procurement of Pantoons and inflatable 2-seater speed boats	75.00
(2)	Construction of permanent Pavillion for Nehru Trophy Boat Race	27.65
2001-2002 (1)	Innovative Water sports- procurement of power boats and 2-seater micro-speed boats	110.00
(2)	Development of walkway along the backwaters shore, Kochi	57.00

#### Export of Food Products with 'Codex' Standard

5938. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether any step has been initaited to improve the quality of indigenous food products being exported especially to match with 'Codex' Standard;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (PROF. CHAMAN LAL GUPTA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government of India had enacted the Export (Quality Control and Inspection) Act, 1963 under Ministry of Commerce and Industry with the objective of soud development of export trade through quality control. The Act empowers the Government of India to notify commodities and their minimum standards for export, generally international standards or standards of importing countries as well as suitable machinery for inspection and quality control. Under the provisions of this Act, export Certification has been made mandatory by the Government of India for products like marine products, milk products, meat products, egg products and honey due to the stringent health and safety requirements of the importing countries with a view to avoiding rejection. Export Inspection Council, as official export inspection and certification body under Ministry of Commerce and Industry has been designated for the task of inspection and

certification. In this regard, Food Safety Management Systems (FSMS) based certification is followed, which combines products certification integrated with quality management systems based approach including Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP), Good Hygiene Practices (GHP), Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP). Under this system, the products being exported must conform to :

- (a) National Standards of the Importing country/ International Standards (namely Codex Standards);
- (b) Contractual specifications agreed between the foreign buyer and the exporter provided the same conform to the Health or any other requirements of importing countries.
- (c) In the absence of (a and b), the minimum standards notified for each commodity.

In addition, Ministry of Food Processing Industries and Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) provide financial assistance under their schemes for improvement in the quality of food products so that indigenous food products can match with international standards such as Codex.

- (c) Does not arise.

#### **Jobs on Compassionate Grounds**

5939. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state :

- (a) the names and designations of officials of all the departments under his Ministry who expired while in service during each of the last five years and current year, till date, office-wise;
- (b) the names of those whose eligible dependents have been provided with the suitable jobs on compassionate grounds;
- (c) the names of those whose eligible dependents have not yet been provided with the jobs on compassionate grounds; and
- (d) the time by which the jobs on compassionate grounds are likely to be provided to such eligible dependents of deceased officials?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI ) : (a) .

Year	Statistics Wing	Programme Implementation Wing	Computer Centre	Field Operations Division	DPD and SDRD	I.S. Wing
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1997	1. Nanu Ram, Peon	Ramesh Chand, Staff Car Driver	—	1. S.N. Sharma Asstt. Supdt.	1. R.A. Gupta, Sr. DPA	—
	2. Nand Kishore, Chowkidar			2. A. Sheshagiri Rao, A/Supdt.	2. Sudhir Ch. Santra, DPA	
				3. J. Kameshwara Rao, A/Supdt.	3. Ashok Kr. Sinha, DEO Gr.B	
				4. Nathu Singh, Peon	4. Debika	
				5. A.K. Edke, A/Supdt.	Mukherjee, Accountant	
				6 M.K. Thakur, A/Supdt.		

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1998	Prakash, Peon	—	Smt. G.K. Bhatia, DEO  Gr.C	1. Jahangir Hussan, A/Supdt.  2. A.K. Goyal, A/Supdt.  3. Ms.Meenu Gupta, Invf.  4. R.S.Gossain, A/Supdt.  5. J.K.Gupta, Supdt.  6. Vir Singh, A/Supdt.  7. K.R.Patir, A/Supdt.  8. S.L.Jatav, Supdt.  9. K.S.Nuwal, A/Supdt.  10. Satish Kumar, LDC  11. K.Gururaja, A/Supdt.  12. Alagirisamy, Supdt.  13. S.P.Das, A/Supdt.  14. C.Natraj, Dy. Dir.  15. Kanhiya Lal, Invf.  16. M.M.Shah, Supdt.  17. C.M.Grover, A/Supdt.	1. Ashu Rn.Dey, Binder  2. Balkishore Ram Peon  3. Mahesh Ch. Mondal, Machine Attendant  4. S.N.Hadap, DPA	—
1999	Ashok Peon	—	Rajender Singh, A.D.	1. Lakhan Lal Gaekawad, Peon  2. B.D.Das, Peon  3. K.Sashidharan, Dafttry  4. C.K.Sharma, Supdt.  5. B.Shekhar Babu, Invf.	1. Kishan Bahadur, Chowkidar  2. R.V.Pathak, DEO Gr.B  3. Ramesh Chander, UDC  4. Namai Ch. Moitra, Gest. Operator  5. Kanujiya Raju Girdharilal, Chowkidar	—



1	2	3	4	5	6	7
				6. K.Rama Mohan, Rao A/Supdt.		
				7. M.Subramanian, Supdt.		
				8. C.Damodaran, O.S. Gr.I		
				9. Mela Ram, A/Supdt.		
				10. B.K. Das, Peon		
				11. R.S.Pradhan, UDC		
				12. Faquir Chand, Safaiwala		
				13. O.Mudappa, A/Supdt.		
2000	1. Om Prakash Prakash, Daftry	—	S.P.Singh Dy. Director	1. R.K.Reddy, Invt. 2. C.L.Negi, A/Supdt. 3. R.N.Ratnam, A/Supdt. 4. B.N.Roy, Peon 5. B.Bhattacharya A/Supdt. 6. R.S.Das, Invt. 7. T.Kujur, Supdt. 8. G. Rabidas, Supdt. 9. Mahesh Chander, Invt. 10. Keshav Ram, Daftry 11. V.K.. Tirkey, Invt.	1. D.N.Dhove, Daftry 2. Mewa Singh, Dy. Dir. 3. J.Lal, Dy. Dir. 4. H.N.Shende, Daftry 5. Smt.Hashi Dutta, UDC 6. S.K.Jain, DPA Gr.III	Provash Nandy, Peon
	2. Hari Om, Daftry					
	3. Jag Mohan Gest. Operator					
2001	Jai Singh, Bearer	—	—	1. K.L.Negi, A/Supdt. 2. P.Ramanatha Rao, Supdt.	R.P.Barapatra, DPA Gr.II	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
				3. R.L.Mukoo, A/Supdt.		
				4. R.R.Sawant, Peon		
				5. A.K.Sharma, A/Supdt.		
				6. Gulab Ram, Supdt.		
				7. Abdul Sattar, Peon		
				8. E.S.V.R.Mohan Rao, Supdt.		
				9. D.P.Chakraborty, L.D.C.		
				10. M.D.Chyne, LDC		
				11. B.K.Gagrani, A/Supdt.		
				12. Om Kishan, Peon		
2002	-	-	-	1. R.S.Srivastava, Supdt.	-	-
				2. Dandul Majni, Peon		
				3. A.Y.Jessie, Supdt.		
				4. Yash Purohit, Invt.		
				5. R.K.Rajwanshi, Astt. Dir.		
				6. S.R. Kajala, A/Supdt.		

(b)

Statistics Wing	Programme Implementation Wing	Computer Centre	Field Operations Division	DPD and SDRD	I.S. Wing
1	2	3	4	5	6
1. Nand Kishore Chowkidar	-	Rajender Singh, A.D.	1. S.N.Sharma, A/Supdt.	1. Debika Mukherjee	Provash Nandy, Peon
2. Prakash, Peon			2. A.Seshagiri Rao, A/Supdt.	2. Ashok Kr. Sinha	
3. Ashok, Peon			3. J.Kameshwara Rao, A/Supdt.	3. Kishan Bahadur	
4. Om Prakash, Daftry			4. Nathu Singh, Peon		
5. Jagmohan Gest. Operator			5. A.K.Goyal, A/Supdt.		

1	2	3	4	5	6
			6. R.S.Gossain, A/Supdt.		
			7. J.K.Gupta, Supdt.		
			8. K.R.Patir, A/Supdt.		
			9. S.L.Jatav, Supdt.		
			10. K.S.Nuwal, A/Supdt.		
			11. Satish Kumar LDC		
			12. K.Sashidharan, Daftry		
			13. B.Shekhar Babu, Inv't.		
			14. C.Damodaran, O.S. Gr.I		
			15. Mela Ram, A/Supdt.		
			16. Faquir Chand, Safaiwala		
			17. Mahesh Chander, Inv't.		

(c)

Statistics Wing	Programme Implementation Wing	Computer Centre	Field Operations Division	DPD and SDRD	I.S. Wing
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	—	—	1. M.K. Thakur, A/Supdt.	1. Ashu Rn. Dey	
			2. Jahangir Hassan, A/Supdt.	2. Balkishore Ram	
			3. Alagirisamy, Supdt.	3. Nema Ch. Maitra	
			4. S.P. Das, A/Supdt.	4. D.N.Dhove	
			5. C.Natraj, Dy. Dir.	5. Mewa Singh	
			6. Kanhiya Lal, Inv't.	6. J.Lal	
			7. M.M.Shah, Supdt.	7. H.N.Shende	
			8. Lakhan Lal Gaekawad peon	8. S.K.Jain	
				9. R.P.Barapatra	

1	2	3	4	5	6
		9. C.K.Sharma, Supdt.			
		10. K.Rama Mohan Rao, A/Supdt.			
		11. M.Subramanian, Supdt.			
		12. B.K.Das, Peon			
		13. R.S.Pradhan, UDC			
		14. R.K.Reddy, Invt.			
		15. R.N.Ratnam, A/Supdt.			
		16. B.N.Roy, Peon			
		17. B.Bhattacharya, A/Supdt.			
		18. R.S.Das, Invt.			
		19. G.Rabidas, Supdt.			
		20. Keshav Ram, Daftry			
		21. K.L.Negi, A/Supdt.			
		22. P.Ramanatha Rao, Supdt.			
		23. R.L.Mukoo, A/Supdt.			
		24. R.R.Sawant, Peon			
		25. A.K.Sharma, A/Supdt.			
		26. Gulab Ram, Supdt.			
		27. Abdul Sattar, Peon			
		28. E.S.V.R.Mohan Rao, Supdt.			
		29. D.P.Chakraborty, L.D.C.			
		30. B.K.Gagrani, A/Supdt.			
		31. R.S.Srivastava, A/Supdt.			
		32. R.K.RajOanshi, Asstt. Dir.			

(d) No time frame can be specified for appointment on Compassionate Ground, as it can be made upto a maximum of 5% of vacancies falling under direct recruitment quota in any Group 'C' or 'D' posts; and that the ceiling of 5% of direct recruitment vacancies for making compassionate appointment should not be exceeded by utilizing any other vacancy.

### Coal and Lignite Reserves

5940. SHRI P. KUMARASAMY : Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the details of coal/lignite reserves in the country, State-wise:

(b) whether any new reserve has been found during the last three years;

(c) if so, the details, thereof, location-wise; and

(d) the details of the existing coal/lignite reserve that would last at the current rate of mining and usage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) State-wise total coal reserves in the country as assessed by Geological Survey of India as on 1.1.2002 in the country are as under:

(Million Tonnes)

State	Depth(m)	Proved	Indicated	Inferred	Total
West Bengal	0-1200	11099.48	11162.82	4156.95	26419.25
Bihar	0-300	0.00	0.00	160.00	160.00
Jharkhand	0-1200	35234.60	28986.64	6281.57	70502.81
Madhya Pradesh	0-1200	6857.20	7865.71	3233.87	17956.78
Chhattisgarh	0-600	7626.72	23639.69	4108.49	35374.90
Uttar Pradesh	0-300	765.98	295.82	0.00	1061.80
Maharashtra	0-1200	4494.92	2049.77	1536.00	8080.69
Orissa	0-1200	13079.82	29809.10	15123.30	58012.22
Andhra Pradesh	0-1200	7729.13	5459.26	2447.70	15636.09
Assam	0-600	279.30	26.83	34.01	340.14
Arunachal Pradesh	0-300	31.23	40.11	18.89	90.23
Meghalaya	0-300	117.83	40.89	300.71	459.43
Nagaland	0-300	3.43	1.35	15.16	19.94
Grand Total	0-1200	87319.69	109377.99	37416.65	234114.28

Lignite reserves in the country as on 1.1.2001 are as under:

(In million tonnes)

State	Proved	Indicated	Inferred	Total
1	2	3	4	5
Tamil Nadu	2100.00	9575.87	18598.98	30274.85

	1	2	3	4	5
Rajasthan	609.12	823.89	948.55	2381.56	
Gujarat	987.50	725.00	—	1712.50	
J and K		20.25	107.59	127.84	
Other			108.30	108.30	
Total	3696.62	11145.01	19763.42	34605.05	

(b) and (c) About 25,362 million tonnes of coal reserves have been added into the inventory during the last three years (coal reserves as on 1.1.99 was 208.752 billion tonnes).

Details of addition of coal reserves are as under:

Sl. No.	Coalfields	Addition of reserve in million tonnes
1	2	3
1.	Raniganj	330.92
2.	Birbhum	181.62
3.	East Bokaro	1031.35
4.	West Bokaro	49.79
5.	North Karanpura	534.81
6.	Rajmahal	290.26
7.	Umaria	102.36
8.	Pench Kanhan	221.87
9.	Patherkhera	3.95
10.	Sohagpur	596.67
11.	Singrauli	2921.09
12.	Sonhat	519.07
13.	Bisrampur	13.30
14.	Lakhanpur	137.51
15.	Hasdeo-Arand	480.48
16.	Korba	33.29
17.	Mand-Raigarh	5361.37
18.	Tatapani-Ramkola	168.37
19.	Wardha Valley	134.45
20.	Kamptee	753.81
21.	Umrer-Makardhokra	101.30
22.	Bander	98.12
23.	Nand	23.93

1	2	3
24.	Ib-River	553.09
25.	Talcher	8397.93
26.	Godavari Valley	2298.82
27.	Makum	19.93

The lignite reserves added during the preceding three years period from 1.1.2001 is given below:

State/Block	Area in Sq.Km	Addition of reserve in million tonnes
(a) Tamilnadu		
1. West of Bahur	13.15	58.60
2. Vadaseri	29.00	475.00
(b) Rajasthan		
1. South Barmer	2.56	29.26
(c) Gujarat		
1. Barkhan Dam	5.78	7.19
2. Panandhro Extn.	4.10	14.45
3. Tadhkeshwar	21.90	183.10
Total		767.60

(d) Sub-Group II on Coal and Lignite and Coal Bed Methane for X Plan have tentatively estimated extractable coal reserve of 37.86 billion tonnes in proved, indicated and inferred categories, out of total coal reserve of 220 billion tonnes as on 1.1.2001. Considering current coal production level, the extractable coal reserves will last for more than 100 years.

Under proven category, the balance mineable reserves of lignite has been estimated at about 2.13 billion tonnes. At the current rate of production this reserve will last for more than 85 years.

#### **Impact of Asbestos Mining on Workers' Health**

5941. SHRI SAIDUZZAMA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the serious health consequences of mining of asbestos on workers/labours as brought out recently at workshops held in capital;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have failed to check the same because of heavy pressures from cement as well as asbestos lobby who are importing asbestos from Canada etc; and

(d) if so, the remedial steps taken or proposed to be taken to protect the health of workers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) and (b) The Ministry of Labour is aware of the workshops conducted by Indian Association of Occupational Health on 12th and 13th April, 2002 on Health-effects of hazardous and harmful minerals that have become extremely dangerous to human life causing cancer. However the outcome of the workshop is not known to us. The Government is aware of the possible effects on health of excessive exposure to airborne asbestos dust in mining operations. The matter has been studied by various committees set up by the Government of India from time to time. The Directorate General of Mines Safety have also conducted medical and environmental survey in asbestos mines and mills. These studies have shown that the dust levels in Mining operations are below the limit of 2 fibers per milliliter of air in Metalliferous Mines Regulations, 1961. A recent report on "Study on Pollution Level in Asbestos Mines and Processing Plants of Rajasthan for lifting ban on expansion of asbestos mining by Indian Bureau of Mines also shows that asbestos dust levels in mining operations are well below Threshold Limit Value of 2 fibers per milliliter and the present dust levels are not likely to adversely effect the health of the workers.

(c) and (d) Government of India has taken effective administrative, legislative and enforcement measures to ensure that the health of the persons employed in the asbestos mines is not adversely effected. Thus the question of getting pressurised by cement/asbestos lobby or any other organization does not arise. The following steps have been taken to protect the health of the workers employed in the asbestos mines:-

- (i) All persons to be employed in asbestos mines are required to undergo initial Medical Examination and Periodic Medical Examination once every three years including chest X-Ray

and lung function test under Rule 29-B of the Mines Rules, 1955.

- (ii) Occupational diseases which may occur due to exposure to asbestos dust such as asbestosis, cancer of lung, stomach, pleura and peritoneum are notified diseases under Section 25 of the Mines Act, 1952.
- (iii) Regulation 124 of Metalliferous Mines Regulations, 1961 provides for regular monitoring of asbestos dust levels in mines, dust control measures and use of personal protective equipment. It also prescribes 2 fibers per milliliter of air as the permissible limit for asbestos fiber dust in the work environment.
- (iv) Bureau of Indian standards has also formulated Indian Standards on various aspects of safety in use of asbestos including on asbestos mines and mills.
- (v) From time to time the Government agencies such as Directorate General of Mines Safety, National Institutes of Occupational Health, Directorate General Factory Advice Service and Labour Institutes, Indian Bureau of Mines, etc. have been conducting dust surveys in asbestos mines.

[Translation]

#### **Incomplete Irrigation Projects**

5942. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether many irrigation projects in the States have not been completed as scheduled due to negligence and corrupt attitude of the Government Officials;

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

(c) the number and the names of the projects not completed so far;

(d) whether any responsibility has been fixed by the Government in this regard; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY):  
(a) to (e) Irrigation being a State subject, the responsibility

for planning, investigation, funding, execution, operation and maintenance of irrigation projects, including flood control and drainage projects, primarily rests with the State Governments themselves. Accordingly any action against negligent and corrupt officials are taken by State Governments themselves.

171 major irrigation projects have spilled over into the IX Plan. State-wise names of the projects is given in the enclosed statement.

**Statement**

Sl.No.	Name of Project
1	2
	<b>Andhra Pradesh</b>
1.	Nagarjunasagar
2.	Sriramsagar St-I (Pochampad)
3.	Vamsadhara St-I
4.	Pulivendula Branch Canal
5.	Somasila
6.	Singur
7.	Yeleru Reservoir
8.	Srisailem Right Bank Canal
9.	Srisailem Left Bank Canal
10.	Teluguganga
11.	Jurala (Priyadarshini)
12.	Vamsadhara St-II (Neradi Barrage)
	Total
	<b>Assam</b>
13.	Dhansiri
14.	Bordikarai
15.	Integrated Kallong
16.	Champamati
	Total
	<b>Bihar</b>
17.	Western Kosi Canal

1	2
18.	Bagmati, Reservoir
19.	Durgavati, Reservoir
20.	Bamar Reservoir
21.	Bateswarasthan Pump Phase I Bansagar (Unit I only is approved))
22.	Upper Kiul Res.
23.	Gandak Ph.II
24.	Kosi Eastern Canal Ph.II
	<b>Jharkhand</b>
25.	Ajoy Barrage at Siktia
26.	Subernarekha
27.	Auranga Reservoir
28.	Konar Diversion
29.	Tilaiya Diversion
30.	North Koel Res.
31.	Punasi Reservoir
	<b>Goa</b>
32.	Salauli Tillari
	<b>Gujarat</b>
33.	Damanganga
34.	Panam
35.	Sabarmati Mahi Bajajsagar (Gujarat Share cost)
36.	Karjan
37.	Sukhi
38.	Sipu
39.	watrak
40.	Sardar Sarovar (Narmada)
41.	Zankhari



1	2
	<b>Haryana</b>
42.	Gurgaon Canal
43.	Jawahar Lal Nehru Lift
44.	Sutlej-Yamuna Link Canal
45.	Loharu (S)
46.	Rewari Stage-II
	<b>Himachal Pradesh</b>
47.	Shahanagar
	<b>Jammu and Kashmir</b>
48.	Ravi Tawi irrigation Canal
	<b>Karnataka</b>
49.	Bhadra
50.	Tungbhadra Dam and Left Bank Canal
51.	Tungbhadra High Level Canal
52.	Kabini
53.	Malaprabha
54.	Harangi
55.	Hemavati
56.	Upper Krishna St.I
57.	Karanja
58.	Benithore
59.	Hippargi Barrage Dudhganga
60.	Upper Tunga
61.	Varahi
62.	Yagachi
	<b>Kerala</b>
63.	Kanhirapuzha
64.	Pazhassi
65.	Kailada
66.	Muvattupuzha
67.	Idamalayar

1	2
68.	Chaliyar (Beyporepuzha)
69.	Kuriyarkutty (Karapara)
	<b>Madhya Pradesh</b>
70.	Kolar
71.	Sindh Phase-I, Rajghat Unit I Unit II
72.	Bansagar Unit I Unit II
73.	Bargi (Rani Awanthibai Sagar) Unit I Unit II
74.	Upper Wainganga
75.	Bariarpur LBC
76.	Urmil
77.	Thanwar
78.	Mahi, Bawanthadi Unit I Unit II
79.	Man
80.	Jobat
81.	Indira Sagar
82.	Barna
83.	Bhandar Canal
84.	Sindh Phase-II
85.	Omkareshwar
86.	Bargi Diversion
87.	Pench Diversion
88.	Mahan
	<b>Chhattisgarh</b>
89.	Mahanadi Reservoir
90.	Pairi
91.	Jonk (Diversion)

1	2
92.	Kodar
93.	Hasdeo Bango
	<b>Maharashtra</b>
94.	Khadakwasla
95.	Krishna
96.	Bhima
97.	Kukadi
98.	Upper Godavari
99.	Wama
100.	Upper Tapi
101.	Upper Penganga
102.	Upper wardha
103.	Dudhganga
104.	waghur
105.	Upper Pravara
106.	Chaskaman
107.	Nandur
	Madhmeshwar (A)
	Madhmeshwar (B)
108.	Bhatsa
109.	Jayakwadi Stage-I
	Stage-II
110.	Surya
111.	Bawanthadi
112.	Isthapuri (Vishnupuri)
113.	Tillari
114.	Lendi
115.	Lower Thirna Flow
	Lower Thirna Lift
116.	Ghosi Khurd (Sawargaon)
117.	Lower wardha

1	2
118.	Lower wunna
119.	Wan
120.	Arunavati
121.	Tultuli
122.	Kadwa
123.	Talamba
124.	Punad
125.	Human
126.	Neera Deoghar
127.	Bembla
128.	Bhama Askheda
129.	Urmodi
130.	Gunjawani
131.	Janal Shirsal LIS
132.	Khadak/Purna
133.	Krishna Koyna LIS
134.	Lower Dudhna
135.	Lower Penganga
136.	Sina Kolegaon
137.	Sina Madha LIS
	<b>Manipur</b>
138.	Thoubal
139.	Khuga
	<b>Meghalaya</b>
	<b>Mizoram</b>
	<b>Nagaland</b>
	<b>Orissa</b>
140.	Potteru
141.	Rengali
	a) Dam
	b) Irrigation

1	2
142.	Upper Kolab a) Dam b) Irrigation
143.	Upper Indravati a) Dam b) Irrigation Subernarekha
144.	Kanpur, Irrigation
145.	Mahanadi, Chitrotpola  <b>Punjab</b>  Sutlej Yamuna Link Canal (a) Carrier Canal (b) Providing Irrigation Facilities to Punjab Areas  <b>Rajasthan</b>
146.	Jakham, Gurgaon Canal
147.	Mahl Bajaj Sagar
148.	Som Kamla Amba
149.	Indira Gandhi, Nahar Stage II Narmada (Sardar Sarovar)
150.	Bisaipur
151.	Sidhmukh Nahar  <b>Sikkim</b>  <b>Tamilnadu</b>  <b>Tripura</b>  <b>Uttar Pradesh</b>
152.	<b>Sarda Sahayak</b>
153.	Lakhwar Vyasi (a) Dam Uttar Pradesh Share (b) Water Utilisation
154.	Madhya Ganga, Canal St-I
155.	Sarju Nahar (Left Bank Ghagra Canal)
156.	Eastern Ganga Canal

1	2
157.	<b>Rajghat</b> (a) Dam (b) Canal
158.	Sone Pump Canal
159.	Kanhar Irrigation
160.	Beware Feeder
161.	Maudaha dam, Bansagar (a) Dam (b) Conveyance System in UP (c) Conveyance System in MP
162.	Chitaurgarh, Reservoir
163.	Gyanpur Pump Canal
164.	Chambal Lift
165.	Providing Paddy Channel in Hindon Krishi Doab
166.	Tehri (a) Dam (Irrigation Share) (b) Water Utilisation
167.	Jarauli Pump Canal  <b>Uttaranchal</b>
168.	Jamrani Dam  <b>West Bengal</b>
169.	Barrage and Irrigation System of DVC
170.	Kangsabati
171.	Teesta Barrage Subernarekha  Inter State Project  <b>Foreign Investment in Tourism Sector</b>

5943. SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA :  
SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN :

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be  
pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to enhance foreign investment in the tourism sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the progress made so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Government of India has proposed to attract foreign investments, inter-alia, in the tourism sector. For hotels and tourism related industry, automatic approval up to 100% foreign equity has been allowed. The Department of Tourism has also published a brochure on "Investment Opportunities in the Tourism Sector" in India for information of prospective investors. The Department of Tourism through its overseas offices in association with the Indian Tourism Industry, Industry Associations, Non-Resident Indians and People of Indian Origin have proposed to undertake road shows to promote tourism as well as investment in tourism. Introduction of Single window Clearance mechanism by the State Governments has been recommended for tourism projects to attract investment.

#### **Expenditure on Irrigation**

5944. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE :  
SHRI P.R. KHUNTE :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the average cost per hectare for providing irrigational facilities in the country; and

(b) the average expenditure recorded thereunder, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY) : (a) The average cost per hectare for providing irrigation facilities in the country was about Rs. 10,051/- for Minor Irrigation schemes and about Rs. 98,495/- for Major and Medium irrigation projects during the Eighth Five Year Plan (1992-1997).

(b) State-wise details of expenditure incurred in respect of Major and Medium irrigation projects and Minor irrigation schemes during the Eighth Five Year Plan have been furnished in the enclosed statement.

#### **Statement**

#### **Statewise Expenditure on Major and Medium and Minor Irrigation during VIII Plan (1992-97)**

(Rs. in Crore)

Sl. No.	Name of States	Major and Medium Irrigation Projects	Minor Irrigation Schemes
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2632.5	409.84
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	2.86	67.84
3.	Assam	119.01	228.87
4.	Bihar	808.08	206.41
5.	Goa	122.98	19.84
6.	Gujarat	2749.48	395.12
7.	Haryana	506.37	194.31
8.	Himachal Pradesh	15.72	120.81
9.	J and K	86.72	102.55
10.	Karnataka	2957.62	317.58
11.	Kerala	583.62	153.75
12.	Madhya Pradesh	1618.44	618.49
13.	Maharashtra	3706.99	1583.97
14.	Manipur	153.27	21.13
15.	Meghalaya	6.1	24.68
16.	Mizoram	0.24	12.65
17.	Nagaland	1.35	14.2
18.	Orissa	1024.24	358.46
19.	Punjab	259.28	127.32
20.	Rajasthan	1219.2	192.25
21.	Sikkim	0	11.17
22.	Tamil Nadu	299.18	190.71
23.	Tripura	29.05	28.68
24.	Uttar Pradesh	1671.46	422.39

1	2	3	4
25.	West Bengal	438.02	229.73
	Total - States	21011.78	6052.75
	Total - UTs	9.86	32.09
	Total - States+UTs	21021.64	6084.84
	Central Sector	647.51	197.5
	Grand Total	21669.16	6282.34

[English]

### **Cancellation of Flights by Indian Airlines**

5945. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the flights cancelled by the Indian Airlines on Mumbai-Delhi route from January 1, 2002 to April 20, 2002 alongwith the reasons of cancellation of each flight and the details of booking done on the same;

(b) whether the competitors like Sahara Airlines has announced compensation scheme for cancellation and late running of their flights;

(c) if so, whether Indian Airlines has any such schemes;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to improve efficiency of Indian Airlines to compete with private airlines and to avoid cancellation of flights?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN) : (a) Indian Airlines operated 1010 flights on Mumbai-Delhi sector from 01.01.2002 to 20.04.2002 which inter-alia included 49 flights that were combined, in line with airline practices worldwide, with other flights on account of various reasons including weather, ATC delays, air field non-availability and other operational and commercial reasons.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) to (e) Indian Airlines is providing the following facilities, if the flight is delayed by more than one hour or cancelled:

- Full refund if desired by a passenger.

- Alternate arrangements are made to take the passengers to destination either by air or other modes of transport subject to availability
- Involuntary rerouting through circuitous route and/or up-gradation to a higher class, subject to availability of seat.
- Complimentary service of beverages, snacks or meals depending upon the timing.

(f) Indian Airlines constantly endeavours to improve its on time performance and has taken the following steps to minimise delays/cancellations:

- (1) All delays are investigated to pinpoint the cause and remedial action is taken where necessary.
- (2) Engineering delays are being dealt with special emphasis. At the Base Stations, the delay is analyzed to identify the cause and the repetitive nature of snag. In case a repetitive snag is detected, special maintenance action is immediately initiated to ensure that the snag does not persist.
- (3) At the corporate level, the punctuality of services is closely monitored on a daily basis.
- (4) In each region, a meeting to evaluate the reliability of systems for the aircraft based in that region is held periodically. In this meeting, the Defect Rate of various aircraft systems is studied and analyzed. In the case of an increase, either the time between overhaul is reduced or modifications are carried out in consultation with the manufacturer and the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).

### **Mock Exercises at Airport**

5946. SHRI NAMDEO HARBAJI DIWATHE :  
SHRI G.PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether any mock exercises have been conducted by the Government to find out the efficacy of coordination between different agencies in the management of aviation related disasters and also to gain the confidence of the public;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any shortcomings have been detected by the Government during the mock exercises;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to remove those shortcomings?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN) : (a) and (b) Mock exercises relating to anti-hijacking have been conducted by Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) at Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Guwahati, Nagpur and Bangalore. Airports Authority of India has also conducted a mock exercise relating to fire fighting as well as search and rescue activities at Delhi airport.

(c) to (e) During mock exercises, some shortcomings are pointed out and/or suggestions made for further improvement. Immediately after a mock exercise is over, a comprehensive review is conducted and all concerned agencies are asked to take corrective action to avoid recurrence of any lapse in future.

#### **Rehabilitation of Workers of Gold Mines**

5947. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA :  
SHRI AMBAREESHA :

Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the details of Gold Mines which have been closed by the Union Government, State-wise;

(b) whether a large number of workers have been declared surplus; and

(c) the steps taken to rehabilitate these workers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) to (c) Bharat Gold Mines Limited (BGML) stands closed w.e.f. 1.3.2001 under Section 25(w) of Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 subject to the decision of High Court of Karnataka as the issue of winding up/closing of the company is subjudice in High Court of Karnataka. At the time of closure of the Company, there were 3556 employees. Any action consequent upon the closure of the Company including rehabilitation of workers etc. are subject to the orders of the High Court of Karnataka where the matter is subjudice.

#### **MOU Signed with Australia on Tourism**

5948. SHRI AMBAREESHA : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Tourism has been signed between Australia and India recently; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir. Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Commonwealth of Australia on cooperation in the field of tourism was signed on 22.4.2002 in New Delhi

(b) The salient features of the Memorandum of Understanding are:

- (i) expansion of tourism relations between the two countries with a view to better knowledge of each other's history, culture and way of life;
- (ii) to encourage cooperation between official tourism bodies, enterprises, associations, organizations, tour operators, travel agents, hotel chains and institutions in the field of tourism of both countries;
- (iii) to encourage consultations between Government, training institutions and industry groups in the field of tourism in both countries to enable wide ranging cooperation between these groups;
- (iv) to encourage investment enterprises in the field of tourism, in accordance with their internal legislation;
- (v) to facilitate their travel procedures in accordance with the laws and regulations in force in their countries, in order to further develop tourist traffic between the two countries;
- (vi) to facilitate the import and export of materials and documents for publicity including tourist information and publicity materials, films and exhibition materials, free from customs duty to the extent provided for by the internal law of the country into which the said materials are imported;
- (vii) to exchange information, know-how and experience on their tourism resources, management of hotels or other types of accommodation;
- (viii) to share the experience, know-how and information about the development, management and promotion of special interest tourism areas such as ecotourism and regional tourism development in their respective countries for mutual benefit;

- (ix) to facilitate exchange and visits of Cultural Troupes, Artisans, Chefs and other persons relevant to tourism promotion for giving performances, demonstrations in order to promote culture, crafts and cuisine and attract tourists to each others respective countries;
- (x) to facilitate the establishment of a working Group made up of equal number of representatives of both countries for the implementation of this agreement to which the members of the private tourism sector may also be included for achieving the goals.

[Translation]

### **Declining Water Level**

5949. SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Water level is fast declining in those areas also where old crop cycle is followed and farming is carried out by erecting boundary around the fields;

(b) if so, whether the Karmets Tap area in Narshing Pur district of Madhya Pradesh which is the most fertile land in Asia is also facing this problem;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government propose to promote the traditional farming by erecting boundary around the fields to recharge the Water level in the area; and

(e) if so, the scheme formulated by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) to (c) Central Ground Water Board is monitoring the ground water level of the country through a net-work of about 15,000 monitoring stations. According to the information, the water table in part of the Narsinghpur district is declining including Karmets Tap area situated in the Chawarpatha Block. The water table is declining in Chawarpatha Block as a result of drawal of ground-water through tubewells and open wells irrigating about 32,000 hectare area. The traditional crops, namely, Jawar, Arhar, Moong and Urad are being grown apart from Soyabean crop which has been introduced during last two decades. The Soybean crop has replaced some of the traditional crops.

(d) and (e) State Government has not proposed the traditional farming by erecting boundary around the fields

for the percolation, as the percolation in black cotton soil is the least. For groundwater recharge, the measures such as, Water harvesting structures, percolation tanks etc. have been proposed under various Central and State Sector programmes.

[English]

### **Scheme for Harvesting of Rain Water**

5950. SHRI S.D.N.R WADIYAR : will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to sponsor a Central scheme to harvest rain water in every urban area in the country particularly in major cities; and

(b) if so, the steps taken in this direction, city-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY):

(a) and (b) The Central Ground Water Board, under the Ministry of Water Resources, has proposed for inclusion in the X Five Year Plan, a Central Sector Scheme on "Development of Ground Water Resources and Rain Water Harvesting in Major Cities". This proposed scheme is at a consultation stage.

### **Objections on Release of Rice to A.P.**

5951. SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry is raising objections on the release on 5 lakh tons rice to Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) to (c) 5 lakh MTs of rice have been allocated to Andhra Pradesh under the special component of Sampooma Grameen Rozgar Yajana which earmarks separate provisions for areas affected by Natural Calamities.

### **Bharat Aluminium Company Limited**

5952. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA : Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether different plants of Bharat Aluminium Company (BALCO) have been working to capacity since disinvestment;

(b) if so, the level of capacity utilisation of each plant indicating their comparative capacity utilisation for the corresponding period, preceding to the disinvestment;

(c) the actual production of each of these plants during the said two periods, both quantum and value-wise and

(d) the excise duty, sales tax and other levies collected on this production, both before and after disinvestment, during the said periods indicating the rise and fall in revenues collected thereby?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) to (c) The Government disinvested 51% of its equity in BALCO w.e.f 2.3.2001. Immediately thereafter the workers of Korba plant went on a 67 day strike and the Korba plant could resume operation from 9.5.2001.

The different plants of BALCO have not been working to capacity since disinvestment. The capacity utilisation and actual production both in quantum and value-wise of each of the plants during the period since disinvestment and the corresponding period preceding to the disinvestment are as under:

Plant	Capacity (MT)	Actual Production (MT)/ (Capacity utilisation)		Actual Production Value (Rs. in lacs)	
		2001-02	2000-01	2001-02	2000-01
Korba	100000	69872 (69.87%)	86532 (86.53%)	63507.36	77364.80
Bidhanbag Unit	6400	Nil	2632 (41.12%)	Nil	2353.17

(d) The excise duty, sales tax and other levies collected on the production of BALCO during the year 2001-02 and 2000-01 are as under

	(Rs. in Lacs)	
	2001-2002	2000-2001
Payment to Exchequer	11957.10	15373.88

#### Cashew Plantation

5953. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the total area brought under cashew plantation in Orissa as on March 31,2002;

(b) whether the Government are aware of the distress sale of cashew in the State; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to protect the cashew growers and to regulate the market for cashew?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) :

(a) So far, an area of 1.110 lakh hectares have been brought under cashew plantation in Orissa.

(b) and (c) The Government has not received any report about distress sale of cashew in Orissa. However, under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Macro Management in Agriculture – Supplementation/ Complementation of State Efforts through work Plans, there is provision for development of cashew including financial assistance for development of market infrastructure for cashew in non-traditional areas. Under this Scheme, the State Government can prioritize their activities depending upon the felt needs.

#### Re-Sowing of Seeds

5954. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the convention on Bio-diversity, allows farmers to reproduce and re-sow the seeds;

(b) if so, the details of decision taken at the convention;

(c) whether TRIPs considers the reproduction and re-sowing of seeds as illegal and violative of patent rights; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to protect the traditional rights of farmers?



THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) and (b) The Convention on Biological Diversity deals with the conservation, sustainable use and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the use of biological resources. It does not deal with the reproduction and selling of seeds by farmers.

(c) and (d) The TRIPs Agreement of OTO does not directly deal with the re-production and resowing of seeds. However, it provides that member countries can protect plant varieties either through patent or a sui generis system or a combination of both. India has opted for a sui generis system and accordingly enacted the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Act, 2001, wherein the traditional rights of the farmers have been fully protected.

*[Translation]*

#### **Iron Ore Reserve**

5955. SHRI SOHAN POTAI : Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large iron ore reserve has been found in Ravghat region of Bastar district in Chhattisgarh where survey work has already been done;

(b) if so, whether his Ministry is making efforts to remove the hurdles coming in the way of exploitation of said reserve; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the time by which mining work is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) Yes Sir. Survey and exploration carried out in the Ravghat Region of Bastar district in Chhattisgarh indicate the occurrence of about 730 million tones of recoverable reserves of iron ore.

(b) and (c) As per Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM), a subordinate office under this Department, the Iron ore reserves in Ravghat region falls under the Malta Reserve Forest. The Ministry of Environment and Forests has stipulated certain guidelines to be followed for mining activity in the said area and entrusted IBM to prepare a Regional Mineral Development Plan in consultation with the State Government of Chhattisgarh and Ministry of Environment and Forests.

*[English]*

#### **Setting Up of a Paddy Research Centre in Tenkasi**

5956. SHRI S. MURUGESAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a Paddy Research Centre in Tenkasi, Tamil Nadu with a view to improve paddy growth in this area; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) and (b) There is no proposal to set up a Paddy Research Centre at Tenkasi, Tamil Nadu. Already a Rice Research Station is functioning at Ambasamudram, 40 km away from Tenkasi. This Centre is the representative station for breeding rice varieties, developing technologies for rice cultivation in Tirunelveli distt. of Tamil Nadu. Tenkasi is a Taluks in the district of Tirunelveli. The station has developed about 20 rice varieties and appropriate production and protection technologies which are very popular not only in Tirunelveli district but also for whole Tamil Nadu. Besides, under All India Coordinated Rice Improvement Programme, there are centers at Adhuthurai and Coimbatore starting another Rice Research Station at Tenkasi is not being considered.

#### **Genetically Engineered Cotton and Rice**

5957. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any research has been made by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) to protect rice and cotton from pests and rodents;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the other projects undertaken by the ICAR under the National Agricultural Projects;

(d) whether the genetically engineered improved cotton and rice is also likely to be made available to the farmers; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) since its inception has focussed on developing resistant varieties to different diseases, insect and rodent pests of cotton and rice and their control measures

through the use of insecticides/rodenticide/biopesticides and other agronomic manipulation. Also easily adaptable and economically viable Integrated Pest Management (IPM) strategies have been developed for the control of major pests including rodents of rice and cotton.

(c) Projects undertaken through financial support of the National Agricultural Technology Project (NATP) are presented as statement.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Three transgenic *Bt* cotton hybrid developed by Maharashtra Hybrid Seed Company (Mahyco) namely Bt MECH 12, Bt MECH 162, and Bt MECH 184 have been granted approval for commercial release by the Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) of the Ministry of Environment and Forests.

In so far as development of genetically engineered rice crop is concerned, the transgenics are in preliminary stages of development and evaluation.

### Statement

#### *ICAR Projects under National Agricultural Technology Projects*

S. No.	Name of the Project	Place of Operation
1	2	3
1.	IPM in rice and cotton ecosystems—technology improvement, validation and transfer.	TNAU, Madurai
2.	Improving the bio-efficacy and persistence of neem in pest Management of rice and rice based cropping systems.	TNRRI, Thanjavur
3.	Mycopesticides – improvement of production and formulation technologies for management of major insect pests on cotton	AU, Visakhapatnam
4.	Role of Microbivorous nematodes in nutrient mineralization in Rice-Oheat agroecosystem to promote sustainable agriculture	IARI, New Delhi
5.	Mycoinsecticide and Botanical for Management of Rice pests in Assam	AAU, Jorhat
6.	Development of Integrated Disease Management Strategies for sheath Blight Disease under Rice-Rice Cropping system	AAU, RRS, Titabar
7.	Isolation of secondary metabolites from fluorescent pseudomonas and their bioefficacy against pathogens of Rice	NARDI, Secundrabad
8.	New Approaches to Integrated Pest Management in Rainfed Rice based Production Systems	Director of Rice Research, Hyderabad
9.	Development of adaptable IPM in Rice Oheat Cropping system	NCIPM, New Delhi
10.	Impact of pesticides on soil-biota and non targeted Organisms in rice.	BHU Varanasi-221005 (UP)
11.	Control of leaf curl disease in cotton and development of protocols for mass multiplication of predators, parasites and insects pathogens	CICR, Nagpur-440010 (MS)
12.	Development of weather Based Fore-warning system for Crop pests and Diseases	CRRI Cuttack
13.	Bt Transgenic pigeonpea, rice cotton for insect resistance	NRCPB, IARI, New Delhi
14.	Molecular marker assisted selection for bacterial leaf blight resistant in rice	CCMB, Hyderabad

1	2	3
15. Socio-economic and environmental consequences of IPM technology adoption on rice.		TRRI, Aduthurai, Tamil Nadu
16. Isolation of secondary metabolites from fluorescent pseudomonads and their bioefficacy against pathogen of rice.		NARDI, Hyderabad
17. Comparative mapping of cereals (Rice, Finger Millet and Sorghum) and identification of agronomically useful genes with special reference to drought, disease resistance and grain yield		UAS, Bangalore
18. Identification of molecular markers linked to the gene for resistance to Rice Hispa ( <i>Dicladispa armigera oliv.</i> ) in rice		AAU, Jorhat
19. Development of Bt transgenic diploid cotton against bollworm.		CICR, Nagpur

### Harvesting of Rain Water

5958. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have launched any scheme to promote rain-Water harvesting and recharging of ground Water;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the benefits likely to accrue therefrom in the next five years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Central Ground Water Board, under the Ministry of Water Resources, has implemented a Central Sector Scheme on "Studies of Recharge to Ground Water" on pilot basis, during the IX Five Year Plan. Artificial recharge of ground Water and rain Water harvesting are integral parts of this scheme. Total expenditure incurred under this scheme was Rs. 23.48 crore. The proposed plan allocation for this scheme during the X Five Year Plan is Rs. 200.00 crore.

(c) Implementation of schemes undertaken during IX Five Year Plan Could bring additional irrigation benefits of about 20,000 hectare. Implementation of the scheme would help in improving the ground water levels and consequently its availability for drinking and other uses. It will also help resource building in the States and identification of specific areas where recharge is feasible so that State Governments can replicate similar technology.

### Concession to Physically Challenged Persons by AI and IA

5959. SHRI R.S. PATIL :

SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether concessions are provided to the physically challenged persons for travelling by Indian Airlines and Air India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any concession is extended to the person accompanying them;

(d) whether preference is given to these persons while booking the ticket; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN) : (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. Effective 16 January 2002, Air India offers 55% discount on the basic fare to blind persons on its domestic routes. No concession is offered to the person accompanying them. However, if the blind person is accompanied by a guide dog, Air India Will carry the dog free of cost. No special preference is given for booking the ticket to blind person.

Indian Airlines provides 50% discount on Normal sector fare and point to point fares to blind persons and disabled persons suffering from 80% and above Locomotor Disability. Special fare is also offered to the invalid persons on stretcher.

### **Assistance to A.P for Victims of Cyclones**

5960. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh had requested for Central assistance of around Rs. 278 crores and allotment of additional quantity of rice and wheat for relief, restoration and rehabilitation of the victims of the unprecedented cyclone of October, 2001;

(b) if so, the assistance and other facilities provided so far;

(c) whether the Government of A.P. has sought further aid for carrying out further relief measures and asked for permission to seek world Bank or other foreign aid; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) :

(a) to (d) The Government of Andhra Pradesh submitted a Memorandum in the wake of heavy rains/flash floods during September-October, 2001, seeking inter-alia assistance of Rs. 278.26 crore from the National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF). This was considered by the High Level Committee (HLC), in its meeting held on 28.12.2001 and, taking into account the request of the State Government, the report of the Central Team and the recommendations of the Inter Ministerial Group (IMG) thereon, the HLC approved an assistance of Rs. 20.44 crore to the State of Andhra Pradesh and the amount has been released to the State Government. During 2001-02, 16.50 lakh MTs of foodgrains were allocated to the State, free of cost, under Food for work Programme.

[Translation]

### **Construction of Yatri Niwas**

5961. DR. BALIRAM : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Yatri Niwas in Uttar Pradesh at present, location-wise;

(b) the details of proposals received from State Governments including Uttar Pradesh for construction of Yatri Niwas in the States;

(c) the financial assistance provided to the State Governments in this regard; and

(d) the time by which the proposals are likely to be given clearance?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN) : (a) Six Yatri Niwas with Central financial component of Rs. 197.56 lakhs have been sanctioned at Allahabad, Ayodhya, Chitrakoot, Kushinagar, Vrindavan and Sravasti in Uttar Pradesh from the VII Plan onwards. In addition to this, four Yatri Niwas sanctioned before bifurcation of the State of Uttar Pradesh now fall in the State of Uttaranachal.

(b) to (d) Central financial assistance has been extended to States/UTs for tourism projects prioritised in consultation with them. Construction of 28 Yatri Niwas with Central financial component of Rs. 1241.00 lakhs has been sanctioned in various States including Uttar Pradesh during the last three years under this scheme.

[English]

### **Agreement Between ITDC and Cottage Industries Emporium**

5962. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether ITDC has entered into an agreement with Cottage Industries Emporium to set up handicraft sales outlets at major airports;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether ITDC Will exhibit high-value handicrafts at such outlets;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the other steps proposed to be taken by the Government to re-energise the duty free business?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. ITDC has entered into an agreement with the Central Cottage Industries Corporation (CCIC) in March 2002 for setting up an exclusive outlet for selling handicrafts and handloom products at the departure lounge of Indira Gandhi International Airport, Delhi only. The agreement is initially valid for two years.

(c) and (d) All goods of handicrafts/handloom items including high value items such as wooden/marble products, carpets, pashmina shawls etc. are proposed to be sold at this outlet.

(e) The other measures taken/being taken to improve performance of duty free trade inter-alia include:

- Rationalisation of prices of major fast selling items like liquor and tobacco.
- Face lift to the duty free shops.
- Organising Shop-in Festivals throughout the year.
- Upgrading the skills of the sales staff.
- Introduction of Cash Incentive Scheme to employees.

[Translation]

#### **Appointment of SC/ST/OBC Pilots in AI and IA**

5963. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether any special campaign had been launched to appoint pilots belonging to Scheduled Casts, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes in Air India and Indian Airlines;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of such persons employed during the above said campaign, category-wise

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. One Special Recruitment Drive for recruitment of SC/ST Trainee Pilots was launched by Indian Airlines Ltd. in 1991 and One Special Recruitment Drive for recruitment of SC/ST/OBC Trainee Pilots was launched by Air India Ltd. in November, 1996.

(c) 2 SC and 1 ST candidates were appointed as Trainee Pilots by Indian Airlines during the Special Recruitment Drive of 1991 and 4 SC and 6 OBC candidates were appointed as Trainee Pilots by Air India during the Special Recruitment Drive conducted in 1996.

[English]

#### **Ban on Use of Chloramphenicol**

5964. SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the recommendation of UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) for a global ban on the use of

Chloramphenicol, a broad spectrum anti-biotic, in agriculture, animal husbandry and aqua-culture; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Under the Insecticides Act, 1968, Chloramphenicol is not registered for use in Agriculture as pesticide in the country.

Steps are being taken for action in this regard in the animal husbandry and aqua-culture.

[Translation]

#### **Security System in Mines**

5965. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to eliminate corruption from his Ministry and ensure the safety in the mines recently;

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

(c) whether a Government delegation has recently visited other countries with a view to strengthen the security system in mines in the country;

(d) if so, whether any technical agreement has been signed with Britain; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The following steps are being taken by Coal India Limited with a view of curb the incidence of corruption:-

- (i) Periodic transfer of officers posted in sensitive departments.
- (ii) Simplification and updating of various operational manuals.
- (iii) Wide dissemination of the rules and procedures of the working of the company amongst the users.
- (iv) Making audit report available to vigilance for follow up action as directed by CVC.

The steps taken by Coal India Limited and its subsidiaries to enhance safety measures in addition to compliance with requirements of mining safety laws are as under:-

**(1) For underground mines:-**

- (i) Check correlation survey to guard against inundation – out of 178 mines identified, work has been completed in 107 mines and is in process of completion in balance 71 mines.
- (ii) Connecting all mine plans to national grid – has almost been completed.
- (iii) wherever required the thickness of barrier between adjacent mines have been proved by positive methods like drilling.
- (iv) Replacement of timber support by steel support in a phased manner.
- (v) Support plan have been framed on the basis of Rock Mass Rating (RMR) study.
- (vi) Hand held digital gas detectors in addition to flame safety lamps are being used for inflammable and noxious gases for regular monitoring of mine environment.
- (vii) Continuous computerised Environmental Tele Monitoring Systems (ETMS) are being provided - 36 mines have been identified for this purpose; 8 such systems are in operation and 8 more systems have been procured and are under installation.
- (viii) Deployment of more SDL/LHD and introduction of PSLO equipment to reduce exposure of workers to hazards.
- (ix) Before every monsoon, danger of inundation from both surface and underground mines are examined for each mine and action plan drawn and implemented.
- (x) Support personnel and other key personnel, such as supervisory staff are being given extensive job specific training.

**(2) For opencast mines:**

- (i) Comprehensive action plan framed to reduce accidents in opencast mines and at surface.

- (ii) Special drives for checking configuration of over burden and coal benches and O.B. dump slope stability.
- (iii) Improvement in lighting.
- (iv) Stress given on monitoring haul roads and prior checking of road worthiness of vehicles.
- (v) Traffic rules framed and being enforced in opencast mines.
- (vi) Rest shelters at conspicuous places have been set up.
- (vii) Personnel like HEMM operators etc. are being given extensive job specific training.

**(3) General**

- (i) Safety audits are being done regularly.
- (ii) Thrust has been given on quality of inspections. Inspection by ISO have also been increased.
- (iii) workers involvement have been increased in safety through their participation in different fora and through training, publicity and propaganda and organising special safety drives.
- (iv) CIL has established structured multi disciplinary Internal Safety Organisation(ISO) for monitoring safety status – both at subsidiary level and CIL Head Quarters. Safety status is also being monitored through monthly meetings of Safety Committee at mine level, Annual Tripartite Committee, meetings at area level, bi-annual meeting of CIL safety board and also bi-annual meetings of the standing committee on safety in coal mines. Recommendations of the above monitoring agencies are implemented to enhance the safety measures.
- (v) Programme has been taken up to provide Filter Self Rescuers (FSRs) to all workmen apart from personal protective equipment like shoes, helmets etc.
- (vi) Rescue services have been improved.
- (c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise in view of reply given to part (c) above

*[English]***Granite Quarry**

5966. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB : Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have identified the land area for granite quarry in the country particularly in Orissa;

(b) if so, the details thereof, location-Oise;

(c) the time by which mining work is likely to be started there; and

(d) the expected benefit to the granite industry therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) to (d) Granite is a minor mineral defined under Section 3(e) of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, granting of mineral concession for which are governed entirely by Minor Mineral Concession Rules (MMCRs) of the State Government concerned. Extraction of granite in Orissa is already in progress.

As per National Mineral Inventory prepared by Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM), a subordinate office of the Department of Mines, as on 1.4.1995, the recoverable reserves of granite are placed at 1027.4 million cubic metre in India out of which 7.588 million cubic metre reserves are in Orissa

*[Translation]***Promotion of Floriculture**

5967. SHRI P.R. KHUNTE : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to launch any scheme to promote floriculture; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) and (b) The Government of India implemented a Central Sector Scheme on Commercial Floriculture during 8th and 9th Five Year Plan till October, 2000. The scheme provided for quality planting material through model floriculture centres and nurseries, training of entrepreneurs, green houses, on-farm handling units and area expansion. The

scheme has now been subsumed in Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Macro Management in Agriculture - Supplementation/Complementation of States efforts through work plan". The States can pursue the programmes relating to promotion of floriculture under the scheme. The scheme provides greater flexibility to States in prioritizing their needs.

Besides, National Horticulture Board under its scheme "Development of Commercial Horticulture through Production and Post-harvest management" provides assistance in the form of capital subsidy @ 20% of total project cost with maximum limit of Rs. 25 lakhs. The floriculture programme can be taken under the scheme.

*[English]***Security Cover to Forest Officials**

5968. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "UP Forest Official booked after catching poachers" appearing in the *Times of India* dated March 25, 2002;

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

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to provide security cover to Forest Officials and to save their lives especially in view of spate of killings in the recent past?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and Will be laid on the Table of the House.

**Revamping of Ashok Hotel**

5969. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state the plan of India Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC) for revamping/refurbishing Ashok Hotel to make it break-even within a year?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN) : Ashok Hotel, New Delhi having been dropped from the process of disinvestment for the time being ITDC has drawn the following action plan to make it break-even in the next two year:

- Launching of an aggressive and planned marketing campaign to target all segments of potential customers.
- Bringing about improvement in guest services.  
Introduction of modern management techniques to make the hotel operation efficient and effective.
- Improving the existing infrastructure to enhance the guest facilities.
- Improving brand identity by enhancing the image of the hotel through better services and repeat clientele.
- Taking measures for generating regular fixed income.
- Exercising strict control over expenditure and regular monitoring of income.

**[Translation]****Women Working in Construction Sector**

5970. SHRI LAXMAN GILUWA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

- (a) the number of women working in construction sector in the country as on date, State-wise;
- (b) whether the women working in this sector are exploited a lot;
- (c) if so, the number of cases of exploitation of women reported to the Government during the last three years, State-wise; and
- (d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to check the exploitation of women workers in the said sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) According to the 1991 Census, there are about 4.5 lakh women construction workers in the country. State-wise details are given in the enclosed statement.

(b) to (d) To safeguard the interests of the construction workers, both male and female, the Government has enacted the Building and Other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1996. The specific provisions in the Act and Rules made thereunder to safeguard the interests of women construction

workers include fixation of maximum weight limit to be carried by hand or over head or over back, creches for the children of women workers, maternity benefits to female beneficiaries registered with the Welfare Board etc. Under the Act, there is a concept of appropriate government. No specific complaint regarding exploitation of women construction workers in the central sphere has been reported.

**Statement**

*Number of women Construction workers  
(State-wise) as per 1991 Census*

Sl. No.	States/U.Ts.	No. of women construction workers*
1	2	3
I.	<b>INDIA</b> (excluding J and K)	446399
1.	Andhra Pradesh	60380
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	2036
3.	Assam	2062
4.	Bihar (including Jharkhand)	9227
5.	Goa	3033
6.	Gujarat	23725
7.	Haryana	4916
8.	Himachal Pradesh	3963
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	-
10.	Karnataka	40062
11.	Kerala	20110
12.	Madhya Pradesh (including Chhattisgarh)	40667
13.	Maharashtra	98127
14.	Manipur	1130
15.	Meghalaya	1604
16.	Nagaland	757
17.	Orissa	7813
18.	Punjab	2755
19.	Rajasthan	19729



1	2	3
20. Sikkim		1947
21. Tamil Nadu		50699
22. Tripura		594
23. Uttar Pradesh (including Uttaranchal)		15696
24. Oest Bengal		11502
25. A and N Islands		827
26. Chandigarh		1675
27. Dadra and Nagar Haveli		277
28. Delhi		19052
29. Daman and Diu		457
30. LakshadOeep		60
31. Mizoram		264
32. Pondicherry		1253

\*Main workers plus marginal workers.

#### **Horticulture Research Centre**

5971. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up Horticulture Research Centre at Andipatti in Theni district in Tamil Nadu considering abundant growth of Jasmine and other flowers in the area; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) :

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

#### **Security Equipments at Airports**

5972. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether there have been complaints that hand-held metal detectors provided by AAI to security personnel

at Airports hardly work and that security personnel resort to physical searching of passengers;

(b) whether similar situation is also reported about multi zone door detectors;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government propose to fix responsibility for selection of such equipment and their poor record of maintenance;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the other measures being considered to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN) : (a) and (b) All equipments like Hand Held Metal Detectors and Multi-Zone Door Detectors supplied to the security personnel working at airports are functioning satisfactorily. The airports security personnel have been advised to conduct physical frisking also as some items may not be detected by the electronic equipments.

(c) to (e) Do not arise.

(f) The present Door Frame and Hand Held Metal Detectors are being replaced with latest state of the art equipments in a phased manner.

#### **Voluntary Retirement Scheme for PSUs**

5973. SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have introduced uniform voluntary retirement scheme for all the Public Sector Undertakings under his Ministry;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN) : (a) and (b) As per directives of the Government, revised Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) has been notified recently for the employees of 14 Hotels of India Tourism Development Corporation included in the 3rd and 4th tranche of disinvestment. The list of 14 Hotels is enclosed as statement. The scheme is open from 15th April, 2002 to 15th May, 2002. The VRS shall be given out of disinvestment proceeds and is subject to the hotels getting disinvested. Earlier ITDC Management had introduced VRS for

Ashoka Travels and Tours (ATT) division of ITDC from 2nd March to 31st March, 2001. In response, 98 employees comprising of 11 executives and 87 non-executives opted for Voluntary Retirement and they were relieved on 31st May, 2001.

4(c) Does not arise.

#### **Statement**

##### *List of Hotels under Third and Fourth Tranche of Disinvestment where Voluntary Retirement Scheme is Notified*

1. Hotel Khajuraho Ashok, Khajuraho
2. Hotel Airport Ashok, Kolkata
3. Hotel Manali Ashok, Manali
4. Hotel Kalinga Ashok, Bhubaneswar
5. Hotel Pataliputra Ashok, Patna
6. Hotel Aurangabad Ashok, Aurangabad
7. Kovalam Ashok Beach Resort, Kovalam
8. Hotel Jammu Ashok, Jammu
9. Hotel Jaipur Ashok, Jaipur
10. Hotel Kanishka, New Delhi
11. Hotel Indraprastha, New Delhi
12. Hotel Ranjit, New Delhi
13. Hotel Varanasi Ashok Varanasi
14. Hotel Punjab Ashok, Chandigarh

#### **Production of Mango**

5974. DR. N. VENKATASWAMY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is decline in the production of mangoes during the current season in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action taken to increase its production

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) :  
(a) and (b) There is no report on the decline in production of mangoes during the current season in the country.

(c) Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Macro Management in Agriculture-Supplementation/Complementation of State Efforts through Work Plan assistance is being extended to the farmers for development of fruits including mango. Under this scheme State Governments can priorities their activities depending upon their felt needs.

#### **Dairy Production, Processing and Management**

5975. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government had established at the NDRI at Karnal facility to transfer technologies developed on the basis of Research and Development work in the areas of dairy production, dairy processing and dairy management on professional basis to other parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details of the achievements made in this regard;

(c) whether the Consultancy Board which is meet once in three months did not hold any meetings during 1998-2000; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the action being taken thereon?

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

(b) The facilities for the dissemination of technologies in the areas of Dairy Production, Dairy Processing and Dairy Management, developed at NDRI, have been created and these are being disseminated through Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK)/Trainer's Training Centre and Consultancy Board.

For the benefit of farmers and other stake holders, 2777 training programmes comprising of 50,882 participants on different aspects of Animal Husbandary, Dairy Production, Dairy Processing, Agriculture, Horticulture, Bee Keeping, Fisheries and Home Science were organized on and off campus. In addition, 38 Animal Health Management Camps, 42 Fertility Camps and Frontline demonstrations aimed at improving yield of fodder crops under irrigated system were organized.

Approximately, 237 organizations were benefited from the Consultancy Services of the Institute pertaining to manufacturing technologies, designing of equipments and dairy plants, techno-economic evaluation of the project reports, problem solving at the industrial level and training of personnel at multi-tier level in manufacturing/processing technologies and quality control procedures.

(c) No, Sir. Consultancy Board conducted one meeting each in 1998 and 1999 and three in 2000.

(d) Not applicable.

#### **Report on Seed Policy Review Group**

5976. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Seed Policy Review Group has submitted its report to the Government

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether report of the review group has been adopted by the Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Group suggested several measures for the promotion and development of the seed sector including, inter alia, modification of the seed policy, strengthening quality control mechanisms, strengthening quarantine infrastructure, etc.

(c) and (d) Government have taken several measures for the promotion and development of the seed sector on the basis of the report of the Seed Policy Review Group including, inter-alia, enacting the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Act, 2001, drafting a National Seed Policy to provide a framework for ensuring the growth of the seed sector, drafting a new Seeds Act to regulate the production, supply and sale of seeds, liberalizing import and export, strengthening quarantine facilities, etc.

[Translation]

#### **Amount on Research and Development of Oilseeds**

5977. SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount spent on research and development of oilseeds in the country during the last three years;

(b) whether various oilseeds institutes of the country are conducting any research on oilseeds at present;

(c) if so, the results achieved by them in this regard;

(d) whether the Government have formulated any long term policy in regard to the research and development of oilseeds; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) :

(a) An amount of Rs. 5176.20 lakhs under plan and Rs. 1908.52 lakhs under Non-plan was provided by Indian Council of Agricultural Research on during the last three years, i.e. 1999-2000 to 2001-2002 for research on nine oilseed crops namely groundnut, rapeseed-mustard, sunflower, safflower, soybean, sesame, niger, linseed and castor. In addition, an amount of Rs. 897.26 lakhs was provided by the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Government of India through ICAR under Oilseeds Production Programme to different institutions in the country for breeder seed production (Rs. 323.72 lakhs) and frontline demonstrations (Rs. 573.54 lakhs)

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) A number of improved varieties and hybrids have been developed and released for cultivation in different agro climatic situations in the country. The list of varieties and hybrids released during the last three years is given below:-

Groundnut	CSMG 884, HNG 10, LGN 2, VRI Gn 6, GG-7
Rapeseed-Mustard :	VSL-5, RTM-314, Aravali
Soybean	MACS-450, Ahilya 4, Parbhani Sona, Indira Soya 9, Hara Soya
Sesamum	TKG-55, JTS-8
SunfloOer	MLSFH-47 (H)
Caster	GCH-6 (H), Deepak (H)
Linseed	LCK 9216, LMN-62, Sheela, Shekhar, Meera, Parvati

(H) : Hybrid

Matching crop production and plant protection technologies have also been developed to realize high yield from the improved varieties and hybrids in different annual oilseeds.

During the three year period 25780.60 Quintals of breeder seed of the different annual oilseeds was also produced.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The long-term objective of research in oilseed crops is to achieve self-sufficiency in oilseeds and edible oil production. The production from nine traditional oilseeds may also be supplemented through exploitation of non-traditional oilseeds like rice bran, cotton seed, tree-borne oilseeds and oil palm.

Research on development of superior varieties and hybrids having resistance/tolerance to important pests and diseases, use of biotechnological tools in crop improvement, augmentation of genetic resources, technology for management of biotic and abiotic stresses, integrated nutrient management, integrated pest management, and improvement of quality are further intensified.

#### **Allocation of Fund for Security at Airports**

5978. SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the funds allocated for safety and security of the airports during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) whether the funds allocated during this period were not adequate;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the funds proposed to be allocated for this purpose during the Tenth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN) : (a) to (c) An amount of Rs. 35.31 crores was allocated in the Ninth Five Year Plan for procurement of safety and security related equipments which were adequate for the purpose.

(d) An amount of Rs. 297.40 crores has been proposed to be allocated for this purpose in the draft Tenth Five Year Plan.

[English]

#### **Commercial Crops**

5979. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether most commercial crops with the exception of sugarcane will touch new heights in domestic production during 2001-02;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether coarse cereals too have gone up impressively in production alongside staple grain rice and wheat; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) to (d) According to the Third Advance Estimates as on 5.4.2002, the production of nine oilseeds, cotton, jute and mesta as also that of rice, Oheat and coarse cereals in 2001-02 is expected to be higher compared to 2000-01 as is evident from the table given below:

(million tonnes)		
Crop	2001-01	2001-02
Nine Oilseeds*	18.40	21.16
Cotton #	9.65	11.30
Jute and Mesta ##	10.48	10.68
Rice	84.87	90.75
Oheat	68.76	73.53
Maize @	12.07	13.18
Coarse Cereals	31.62	33.10

\*Includes groundnut, castorseed, sesamum, nigerseed, rapeseed and mustard, linseed, safflower, sunflower and soybean

# Million bales of 170 kgs. each

## Million bales of 180 kgs. each

@ Included in coarse cereals

While the production of maize and rice in 2001-02 is expected to touch a new height, higher production than that expected this year in respect of other crops listed above, has been recorded, in earlier years.

**Taxonomic Study**

5980. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the CAG's Report No. 5 of 2002 wherein it has been pointed out that the taxonomic study of the specimens collected has not been completed so far;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Report refers to non completion of faunal survey and taxonomic studies by the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI).

(b) and (c) The Zoological Survey of India has completed survey, inventorisation and taxonomic studies as per schedule covering 12 ecosystems and several other conservation areas from different geographic zones except in Jammu and Kashmir and some North Eastern States due to law and order problems. The Ministry has initiated several steps including training and capacity building in taxonomy so as to cover the gap areas.

[Translation]

**Minimum Wages to Diamonds  
and Coal Mines**

5981. SHRI JAIBHAN SINGH PAWAIYA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the labourers working in the diamonds and coal mines in Madhya Pradesh are not paid the minimum wages;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have conducted any enquiry in this regard;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to ensure the payment of minimum wages to these labourers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) to (e) The wages of the workers employed in the Coal and Diamond mines are not

fixed under the Minimum Wages Act. as these mines are not included in the scheduled employments. The wages of the regular workers employed in Coal mines are fixed in terms of the bilateral wage agreement arrived at between the unions and managements. As regards the Diamond mines it has been informed by the National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC) that the workers of NMDC Diamond Mining Project, Panna in Madhya Pradesh are being paid in items of Tripartite Settlement arrived at between the management of National Mineral Development Corporation Limited and their workmen represented by the all India NMDC Workers' Federation and its affiliated unions on 17th August, 2001 Under Section 12(3) of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947. The Corporation has further informed that the wages of these workers are much more than the minimum wages prescribed under the Minimum Wages Act.

**Ecological Balance by CIL**

5982. PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT : Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the details of efforts made by the Coal India Limited (CIL) to maintain ecological balance in the coalfields;

(b) its impact recorded on the environment;

(c) whether there is any shortcomings in the said balance;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) The details of efforts made by Coal India Limited (CIL) to maintain ecological balance in the coalfields are as under:-

(i) An environment policy has been formulated for implementation across the company.

(ii) Environmental Department has been created under a Senior Mining Engineer in the rank of Chief General Manager/ General Manager (Environment) in each subsidiary and CIL corporate office assisted by suitable engineers who have been selected/trained and authorised for taking up environmental activities.

- (iii) Environmental parameters are being monitored in the mines by reputed environmental laboratories regularly for air/Water/noise and blasting vibration.
- (iv) Central Mine Planning and Design Institute Limited (CMPDIL) and Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL) are equipped with Geographic Information System (GIS) and Global Positioning System (GPS) facilities. Few more subsidiaries have programme to procure the same.
- (v) Following measures have been adopted in the mines for environmental mitigation:-
  - (a) Commissioning Dust Extractors in the opencast drills.
  - (b) Installation of static, automatic and mobile Water sprinklers for suppression of dust in the haul roads and coal transportation roads besides the Coal Handling Projects and sidings.
  - (c) Black topping of coal transportation roads.
  - (d) Covering conveyor belts.
  - (e) Installation of oil and grease traps in the Heavy Earth Moving Machinery (HEMM) workshops, mine discharge treatment plants in mines, sewage treatment plants in the mine colonies.
  - (f) Reclamation of overburden dumps for safety and stability.
  - (g) Plantation in the reclaimed areas, road sides, vacant lands, and around industrial units like workshops, washeries and colonies.
  - (h) Preventive maintenance of machineries and changing worn out parts to prevent noise pollution.

(b) Environmental quality is being maintained as per acceptable norms and regular consents are obtained for emission and discharges by the State Pollution Control Boards without any violation.

Already eight opencast mines of Northern Coalfields

Limited have obtained the certificate of ISO 14001. Few more proposals are under preparation.

(c) No, Sir. Concerned authorities are satisfied in general by the eco-friendly approach.

(d) and (e) Do not arise. in view of reply to part (c) above.

[English]

#### **Assistance to Karnataka for Water Harvesting Projects**

5983. SHRI R.L. JALAPPA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether any financial assistance has been sought by the Government of Karnataka for Water Harvesting Projects during 2001-02;

(b) If so, the amount released so far to the State Government for the purpose; and

(c) the extent to which the said assistance has helped the State Government in implementing the projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY):

(a) to (c) During the IX Plan, Government of Karnataka sought assistance for two rain Water harvesting schemes in Bangalore costing Rs.43.30 lakhs to be implemented as Central Sector Schemes and Rs. 28.75 lakhs has been released till date.

[Translation]

#### **Development of Tourists Spots In Gujarat**

5984. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether he had recently announced in Ahmedabad that the Union Government would formulate a scheme at an early date to ensure that various tourist spots of Gujarat are promoted by the Department of Archaeology;

(b) if so, the outline of the scheme to be formulated in this regard; and

(c) the time by which the above scheme is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN) : (a) During my recent visit to Gujarat and after discussions with the Chief Minister, Gujarat, it was decided that all the Archaeological Survey of India's protected monuments within the circuits identified for tourism would be conserved.

(b) and (c) Development and promotion of places of tourist interest is a continuous process. Government of India, Department of Tourism provides central financial assistance for tourism projects identified annually in consultation with the States/UT Governments.

[English]

#### **Privatisation of Air Routes**

5985. SHRIMATI KUMUDINI PATNAIK : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to privatise some air routes in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of routes proposed to be privatised during 2002 to 2005; and

(d) the loss of revenue, if any, due to this privatisation?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN) : (a) and (b) Scheduled operators (including private scheduled operators) are free to operate on any route/sector in their commercial judgement subject of course, to compliance of route dispersal guidelines issued by the Government.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

#### **Diversion of Funds**

5986. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether a sum of Rs. 31.03 crore and Rs. 36.83 crore were diverted for other activities in nine States and kept in deposits respectively as has been brought out by the Comptroller and Auditor General in its report No.3 of 1999 (Civil) out of the funds allocate to the Command Area Development Programme to bridge the gap between the

irrigation potential created and its efficient utilization during 1992-98;

(b) if so, whether implementation of the programme was reviewed by his Ministry;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the action taken by his Ministry against the States which diverted the funds and which kept the funds in deposits than utilizing the same for development of irrigation potentialities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY):

(a) Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) in their report No. 3 of 1999 (Civil) has brought out the facts as indicated in this part of the question. However the different State Governments do not agree that it was the diversion of funds. State Government's fund were deposited in civil deposit and released subsequently as per State Government's orders. An Action Taken Report in this regard has already been submitted by the Ministry to the CAG.

(b) to (d) The Ministry has been releasing Central assistance to the States after reviewing their physical and financial performance as per prescribed norms, financing pattern and after following requisite formalities. Utilisation Certificate and audited figures of expenditure are also prerequisites before releasing the Central assistance to the States. Guidelines in this regard are issued to the States every year. Funds spent on non-admissible items are not reimbursed to the States. The funds spent on other activities or parked elsewhere and thus not properly utilized by the State Governments are recovered. The Programme is closely monitored by the officers of the CAD wing and by the Central Water Commission. Submission of Quarterly Progress Reports and Annual Administrative Reports from the States are also being insisted upon regularly and timely.

(e) In accordance with the observation of CAG recoveries have been made from the States. Details of recoveries as on 31.3.2002 are given in the enclosed statement. However, the different State Governments have represented to refund the recovered amount.

**Statement**

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of State	Total Amount Shown as irregular expenditure	Central share of Col.3	Amount recovered/adjusted through Central release	Balance to be recovered	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Prd.	3163.55	3144.28	0.00	3144.28	State Government had been requested to settle/furnish accounts.
2.	Assam	129.92	64.96	5.46	59.50	No further recovery is to be made
3.	Bihar	2987.18	1493.59	0.00	1493.59	On the contention of the State Government that the amount deposited in and released from Civil deposit was as per the State Government order, the office of CAG has opined that the matter is administrative in nature and the concerned Ministry may take a view in consultation with Ministry of Finance, if required.
4.	Goa	36.00	18.00	0.00	18.00	No releases made and the amount Will be recovered in the ensuing releases.
5.	Himachal Prd.	249.30	124.65	3.93	0.00	Accounts settled.
6.	Jammu and Kashmir	51.27	25.64	25.64	0.00	Recovered in full.
7.	Karnataka	940.46	470.23	437.00	0.00	Recovered in full.
8.	Kerala	357.71	178.93	134.15	44.78	Recovered in full.
9.	Maharashtra	279.00	139.50	139.50	0.00	Recovered in full.
10.	Orissa	363.63	181.82	45.45	136.37	The State Secretary requested not to recover the balance till State PAC has considered and disposed off the matter.
11.	Rajasthan	390.23	195.12	195.12	0.00	Recovered in full.



1	2	3	4	5	6	7
12.	Uttar Pradesh	505.36	252.68	252.68	0.00	Recovered in full. However as pointed out on the follow up action by the office of CAG, the matter being administrative in nature, the Ministry may take a final view in consultation with Ministry of Finance, if required.
13.	West Bengal	31.04	15.52	15.52	0.00	Recovered in full
Total		9484.65	6304.92	1254.45	1929.75	

### Study on Ground Water

5987. SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of a recent study made by a Delhi's University Team of research workers on an ICSSR-IDPAD Project for ground Water availability in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government have drawn up any comprehensive plan to meet the 1977 U.N. declaration that all people have right to Water in quantities and quality equal to their basic needs; and

(c) if so, the progress made from 1977 U.N. declaration to 2002 Mexico (Monetary) Agenda on Water availability?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY):

(a) The Ministry of Water Resources is not aware of any study made by a Delhi University Team of research workers on a ICSSR-IDPAD project for ground Water availability in the country.

(b) and (c) After 1977 UN Declaration in the World Water Conference held at the Mar del Plata, Argentina, the Government of India launched in 1986 the National Drinking Water Mission (later to named as Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission) for supplementing the efforts of State Governments for rural Water supply by providing Central assistance under the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme. The objectives of the Mission are – To cover the residual Not Covered (NC), Partially Covered (PC) and quality affected rural habitations; Evolve appropriate technology mix; Improve performance and cost

effectiveness of ongoing programmes; Create awareness on the use of safe drinking Water and take conservation measures for sustained supply of drinking Water.

The Government of India formulated and adopted its National Water Policy in 1987., which envisages that adequate drinking water facilities should be provided to the entire population both in urban and in rural areas. The Policy further provides that the drinking Water needs of human beings and animals should be the first charge on any available Water. The Policy provides first priority to drinking Water in allocation of Water for diverse uses.

Water supply in urban areas has been provided to 88% of the population. The Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission has so far covered in rural areas 1237651 habitations fully and 165187 habitations partially out of a total of 1422664 habitations. Making available clean and safe drinking Water and sanitation specially to unserved areas/population is of highest priority and the Government is committed to provide drinking Water to entire rural population by 2004.

### Assistance to Tamil Nadu for Kosathali River Project

5988. SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether any financial assistance has been provided for construction of catchment area of Kosathali River in Thiruvellure district of Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the quantum of assistance released and the work completed so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY):

(a) to (c) At present there is no scheme under the Ministry of Water Resources for providing financial assistance for construction of catchment areas of any river basin.

#### **Impact of Sidumbar Dam on Forest Cover**

5989. SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that huge tracts of prime forests are likely to be submerged under the proposed Sidumbar dam in Valsad district of South Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details of exact area of prime forests and other forests lands that are likely to be affected by the said project;

(c) the steps taken for minimizing the loss of valuable forests in the wake of shrinking forest cover of the country; and

(d) the details of compensatory efforts being proposed to make up for the lost prime forest areas?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) to (d) A proposal involving diversion of 427.13 ha. of forest land for Sidumbar Reservoir Project in Valsad district of Gujarat was submitted by the State Government to the Ministry in 1996. The proposal was rejected on 17.9.97 on merit. The proposal was resubmitted by the State Government in October, 1999. The State Government was requested to submit some additional information for reconsideration on 22.12.99. Since no information was received from the State Government the said proposal has been rejected again.

#### **Loss to WCL due to Burning of Coal**

5990. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of Coal stored by Western Coalfields Limited (WCL) which is burnt every year during summer season;

(b) the loss suffered by WCL as a result thereof during each of the last three years; and

(c) the preventive measures taken to save the coal from burning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a)

and (b) Western Coalfields Limited has not suffered any loss due to fire in coal stock during the last three years.

(c) Following preventive measures are taken by WCL to save coal from burning.

- (i) Despatches are maximised to ensure reduced coal stock levels before the start of the summer season.
- (ii) wherever required, coal stocks are made compact and their heights are reduced.
- (iii) Water ranges, as far as possible, are laid around coal stocks to take care of any unforeseen emergencies.
- (iv) Fire tenders, Water tankers, sprinklers and Water storage tanks are kept in readiness.
- (v) Arrangements such as proper placement of fire extinguishers and fire fighting equipment duly checked and in readiness are ensured.

#### **Bharat Coking Coal Limited**

5991. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether medical examination of ailing employees of Bharat Coking Coal Limited has been stopped for more than a year;

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof and since when;

(c) the number of such ailing cases pending as on October, 1, 2001; and

(d) the steps being taken to restore the facility?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) No Sir, it has not been stopped.

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

(c) It is an ongoing process and number of cases varies. 70 cases are under process for examination.

(d) There is no direction from Coal India Limited or the department of Coal to stop medical examination of ailing employees.

#### **Insurance of Cattle**

5992. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have introduced a scheme for the insurance of cattle;

(b) if so, the states where the scheme has been launched;

(c) whether the Government propose to extend the said scheme to every State;

(d) if so, the time by which all the districts are likely to be covered there under; and

(e) the other steps initiated in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Central Sector Cattle Insurance Scheme was launched in the year 2000 on a pilot basis in eight selected districts of the country viz. Nagaur (Rajasthan), Gumla (Jharkhand), Rattlam (Madhya Pradesh), Yavatmal (Maharashtra), Dharamapuri (Tamil Nadu), Mehboobnagar (Andhra Pradesh), Jaipur (Orissa) and Lakhimpur Kheri (Uttar Pradesh).

(c) The Planning Commission has not approved the scheme for continuation in the Xth Plan.

(d) and (e) Question does not arise.

#### **Multi-Model Passenger and Cargo Hub at Airport**

5993. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to develop some of the existing airports as International Multi Model passenger and Cargo Hub;

(b) if so, the names of the airports proposed to be upgraded as international airports;

(c) whether the techno-economic feasibility of these airports has been examined;

(d) if so, the details of the airports in respect of which the report have been received and finalised;

(e) whether the techno-economic feasibility report of the proposed International Multi Model Passenger and Cargo Hub at Nagpur has been examined and approved by the Government; and

(f) if so, by what time the work on the Nagpur airport is likely to start?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

(e) and (f) The Airports Authority of India has received the report of the State Government on the proposed international multimodal Passenger and Cargo hub at Nagpur only in March, 2002. Since an in depth examination is required on the Report, it is not possible to indicate at this stage, when the work is likely to start

#### **Hirehalla Irrigation Project in Karnataka**

5994. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI :

SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA :

SHRI SHASHI KUMAR :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have identified Hirehalla irrigation project in Karnataka as one of the 14 in the country which can be included in the newly framed fast track scheme under the Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme; and

(b) if so, 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) No proposal for inclusion of Hirehalla project in the Fast Track Programme under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme has been received from Government of Karnataka.

(b) Does not arise.

#### **Detention of Wagons Loaded with Timber**

5995. SHRI M.K. SUBBA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the detailed guidelines/rules framed for prevention of illegal felling and transport of timber in the country;

(b) the details of irregularities/illegalities noticed with regard to detention/seizure of wagons loaded with timber during October, 1999 to January, 2000 in North East Region;

(c) the details of findings of inquiries conducted in this regard, and

(d) the action taken against each of the persons found guilty?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) The States and Union Territories have either adopted Indian Forest Act, 1927 or enacted their own Acts for prevention of illegal felling and transportation of timber.

(b) to (d) On receipt of information about transport of illegal timber from North-Eastern Region in the garb of legal timber, physical verification of about 202 wagons loaded with timber was got done. During physical verification and subsequent investigation, significant irregularities and illegalities were found. For detailed investigation and follow up action, a Special Investigation Team (SIT) has been constituted. The investigations revealed that illegal timber was transported on large scale in the garb of legal timber. After necessary investigations, issue of show cause notices and personal hearings, final decisions in respect of 202 wagons have so far been taken by the Special Investigation Team for confiscation of illegal timber, imposition of penalty and action against those responsible for various irregularities/illegalities.

#### **Maharashtra Water Supply and Sewerage Project Stage-II**

5996. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Maharashtra has submitted a "Flora and Fauna" report to the Union Government on January 31, 2001 for getting environmental clearance with regard to Water Supply and Sewerage Project Stage-II including the Poshir Dam.

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the present status of the project; and

(c) the steps taken for early environmental clearance to the project and forwarding the same to the world Bank for financial assistance?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) to (c) The flora and fauna survey report was received in the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India on 5th February 2001. The Ministry's comments on the report were sent to the

Government of Maharashtra on 6th August, 2001. The State Government was advised to revise the Environmental Impact Assessment report and resubmit it taking into account the observations of the expert committee constituted for the purpose in the Ministry. Decision regarding grant of environmental clearance would be taken within 90 days of submission of complete information.

The revised project identification report has been cleared from the technical angle by the Central Public Health and Environmental Engineering Organization and also approved in principle by the Planning Commission for posing to the World Bank.

#### **Development of Aquaculture**

5997. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the steps the Government propose to take to develop aquaculture in various States;

(b) whether the Government have prepared scientific guidelines for promotion of aquaculture sector in the country, keeping in view Supreme Court's judgement;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) Aquaculture activity in the country is promoted through a package of technical, financial and extension support under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes namely Development of Freshwater Aquaculture and Integrated Coastal Aquaculture through a network of 429 Fish Farmers Development Agencies (FFDA) and 39 Brackish Water Fish Farmers Development Agencies (BFDA) established for this purpose.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The Aquaculture Authority set up as per the directives of the Supreme Court has brought out guidelines for adopting improved technology for increasing production and productivity in traditional and improved traditional systems of shrimp farming keeping in view the Supreme Court's judgement. The guidelines are aimed at optimizing yield levels in such systems on sustainable basis and for improving the management of shrimp Aquaculture to ensure long term sustainability of the farming practices and environmental security.

- (d) Question does not arise.

### **Employment in Foreign Countries**

5998. SHRI P. KUMARASAMY : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Indians gone abroad for employment during the last three years;

(b) the steps taken by the Government to prevent their exploitation in those countries; and

(c) the number of cases of cruelties, exploitation, death etc. reported from foreign countries in relation to Indian's during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) The number of Indians who had gone abroad for employment after obtaining clearance from the Protectors of Emigrants, during the years 1999, 2000, 2001 is 7.25 lakh.

(b) and (c) As per available information 31 cases of cruelties and exploitation of Indian workers have been reported during the last three years. However, no deaths due to cruelty and exploitation have been reported. with a view to prevent their exploitation, as and when such complaints are received, the Indian Missions and the local agents are asked to intervene and settle the disputes. In most of the cases the disputes are settled. However, if the local agents fail to settle the complaints in a satisfactory manner, their registration certificates are cancelled/suspended and the bank guarantees are forfeited. The defaulting foreign employer is blacklisted and no further recruitment by the foreign employer is allowed without prior approval of the Government.

### **MoU with Airport De Paris on Management Technique**

5999. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Airport De Paris (ADP) is likely to provide new management technique to AAI to refurbish its deteriorating image to provide better passenger care,

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any MoU has been signed, and

(d) if so, the gamut of area likely to be covered?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN) : (a) to (d) There is no plan to take the assistance of Airport De Paris for providing new management techniques to Airports Authority of India (AAI) to refurbish its image. However, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been signed between the AAI and the Airports De Paris to conduct training programmes in the areas of Airport Management and Airport Operations including safety and security.

### **Licences to Multinational Companies**

6000. SHRI B.K. PARTHASARATHI : Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether prospecting licences or reconnaissance permits have been granted in favour of multinational companies for aerial prospecting of minerals in Andhra Pradesh.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the multinationals will also tap the minerals in the State; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) and (b) Under Section 5(1) of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, only an Indian national or a company registered in India can be granted a reconnaissance permit or prospecting licence for exploration of minerals. As such, under the existing scheme of the mining legislation, a foreign company is not allowed to undertake reconnaissance/prospecting operations. However, on the recommendations of the State Government of Andhra Pradesh, approvals have been given by the Central Government under section 5(1) of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 for grant of 29 Reconnaissance Permits in favour of private Indian Companies many of which are the subsidiaries formed by multinational companies. The details are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) and (d) Tapping the minerals depends on techno-economic viability of the deposits, if established on the basis of reconnaissance operations and subsequent prospecting.

**Statement**

*List of Private Indian Companies in whose favour Reconnaissance Permits  
have been approved by the Central Government  
in the State of Andhra Pradesh*

Sl. No.	Name of Company	Minerals	No. of RPs	Area in Sq. Kms.
1	2	3	4	5
1.	M/s De Beers Private Limited	Gold, diamond and associated minerals	6	9197
2.	M/s Phelps Dodge Exploration India Pvt. Ltd.	Copper, lead, zinc silver, gold, barytes, diamond and associated minerals	4	6945
3.	M/s. CRA Exploration India Pvt. Ltd.	Diamond and other precious minerals including gold, silver, bismuth and cadmium	4	9330
4.	M/s. Geo-Mysore Services India Pvt. Ltd	Gold, copper, lead, zinc, silver nickel, tungsten, antimony, bismuth, arsenic, cobalt molybdenum, platinum group of metals and diamond	7	3425
5.	M/s. AMIL Mining India Pvt. Ltd.	Diamond, gold, precious stone and associated minerals	6	6522
6.	M/s. Anglo American Exploration (India) Pvt. Ltd.	Copper, nickle and associated minerals	2	5345

**Development of Marine  
and Fisheries**

6001. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are providing any financial assistance towards reimbursement of Central Excise Duty on HSD oil supplied to mechanised fishing vessels under the Centrally sponsored scheme "Development of Marine Fisheries"..

(b) if so, whether this Ministry has sanctioned only 168 lakh rupees to Government of Maharashtra under the scheme during 2001-02..

(c) if so the reasons thereof;

(d) whether the State Government Association of fishermen and public representatives have submitted representations/requesting to sanctioned at least 4 crores for the above purpose; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) :

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A sum of Rs.168 lakhs was sanctioned and released towards reimbursement of Central Excise Duty on HSD oil supplied to mechanised fishing vessels below 20 meter length under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes Development of Marine Fisheries during 2001-02.

(c) to (e) No, Sir. However a proposal to release Rs.288 lakhs towards the cost of reimbursement of Central Excise Duty on HSD oil under the scheme was received from Government of Maharashtra during 2001-02. But, the demand from the State Government was to be proportionately limited to Rs.168 lakhs considering the demands from other States and the overall Central allocation made under the scheme during 2001-02.

### Conservation of Powai Lake

6002. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have cleared the proposed encroachment of Powai lake land by Mumbai Municipal Corporation and State Government with regard to road widening proposal;

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

(c) whether as a result of this decision the National Lake Conservation Plan is likely to be affected adversely under which the Powai Lake has to be conserved ;

(d) if so, the extent thereof ;

(e) whether the Union Government have received a number of complaints from any public representatives as well as local residents;

(f) if so, the details thereof and action taken thereon; and

(g) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to check the said encroachments and also to conserve the Powai Lake?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) Government has not received any proposal for clearing the encroachment of Powai Lake land or road widening from either the Government of Maharashtra or the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation.

(b) to (g) Do not arise.

### Renaming of Airports

6003. SHRI M.V.V.S.MURTHI :  
SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :-

(a) whether the Government have recently changed the name of Bhopal Airport ;

(b) if so, whether names of two other airports in the country have also been changed ;

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons for such changes ;

(d) whether the Government have received some requests from other States for renaming of their airports ;

(e) if so, the details thereof, States-wise; and

(f) the reaction of the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN) : (a) to (c) The Government have renamed Port Blair Airport as "Veer Savarkar Airport" Bhopal Airport as "Raja Bhoj Airport " and Gwalior Civil Air Terminal as "Rajmata Vijayaraje Scindia Terminal" on demand from public and prominent persons and on recommendations of respective State Governments.

(d) to (f) The Government have recently received various requests for renaming of airports, namely, Lucknow and Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh, Rajkot and Porbandar in Gujarat, Jabalpur in Madhya Pradesh, Jodhpur in Rajasthan, Nagpur in Maharashtra, Vijayawada and Vishakhapatnam in Andhara Pradesh; Agartala in Tripura and Madurai in Tamil Nadu. the policy of the Government is to retain the name of the city for the airports to the extent possible as this has been found to be convenient for passengers especially foreign tourists and other visitors.

### Special Impetus to Tourism Industry

6004. SHRI AMBAREESHA : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to give special impetus to the highly cash starved Tourism Industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government also propose to set up tourist circuits in collaboration with some Asian countries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN) : (a) and (b) In order to give special impetus to the tourism sector, the Department of Tourism, Government of India has proposed the following strategy during the Tenth Five Year Plan :

- Position tourism as a major engine of economic growth.
- Attempt to harness the direct and multiplier effects of tourism for employment generation, economic development and providing impetus to rural tourism.

- Provide a major thrust to domestic tourism which will act as a spring board for growth and expansion of international tourism.
  - Position India as a global brand to take advantage of the burgeoning global travel and trade and the vast untapped potential of India as a destination.
  - Acknowledge the critical role of private sector with Government working as an active facilitator and catalyst.
  - Create and develop integrated tourism circuits based on India's unique civilization, heritage and culture in partnership with the States, private sector and other agencies.
- (c) No, Sir.
- (b) Does not arise.

#### VRS in BALCO

6005. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA : Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of workers, supervisors and others in management who have sought Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) after disinvestment of Bharat Aluminium Company (BALCO); and

(b) the number of those who have been relieved of their jobs, under the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) and (b) The details of workers, supervisors and others who have sought Voluntary Retirement after disinvestment of BALCO and the number of those who have been relieved of their job so far given below :-

	Workmen	Supervisors	Others in Management	Total
No. of VRS applications received	830	This category not in existence in BALCO.	157	987
No. of employees relieved	47	Not applicable	3	50

[Translation]

#### National Agricultural Insurance Scheme

6006. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY :  
SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA :  
SHRI SHASHI KUMAR :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received complaints from public representatives, that National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) does not provide proper service to the farmers;

(b) if so the steps taken to make the said scheme more beneficial;

(c) whether the Government of Karnataka has sought certain changes in regard to the NAIS;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) :

(a) and (b) Yes Sir, there have been some representations about the delay in the settlement of claims, higher premium rates of Cotton etc., in-adequate field staff provided in the field Offices of General Insurance Corporation of India, in-adequate publicity of the scheme etc. Necessary instructions to the Implementing Agency are given from time to time for taking corrective steps.

(c) to (e) Some States including the State of Karnataka expressed their reservations regarding sharing of financial liabilities between the Central and State Governments, maintenance of Corpus Fund, undertaking of more number of Crop Cutting Experiments (CCEs) on account of reduction in the unit area of insurance to Gram Panchayat level, absence of ceiling limit on sum insured, phasing out of premium subsidy to small and marginal farmers, non-coverage of perennial horticultural crops under the scheme etc.

On the basis of suggestions and the feedback received from the States/farming communities, review of NAIS is under process.



*[English]***Privatisation of Water Management**

6007. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY :  
 SHRI NARESH PUGLIA :  
 SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :  
 SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI :  
 SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL :  
 SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH :  
 SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI :  
 SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the move of privatisation of water management is likely to result in the collapse of the Agriculture Sector in the country ;

(b) whether the Panchayats have opposed the privatisation of water management in the country ;

(c) if so, the circumstances under which the Government propose to privatise the water management; and

(d) the provisions being made to ensure that farmers and also such other people do not face any difficulty for use of water?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (d) With the increases in the cost of creating irrigation potential per hectare, the requirement of funds for irrigation sector which plays an important role in enhancing agricultural productivity, has been increasing. Due to financial constraints, the State Governments are unable to make sufficient budgetary provisions for extension of irrigation facilities to new areas. For meeting the financial requirement of the irrigation sector, the National Water Policy provides for greater private sector participation in planning, development and management of water resources. Further, half the irrigation potential created in the country so far has been achieved by harnessing ground water resources. About 90% of ground water development has been through farmers' initiatives, and self funding through National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) and other co-operative Banks. In certain case financial resources from the private sector have been generated by issue of bonds like in the case of Krishna Bhagya Jal Nigam Ltd., Sardar Sarovar Nirman Nigam Ltd. etc. In order to mobilize more funds from

the private sector National Water Policy envisages the involvement and encouragement of the private sector entities, such as water users associations, water cooperatives and certain other stake-holder private institutions in the irrigation sector.

The interse role of the private sectors vis-a-vis the water users associations and other farmers' organizations needs to be evolved. Providing irrigation water in bulk quantities, to water user associations to be further managed by the farmers themselves, is one such interface. The National Water Policy also envisages involvement of stake-holders including farmers, right from the planning stage, and as such any involvement of the private sector will have to be in consultation with the farmers.

**Tamirabarani River Project in Tamil Nadu**

6008. SHRI S. MURUGESAN : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to provide any financial assistance for implementation of Tamirabarani River Project in Tamil Nadu to tackle the problem of water for irrigation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (c) No proposal has been received from Government of Tamil Nadu for techno-economic appraisal of tamirabarani River Project. Central Loan Assistance (CLA) under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) is given to such major/medium ongoing approved projects which fulfill norms of this Programme.

*[Translation]***Jobless Workers Due to Closures of Factories**

6009. SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the number of heavy, medium and small scale factories and mills closed down/declared sick as on January 31, 2002, category-wise;

(b) the number of workers rendered jobless as a result thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to remedy the situation ?

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]***Burning of Dry Leaves**

6010. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether burning of dry leaves has been banned as per orders of Hon'ble Supreme Court;

(b) if so, whether the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has failed to implement the orders of the Supreme Court and the practice of burning the leaves is continuing in all parts of the country particularly in big cities;

(c) if so, whether the civic agencies in the cities are also involved in burning of leaves without any check by the CPCB ; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to implement the orders of the Supreme Court in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T. R. BAALU) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

**North Eastern Coal Fields Limited**

6011. SHRI BIKASH CHOWDHURY : Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the workers in Northern Eastern Coalfield Limited (NECL) are living in substandard houses as per norms laid down by the IBCCI and NCWA,

(b) if so, number of workers living in such houses and since when;

(c) whether these workers are paid house-rent allowance as per IBCCI agreement;

(d) the steps the management propose to take to ensure allotment of standard houses to workers and payment of HRA to those who do not get standard houses;

(e) whether the employees of Tipong Colliery in NECL have complained about non-supply of drinking water;

(f) if so, the nature of the difficulties faced by the workers; and

(g) the time by which the said facility is likely to be provided in the colliery.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a)

and (b) Yes, Sir. About 40% of workers are living in houses which are not of standard type as per Department of Public Enterprises (DPE) norm in North Eastern Coalfields (NEC).

(c) Employees excepting those who have been allotted the following types of houses individually, are eligible for house rent allowance @ Rs. 75/- per month as per JBCCI agreement:

(i) Any pucca house consisting of one or more rooms with common or separate latrine and bath.

(ii) House under new house scheme, low cost housing scheme or single room arch type tenements with latrine and bath.

(d) About 97% of the employees NEC have been provided with housing facility by the company. There are 2256 standard houses and 1566 other than standard houses. The employees staying in the houses other than the standard ones are eligible for payment of house rent allowance @ Rs. 75/- per month as per the provision under NCWA of JBCCI as explained in reply to part (c) above.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) and (g) Does not arise in view of reply to part (e) above.

*[Translation]***Profit Earned by HZL and HCL**

6012. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI : Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of workers working in Hindustan Zinc Limited (HZL), Hindustan Copper Limited (HCL) and Khetri Copper Complex (KCC) situated in Rajasthan; and

(b) the profit earned by HZL and HCL in the State during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) As on 1.3.2002, the number of workmen in Hindustan Zinc Limited (HZL) and in Hindustan Copper Limited (HCL) were 7239 and 8387 respectively. Khetri Copper Complex is a unit of HCL and as on 1.3.2002, it had 4026 workmen.

(b) The profit earned by HZL and loss suffered by HCL during the last three years was as follows :

(Rs. in Crore)		
Year	Profit (before tax) earned by HZL	Loss suffered by HCL
1999-2000	182.17	147.46
2000-2001	282.22	105.80
2001-2002 (Provisional)	67.00 (upto February 2002)	183.39

[English]

#### **Acquisition of Aircraft by Air India**

6013. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Air India has decided to acquire 23 new aircraft over the next five years ;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Air India will continue with its current exercise of taking aircraft on dry lease to meet current requirement; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN) : (a) and (b) Air India has constituted an in-house Expert Committee to develop Air India's fleet plan for the next five years and pattern of operations from 2003/04 to 2007/08 based on an assessment of market opportunities for capacity expansion in existing/additional markets, requirements to offer a competitive product; an assessment of the need to induct aircraft of appropriate range and size into Air India's fleet etc. The Committee is expected to submit its Report shortly.

(c) and (d) Air India has taken 5 A310-300 aircraft on dry lease in order to extend their operations. As a part of Air India's Fleet Rationalisation Plan, additional 3 A310-300 aircraft are proposed to be dry leased and alongwith this induction 2 B747-200 and 3 A300-B4 aircraft are proposed to be phased out. Air India invited tenders for dry lease of upto 3 A310-300 aircraft, to be delivered during the year 2002. Six bids have been received. Evaluation of these bids is in progress. Besides, Air India also invited bids for dry lease of upto two B747-400 aircraft.

#### **Closure of Coal Mines**

6014. SHRI SUNIL KHAN :

SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY :

SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT :

SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK :

SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN :

SHRI C.N. SINGH :

SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE :

Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Coal India Limited (CIL) has recently submitted a report proposing closure of Eastern Coalfields Limited's (ECL) 22 mines, which it termed as unprofitable;

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

(c) whether the Government propose to close down the loss making mines in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof, coal mine-wise;

(e) the number of workers likely to be rendered jobless as a result thereof; and

(f) the action being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) and (b) Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL) has proposed for suspension of mining operations for the time being in 22 underground mines in a phased manner, keeping in view the safety considerations, economic viabilities and exhaustion of coal reserves etc. Closure of a terminally sick mine having depleted reserves and heavy operational cost is considered desired desirable in order to turn around loss making coal companies. The Management of ECL has also proposed for optimum utilisation of its men and machinery and the men and machinery of the 22 mines operation of which is proposed to be suspended will be redeployed in other potential/profitable mines.

(c) to (f) The decision to close/suspend operations in any mine is taken by the company concerned after taking into consideration various factors including exhaustion of coal reserves, safety considerations, technical feasibility and economic viability etc.

Forty-nine mines have so far been identified for suspension of operations which would be done in phases

spread over years and not simultaneously. Their numbers, States-wise are follows :

Subsidiaries	State	
	West Bengal	Jharkhand
ECL	20	2
BCCL	—	15
CCL	—	12

No employees will be terminated/retrrenched. Manpower will be re-deployed in other viable/potential mines. However, workers opting for VRS will be considered.

### **Annual Report on Air mishaps**

6015. SHRI A. NARENDRA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Air Safety Directorate of his Ministry prepares annual reports on the incidents of air mishaps for publication ;

(b) if so, whether such reports have been published during the last three years ;

(c) if so, the details thereof, year-wise;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ; and

(e) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to publish the above reports annually and prompt follow up action thereon?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN) : (a) to (e) The Air Safety Directorate of Directorate General of Civil Aviation prepares annual summary of aircraft accidents for publication after acceptance of these reports by the Government. Accident Summary for the year 1996 has been circulated to all aviation agencies in India. Accident Summary for the years 1997 and 1998 are under publication in Governments, of India Press. A total of 11 reports of air accidents, occurred during the last three years, are under examination of the Government. Such reports will be made public and follow up action taken after these are accepted by the Government.

### **Coconut Farmers in Crisis**

6016. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the hardship being faced by the coconut farmers in the country particularly in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the steps taken to assist the coconut farmers in controlling pests and to development coconut farming in the country; and

(c) the details of Central assistance allocated to that State under integrated Coconut Development Programme during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) :

(a) and (b) Government is aware of the problems of the coconut farmers. For increasing production and productivity of coconuts in the country, Government of India is implementing programmes, viz., production and distribution of quality planting material; removal of disease advanced palms by providing assistance; laying out demonstration plots in farmers field; aid to organic manure unit; aid to registered/private/approved nurseries; and new planting under coconut. Besides, Scheme for Technology Mission on Coconut has been launched during 2001-2002 for giving focused attention on management of insects, pest and diseases; processing and product diversification; and market research and promotion. During the period 1998-99 to 2001-2002, an assistance of Rs. 57.84 corers has been exclusively provided for control of coconut mite in the States of Kerala, Karanataka, Andhara Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.

(c) The central assistance released into the State of Karnataka under the Central Sector Scheme Integrated Development of Coconut Industry in India" during the last 3 years is given below :-

Year	Amount released (Rupees in lakhs)
1999-2000	312.09
2000-01	841.06
2001-02	629.84

### **Agreement for Sending Workers Abroad**

6017. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have signed any agreement with some countries for sending labourers abroad during the last three years, till date,

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether provision of adequate wages and other facilities have been made in these agreements; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) No agreement has been signed with any country for sending labourers abroad during the last three years till date.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

#### **World Bank Aided Pollution Control Projects**

6018. SHRI Y.V. RAO : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the World Bank aided pollution control projects running in the country at present;

(b) whether any of the said projects was to expire on March 31, 2002 and has been expanded or extended by the World Bank; and

(c) if so, the details thereof indicating the achievements made thereunder so far?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) and (b) At present, the Ministry of Environment and Forests is implementing the World Bank aided Industrial Pollution Prevention Project. The main objective of this Project is to promote cost effective pollution abatement by way of strengthening the State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) of Andhara Pradesh, Karanataka, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan and Gujarat facilitating priority investments dedicated to prevent pollution from industrial sources by encouraging use of clean technologies and waste minimisation and providing technical assistance for adoption of modern tools of information, management and control. This Project was scheduled to close on 31st March, 2002 but its duration has been extended upto 30th November, 2002.

(c) The main achievements under the Project constitute strengthening of State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) of Andhara Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, and Rajasthan by away of upgradation of facilities at 29 laboratories and procurement of sophisticated scientific equipment for the laboratories. Management Information System (MIS) / Geographical Information System (GIS) activities have also been taken up in Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Rajasthan and Gujarat. Besides, Environmental Outreach activities have

been carried out successfully in the SPCBs of Andhara Pradesh and Karnataka. Two Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETPs) one at Surat and the other at Vadodara, have been supported under the project by grant of Central Subsidy and one industrial Waste Water Recycling Plant at Mumbai has also been supported. In addition, 65 Waste Minimisation Circles have been established in various industrial sectors. Specialised training has been imparted by reputed institutes to the personnel of SPCBs, Central Pollution Control Board and officers of the Ministry of Environment and Forests for development of their skills to enable them to discharge their duties more effectively.

*[Translation]*

#### **Fruits and Vegetables Booths of Mother Dairy**

6019. DR.BALIRAM : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the vegetables and fruits of good quality are not available at the Mother Dairy booths particularly in Udyan Marg, Gole Market and South Avenue in New Delhi;

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

(c) whether fruits and vegetables at the Mother Dairy Booths are sold at higher than the market price;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the remedial steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) Sorted/graded fruits and vegetable as per the laid down quality specifications are supplied at all Fruits and Vegetables Booths including Udyan Marg, Gole Market and South Avenue in New Delhi.

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

(c) Fruit and vegetables at the Booths are sold at competitive price for comparable grades.

(d) Does not in view of (c) above.

(e) does not arise in view of above reply.

[English]

**Establishment of Hybrid Rice Mission**

6020. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether ICAR has recommended establishment of Hybrid Rice Mission to propagate the use of hybrid rice;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations;

(c) whether the Government propose to commercialize the hybrid rice;

(d) whether such hybrid rice will be advantageous over high yielding variety rice;

(e) whether the existing extension network in the country is inadequate to propagate any new varieties of rice;

(f) if so, the steps taken to strengthen the extension network ; and

(g) the funds ear-marked for such a Rice Mission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) :

(a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) In view of the high potential yield of hybrid rice, there is a definite advantage over high yielding rice varieties. The rice hybrids have an yield advantage of about 1 t/ha (1 5-20%) over the existing high yielding varieties

(e) and (f) Agricultural extension is a State subject, however the Government of India supports States efforts to strengthen extension services. The steps taken in this regard include the following:

- training and exposure visits to the farmers and extension functionaries,
- support to non-Government organizations and farmer organizations,
- assisting State agricultural universities in organizing Kisan Melas, print and electronic media activities
- new institutional arrangements are being pilot tested for technology dissemination under National Agricultural Technology Project in

seven States namely; A.P.Bihar, H.P., Maharashtra, Jharkhand, Punjab and Orissa. The focus of this approach is working through strategic planning, empowerment of farmers, private sector participation etc.

The Indian Council of Agricultural Research plays a facilitatory role through its frontline extension programmes with a network of Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs), the activities of which include technology evaluation and assessment of its impact through on-farm testing and frontline demonstrations and its dissemination through training of farmers and extension personnel for propagating new varieties of rice.

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

**New International Airport at Chennai**

6021 SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :-

(a) whether any proposal for setting-up a new international airport at Chennai has been received from the Government of Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN) : (a) to (c) A Proposal of the State Government of Tamil Nadu for second international airport at Channai was received and it has been examined. The State Government has been informed that Government has decided to restructure selected airports of Airports Authority of India as world class airports on long term leases basis. At present, airports at four metropolises including Chennai are being taken up for this exercise. The long term leasing of airports including Chennai is in an advanced stage of implementation. Any independent major expansion project, at this juncture , will create complications and may jeopardies the whole term leasing exercise, ultimately affecting the efforts to make the existing airport at Channai a world class airport. Further there are wide variations in the traffic projections at Channai Airport as given by Airports Authority of India and what have been indicated in the techno-economic feasibility report of Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation Limited. Hence Tamil Nadu Government has been requested to reconsider their proposal for a new international airport at Chennai.

### **Hanger for Housing Helicopters**

6022. SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :-

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested the Union Government to allot a Hanger for Housing Helicopters;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN) : (a) to (c) The Government of Andhra Pradesh requested for allotment of a hanger measuring 629 square meter for housing the helicopters of the State Government. The request was considered and the allotment has already been made in January, 2002.

### **Agreement for Development of Bangalore Airport**

6023. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Bangalore International Airport Limited has sent a draft of airport development agreement to the Union Government for approval;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken by the Union Government thereon; and

(d) the time by which the airport development agreement is likely to be approved?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The draft Airport Development Agreement (ADA) will set out the terms and frame work contractual and regulatory issues; and obligations of both Central and State Governments and other parties to be involved in various functions in the airport.

(c) and (d) The proposed ADA is under discussion between the Government of India, Government of Karnataka, Airports Authority of India and Bangalore International Airport Ltd. Hence it may not be possible to indicate a definite time-frame at this stage.

### **International Flight from Guwahati**

6024. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :-

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce international flights from Guwahati airport ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether Air India is likely to start direct flight to Bangkok from Guwahati ;

(d) if so, the details thereof ; and

(e) the extent to which it will boost the tourism sector?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN) : (a) to (e) Air India has already introduced twice weekly services connecting Guwahati to Bangkok with effect from 4th April, 2002. This is expected to give a positive fillip to the tourism sector in the North-East. However the precise impact will become clear only after some time.

### **X-ray Machines at Airports**

6025. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB :  
SHRI T. GOVINDAN :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of airports in the country do not have necessary X-ray machines to screen bags and baggages;

(b) if so, the names of the airports in the country which are yet to be provided with such equipment and where manual checking is being carried put;

(c) the reasons for not installing such facilities at all airports;

(d) the number of complaints received from the passengers regarding missing baggages during each of the last three years, airport-wise; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to improve the security functioning of the airports?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN) : (a) and (b) X-ray machines are available at all airports except Gaggal and Deharadun airports. Only the X-ray machines at Agatti and Probandar airports are used for checking registered baggages but not for hand baggages.

(c) Action has already been initiated for procurement of latest X-ray machines. They will be installed wherever required once they are received.

(d) Information is being ascertained for and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(e) A number of measures have been taken to further strength security arrangements at airports, which inter-alia include:

- (i) Deployment of Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) at all operational airports in a time-bound manner;
- (ii) Deployment of Quick Reaction Teams (QRTs) at major Airports;
- (iii) Ladder-point security check of passengers and their hand-baggage made mandatory;
- (iv) Strengthening of perimeter security;
- (v) Replacement/installation of X-ray machines, Door Frame Metal Detectors and Hand Held Metal Detectors.

#### **Employment to Poor and Educated Youth**

6026. SHRI T. GOVINDAN Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government provide any financial assistance for creating employment opportunities for the poor and educated youth in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years and the assistance projected for next three years State wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) The Government of India has been providing financial assistance to the State Governments for creating employment opportunities for the poor (both educated and uneducated ) under Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY); Swarnjayanti Gram Sawarozgar Yojana (SGSY); Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY); Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) and Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY). In addition the Food for Work Programme (FWP) has also been under implementation in the notified District from January, 2001 for generation of wage employment during natural calamity.

(b) The details of allocation of funds made for these schemes during the last three years (1999-2000, 2000-01 and 2001-02) and employment generation during the same period is given in the enclosed Statement. As the 10th Plan as yet to be finalized, no projections can be given for the next three years, State-wise.

#### **Statement**

				(Rs. in crore)
S No	Name of the Scheme	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002*
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY)\$			
	(a) Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana (JGSY)			
	(i) Total Allocation (Centre+State) (Rs. in crore)	2205.58	2192.96	2493.01
	(ii) Central Allocation (Rs. in crores)	1655.00	1645.50	1870.60
	(iii) Central Releases (Rs. in crores)	1685.28	1381.38	1140.13
	(iv) Employment Generation (Crores Mandays)	26.83	26.49	9.77
	(b) Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS)			
	(i) Total Allocation (Centre+State) (Rs. in crores)	2431.46	1982.27	2496.74



1	2	3	4	5
	(ii) Central Allocation (Rs. in Crores)	1824.10	1562.00	1873.00
	(iii) Central releases (Rs. in crores)	1736.42	1460.27	1068.91
	(iv) Employment Generation (Crores Mandays)	27.86	21.75	9.65
2.	Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY)			
	(i) Total Allocation (Centre + State) (Rs. in crores)	1472.34	1332.50	815.66
	(ii) Central Allocation (Rs. in crores)	1105.00	1000.00	622.66
	(iii) Central Releases (Rs. in crores)	869.55	462.11	320.32
	(iv) Swarozgaris Assisted (Crore numbers)	0.09	0.102	0.043
3.	Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)			
	(i) Central Allocation (Rs in Crores)	—	2500.00	2375.00
	(ii) Employment generated	—	Not available	Not available
4.	Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY)			
	(i) Fund release (Rs. in crores)	118.77	85.13	38.31
	(ii) No. of persons assisted under Urban Self Employment Programme (USEP) (absolute numbers)	135185	104019	97542
	(iii) No. of Mandays of work generated under Urban Wage Employment Programme (UWEP) (in Crores)	1.01	2.20	0.12
5.	Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY)			
	(i) Target Numbers	220000	220000	220000
	(ii) Cases sanctioned			
	(a) Numbers	259088	226316	47577
	(b) Amount (Rs. in crores)	1683.00	1468.00	293.00
	(iii) Cases Disbursed			
	(a) Numbers	203454	140700	23931
	(b) amount (Rs. in crores)	1269.00	869.00	142.00
6.	Food for Work Programme			

Effective from January, 2001 and can form part of any scheme of the Central or State Governments being implemented for wage employment in the notified Districts of the State affected by natural calamity.

\* Provisional.

\$ JGSY and EAS were merged in September 2001 into SGRY.

### Setting Up of Cargo Centre

6027. SHRIMATI MINATI SEN : Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to set-up a cargo centre through APEDA at Kolkata followed by similar centres at Bangalore, Hyderabad and Guwahati, forming 15 agri-export zones in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (PROF. CHAMAN LAL GUPTA) : (a) and (b) There is no proposal to set-up cargo centre at Kolkata by Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA). Walk in type cold rooms have been provided at Kolkata and Guwahati airports. Cargo centres at Bangalore and Hyderabad airports have already been set-up. The capacity of the cargo centre at Hyderabad is 12045 MT and that of the cargo centre at Bangalore is 16060 MT. So far, 24 agri-export zones have been approved in the country.

### New Variety of Wheat

6028. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Agriculture Research Institute has come with a new variety of wheat;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent to which it will help to increase wheat production of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

Indian Agricultural Research Institute has developed three new varieties of wheat during 2001.

(b) and (c) Varieties HD 2733 for timely sown irrigated conditions and HW 2045 for late sown irrigated conditions have been developed for cultivation for the States of Bihar, Eastern Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Assam and West Bengal. HD 2781 is for timely sown rainfed conditions for the States of Karnataka and Maharashtra. These varieties will help in increasing production and productivity in the above States as they have shown superiority over the checks/existing popular varieties during trials in the range of 10-15%.

### Procurement of Oilseeds Under Minimum Support Price System

6029. SHRI G. S. BASAVARAJ : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the NAFED and the State Cooperative Agencies are set to procure 5 million tonnes of oilseeds from the market under minimum support price system during the ensuing Rabi season;

(b) if so, whether the procurement agencies are likely to mop up market arrivals of rapeseed, mustard and also sunflower seeds from Karnataka and Maharashtra;

(c) if so, whether the Government would consider continuing procurement of Copra from Karnataka mandis under the minimum support price as an on-going relief measures to Karnataka farmers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) :

(a) No, Sir. Under price Support Scheme (PSS), no ceiling on the procurement of the agricultural commodities are fixed. As a Central Nodal Agency, NAFED will procure oilseeds till the market prices of these oilseeds reach the level of Minimum Support Price (MSP) announced by the Government.

(b) Yes Sir. if the prices of the rape seed, mustard seed and sunflower seed fall below the MSP, NAFED will procure these commodities under PSS.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. As and when price of copra fall below the MSP, NAFED will intervene in the market to undertake procurement under PSS. NAFED has been procuring copra under PSS including Karnataka since the year 1999-2000 as market prices have been ruling below MSP. A total of 2,84,926 MTs of copra has been procured by NAFED till now, out of which 40,573 MTs has been procured in Karnataka alone.

### Use of ILS at Airports

6030. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH :  
SHRI J.S. BRAR

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the names of airports in the country where new Instrument Landing System has been installed to meet foggy conditions;

(b) whether this system is working properly;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Airports Authority of India has called for offers from private foreign companies to operate the Instrument Landing Systems at all North Indian Airports including Punjab;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor;

(f) the costs of operation to be incurred by AAI for awarding contracts to foreign companies in this regard;

(g) whether Indian Technical personnel and Pilots are unable to master the ILS; and

(h) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to equip the pilots and other technical staff with technical knowhow to master the ILS?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN) : (a) to (c) The Instrument Landing System (ILS) has been provided at the airports at Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Amritsar, Ahmedabad, Aurangabad, Agratola, Bhuvaneshwar, Bhopal, Bangalore, Cochin, Calicut, Coimbatore, Dibrugarh, Guwahati, Hyderabad, Indore, Imphal, Jaipur, Jammu, Khajuraho, Lucknow, Mangalore, Nagpur, Patna, Ranchi, Rajkot, Raipur, Trivandrum, Trichy, Udaipur, Vadodara and Varanasi and is working satisfactorily.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) and (f) Do not arise.

(g) and (h) Indian Pilots and Technical personnel are trained and qualified to operate this system But training for operating recently commissioned Cat IIIA ILS is being given to Indian Pilots as per the procedures approved by the Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).

#### **Voluntary Retirement Scheme**

6031. SHRI N. T. SHANMUGAM : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state .

(a) whether the Government have introduced a Uniform Voluntary Retirement Scheme for all the Public Sector Undertakings under his Ministry;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) :

(a) to (c) The two Public Sector Undertakings under the administrative control of the Ministry of Agriculture, namely, National Seeds Corporation Ltd. (NSC) and State Farms Corporation of India Ltd. (SFIC) had introduced the revised voluntary retirement scheme circulated vide Department of Public Enterprises' O. M. dated 5th May, 2000, which provides for compensation consisting of salary of 35 days for every completed year of service and 25 days for the balance of service left until superannuation. The compensation is subject to a minimum of Rs. 25,000/- or 250 days salary whichever is higher. However, this compensation should not exceed the sum of the salary that the employee would draw at the prevailing level for the balance of the period left before superannuation. National seeds Corporation Ltd, have since adopted the voluntary retirement scheme further modified vide Department of Public Enterprises' O. M. dated 6th November, 2001, which inter alia provides that the option of the Gujarat pattern mentioned above or department of Heavy Industries pattern shall be available to the employees. The computation of one day's salary under Gujarat pattern shall be calculated on the basis of 30 days in a month instead of 26 days in a month Under the Department of Heavy Industries pattern, employees are eligible for an ex-gratia payment equivalent to 45 days emoluments for each completed year of service or the monthly emolument at the time of retirement multiplied by the balance months of service left before the normal date of retirement, whichever is less.

#### **Closure of Granite Mines**

6032. DR. N. VENKATASWAMY : Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been any report of closures of several Granite Mines in the country particularly in Andhara Pradesh.

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

(c) the actions taken to improve the situation and stop the closures?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) to (c) Granite being a minor mineral defined under Section 3(e) of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, mineral concessions are granted by the respective State Governments under their Minor Mineral Concession Rules(MMCRs) and therefore no data regarding operating/closed mines is centrally maintained.

*[Translation]***Review of Projects Under MPLADS**

6033. SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have reviewed the projects running under the MPLADS;

(b) if so, the lacuna identified during the review alongwith the steps being taken by the Government to remove the same;

(c) whether the Comptroller and Auditor General of India has recommended for withdrawal of the said scheme; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) and (b) The works under MPLAD Scheme are implemented by the District Collector concerned by following the established procedure of the State Government. The projects under MPLADS are required to be monitored by the district functionaries and senior officers of the implementing agencies. Adequate provisions for monitoring of the ongoing works have been made in Para 5.1 of the guidelines on MPLADS. Details of such review are available in the concerned districts.

(c) No Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

**Development of New Variety of Sugarcane**

6034. SHRI JAIBHAN SINGH PAWAIYA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to develop a new variety of sugarcane for low productivity areas;

(b) if so, the main features of the said proposal;

(c) whether some test have been conducted in this regard;

(d) if, so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) the increase in the income of the farmers likely to be made as a result of the development of the new variety of sugarcane?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) Researches to develop sugarcane varieties for low productivity areas are a part of our regular programme on development of improved sugarcane varieties.

(b) Development of improved varieties with higher yield and tolerance to biotic/abiotic stresses for low productivity areas mainly in north-central India are the important features of such researches.

(c) Varieties developed under this programme have been tested in research centers under the All India Coordinated Research Project on Sugarcane of ICAR as well as under Frontline Demonstrations in Farmers' Fields.

(d) Varieties such as 'Sarayu', 'Moti' and 'Gandak' with potential sugarcane yield above 70 t/ha have been notified 2000-01 for commercial cultivation in north-central zone of the country.

(e) A number of varieties tested in Frontline Demonstrations have displayed yield benefit ranging from 38 to 70%.

**Development of Places Associated with Lord Mahavira**

6035. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of proposals received from various State Governments for development of tourist places associated with Lord Mahavira; and

(b) the funds sanctioned to State Governments on the occasion of 2600 Birth Anniversary of Lord Mahavira as declared by Prime Minister recently?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN) : (a) Proposals have been received from State Governments of Bihar, Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Karnataka for providing financial assistance for development of following places. Associated with Lord Mahavira :-

(i) Vaishali (Vasokund), Pawapuri, Lachhuar, Mandar Hill, Kamal Dha (Patna city) and Shwetamber and Digamber Jain Mandirs located at Gonava in Distt. Navada in Bihar.

- (ii) Development of an environmental and eco-tourism project called Mahavir Nischal van in Andhra Pradesh.
- (iii) Beautification of a Jain Tirth Sthal at Deoria and Shravasti in Uttar Pradesh.
- (iv) Conservation of Jain Monuments in Karnataka (No Specific place mentioned).

(b) An amount of Rs. 28.00 lakhs has been sanctioned to the Orissa State Archaeology, Government of Orissa for construction of Sculpture sheds at four different places, for construction of a mini State Museum at Chaudwar, in District Cuttack and for construction of Jaina heritage Museum at Partapnagari, in Cuttack.

In addition, funds amounting to :-

- (i) Rs. 10.97 crores have been sanctioned to Archaeological Survey of India for conservation of centrally protected Jain Monuments at 54 sites in Kolkata, Hyderabad, Patna, Vadodara, Bhopal, Jaipur, Chennai, Bhubaneswar, Chandigarh, Bangalore, Dharwad, Thrissur and Lucknow Circles.
- (ii) Rs. 2264.42 lakhs have been sanctioned to CPWD for developmental works around Jain Tiraths at six places in Madhya Pradesh, ten in Rajasthan, six in Uttar Pradesh three in Gujarat, two in Bihar and one place each in Punjab, Karnataka and Delhi.

[English]

#### **Foot and Mouth Disease**

6036. SHRI NAMDEO HARBAJI DIWATHE : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether foot and mouth disease is fast depleting the cattle resource;
- (b) if so, the States which are severely hit by this disease; and
- (c) the financial allocation made to the States particularly to Maharashtra to combat this disease during 2000-2001 and 2001-2002?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) :  
(a) and (b) Foot and mouth Disease occurs through out the country but depletion of cattle resources due to

this disease is not significant because of low mortality rate.

(c) The details of grants-in-aid provided to States and Union Territories particularly to Maharashtra under Foot and Mouth Disease Control Programme during 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 are as under :

	(Rupees in lakhs)	
	2000-2001	2001-2002
All the States/ Union Territories	270.33	410.00
Maharashtra	30.00	18.86

#### **Passenger Facilities at Chennai Airport**

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government's attention has been drawn to news-item appearing in the Indian Express dated April 12, 2002 under caption "At Chennai Airport, your long journey begins when you land";

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

(c) the steps proposed to be taken, if any, to improve the State of affairs at the Airport?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) There is space crunch at Chennai airport due to bunching of flights which is primarily due to night curfews imposed at airports in countries East and West of India which necessitates such flights to operate during night in India. However efforts are made to see that there is no confusion or chaos. There are 12 immigration counters for departure and 10 for arrival. There are three X-ray machines and screening of baggages is fast and does not normally take more than 10 minutes in the queue for security check. 3 of 4 conveyer belts have customs X-ray machines and the baggage is screened as per requirement. All areas including visitors area have ladies and gents toilets and location is prominently indicated in three languages. Adequate pictographs/ sign boards are provided for guiding users. To improve the space shortage arrival hall has recently been extended. Some of the international arrivals and departures are also handled in domestic terminal. A new international departure complex

is being constructed, which is likely to be commissioned by March 2003 and thereafter the international Arrival Hall will be expanded to double the capacity with improved facilities. Airports upgradation being an on-going process, continuous efforts are made by the Airports Authority of India to improve the standard of services.

### **International Conference on Water Quality and Management**

6038. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL :  
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :  
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether an international conference on water quality and management was held in Jaipur recently;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof;

(c) the suggestions made by the experts regarding continuing depletion of ground water level and contamination of surface water; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government on the implementation of the suggestions made by experts in the conference?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) Yes, Sir. The International Life Sciences Institute India has organised an International Conference on Water Quality Management South Asian Perspective" on April 11, 12, 2002 at Jaipur. The conference inter-alia covered the themes on community approach to water quality, quality standards, monitoring and surveillance in South Asian Region; water quality modelling, waste water management, chemical challenge and microbiological challenges.

(b) The delegates in the conference adopted 'Jaipur Declaration of Water Quality Management Vision 2025' which suggests that in the next two decades, such projects should be planned and executed which would provide safe, adequate and sustained water supply to all people for drinking and personal hygiene. It lists the specific objectives to be achieved as an integral part of the national development plans and suggests the interim measures and medium term measures to be adopted to achieve these objectives.

(c) Regarding continuing depletion of ground water and contamination of surface water, suggestions made are; enactment of legislation to control ground water extraction, ground water recharge, multiple use of water by recycling and reuse, treatment of waste water and recovering the cost of the treatment from the consumers, penalisation of water pollution from all sources to recover treatment cost, encouraging pollution free and water saving technologies, putting up a water quality surveillance system, monitoring of water quality with active involvement of community, establishment of data banks, among others.

(d) Recommendations made in such Conferences are given due consideration by the Government in formulation of its policies and programmes. However, for regulation and control of ground water development and its management throughout the country, the Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) has already been set up by Government of India in January, 1997. Similarly, a Water Quality Assessment Authority has also been set up in 2001 to standardize water quality monitoring system, to take measures to ensure proper treatment of waste water, to promote recycling and reuse of water, to draw action plan for quality improvements in water bodies, and to promote rainwater harvesting among others.

### **Amount Earmarked for Agriculture Sector in Orissa**

6039. SHRIMATI KUMUDINI PATNAIK . Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the amount earmarked for agriculture sector in Orissa during 2001-2002;

(b) whether the amounts sanctioned towards the Centrally Sponsored projects for agricultural development for the year 2002-2003 is less than that of the previous year; and

(c) if so, the reasons for the same and steps taken by the State Government for raising it ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) to (c) An amount of Rs.44.98 crores have been allocated so far, to Government of Orissa under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes during the year 2002-03 against an allocation of Rs.45.27 crores and release of Rs.21.34 crores (provisional) during the year 2001-02. The main reason for less allocation during the year 2002-03 is that State-wise allocations under some of the Centrally Sponsored Schemes have not yet been finalized

**Perfunctory Functioning of CRF**

6040. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH :  
SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that sample checks by CAG has revealed perfunctory functioning of the State Level Committees in many States as brought out in its Report No.3 of 1999;

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

(c) whether any accountability and responsibility has been fixed in this regard and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken to ensure that the money drawn for the Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) reaches the people for whom the fund has been set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) :  
(a) to (d) The Comptroller and Auditor General of India had brought out instances of inappropriate and inadmissible expenditure by various States from the Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) and from allocations made from the National Fund for Calamity Relief (NFCR). These findings together with the recommendations thereon by the Public Accounts Committee, in its 28th Report, have been brought to the notice of the State Governments with the directions that each and every instance of this nature be inquired into and specific responsibility be fixed for lapses noticed, alongwith remedial action. The responsibility for ensuring timely contribution of State's share to CRF vests with the State Government concerned. Guidelines have been issued to the State Governments, from time to time, regarding proper utilization of funds.

**Tourism Campaign**

6041. SHRI SAIDUZZAMA : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to launch a tourism campaign taking the lead from PATA;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if so, whether the Government have identified Pangong Lake in Ladakh as one of the tourists destinations;

(d) if so, whether sufficient infrastructure has been created including adequate air services;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether adequate security is proposed to be provided to the tourists; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As a follow up of the excellent publicity received during the PATA Annual Conference, 2002 at New Delhi from 14th to 18th April, 2002, the department of the Tourism is proposing to launch a focussed marketing campaign to maximise the number of tourist arrivals to India.

(c) to (e) Development of tourists infrastructure is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments/U.T. Administrations. However, Department of Tourism, Government of India extends Central financial assistance to selected projects identified in consultation with the State Governments/U.T. Administration. For Pangong Lake in Ladakh the following projects have been sanctioned:-

- |                          |   |         |
|--------------------------|---|---------|
| (a) Tourist bungalow at  | - | 1993-94 |
| Durbag (Pangong Village) |   |         |
| (b) Tented colony in     |   |         |
| Pangong Lake             | - | 1994-95 |

India Airlines is already operating flights connecting Leh with Delhi, Srinagar, Jammu and Chandigarh and have proposed an additional flight from 1st June to 31st August, 2002 on Delhi-Leh Delhi, thrice weekly. Leh is also served by private airlines.

(f) and (g) To provide security and safety to the tourists, Department of Tourism, Government of India has addressed all the States/UTs to introduce suitable legislation and deploy Special Tourists Assistance Force which could assist tourists and provide security to them. Some of the States like Goa, Karala, Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh have already set up Tourist Police.

**Loan for Jalasamvardhane Project**

6042. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI :  
SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA :  
SHRI SHASHI KUMAR :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether a delegation from Government of Karnataka visited Washington to discuss with the World Bank officials regarding loan for the Jalasamvardhane (desiltation of tanks) project;

(b) if so, the response of the World Bank thereto;

(c) whether any agreement between the State Government and the World Bank has been reached; and

(d) if so, the time by which the project is likely to commence?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (d) The Indian delegation comprising the representatives of the Central Government and the Government of Karnataka took part in negotiations with the World Bank, at Washington DC, USA during 11-15th March, 2002. An International Development Association (IDA) Credit assistance of US \$ 98.9 million for "Karnataka Community based Tank Management Project" has been agreed to. The Management Board of the World Bank is yet to convey its final decision on the proposal.

#### **Almatti Dam**

6043. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether any proposal from the Government of Maharashtra has been received to supply water to the State from Almatti Dam in Karnataka owing to decline in water level in Ojam Dam; and

(b) if so, the response of the Government of Karnataka and the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) No such proposal has been received by the Union Government.

#### **Production of Zinc**

6044. SHRI B. K. PARTHASARATHI : Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the production of zinc in the country during each of the last three years; State-wise; and

(b) the efforts being made by Hindustan Zinc Limited and the Union Government to increase the production ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) Primary zinc in the country is produced by Hindustan Zinc Limited (HZL) and Binani Industries Limited (BIL). Two zinc smelters of HZL are located in Rajasthan and one zinc smelter is located in Andhara Pradesh. The smelter of BIL is located in Kerala. The year wise production of zinc during the last three years in various States was as follows:

Year	(In tonnes)			
	Andhra Pradesh	Rajasthan	Kerala	Total Production
1999-2000	34,364	1,11,779	28,814	1,74,957
2000-2001	31,960	1,16,132	29,923	1,78,015
2001-2002	36,816	1,39,232	29,161	2,05,209

(b) For increasing the production of zinc in the country the following steps have been taken:

(i) HZL has expanded the installed capacity of Vizag and Debari Smelters by 10,000 tonnes each.

(ii) Reconnaissance Permits/Prospecting Licences have been granted for exploration of zinc which may result in find of new zinc deposits and eventual extraction of zinc from the ore.

#### **Report by Sub-Group**

6045. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a sub-group of the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying has recommended in its report for increasing meat exports and stressed the need to sustain the leather sector and even called for the removal of the ban on beef export;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the composition of the said sub-group;

(d) whether the Government have accepted the report of the sub-group and sent it to the Planning Commission;

(e) if so, whether the Planning Commission has sanctioned around Rs. 1800 crores for the meat sector in the Tenth Five Year Plan; and

(f) if so the details thereof?



THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) :

(a) Yes, Sir. The removal of the ban on meat export is neither in the interest of livestock producers nor in national interest. However, a study on economics of meat export would be desirable to critically examine the benefits of meat exports in national interest.

(b) The restrictions imposed on slaughter of buffaloes in some States could be deleted as the buffalo population or milk production was not affected in the States where there are no restrictions.

(c) The -Sub Group XI-Meat Sector was formulated on 9th February, 2001 vide Order No.12043/3/2000-Agri. The composition is as follows:

- (i) Mr. Irfan Allana-Chairman
- (ii) Dr. J. S. Berwal-Member
- (iii) Mr. Satish sabharwal-Member
- (iv) Mr. R. K. Boyal-Member
- (v) Dr. N. Kondaiah-Member Secretary

(d) The sub-group on Meat submitted a report to the Working Group on Animal Husbandry and Dairying for the Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-07)

(e) and (f) The Planning Commission has not sanctioned around Rs. 1800 crores for the Meat Sector in the Tenth Five Year Plan, however, Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying has allocated Rs. 45 crores for 10th Five Year Plan.

#### **Growth in Passenger Traffic at Airports**

6046. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI :  
SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Anna International Terminal registered 14.9% growth in passenger traffic and Kamaraj domestic terminal recorded 8% growth during 2000-2001;

(b) if so, the percentage of passenger growth in other airports during each of the last three years, airport-wise;

(c) whether the Government have drawn up short and long term plans to mitigate the problems faced by air passengers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof particularly with reference to airports of Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN) : (a) A growth of 14.8% in Anna International Terminal and 7.8% in Kamaraj Domestic Terminal in passenger traffic of Chennai Airport was recorded during 2000-2001.

(b) The airports-wise details of passenger growth during the last three years is given in the enclosed statement.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Modernization and upgradation of the passenger facilities is a continuous process and is taken up based on the traffic requirements. Proposals are at hand to improve various passenger facilities in a phased manner, namely conveyor belts, additional aerobridges, more number of coloured X-ray baggage machines, increase, in the area of car park, new illuminated pictographs to improve the signages, illumination levels in the terminal building, renovation of toilets, installation of flight information display boards, expansion of the terminal building, etc.

Works are at hand to strengthen and extend the runway, construction of parallel taxi way and allied works at Hyderabad airport. Work is in progress for resurfacing of runway, construction of apron and allied works at Rajahmundry airport. There are plans to construct canopies and new car park area at Hyderabad airport; new runway of 10000 feet and other allied works at Visakhapatnam airport; installation of DVOR and DEM at Tirupati airport; extension of runway and installation of runway lighting system at Vijayawada airport and resurfacing of runway and allied works at Nadirgul airport.

#### **Statement**

*Airportwise Growth Rate of Passenger Traffic  
during the last three years from  
1999-2000 to 2001-2002*

S. No.	Airports	Growth Rate in percentage		
		1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Mumbai	4.9	5.4	-5.8
2.	Delhi	5.5	7.5	-4.9

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Chennai	3.5	11.5	-6.9
4.	Kolkata	3.1	3.3	-4.6
5.	Trivandrum	-9.1	-2.2	-5.2
6.	Bangalore	8.0	13.4	-7.2
7.	Hyderabad	4.3	14.2	4.2
8.	Ahmedabad	6.1	3.4	-9.3
9.	Goa	7.1	15.5	-6.4
10.	Calicut	4.7	-8.3	7.4
11.	Coachin (Nedumbassery)	53.9	27.0	7.9
12.	Guwahati	10.2	10.3	-4.0
13.	Coimbatore	3.1	13.9	-9.1
14.	Varanasi	-11.3	11.7	-24.5
15.	Mangalore	-2.3	0.5	-3.7
16.	Pune	9.6	20.6	-10.4
17.	Nagpur	-11.8	2.1	-6.0
18.	Vadodara	-21.0	19.8	12.7
19.	Jaipur	15.1	2.2	-16.8
20.	Srinagar	25.1	3.7	-3.6
21.	Lucknow	34.1	6.7	-2.0
22.	Jammu	9.1	-13.2	-17.4
23.	Agartala	0.5	10.7	-1.9
24.	Udaipur	26.2	0.0	-13.2
25.	Trichy	-1.2	-2.5	-11.5
26.	Patna	32.8	4.1	-11.3
27.	Indore	2.7	20.0	-5.0
28.	Bhubaneshwar	-0.7	9.6	0.0
29.	Imphal	18.3	10.0	5.0

1	2	3	4	5
30.	Aurangabad	5.4	7.1	-12.4
31.	Bagdogra	16.0	-23.6	20.2
32.	Madurai	-1.2	9.6	-5.5
33.	Visakhapatnam	16.5	5.5	9.7
34.	Silchar	-1.4	4.1	0.0
35.	Rajkot	10.0	0.9	-5.4
36.	Dibrugarh	4.7	16.4	1.3
37.	Bhavnagar	-1.8	12.5	-12.7
38.	Khajuraho	1.5	-14.9	-33.3
39.	Leh	7.8	8.2	8.6
40.	Port Blair	47.9	12.0	13.2
41.	Ranchi	0.0	14.3	3.6
42.	Bhopal	2.8	8.7	-5.3
43.	Jodhpur	0.0	2.3	51.1
44.	Bhuj	5.4	13.6	-11.9
45.	Agra	2.2	-21.7	-27.8
46.	Others	-1.4	37.9	0.4

#### Central Assistance for Museums

6047. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government funds the various museums in States;

(b) if so, the amount sanctioned to various States for the purpose during last three years; year-wise;

(c) whether any museum in Orissa has been renovated with Central assistance;

(d) if so, whether the Government propose to extend Central funding for the development of museum at Dhenkanal which is facing serious financial crunch; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN) : (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) to (e) Government of India provides financial assistance for professional development of Museums managed by voluntary organisations, institutions, societies, trust, local bodies etc. as well as those managed by the State Governments under the Scheme "Promotion and Strengthening of Regional and Local Museums" During the last three years, financial assistance given to museum in Orissa is as under:

Sl. No	Name of the Museum	Grant approved
1.	Orissa State Museum, Bhubaneswar	2,25,000/-
2.	Folk and Tribal Art Museum, Bhubaneswar	7,00,000/-
3.	Anchalika Kunjeswary Sanskritika Sansad Sevanchal, Kanas, Puri	18,750/-
4.	Ganjam Lok Kala Museum, Ganjam	1,12,500/-

No proposal for development of Museum at Dhenkanal has been received from the State Government for financial assistance.

#### Performance of BALCO

6048. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA : Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether as per share-holders' agreement any report on performance of Bharat Aluminium Company (BALCO) after disinvestment has been prepared by the strategic partner M/s Sterlite and annual accounts and balance sheet submitted to Government;

(b) if so, the annual growth in production and performance achieved and the profit or loss incurred thereby; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) to (c) The Government disinvested 51% of its equity in BALCO w. e. f. 2.3.2001. Immediately thereafter the workers of Korba plant went on a 67 day strike and the Korba plant could resume operation only from 9.5.2001. The physical and financial performance of BALCO during the year 2000-01 and 2001-02 are as under :-

	2000-2001	2001-2002 (provisional/ unaudited)
Production (MT)	89164	69872
Sales (MT)	88990	71792
Net Sales (Rs. lacs)	77325	62014
Profit before interest (Rs. lacs)	9510	3319
Profit before depreciation and extraordinary items (Rs. lacs)	5572	87

However, the audited profit and loss account and balance sheet for the financial year 2001-02 has to be submitted by BALCO within three months of the end of the financial year, i. e. by 30th June, 2002. The reasons for less performance in the year 2001-02 are as follows :-

- Fall in production and sales due to the 67 day strike.
- Steep increase in power cost due to prolonged shut-down of one of the four units in the Captive Power Plant.

#### Amendments to Guidelines on MPLADS

6049. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY :  
SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH :

Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether any accountability has been fixed for the use of funds meant for MPLADS;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any representations have been received by the Government in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof and action taken thereon; and

(e) the details of amendments/modifications the Government propose to make in the MPLADS?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) and (b) Funds under the MPLAD Scheme are released to the concerned District Collector who has to get the works recommended by the

MP implemented as per established procedure of the State Government. The District Collector and the implementing agencies are responsible for proper use of the funds released to them.

(c) and (d) Whenever any representation is received about improper use of MPLADS funds, the matter is taken up with the concerned District Collector/State Government for remedial measures.

(e) Amendment/modification of the guidelines on MPLADS is a continuous process. Amendments/modifications in the guidelines are made from time to time on the basis of recommendation from the two committees on MPLADS, Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha.

#### **Amendment in Mines and Minerals Act**

6050. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI :  
SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT :

Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 was amended in 1994 and 1999 to make the mining sector more investor friendly and progressive;

(b) if so, whether any progress has been made since 1999 in the mining sector in regard to Foreign Direct Investment;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the present requirement of different minerals in country and their availability;

(e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to meet the demand of minerals in the country;

(f) the details of survey undertaken by the Government for different minerals in the country and their reserve found alongwith variety and quantum during the Ninth Five Year Plan, State-wise; and

(g) the quantum of various types of substances extracted from the said reserves till date alongwith the varieties thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act 1957 has been amended in 1994 and

1999 for encouraging private investment including foreign direct investment in the mineral sector. The amendments inter-alia included removal of restriction on foreign equity holding in the mining sector enabling any company registered in India irrespective of foreign equity holding to apply for mineral concessions, simplification of the procedure for grant of mineral concessions and delegation of powers to State Government in order to make the mining sector more investor friendly.

At present, in line with the policy of the Government to encourage private investment in the mining sector, including foreign investment, all proposals for foreign direct investment in the mining sector are eligible for automatic approval, except for precious stones and diamonds, for which automatic approval for foreign direct investment is permissible upto 74%. The Government has so far approved 70 proposals of foreign direct investment in the mining sector involving likely investment of Rs. 3963 crores. During 2000-2001, 7 such proposal of foreign direct investment involving likely investment of Rs. 248 crores have been approved.

For fuel and atomic minerals, a separate foreign direct investment policy applies.

(d) Estimates of requirement of minerals and availability are made as part of Five Year Plan exercises. However recoverable reserves of selected important minerals in the country is given at enclosed Statement-I

(e) In order to meet the demand of minerals in the country, exploration for and exploitation of minerals have been fully liberalised. Also minerals can be imported under open general licence to augment domestic availability of the same.

(f) and (g) Details of the State-wise survey conducted by Geological Survey of India (GSI), additional mineral resources established during the first four years of the ninth five year plan are given at enclosed Statement-II.

There is a time lag between identification of the resources by survey and final extraction of mineral from such resources. Mining leases are not given separately for new resources identified by surveys and as such one to one data of new resources identified and minerals produced is not separately maintained.

**Statement-I***Recoverable Reserves of selected minerals/metals.*

(In thousand tonnes)

Mineral/Ore	Recoverable Reserves (As on 1.4.2000)
1	2
Coal	234114280+
Iron Ore	13460000*
Bauxite	2462431*
Chromite	97076

1	2
Copper Metal	5297
Dolomite	4386855*
Kaolin(all forms)	1042468*
Lead	2381
Limestone	75678890*
Manganese Ore	167309*
Zinc Metal	9707

\* Relate to recoverable reserves as on 1.4.1995.

+ Relate to recoverable reserves as on 1.1.2002.

**Statement-II***Additional Mineral Resources established by Geological survey of India (GSI) during the first four years of the Ninth Plan Period.*

(Resources in million tonnes unless otherwise stated)

Sl. No.	State	Ore/Mineral	Augmentation of Mineral Resources during the first four years of IX Plan
1.	West Bengal, Jharkhand, Orissa, Chattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Andhara Pradesh,	Coal	6103
2.	Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Rajasthan	Lignite	111
3.	Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh	Base Metal	
		a) Lead-Zinc ore	a) 21.47
		b) Zinc-Copper	b) 3.15
4.	Rajasthan, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala	Gold Ore	20.56
5.	Orissa	Platinum Group of Elements	14.20
6.	Orissa, Madhya Pradesh	Manganese Ore	2.77
7.	Tamil Nadu	Molybdenum Ore	0.484
8.	West Bengal	Rare Metal and Rare Earth Elements	79,589 tonnes of rare metal bearing pegmatites with 0.5% Cs.
9.	Meghalaya, Gujarat, Arunachal Pradesh	Limestone	5891
10.	Bihar	Dolomite	30.50
11.	Kerala	Clay	510

*[Translation]***Price of Pulses**

6051. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether pulses are sold in the market at a rate three times more than that of their support price;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the remedial steps the Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) :

(a) The wholesale prices of pulses are by and large ruling above the Minimum Support Prices fixed by the Government at selected centres in the country, though not as high as three times more than that of their support price.

(b) The rise in the wholesale prices of pulses may primarily be attributed to the continuing gap in demand and supply.

(c) The Government is implementing a Centrally sponsored Scheme of National Pulses Development Project in 30 States/U.Ts for increasing the production of pulses. Under this Scheme, assistance is being provided for input like production and distribution of certified seeds, seed mini-kits, distribution of improved farm implements, rhizobium culture, micro-nutrients, integrated pest management and distribution of sprinkler sets etc. In addition, import of pulses is also restored to meet the shortage in supply in the country.

*[English]***Agency for Mumbai Airport**

6052. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :-

- (a) whether Maharashtra Government has sent any proposal to the Union Government to set up an agency to look after the Mumbai airport;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

**Use of Water Management  
Production Technology**

6053. SHRI T. M. SELVAGANPATHI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has emphasised the need for extensive use of Water Management Production Technology;

(b) if so, the steps initiated in this regard;

(c) whether the Government have any plans to help the State Governments to put into action the extensive use of Water Management Production Technology in respective States; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) ICAR through its various research institutes All India Coordinated Research Projects, adhoc projects and Externally-Aided Projects has developed and disseminated the improved Water Management Production Technology for surface water, groundwater, rain water and poor-quality water resources. This has been achieved through :

- (i) Inclusion of improved water management production technologies in the rabi and kharif package of practices for each State.
- (ii) Collaborative on-farm water management programmes in the irrigation commands.
- (iii) Operational research projects in the rainfed watersheds.
- (iv) Special emphasis on the adoption of water-saving techniques like micro-irrigation.
- (v) Participatory water management models under rainfed, irrigated and waterlogged areas.
- (vi) Dissemination of water management production technology through print and electronic media.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Central Government is helping the State Governments through several schemes. The important schemes include:

- (i) Command Area Development Programme for the major irrigation commands (MOWR).
- (ii) National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (DOAC, MOA).
- (iii) Promotion of Drip Irrigation under the Development of Horticulture through Plasticulture Intervention (DOAC, Horticulture Division, MOA)
- (iv) On-Farm Water Management for Increasing Crop Production in Eastern India' (Crops Division, MOA)

#### **Blackmarketing of Air Tickets**

6054. SHRI A. NARENDRA :

SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :-

(a) whether the Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in the Hindustan Times' dated April 8, 2002 captioned Apex fair ke nam per hawai ticketon ke Kalabazari"

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to arrest the blackmarketing of Air tickets?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN) : (a) Yes, Sir

(b) and (c) Over a period of time, it has been observed by Airlines that agents have a tendency to make fictitious bookings and black seats on anticipated demand. Subsequently, the agents cancel the same at the last minute in case the demand does not materialise into actual travel. This results in airlines losing heavily by way of flights going light and reservation charges being paid to the Global Distribution Systems. As a step towards controlling these bookings and to reduce costs, the matter was taken up at the board of airlines representativeness meeting with all airlines and it was decided that the fare structure would

be modified for travel ex-India, while modifying the fare structure, Advance Purchase Excursion fares (Apex), which are cheaper but have to be purchased 21 days in advance and carries cancellation charges, were introduced. This would, result in better utilisation of the inventory and reduced reservation charges being paid to the Global Distribution System. Any malpractice resorted to by any operator in the matter of air fares, can also be brought to the notice of Directorate General of Civil Aviation for suitable remedial action.

[Translation]

#### **Animal Husbandry and Dairy Development**

6055. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the schemes implemented for animal husbandry and dairy development by the Union Government during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the funds provided under each scheme during the said period;

(c) whether Indian Council of Agricultural Research or any other Research Institute have developed new techniques in this these fields;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the efforts being made by the Government to check the continuous decrease in number of cattle and to create awareness about the said techniques among the people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) :

(a) and (b) The Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying is implementing number of schemes for the development of animal husbandry and dairy sector in the country. The scheme -wise details of the funds allocated for each of these schemes during the last three years are given in the enclosed Statement

(c) and (d) The Indian Council of Agricultural Research and other related Research Institutes have been engaged in various research activities including activities for the development of animal husbandry and dairy sector. Owing to such continuing research, number of new techniques and processes such as superior gerplasm of livestock and poultry, Immuno diagnostic kit for livestock diseases, new technology for value added production of milk, meat and egg products etc. have been developed from time to time.

(e) The emphasis of the Government is on increasing the productivity of livestock through genetic upgradation improvement of health coverage and increas-

ing availability of nutritious feed and fodder. The new techniques are popularised among the masses through extension activities.

### Statement

*Plan Allocation, R.E. and Expenditure during the last 3 years of 9th Plan*

(Rs. in crore)

Sl. No.	Particulars	1999-2000			2000-01			2001-02		
		BE	RE	Expd.	BE	RE	Expd.	BE	RE	EXP*
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
<b>I</b>	<b>A.H. Sector</b>									
	<b>Action Plan Schemes</b>									
1.	National Project on Cattle Breeding	47.00	34.00	33.06	44.00	26.35	24.93	46.00	27.00	41.87
	(i) Ext. of Frozen Semen Tech. and PTP	35.00	26.00	25.96	32.00					
	(ii) National Bull Production Prog.	12.00	8.00	7.10	12.00					
2.	National Ram/Buck Production Prog.	3.00	0.50	0.50	2.50	1.25	1.50	1.25	1.40	2.87
3.	Assist. to States for integrated Pig.Develop	6.00	2.50	2.50	3.00	2.00	2.07	2.00	2.00	2.65
4.	Assistance to State Poultry/Duck Farms	8.00	5.25	4.50	3.00	2.70	1.35	2.70	5.05	5.05
5.	Assist. to States for Feed and Fodder Dev.	6.50	4.00	4.40	4.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	0.50	1.58
6.	Assist. to States for Cont. of Animal Disease	17.00	7.75	7.79	13.00	8.00	7.21	12.00	12.00	12.00
7.	Creation on Disease Free Zones	1.00	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.00	27.00	15.41	0.00
	Sub - total	88.50	54.01	52.75	69.51	43.31	40.06	93.95	63.36	66.02
	<b>Other Schemes</b>									
8.	Central Cattle Dev. Organisations	9.00	8.15	7.99	9.00	8.85	7.89	8.85	9.42	7.82
	(i) Central Cattle Breeding Farm	6.35	5.50	5.58	6.35	6.35	5.61	6.35	6.85	5.51
	(ii) Central Frozen Semen Prod. Instt.	1.15	1.15	1.03	1.15	1.00	0.73	1.00	1.00	0.82



1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	(iii) Central Herd Registration	1.50	1.50	1.38	1.50	1.50	1.55	1.50	1.57	1.49
9.	Central Sheep Breeding Farm	8.22	7.25	6.34	3.50	1.50	1.37	1.50	1.25	1.32
10.	Central Poultry Development Org.	6.50	5.22	4.49	6.00	5.71	4.49	5.71	4.96	4.98
11.	Central Fodder Development Org.	4.50	4.83	4.02	4.83	4.53	4.59	4.53	4.85	5.39
12.	Directorate of Animal Health	6.00	1.53	1.47	4.75	4.10	3.70	10.00	5.95	4.79
13.	Professional Efficiency Dev.	4.00	3.00	2.41	3.00	2.50	2.23	6.00	6.00	6.66
14.	National Project on Rind. Eradication	10.00	5.00	4.92	15.00	13.00	12.31	13.00	11.00	10.21
15.	Improv. of Slaughter Houses/C.U.C	15.00	1.50	1.50	2.50	2.00	2.20	6.00	5.00	3.63
16.	Integrated Sample Surveys	4.00	3.50	3.35	4.00	3.65	3.59	4.40	3.95	3.42
17.	Development of Pack Animals	0.80	0.40	0.28	0.40	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.15	0.21
18.	A.H. Extension Programme	2.50	2.00	2.44	2.00	2.00	2.11	2.00	2.00	1.05
19.	Strengthening of AH Division	0.16	0.16	0.06	0.16	0.02	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00
20.	Project on Animal System	0.75	0.25	0.24	0.25	0.25	0.24	0.25	0.18	0.11
21.	Cattle Insurance	0.05	5.00	5.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Sub - total	71.48	47.79	44.51	55.39	48.41	45.04	62.54	54.71	49.59
	Schemes completed / not approved	0.10	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Total (A H Sector)	160.08	101.80	97.26	124.90	91.72	85.10	156.49	118.07	115.61

**II Dairy Development****Action Plan Schemes**

22	Integrated Dairy Development Project	45.00	14.00	10.71	20.00	19.50	20.34	19.50	19.50	20.28
23.	Assistance to Cooperatives	16.00	4.00	3.80	25.00	17.00	17.00	15.00	9.00	14.20
24.	New Delhi Cooperatives	4.40	2.00	0.00	4.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Sub total	65.40	20.00	14.51	49.00	36.50	37.34	34.50	28.50	34.48

**Others Schemes**

25.	Milk and Milk Products Order	1.00	1.00	0.85	1.00	1.00	0.88	1.00	1.00	1.17
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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
26.	Delhi Milk Schemes	1.00	1.12	1.09	1.00	1.95	1.37	1.95	1.95	1.95
	Sub Total	2.00	2.12	1.94	2.00	2.95	2.25	2.95	2.95	3.12
	Schemes completed	6.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Total (DD Sector)	73.90	22.12	16.45	51.00	39.45	39.59	37.45	31.45	37.60
	Total (AH and DD Sectors)	233.98	123.92	113.71	175.90	131.17	124.69	193.94	149.52	153.21

\*Provisional

*[English]***Coal Production**

6056. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have set a target of 476 million tonnes of coal to be mined by the end of the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, whether target of coal production could not be met during Ninth Five Years Plan;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether delay in completion of on-going coal mining projects is a major cause of shortfall in the Ninth Plan target; and

(e) the action being taken to avoid such pitfalls in the Tenth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) No, Sir. Instead, the Government has set a coal production target of 405 million tonnes to be achieved by the terminal year of the Xth Five Year Plan i. e. 2006-07.

(b) and (c) The revised target and actual production of coal (provisional) during the terminal year of the IXth Five Year Plan i. e. (2001-02) is shown below :

(in million tonne)

2001-02	
Target	Actual (Provisional)
325.65	327.64

(d) and (e) In view of the reply to (b) and (c) above, does not arise.

**Protection of Environment in Agra**

6057. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH :  
DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR :

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

(a) whether even after the closure of all polluting industries in Agra, there has not been any significant drop either in SPM level or SO<sub>2</sub> percentage in the environment of Agra;

(b) if so, the details of various reports of the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) in this regard;

(c) whether the Union Government have chalked out any concrete plans to re-examine the various aspects to provide clean environment in and around Taj; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T. R. BAALU) : (a) to (d) Central Pollution Board has been regularly monitoring the levels of pollution in Agra which indicate that there is a trend of reduction in the annual average level of Sulphur dioxide, Oxides of Nitrogen and Suspended Particulate Matter over the past years. Several steps have been taken for protection of the Taj Mahal which include the following :-

1. A Taj Trapezium zone Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority has been constituted by the Government of India in 1999 to monitor the progress of the implementation of the various schemes

for the protection and improvement of the environment in the Taj Trapezium Zone.

2. A Mission Management Board has been constituted to oversee the implementation and monitor the schemes for the protection of the Taj and its environment.
3. Scheme for continuous air quality monitoring, improvement of power supply, water supply, solid waste management, road construction and plantation in the TTZ area have been undertaken to provide clean environment in and around Taj.

#### **Amendments to Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972**

6058. SHRI T. T. V. DHINAKARAN : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposals from various States for amending the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) to (c) After detailed discussion with the State Governments, NGOs and eminent wildlife experts, the Central Government has formulated Wildlife (Protection) Amendment Bill are as follows:

- (i) Involvement of local communities in management of wild life in protected areas and using the forest usufructs that are available in the process of management of the habitat of wild animals being available explicitly to the local communities.
- (ii) Making punitive sections of the Act more stringent and effective.
- (iii) Making Indian Board for Wild Life a statutory body.
- (iv) Ensuring expeditious settlement of rights of people within national parks and sanctuaries.

#### **Age for Child Labour**

6059. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to raise the minimum age for child labour in India from 14 years to 18 years in keeping with the ILO (Indian Labour Organisation) conventions;

(b) if so, the steps initiated in this direction so far; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) to (c) The Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986 defines "child" as a person who has not completed his fourteenth year of age.

The 87th Session of the International Labour Conference (ILC) held in June 1999 unanimously adopted ILO Convention No. 182. Article 2 of the Convention defines a "child" as all persons under the age of 18 years. Action has been initiated through a process of consultation with other Ministries/departments as ratification of the Convention necessitates action to bring existing Laws/Acts defining the age of the child in the laws enforced by these Ministers in conformity with the ratified Convention.

#### **New Coal Policy**

6060. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ : Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to formulate a new Coal Policy to check the diversion of commodity to the blackmarket to protect the interests of bonafide users;

(b) whether the new policy will ensure adequate availability of coal to non-core sector consumers like brick kilns and small scale units;

(c) whether the Government have undertaken a study-survey of the coal requirements and actual offtake by consumers in non-core sectors; and

(d) is so, the finding thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) Coal India Limited decided in June, 2001 to authorise its coal companies to evolve their system and procedure of coal sales policy. As per the decision, the new policy would aim at being simpler and customer friendly.

Coal companies are working out details of the new sales policies. In the meanwhile, coal companies have also addressed State Government/ sponsoring authorities to verify the status of the existing linked consumers of the non-core sector, so that non-existing or non-operating units are weeded out. The new policies would also aim at better meeting the bonafide requirements of genuine consumer of non-core, sector, including small scale industries and brick kilns to the extent possible.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

### **Snake Parks**

6061. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of guidelines framed for establishment of snake parks in the country;

(b) the details of snake parks set up in the country so far, State-Wise and location-wise;

(c) whether the Government have made any survey regarding identification of areas for establishment of snake parks in the country;

(d) if so, the details of areas identified for the purpose, State-wise;

(e) whether any States have requested for establishment of such parts for assistance in this regard; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) According to Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, all the Deer Parks and Snake Parks come under the legal definition of Zoo. The Central Government have notified "Recognition of Zoo Rules, 1992" wherein detailed guidelines for housing, upkeep and health care of the animals have been prescribed.

(b) Location-wise and State-wise list of Snake Parks is enclosed as Statement.

(c) to (f) Since the management of Zoos including the Snake Parks, by-and-large have not been upto the desired standards, the Central Government provides financial assistance for the improvement of existing Zoos only. Supreme Court have also directed that no new zoo should be setup without the prior approval of the court.

### **Statement**

#### *List of Snake Parks in the Country*

Sl. No	State	Name of the Snake Park	District
1.	Maharashtra	Snake Park and Aviary, Pimpri Chinchawad	pune
2.	Maharashtra	Snake Park, Shikshan mandal	Kolhapur
3.	Tamil Nadu	Chennai Snake Park	Guindy, Chennai
4.	Tamil Nadu	Madras Crocodile Park	Mahabalipuram
5.	West Bengal	Calcutta Snake Park	Badu, 24 Pargana (N)
6.	West Bengal	West Bengal Snake Park and laboratory	Badu, 24 Pargana (N)
7.	Kerala	Prassanikadavu Snake Park, Kannur	Kannur
8.	West Bengal	Sanke Park reptile Research and Snake bit treatment digha	Midnapore
9.	Kerala	Snake Park	Malampuzha

### **Conservation of Rare Herbs**

6062. SHRI N. T. SHANMUGAM : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of schemes run by the Government to conserve rare herbs in the country;

(b) the areas where these rare herbs are grown in the country, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government are contemplating to promote participation of private sector and Non-Government Organisations in this field; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) The Ministry has implemented a Centrally Sponsored Scheme during the Ninth Plan Period for conservation and development of Non Timber Forest Produce including Medicinal Plants which also includes

rare herbs. The Government has also set up a Medicinal Plant Board in the Ministry of Health to look after the development, policy formulation, sustainable use and to coordinate all matters relating to medicinal plants and herbs. Similarly Medicinal Plant Boards have also been set up in thirteen States.

(b) The State-wise details of the areas where rare herbs are grown are not available. However, the names of the States to which funds have been provided during the Ninth Plan by the Ministry for conservation and development of non timber forest produce including medicinal plants are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) and (d) Medicinal Plant Board is extending financial support to Government and Non-Government Organisations for cultivation and development of medicinal plants including rare herbs used in Indian System of Medicine and Homeopathy. In the financial year 2001-02, the Medicinal Plants Board had released grants-in-aid to 133 Government Organisations and 12 Non Governmental Organisations. Private sector is encouraged for promotion and development of medicinal plants outside the forest areas.

#### Statement

Sl.No.	Name of the States
1	2
1.	Andhara Pradesh
2.	Arunachal Pradesh
3.	Assam
4.	Bihar
5.	Goa
6.	Gujarat
7.	Haryana
8.	Himachal Pradesh
9.	Jammu and Kashmir
10.	Karnataka
11.	Kerala
12.	Madhya Pradesh
13.	Maharashtra
14.	Manipur

1	2
15.	Meghala
16.	Mizoram
17.	Nagaland
18.	Orissa
19.	Punjab
20.	Rajasthan
21.	Sikkim
22.	Tamil Nadu
23.	Tripura
24.	Uttar Pradesh
25.	West Bengal

[Translation]

#### Opening of Research Centres for Green Revolution

6063. SHRI JAIBHAN SINGH PAWAIYA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Agriculture Research Centres, Hybrid Seeds Centres and other research centres opened in the country to ensure the achievements of targets of Green Revolution, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government propose to increase the number of these research centres;

(c) of so, the details thereof; and

(d) the efforts made to provide benefits to the farmers from the Agriculture Research Centres and other concerned Centres?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) :  
(a) List enclosed as statement.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The Indian Council of Agricultural Research have established a network of 261 Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) for training to the farmers and demonstrations on modern agricultural technologies.

Fifty three Zonal Agricultural Research Stations (ZARSS) have been strengthened to take up the additional functions of KVK in those districts where there is no KVK.

Ten Trainers' Training Centres (TTC) have been established to provide updated knowledge to trainers in specialised areas of agriculture.

Based on participatory mode ensuring greater scien-

tists-farmers linkages in bottom-up approach, an Innovative Technology Assessment and Refinement Programme called "Institution Village Linkage Programme" (IVLP) has been launched in 70 districts of the country.

### Statement

#### *State-wise list of ICAR Institutes/NRCs/PDs/AICRPs and its Regional Stations/Research Centres*

Name of State	Name of Institutes/NRCs/PDs/AICRPs/Regional Stations	Location
1	2	3
A and N Islands(UT)	Central Agricultural Research Institute	Port Blair
Andhara Pradesh	Central Research Institute for Dryland Agriculture	Hyderabad
	N.R.C - Sorghum	Hyderabad
	Directorate of Rice Research including AICRP Rice	Hyderabad
	AICRP - Dryland Agriculture	Hyderabad
	AICRP - Sorghum	Hyderabad
	Network -Economic Ornithology	Hyderabad
	<b>Regional Stations / Research Centres</b>	
	National Bureau of Plant Genetic resources	Hyderabad
	Sugarcane Breeding Institute	Kovvur
	Directorate of Maize off season nursery	Hyderabad
	<b>Regional Station/research Centre</b>	
Arunachal Pradesh	ICAR research Complex for NEH Region	Basar
Assam	<b>Regional Stations/Research Centres</b>	
	CRRRI Research Station on Rainfed Lowland Rice	Gerua
	Central Plantation Crops Research Institute	Kahikuchi
	National Bureau of Soil Survey and Land Use Planning	Jorhat
Bihar	ICAR Research Complex for Eastern Region	Patna
	Project Directorate - Water Management	Patna
	NRC Makhana	Darbhanga
	AICRP on Water Management	Patna
	AICRP on Optimization of Groundwater Utilisation	Patna
	AICRP on Management of Diaralands	Patna

1	2	3
	<b>Regional Stations/Research Centres</b>	
	ICAR Research Complex for Eastern Region(Crop Res. Stn)	Pusa
	Indian Agricultural Research Institute	Pusa
	Sugarcane Breeding Institute	Motipur
Chandigarh(UT)	Central Soil and water Conservation Research and Training Institute	Chandigarh
Goa	ICAR Research Complex for Goa	Goa
Gujarat	<b>Regional Stations/research Centres</b>	
	Central Arid Zone Research Institute	Bhuj
	Central Soil and Water Conservation Research and Traning Institute	Valsad
	Central Soil Salinity Research Institute	Anand
	Central Institute for Arid Horticulture	Godhra
Haryana	Central Soil Salinity Research Institute	Karnal
	Directorate of Wheat Research	Karnal
	AICRP - Mgmt. of Salt Affected Solis and Use of Saline Water	Karnal
	<b>Regional Stations/Research Centres</b>	
	Indian Agricultural Research Institute	Karnal
	Sugarcane Breeding Institute	Karnal
Himachal Pradesh	Central Potao Research Institute	Shimla
	N.R.C. - Mushroom	Solan
	AICRP -Micro Biological Decomposition	Palampur
	AICRP - Mushroom	Solan
	AICRP - Potato	Shimla
	<b>Regional Stations/Research Centres</b>	
	Central Potato Research Institute	Kufri
	Indian Agricultural Research Institute	Katrain
	Indian Agricultural Research Institute	Tutikandia, Shimla
	Indian Agricultural Research Institute	Amartara, Shimla
	National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources	Shimla
	Project Directorate - Wheat Research	Shimla
	Project Directorate - Wheat Research	Keylong Lahul -Spiti

1	2	3
Jammu and Kashmir	Central Institute for Temperate Horticulture	Srinagar
	<b>Regional Stations/Research Centres</b>	
	National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources	Srinagar
Jharkhand	<b>Regional Stations/Research Centres</b>	
	ICAR Research Complex for Eastern Region (H and AF Progr.)	Ranchi
	Central Rainfed Upland Rice Res. Station	Hazaribagh
	National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources	Ranchi
Karnataka	Indian Institute of Horticultural Research	Bangalore
	Project Directorate -Biological Control	Bangalore
	AIRP - Small Millets	Bangalore
	Network - Agricultural Acarology	Bangalore
	<b>Regional Stations/Research Centres</b>	
	Central Plantation Crops Research Institute	Hirehalli
	Central Plantation Crops Research Institute	Vittal
	Central Plantation Crops Research Institute	Kidee
	Central Soil and Water Conservation Research and Training Institute	Bellary
	Indian Agricultural Research Institute	Dharwad
	Indian Institute of Horticultural Research	Chettahalli
	National Bureau of Soil Survey and Land Use Planning	Bangalore
	Sugarcane Breeding Institute	Jamkhandi
Kerala	Central Plantation Crops Research Institute	Kasargod
	Central Tuber Crops Research Institute	Thiruvananthapuram
	Indian Institute of Spices Research	Calicut
	AICRP - Palms	Kasargod
	AICRP - Spices	Calicut
	<b>Regional Stations/Research Centres</b>	
	Central Plantation Crops Research Institute	Kayangulam
	Central Plantation Crops Research Institute	Kannara
	Indian Institute of Spices Research	Apangala
	National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources	Trichur
	Sugarcane Breeding Institute	Cannanore
	Sugarcane Breeding Institute	Agali



1	2	3
Lakshdweep	<b>Regional Stations/Research Centres</b>	
	Central Plantation Crops Research Institute	Minicoy
Madhya Pradesh	Central Institute of Agricultural Engineering	Bhopal
	Indian Institute of Soil Science	Bhopal
	N.R.C. - Soybean	Indore
	N.R.C. - Weed Science	Jabalpur
	AICRP - Energy Requirement in Agricultural Sector	Bhopal
	AICRP - Farm Implements Machinery	Bhopal
	AICRP - Human Engineering and Safety Studies	Bhopal
	AICRP - Micro Secondary Nutrients	Bhopal
	AICRP - Power Tiller	Bhopal
	AICRP - Renewable Energy Sources	Bhopal
	AICRP - Soil Test Crop Response	Bhopal
	AICRP - Soybean	Indore
	AICRP - Weed Control	Jabalpur
	RNAM Phase - VI	Bhopal
	AICRP on long Term Fertilizer Experiments	Bhopal
	AICRP on Biological Nitrogen Fixation	Bhopal
	AICRP on Tillage Management of Indian Soils	Bhopal
	<b>Regional Stations/Research Centres</b>	
	Central Potato Research Institute	Gwalior
	Central Soil and Water Conservation Research and Training Institute	Datia
	Indian Agricultural Research Institute	Indore
	National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources	IGKV, Ambikanagar
Maharashtra	National Bureau of Soil Survey and Land Use Planing	Nagpur
	N.R.C. - Citrus	Nagpur
	N.R.C. - Grapes	Pune
	N.R.C. - Onion and Garlic	Pune
	<b>Regional Stations/Research Centres</b>	
	Indian Agricultural Research Institute	Pune
	N. R. C. - Sorghum	Solapur

1	2	3
	National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources	Akola
	National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources	Amravati
	National Bureau of Soil Survey and Land Use Planing	Nagpur
Manipur	Central Agricultural University	Imphal
	ICAR Research Complex for NEH Region	Imphal
Mizoram	ICAR Research Complex for NEH Region	Kolasaib
Meghalaya	ICAR Research Complex for NEH Region	Barapani
	<b>Regional Stations/Research Centres</b>	
	Central Potato Research Institute	Shillong
	ICAR Research Complex for NEH Region	West Garo Hills
	National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources	Shillong
Nagaland	ICAR Research Complex for NEH Region	Khanakhuru
New Delhi	Indian Agricultural Research Institute	New Delhi
	Indian Agricultural Statistics Research Institute	New Delhi
	National Bureau of Agriculturally Micro-Organisms	New Delhi
	National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources	New Delhi
	N.R.C. - Agricultural Economics and Policy Research	New Delhi
	N.R.C. - on Plant Biotechnology	New Delhi
	N.R.C. - Integrated Pest Management	New Delhi
	N.R.C. - DNA Fingerprinting	New Delhi
	Directorate of Maize Research	New Delhi
	AICRP - Agricultural By-product	New Delhi
	AICRP - Agricultural Drainage	New Delhi
	AICRP - Engineering Measures for Efficient Land and Water Mgmt.	New Delhi
	AICRP - Nematode	New Delhi
	AICRP - Pesticide Residue	New Delhi
	AICRP - Post Harvest Techn. of Horticultural Corps	New Delhi
	AICRP - Under-utilised and Under-exploited Plant	New Delhi
	Integrated Krishi Vigyan Kendras	New Delhi
	National Seed Project	New Delhi
	Network Scheme - Embroy Transfer Technology	New Delhi

1	2	3
	Agril. Human Resource Development	New Delhi
	National Agricultural Technology Project (NATP)	New Delhi
	<b>Regional Stations/Research Centres</b>	
	National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources	Issapur
	National Bureau of Soil Survey and Land Use Planning	New Delhi
Orissa	Central Rice Research Institute	Cuttack
	NRC for Women in Agriculture	Bhubaneswar
	Water Technology Centre for Eastern Region	Bhubaneswar
	AICRP - Tuber Crops	Bhubaneswar
	<b>Regional Stations/Research Centres</b>	
	Central Soil and Water Conservation Research and Training Institute	Koraput
	Central Tuber Crops Research Institute	Bhubaneswar
	Indian Institute of Horticultural Research	Bhubaneswar
	National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources	Cuttack
Punjab	Central Institute for Post Harvest Engg. and Technology	Ludhiana
	AICRP - Application of Plastics in Agriculture	Ludhiana
	AICRP - Harvest and Post Harvest Technology	Ludhiana
	<b>Regional Stations/Research Centres</b>	
	Central Potato Research Institute	Jalandhar
Rajasthan	Central Arid Zone Research Institute	Jodhpur
	Central Institute for Arid Horticulture	Bikaner
	NRC - Speed Spices	Ajmer
	AICRP Pearl Millet	Jodhpur
	AICRP on Arid Zone Fruits	Bikaner
	AICRP - Arid legumes	CAZRI, Jodhpur
	<b>Regional Stations/Research Centres</b>	
	Central Arid Zone Research Institute	Pali
	Central Arid Zone Research Institute	Jaisalmer
	Central Arid Zone Research Institute	Bikaner
	Central Soil and Water Conservation Research and Training Institute	Kota
	National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources	RAU, Mandor

1	2	3
	National Bureau of Soil Survey and Land Use Planning	Udaipur
Sikkim	ICAR Research Complex for NEH Region	Gangtok
Tamil Nadu	Sugarcane Breeding Institute	Coimbatore
	N. R. C. - Banana	Tiruchirapalli
	<b>Regional Stations/Research Centres</b>	
	Central Potata Research Institute	Udhagamandalam
	Central Soil and Water Conservation Research and Traning Institute	Udhagamandalam
	Indian Agricultural Research Institute	Wellington
	Indian Agricultural Research Institute	Aduthurai
Tripura	<b>Regional Stations/Research Centres</b>	
	ICAR Research Complex for NEH Region	Lembucherra
Uttar Pradesh	Central Institute for Subtropical Horticulture	Lucknow
	Indian Institute of Pluses Research	Kanpur
	Indian Institute of Sugarcane Research	Lucknow
	Indian Institute of Vegetable Research	Varanasi
	N. R. C. - Agroforestry	Jhansi
	AICRP - Agroforestry	Jhansi
	Project Directorate - Cropping System Research	Modipuram
	AICRP - Chick Pea	Kanpur
	AICRP - Jaggery and Khandasari	Lucknow
	AICRP - Pigeon Pea	Kanpur
	AICRP - Pluses(MULLARP)	Kanpur
	AICRP - Sugarcane	Lucknow
	AICRP - Vegetable Research	Varanasi
	AICRP on Management of Diaraland Improvement	Modipuram
	AICRP on Forage Crops	Jhansi
	AICRP - Sub-tropical Fruits	Lucknow
	Vegetable Seed Project (National Seed Project)	Varanasi
	<b>Regional Stations/Research Centres</b>	
	Central Potato Research Institute	Modipuram
	Central Soil and Water Conservation Research and Training Institute	Agra

1	2	3
Uttaranchal	Central Soil and Water Conservation Research and Training Institute	Dehradun
	Vivekanand Parvatiya Krishi Anusandhan Shala	Almora
	<b>Regional Stations/Research Centres</b>	
	Central Institute for Temperate Horticulture	Mukteshwar
	National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources	Bhowali
West Bengal	<b>Regional Stations/Research Centres</b>	
	Central Institute of Sub-tropical Horticulture (Proposed)	Malda
	Central Plantation Crops Research Institute	Jalpaiguri
	Central Soil Salinity Research Institute	Canning Town
	Indian Agricultural Research Institute	Kalimpong
	National Bureau of Soil Survey and Land Use Planning	Kolkatta

*[English]***Increase in Air Fares**

6064. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :-

(a) whether the air fares in respect of west bound destination flights from India have increased by almost 100 per cent;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the airlines deduct the tax at source on the standard IATA commission in contravention of the instructions of Income Tax authorities for deducting tax at source on the difference between the gross and net fares; and

(d) if so, the reasons for not strictly following the instructions of Income Tax authorities?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN) : (a) and (b) No Sir. Air fares on various routes vary from season to season depending upon demand and supply. Due to fall in demand in air travel following terrorist attack in United States on 11th September, 2001 and the events thereafter, various airlines had offered discounts, which are now being discontinued in phases following recovery.

(c) and (d) As per the provisions of Section 194H of the Income tax Act, 1961, introduced with effect from

1.6.2001, tax is to be deducted at source from any income by way of commission or brokerage. The Central Board of Direct Taxes has not issued any instruction on the applicability or otherwise of Section 194H on the standard IATA commission.

**Improvement in Tourism Infrastructure**

6065. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to improve tourism infrastructure in the country;

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

(c) whether any funds have been allocated for 2002-03 and earmarked for the remaining years of 'tenth Plan' and

(d) if so the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Department of Tourism, Government of India grants financial assistance to the State Governments/UT Administrations every year for the development of infrastructure in the country in consultation with them. The proposals for financial year 2002-03 are yet to be finalised.

(c) and (d) The Planning Commission has approved an allocation of Rs. 225.00 crores for the Annual Plan

2002-03 and also an amount of Rs.2900 crores for the 10th Five Year Plan for the Department of Tourism for development of infrastructure and promotion of tourism in the country.

### **Subsidy to FPIs**

6066. SHRIMATI KUMUDINI PATNAIK : Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) the category of Food Processing Industries (FPIs) listed to be eligible for incentive of grants and the number of such industries established in the country till March 31, 2002;

(b) the quantum of money involved by providing subsidy and other assistance during the last three years; and

(c) the number of applications received by his Ministry or subsidy by such industries from Orissa during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (PROF. CHAMAN LAL GUPTA) : (a) During the first four years of the 9th Five Year Plan combination of soft loan and grant was admissible for setting up, expansion, modernization, providing infrastructural facilities, strengthening of backward linkages etc. to private sector, NGOs, cooperatives, PSUs, HRD and R and D institutions. With effect from 2001-2002 only grant – in – aid is being extended. A total of 5569 FPO units had been licenced for establishment up to 01.01.2002.

(b) During the last three years, a sum of Rs. 9921.87 lakhs has been released as financial assistance under the above mentioned Schemes.

(c) Applications numbering 13 for financial assistance were received during the last three years.

[Translation]

### **Northern Coalfields Limited**

6067. DR. BALIRAM : Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether due to wrong method of coal extraction being carried out for the last several years in different projects like Jayant, Nigahi, Khariya under Northern Coalfields Ltd., Singarauli (MP), the coal face and the O.B. face ground level has turned to 90 degree which may result in a severe accident any time;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether due to subsidence of O. B. of Jayant Project, the P and H shovel No. 8 machine which is worth Rs. 8 crore has been completely damaged;

(d) if so, whether the same has since been repaired;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the Government proposes to conduct a thorough study into the matter;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) the steps initiated in this direction so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) No, Sir. It is not a fact that wrong method of coal extraction is being followed in the different projects of Northern Coalfields Limited (NCL). The pit slopes of the different projects have not turned to 90 degree and the pits are safe.

(b) Does not arise in view of reply given to part (a) of the above.

(c) It is not a fact that the P and H Shovel No.8 of Jayant project was completely damaged due to slide of OB. On 25th August, 2001, an incident of sudden slide of OB occurred when the P and H Shovel No. 8 was working near a hillock which had hidden crack that could not be noticed during regular mine inspection. The shovel was partially damaged which was taken out for repair/recommissioning on the 3rd day of the incident.

(d) and (e) The repair work of the shovel is in progress. The repair work has been awarded to M/s Voltas Limited (the Indian representative of OEM) for repair and fitment of operator cabin, machine house, planum chamber assembly, right hand counter weight box, hatch cover, centre box etc. for Rs. 20.8 lakhs. The spares required for re-commissioning of the shovel is under process of procurement. The total expenditure will be known only after completion of the work and recommissioning of the equipment.

(f) to (h) The incident was thoroughly enquired and examined by a Committee consisting of senior mining officers and the enquiry report has been submitted. As per the finding of the enquiry, disciplinary action against concerned officials are under progress.

*[English]*

**Agreement with Malaysia to  
Promote Tourism**

6068. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any agreement has been reached with Malaysia to promote tourism between the two countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to attract tourists from Malaysia?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) In order to attract tourism from Malaysia, various publicity and promotion activities were under taken which include :

- (1) Refocussing of overseas marketing and promotion policy to South East Asia including Malaysia.
- (2) Holding of special India Evening with cultural programmes at the close of PATA Annual Conference, 2001 in Kuala Lumpur as a prelude to hosting the prestigious PATA Annual Conference 2002 in India
- (3) Holding of Road Shows—cum—India Presentations and participation in tourism exhibitions by India tourism, Singapore.
- (4) Hosting of fam tours of media and tour operators to offer them first hand knowledge of Indian tourism product and tourist facilities
- (5) Promotion of special—Tour Packages like South India, Golden Triangle (Delhi-Agra-Jaipur) and Buddhist Sector for different communities in Malaysia.
- (6) Release of advertisements in Print media from time to time.
- (7) Promotion of special tour packages for PIOs and NRIs to discover routes and undertake pilgrimage.

- (8) Department of Tourism is in the process of establishing a tourism promotion office in the Embassy of India, Kuala Lumpur.

**Landing Rights to Malaysian Flights**

6069 SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :-

(a) whether the Malaysian Government has requested the Union Government to give more landing rights to the Malaysian flights;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN) : (a) to (c) Malayasian Government has requested the Government of India to allow Malayasian Airlines to operate three services/week out of Hyderabad in place of the existing one service/week At present the Malayasian Airlines which has landing rights for six airports in India namely Delhi, Calcutta, Chennai, Mumbai, Bangalore and Hyderabad is entitled to operate 3900 seats per week in each direction and in addition it has been permitted to operate 1500 seats per week against the unutilised entitlement of the Indian side. Within their overall entitlement of 5400 seats/week, Malayasian Airlines can deploy any number of seats out of Hyderabad subject to a minium of 550 seats/week being operated from Bangalore. Further request of capacity enhancement can be discussed during bilateral air services consultations as and when held.

**Delivery of Airbus to Air India**

6070. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI :  
SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Airbus will deliver three A-310s, 200-seater planes to Air India in the month of April, 2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith total cost per aircraft; and

(c) the extent to which it is likely to benefit Air India?

TRE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN) : (a) to (c) Air India has invited tenders fort dry lease of upto 3 A310-300 aircraft, to be

delivered during the year 2002. Six bids have been received. Airbus is also one of the 6 bidders. Evaluation of these bids is in progress. With this induction Air India will intensify their operations.

### **Increase in the Agricultural Production**

6071. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI :  
DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV :  
SHRI MANSINH PATEL :  
SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government have given any specific attention to augment agricultural production and also to 27 Centrally sponsored schemes under the Micromanagement Mode to give freedom and flexibility to States as per their requirement;

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

(c) whether these steps have shown positive trend in agricultural production;

(d) if so, the details thereof and total production of major crops during the last three years, year-wise; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to improve farming techniques and methods to augment agricultural production including oilseeds in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) :  
(a) to (e) Yes Sir, The Scheme of Macro Management of Agriculture has been devised by integrating 27 Centrally Sponsored Schemes to give States flexibility to develop and pursue activities on the basis of their regional priorities for augmenting agricultural production.

The Macro Management of Agriculture is a major step towards achieving decentralization in pursuance of restoring primacy of the States in agricultural development planning. The Scheme aims at all round development in agriculture through Work Plans prepared by States. The Work Plans will review the States' past performance in the agriculture sector and set out specific goals and objectives for the development of agriculture in the State. It will be based on a detailed analysis of the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats, identify specific areas for concentration of efforts to meet the challenges and to raise the productivity levels of different priority crops. The Work

Plans will comprise specific intervention/activities for different crops/regions in the State to achieve these objectives in a time bound manner and to ensure optimal use of available resources. The Macro-Management Scheme aims at supplementation complementation of States efforts through Work Plan to enhance Agricultural Production.

The Scheme is in operation since November, 2000 and it is too early to comment on the definite contribution of the Scheme on production. It may, however, be mentioned that the overall agricultural production is likely to be 211.17 million tonnes during the period 2001-02. This will be a record production and 15.25 million tonnes more than the last years' production of 195.92 million tonnes.

The details of total production of major crops during the last three years, year-wise, are given in the enclosed statement.

### **Statement**

*Details of total Production of Major Crops during the last three years, year-wise*

Crop	Production ('000Tonnes)		
	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01
Rice	86076.7	89682.9	84871.2
Wheat	71287.5	76368.9	68763.3
Jowar	8415.4	8684.9	7715.8
Bajra	6955.6	5782.2	7058.9
Maize	11147.7	11509.6	12067.9
Ragi	2608.1	2289.5	2741.9
Small Millets	670.8	618.2	600.1
Barley	1537.8	1447.0	1431.5
Coarse Cereals	31335.4	30331.4	31616.1
Cereals	188699.6	196383.2	185250.6
Tur (Arhar)	2708.1	2694.0	2262.4
Pulses other than Tur	2433.2	2122.4	2204.4
Gram	6800.7	5118.1	3522.4
Pulses other than Gram	2965.3	3483.8	2676.1
Pulses	14907.3	13418.3	10665.3



### **Construction of Submersible Bridge by MCL**

6072. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is demand for construction of Submersible Bridge over Nandita Nala near village Sakya and Kamop under Angul district, Orissa; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Mahanadi Coal Fields Limited (MCL) to implement the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) A demand for construction for Submersible Bridge over Nandira Nala near village Sakya Singha and Karnapur under Angul District, Orissa has been received by MCL on 27.3.2002.

(b) Coal India Limited has reported that the matter is being put up to the Peripheral Development Committee of Mahanadi Coalfields Limited(MCL) which will take a view on this issue when it meets in May, 2002.

### **Review of Social Security Schemes**

6073. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI :  
SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to review all Social Security Schemes for industrial workers to bring them at par with the developed countries;

(b) if so, whether the Government have taken any decision to introduce the revised schemes in phases;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of source of funding for implementation of the said schemes for workmen?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) to (d) The Second National Commission on Labour has been set up by the Government to suggest rationalization of the existing laws relating to labours in the organized sector, and to suggest an umbrella legislation for ensuring minimum level of

protection to the workers in the unorganized sector. The report of the Commission is awaited.

### **Workers In Construction Sector**

6074. SHRI B.K. PARTHASARATHI :  
SHRI GUNIPATI RAMAIAH :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have conducted any survey about the workers engaged in construction and repair of roads in the country; and

(b) if so, the findings thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) and (b) No specific survey concerning workers exclusively engaged in construction and repair of roads has been conducted. However, according to the estimates of 1991 Census, 56 lakh workers are engaged in construction activities including construction and repair of roads.

### **Demand of Coal**

6075. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether demand for coal has fallen much below the target of 412 million tonnes in the Ninth Five Year Plan to only 354 million tonnes;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether less number of coal-based -power plants are coming up; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to enhance use of coal in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The overall sluggish growth in the economy and non-materialisation of envisaged new coal-based thermal power generation capacity had adversely affected the estimated coal demand in the IX Plan.

(c) and (d) As per report of the Working Group for Xth Plan, 19,565 MW coal based power generation capacity is expected to be added during the Xth Plan period. The capacity addition programme is expected to give a boost to coal demand during the Xth Plan.

**Publication of Market Fares on Tickets**

6076. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Board of Airlines in India has decided to print market fares on the tickets from April 1, 2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether India's flag carrier Air India is leading the pack to shift to the net fare concept which is prevalent all over the world;

(d) if so, whether this move is likely to lend transparency for the customer and check rampant undercutting in the trade; and

(e) if so, the extent thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Market fares are filed by national carrier and foreign carriers file the same levels as that of the national carrier. Once DGCA approves, the fare is written on the ticket.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. provided foreign carriers do not flout agreements on these fares.

**Duty Free Shops at IGI Airport**

6077. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Airports Authority of India (AAI) has not finalised the agreed layout for duty free shops at Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA)

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which the AAI will provide promised area to ITDC for duty free shops?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN) : (a) Airports Authority of India (AAI) has finalised a layout plan for relocation of Duty Free Shops in the arrival hall of IGI Airport and the formal approval to the revised plan is awaited from Customs Authorities and India Tourism development Corporation (ITDC).

(b) and (c) The scheme for relocation of Duty Free Shops was undertaken to provide space for Immigration Department for creating to new facility of processing "Visa

on Arrival" Since this scheme has been keep in abeyance, no time frame has been give to hand over the identified area to ITDC.

[Translation]

**Unemployed youth in Tenth Five Year Plan**

6078. SHRI JAIBHAN SINGH PAWAIYA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the estimated number of unemployed youth expected during the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) the number of persons likely to get employment during the above period; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to tackle the problem of unemployment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) and (b) Planning Commission is currently engaged in the formulation of the 10th five year plan and as such, the estimated number of unemployed and the number of persons likely to get employment during the 10th Plan is not available.

(c) The approach to Tenth Plan focusses on providing gainful high quality employment to the additions to the labour force and it is listed as one of the monitorable objectives for the 10th Plan and beyond. The growth strategy of the 10th Plan would lay emphasis on rapid growth of those sectors which are likely to create high quality employment opportunities and deal with the policy constraints which discourage growth of employment. Particular attention would be paid to the policy environment influencing a wide range of economic activities which have a large employment potential.

In addition, a special group under the chairmanship of Dr. S. P. Gupta, Member, Planning Commission, has been constituted to suggest measures for creation of ten million employment opportunities in each year of the Tenth Plan Period.

[English]

**Investment in Irrigation Projects**

6079. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the public investment in agricultural sector comprising of major and medium irrigation projects has considerably declined during the last five years;

(b) if so, whether the maintenance and operation of irrigation system in most States has deteriorated because of the weak cost recovery;

(c) if so, whether the agricultural sector has been adversely affected as a result thereof; and

(d) if so, the concrete steps taken by the Government to meet the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) :

(a) No, Sir. In absolute terms there has been a consistent increase in financial outlay in last 5 years in the irrigation sector. However, percentage share of investment in the irrigation sector including major and medium irrigation projects in relation to the total public investment over different plan periods has consistently declined.

(b) and (c) Operation and maintenance cost of irrigation systems are met from the Non-Plan budget of the States. The deterioration of operation and maintenance in most of the States is mainly due to subsidized water charges and weak recovery of water tariff. Only about 40% of the agricultural area of the country is irrigated.

(d) The approach paper to the Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-2007) adopted by Government of India, aims at a major revival of public investment in Irrigation infrastructure and water management. The Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme, according to the Approach Paper, is an important instrument for augmenting financial resources of State Government to support the ongoing irrigation schemes.

#### **Mineral Survey**

6080. SHRIMATI KUMUDINI PATNAIK : Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the total deposits of Iron Ore, Coal, Bauxite, Chromite, Nickel, Zinc and graphite in the country as per the latest survey and the deposits of the respective minerals and coal in Orissa with their percentage as compared to other States; and

(b) the quantum of these deposits exported to the foreign countries and also outside the State during 2001-02, mineral-wise;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a)

As per the latest survey the total deposits of Iron-ore, Coal, Bauxite, Chromite, Nickel, Zinc and Graphite in the country and those in Orissa with their percentages are as below:-

(in Million tonnes)			
Mineral	Total deposits in the country	Deposits in Orissa	Percentage in Orissa state
<b>Iron Ore-</b>			
Hematite	10052.00	3294.00	32.77
Magnetite	3516.19	—	—
Coal	234114.28	58012.22	24.78
Bauxite	2462.43	1395.21	56.66
Chromite	97.07	94.03	96.86
Nickel	183.5*	174.5*	95.00
Lead-Zinc Ore	176.84	1.65	0.93
Graphite	4.57	1.35	29.55

\*Conditional resources

(b) The information on export of minerals is not maintained State-wise by the Government.

#### **Smuggling of Sandalwood**

6081. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the States in the country where sandalwood is produced;

(b) whether some of these States are unable to stop the smuggling of sandalwood; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to protect the valuable sandalwood from smugglers?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) Sandalwood is mainly found in the States of Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka.

(b) and (c) The State Governments are protecting sandalwood forests through their protective staff as per provisions of respective Forest Acts and other Acts, and Rules thereof.

[Translation]

**Northern Coalfields Limited**

6082. DR. BALIRAM : Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether crores of rupees are being spent every year for manufacturing and repairing of different machines in various projects of the Northern Coalfields Limited (NCL):

(b) if so, the amount spent on each machines in various projects during the last three years, project-wise;

(c) whether any committee has been constituted to keep a check on the money spent on the damaged machines and also to find out the reasons for damage of the machines in various projects;

(d) if so, the details and findings thereof; and

(e) the action being taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) and (b) The details of amount spent on repairing of machines in various projects of Northern Coalfields Limited during the last five years are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) Yes, Sir, Committee is constituted with the approval of the competent authority whenever any damage occurs to machine. The Committee submits the report after an in-depth analysis of the cause of the accident, of damage to machine, suggestions/remedial measures for future guidance to avoid recurrence of such incidents etc.

The repairs are carried out as per the requirement of the condition of machine and under the guidance of the section in-charge of the machine.

(d) and (e) Inquiry is conducted by the Committee constituted for individual cases and actions are taken as per findings of the Committee.

**Statement**

*Amount spent including spares consumed, repairs done by Outside Agency and repairs done by Central Workshop of NCL on machines in various Projects of NCL during Last 5 Years*

**1997-98**

(Figures in Rs. lakhs)

Group of equipment	Amlori	Bina	Dudhichua	Jayant	Jhingurda	Kakri	Khadia	Nigahi	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Drag Line	116.91	667.77	401.44	1704.92	0	0	454.53	746.30	4091.87
Shovel	2112.3	942.74	1940.65	3605.04	219.34	443.08	439.21	1317.49	11019.85
Dumper	763.81	566.84	905.04	1812.53	935.46	639.18	1166.0	977.0	7765.84
Dozer	140.11	110.6	344.27	353.09	91.97	222.51	213.08	300.3	1775.93
Drill	393.91	303.96	304.76	414.27	43.96	55.23	125.74	326.31	1968.18
Crane	55.63	19.53	25.95	62.74	0.14	3.48	0	34.18	201.65
Other	126.9	178.93	154.41	212.3	1.62	60.45	26.58	110.42	871.59
Total HEMM	3709.6	2790.37	4076.54	8164.89	1292.51	1423.93	2425.1	3812.0	27694.91

**1998-99**

Drag Line	86.24	747.82	1380.15	727.72	0	0	366.9	423.61	3732.54
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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Shovel	1331.9	918.87	1306.7	3802.56	388.91	506.7	620.95	1021.0	9897.6
Dumper	984.6	868.85	1231.85	1609.44	589.57	499.81	1004.9	1106.44	7895.45
Dozer	179.69	204.15	337.13	395.54	101.3	258.94	319.3	294.37	2090.42
Drill	375.79	330.61	252.56	545.64	69.19	88.43	110.52	372.64	2145.38
Crane	95.34	20.24	16.77	67.13	0.8	16.28	0	39.92	256.48
Other	47.32	340.54	155.52	269.03	1.08	45.13	42.15	75.56	976.33
Total HEMM	3100.9	3431.18	4680.68	7417.06	1150.85	1415.29	2464.7	3333.55	26994.21
<b>1999-00</b>									
Drag Line	152.76	670.83	1151.24	1879.49	0	0	585.6	1131.71	5571.63
Shovel	843.07	945.37	800.13	4156.37	143.21	445.69	822.76	1243.51	9400.11
Dumper	1186.4	1041.65	1020.35	1392.71	731.77	613.71	1424.4	975.8	8386.74
Dozer	139.8	234.38	446.98	178.1	86.74	303.83	307.21	256.47	1953.51
Drill	278.02	595.7	278.81	410.39	45.79	141.83	192.18	407.05	2349.77
Crane	50.17	20.73	19.0	40.63	0.45	20.32	0	31.90	183.2
Other	48.77	532.4	122.13	612.88	1.0	88.29	60.26	96.48	1562.21
Total HEMM	2698.9	4041.06	3838.64	8670.57	1008.96	1613.67	3392.4	4142.91	29407.16
<b>2001-01</b>									
Drag Line	617.74	711.96	216.5	1644.03	0	0	625.46	766.55	4582.24
Shovel	2317.90	681.39	1201.97	3409.68	431.99	391.45	702.09	1516.61	10653.09
Dumper	1150.00	1118.18	1715.89	2181.08	1299.78	777.22	1227.8	2004.79	11474.72
Dozer	113.64	218.55	396.86	299.7	130.44	364.86	327.61	228.62	2080.28
Drill	277.95	532.76	389.43	274.43	97.76	108.08	266.29	502.21	2448.91
Crane	108.41	19.22	11.56	37.15	0.58	17.17	0	61.26	255.35
Other	68.73	567.96	160.33	313.14	1.03	62.78	60.86	71.66	1306.49
Total HEMM	4654.40	3850.02	4092.54	8159.21	1961.58	1721.56	3210.1	5151.70	32801.08

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<b>2001-02</b>									
Drag Line	68.89	531.56	1151.84	2847.77	0	0	412.51	487.52	5500.09
Shovel	1112.0	973.22	613.65	9602.92	263.59	474.75	521.34	1217.25	14778.69
Dumper	1955.2	1222.54	1947.64	1448.63	875.57	728.24	1339.7	1777.18	11294.7
Dozer	210.28	227.6	531.66	278.54	123.27	249.27	304.49	323.17	2248.28
Drill	266.41	451.84	286.37	376.57	126.38	89.72	231.65	425.18	2254.12
Crane	91.21	66.06	83.12	47.21	10.06	11.99	0	75.95	385.6
Other	77.26	484.56	189.16	310.49	15.5	107.95	192.75	125.96	1503.63
Total HEMM	3781.3	3957.38	4803.44	14912.1	1414.37	1661.92	3002.4	4432.21	37965.11

*[English]*

**Tussel between AAI and  
Customs Authority**

6083. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item under caption "AAI, customs locked in battle of position" appeared in the 'Hindustan Times' dated April 19, 2002;

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

(c) whether the dispute has since been resolved; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) There is not tussle between the Airports Authority of India and the Customs authorities as reported in the news-item. However, there was some communication gap between AAI and Customs at the time of installation of surveillance cameras, regarding the location of the cameras/counters. An understanding has since been reached between them on these issues, and counters have been relocated accordingly.

*[Translation]*

**Facilities for Jobless Labourers  
of Closed Industries**

6084. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the facilities provided to the jobless labourers of those industrial units of Delhi which have been closed down/proposed to be closed down in the wake of the directions by the Supreme Court;

(b) whether any guidelines have been issued by the Supreme Court to the management of those industrial units;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government have received any representations against those industrial units which are refusing to give service benefits to the affected labourers; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the remedial action taken by the Government in the matter?

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.

*[English]***Boost to Agriculture Sector**

6085. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the present budget has provided additional allocations for agriculture sector;

(b) if so, the measures the Government propose to take to boost the agriculture sector during the current financial year;

(c) whether the amendment of Milk and Milk Products Control Order is also to give a fillip to dairy farming; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) and (b) Ministry of Agriculture have been allocated Budget Estimate of Rs. 3242 crore during 2002-03 against Budget Estimate of Rs. 2969 crore and Revised Estimate of Rs. 2741 crore for the year 2001-02. Ministry of Agriculture have restructured its Schemes based on Zero Based Budgeting (ZBB) principles and also keeping in view the recommendations of various Working Group Reports and Steering Group Report to boost the agriculture sector during the Tenth Plan period.

(c) and (d) The amendment in Milk and Milk Product Order 1992 has been notified vide Milk and Milk Product (Amendment) Order 2002 on 26.3.2002. There is requirement of registration for enforcing the prescribed standards of quality and food safety only. The Order will be beneficial to small, landless Milk producers and Milk consumers. The Order will not only help farmers to get remunerative price of their produce, i.e. milk but also consumers Will get good quality Milk at reasonable price. The new capacity creation for processing and value addition in dairy industry will also create employment opportunities for the rural poor.

**Promotion of Apiculture**

6086. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether production of Honey is gradually declining in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether major factor for this decline is decreasing population of Bee in the country;

(d) if so, whether any programme is being launched or under implementation for promotion of Apiculture;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether India is exporting Honey; and

(g) if so, the details thereof during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) :

(a) to (e) No, Sir. The production of honey in terms of value has increased from Rs. 32.82 crores in 1998-99 to Rs. 40.98 crores in 2000-01. However, the Ministry of Agriculture is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Macro Management in Agriculture – Supplementation Complementation of State Efforts through work plans. Under this Scheme assistance is being provided to the State Designated Agencies (SDAs) and State Government for taking up activities like production and distribution of honey been colonies, distribution of hives, migration of colonies, organizing training programmes and honey festivals. Since 1994-95, about 1.54 lakh honey been colonies have been distributed to the farmers/bee-keepers. The Khadi and Village industries Commission is also implementing a Stock Multiplication Programme with the assistance of United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

(f) and (g) Details of export of honey for last 3 years is given below:-

Year	Quantity (Tons)	Value (Lakh) Rs.)
1998-1999	1608	729.88
1999-2000	1920	952.843
2000-2001	1534	812.80

**Plan to Support Hybrid Production**

6087. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has any plans to support hybrid production in the State Agricultural Universities under a

revolving fund system for employing unemployed agricultural graduates in various regional rice research stations of the Universities; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) :

(a) Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) supports seed production including hybrid seed production under Revolving Fund Schemes in the State Agricultural Universities/ICAR Institutes.

(b) Several revolving fund schemes are operating and the provisions thereof could be used for supporting hybrid seed production as per General Guidelines for the A.P. Cess Fund Utilization for Ad-hoc Research Schemes

and Revolving Fund Schemes (1996) at the ICAR Institutes/State Agriculture Universities. At present, a total of 11 revolving funds schemes are operating in various States of the country for seed production which have multi-crop functioning including rice. The details of the scheme in operation on seed production are given in the enclosed statement.

No regular scientific position is created under the schemes. Technical and supporting staff, absolutely required and justifiable are included and these may comprise the agricultural graduates/post-graduates. Students may be engaged in this scheme and suitable remuneration can be paid to them in the form of assistantship.

### Statement

#### *Revolving Fund Schemes on Seed Production*

Sl. No.	Title of the Scheme	Name of the Centre	Total outlay (Rs. in Lakhs)
1	2	3	4
1.	Seed production of upland rice varieties	Central Rice Research Institute, Cuttack – actual location at Central Rainfed Upland Rice Research Station, Hazaribagh, Jharkhand	6.00
2.	Monitoring stability of released varieties and production of their quality seed	Directorate of Wheat Research, Karnal, Haryana	1.25
3.	Production of foundation seed of hybrid	University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad, Karnataka	29.87
4.	Breeder seed production of sugarcane clones	Sugarcane Breeding Institute, Regional Research Station, Karnal, Haryana	8.00
5.	Production of breeder/nucleus/quality seed of various crops and multiplication of promising genetic stocks of vegetatively propagated plants	National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources, New Delhi	16.00
6.	Production of breeder, foundation and certified seeds of cereals, millets, oilseeds and fodder crops	Allahabad Agricultural Institute, Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh	15.00
7.	Nucleus/Breeder seed production of improved groundnut cultivars	International Crop Research Institute for Semi-Arid Tropics, Patancheru, Andhra Pradesh	
8.	Breeder seed production of sugarcane varieties	Choudhary Charan Singh Haryana Agricultural University, Haryana, Regional Research Station, Uchani, Karnal, Haryana,	5.00



1	2	3	4
9.	Fodder maize seed production	Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidyapeeth, Rahuri, Maharashtra	20.00
10.	Sugarcane seed production	Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidyapeeth, Rahuri, Maharashtra	20.00
11.	Forage sorghum seed production	Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidyapeeth, Rahuri, Maharashtra	8.00

#### **Aircraft Evaluation Committee**

6088. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Aircraft Evaluation Committee constituted by Indian Airlines made any suggestion to acquire fuel-efficient planes for low cost flight;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Indian Airlines has worked out any costing details on the feasibility of running low tariff flights to increase air travel and use of excess capacity;

(d) if so, whether Indian Airlines will introduce No-Frills and Low-Tariff flights shortly; and

(e) if so, the details of such flights?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN) : (a) and (b) The Board of Directors of Indian Airlines in its meeting held on 27th March, 2002 have approved a proposal acquisition of 43 aircraft at a net project cost of Rs. 10,089 crores. The Project Report submitted by Indian Airlines is under consideration of the Government.

(c) to (e) In view of the highly competitive scenario, Indian Airlines has introduced a Flexi Fare Policy w.e.f. 25th May, 2001. The level of fare is increased/decreased, sector to sector, based on market factors such as seasonality, supply demand equation, strength of Indian Airlines versus competitor, competitor fares etc.

Indian Airlines operates services between Delhi and Mumbai at late night hours in which it offer a fare 43% lower than the fare on other flights.

#### **Target for Production of Pulses**

6089. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Farm output estimate at 210 million tonnes" appearing in 'The Hindu' dated April 5, 2002;

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

(c) the target fixed for the production of pulses during 2001-2002;

(d) the reasons for which the target has not been achieved; and

(e) the target fixed for foodgrains production during 2002-2003?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) :

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. It is true that the production of foodgrains during 2001-02 is estimated at 211.17 million tonnes.

(c) and (d) The Planning Commission had fixed a production target of pulses during 2001-02 at 15.00 million tonnes. As against this the production of pulses during 2001-02 is estimated at 13.79 million tonnes, which is 3 million tonnes more than last year. However, the production fell little short of the target due to unfavourable weather conditions prevailing in the major pulse producing States during 2001-02.

(e) The Planning Commission has fixed the production target of foodgrains during 2002-03 at 220.00 million tonnes.

[Translation]

#### **Committee on Linking of Rivers**

6090. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to set up expert committee including a panel of engineers to formulate a plan for connecting all the rivers in the country for optimum utilisation of water and averting the recurring floods in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the panel has been constituted;

(d) whether this panel has submitted its recommendations to the Government; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (e) In 1980, the Ministry of Water Resources, then known as the Ministry of Irrigation, formulated a National Perspective Plan for integrated water resources development through inter-linkages of several southern based Peninsular rivers and the Himalayan rivers which inter alia envisages flood control benefit. Through this programme it is intended to assess the surplus basins as of now for possible transfer of water from surplus to deficit basins in order to optimally utilise the water resources of the country. With this purpose in mind the Government of India has established the National Water Development Agency (NWDA) in 1982 as an autonomous society to carryout water balance and feasibility studies of the Peninsular and Himalayan rivers. NWDA has identified 30 links under the National Perspective Plan for preparation of Feasibility Reports. NWDA has completed Feasibility Report of six links. Implementation of the water transfer links would only be possible if the concerned cobasin States agree to the water linkage proposals, provide other logistical support necessary for project implementation and availability of funds is ensured.

[English]

#### **Visa-on-Arrival Scheme**

6091. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Visa-on-arrival scheme gets delayed further" appearing in the Hindustan Times dated April 12, 2002;

(b) if so, the reasons for delay;

(c) whether Customs Department and Ministry of

Home Affairs have raised some objections on the speedy implementation of the scheme;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to sort out the objections to attract more tourists flow to the country?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) The Government has decided not to introduce the scheme at present due to current security environment.

#### **Duty Free Business at Delhi International Airport**

6092. SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the India Tourism Development Corporation is revamping its duty free retail business at Delhi International Airport/and is set to launch an exclusive wine corner and cosmetic boutique;

(b) whether any concrete steps have been taken in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the time by which these are likely to come under operation?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. In order to boost up sales and profitability by exploiting full potential of fast selling items, it has been decided to revamp ITDC Duty Free business initially at Delhi International Airport by setting up an exclusive Wine Corner in the main shop and a separate Perfume and Cosmetic Boutique in the departure lounge. The erection/refurbishing works are in progress and both these exclusive sales activities are scheduled to be operational by the end of May 2002.

[Translation]

#### **Agriculture Technology Courses in Indian Language**

6093. SHRI JAIBHAN SINGH PAWAIYA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the places where courses in agriculture technology are being conducted in Indian languages;

(b) the reasons for conducting teachers training and research work only in English language in Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR);

(c) whether the Official Language Act, 1963 has not been implemented in the ICAR;

(d) if so, whether the Government propose to conduct courses related to agriculture technology at every level in Indian languages all over the country; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) :

(a) The medium of instruction in State Agricultural Universities is English. However, bilingual instruction (in English as well as in Hindi) are imparted in Universities of Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh etc. Students are permitted to write answers of the question papers in Hindi as well.

(b) The medium of instruction and scientific writing is presently in English owing to the fact the maximum literature and communication mode is globally accepted. However, scientists are writing books literature and scientific papers in Hindi as well. Extension practices including preparation of instructional material is provided in Hindi and other regional languages also.

(c) The Official Language Act, 1963 has been implemented in the Council.

(d) and (e) Agricultural education is a State subject and State Governments have to take a view regarding this. If State Governments do this, Council would provide whatever help it can.

[English]

#### **World Bank Assistance for Study on Hydrology**

6094 SHRI C. SREENIVASAN :  
SHRI AMBAREESHA :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state

(a) the details of proposals received from State Governments including Karnataka seeking World Bank assistance or assistance from foreign agencies for Hydrology study during the last two years;

(b) the proposals cleared/rejected by the Government, State-wise; and

(c) the total financial assistance received from World Bank or from foreign agencies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY):

(a) to (c) No proposal has been received from the State Governments, including Karnataka for Hydrology Study. However, the Government of India has launched Hydrology Project in September, 1995 with the assistance of World Bank (IDA) with the objective to improve the institutional and organizational arrangements, technical capabilities and physical facilities available for measurement, validation, collection, analysis, transfer and dissemination of hydrological, hydro-meteorological and water quality data for water resources evaluation and planning and management. The revised total cost of the project has been estimated at Rs. 616.22 crores. Besides under the bilateral Indo-Dutch agreement the Government of Netherlands is providing a grant-in-aid assistance of 29.9 Million Dutch Guilders (US \$ 17.4 Million) in the form of Technical Assistance as Consultancy Services and Overseas Training. The project closing dates March 31, 2003. The project is being implemented by five Central agencies viz. Central Water Commission, Central Ground Water Board, National Institute of Hydrology, Central Water and Power Research Station and Indian Meteorological Department and nine States viz. Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa and Tamilnadu.

#### **Famine Among Fishermen**

6095. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that there is a severe famine among the fishermen of the country particularly in South Western Coastal area;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Union Government propose to provide any relief to the fishermen; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) :

(a) No, Sir. No report has been brought to the notice of

the Government about severe famine among the fishermen of the country particularly in South-Western Coastal area.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) A number of State/Centrally Sponsored Schemes were under implementation in the country during Ninth Five Year Plan to increase both inland and coastal fish production and to improve the socio-economic conditions of fishermen, which mainly included:

- (i) Subsidy for Motorisation of Traditional Craft;
- (ii) Subsidy on Central Excise Duty on HSD Oil supplied to mechanised fishing vessels below 20 metre length;
- (iii) Subsidy for Brackishwater and Freshwater aquaculture; and
- (iv) Welfare schemes for fishermen including Group Accident Insurance, Housing Scheme, etc.

The aforesaid schemes are likely to be continued either with a revised pattern of assistance or to be replaced by other suitable schemes for implementation during Tenth Five Year Plan in consultation with the Planning Commission, Ministry of Finance etc.

12.00 hrs.

#### PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN) : I beg to lay on the Table:

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Rampur Raza Library, Rampur, for the year 2000-2001, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Rampur Raza Library, Rampur, for the year 2000-2001.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5600/2002]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table-

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies act, 1956:-
  - (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Vayudoot Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1997-98.
  - (ii) Annual Report of the Vayudoot Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1997-98, 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 5601/2002]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Airports Authority of India, New Delhi, for the year 2000-2001, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Airports Authority of India, New Delhi, for the year 2000-2001.
- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5602/2002]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : On behalf of Shri Muni Lall, I beg to lay on the Table-

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Employees' State Insurance Corporation-India, New Delhi, for the year 2000-2001.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Employees' State Insurance Corporation, New Delhi, for the year 2000-2001, together with Audit Report thereon.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.
- (3) A copy of the Financial Estimates and Performance Budget (Hindi and English versions) of the Employees' State Insurance Corporation, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5603/2002]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section sub-section (1) of section 28 of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957:-

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5604/2002]

- (1) G.S.R. No. 640 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th September, 2001 regarding reservation of area in the State of Chhattisgarh for regional exploration and other prospecting operations through the Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited.

[English]

- (2) G.S.R. No. 220 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 22nd March, 2002 regarding reservation for undertaking of regional exploration and other prospecting operations through the Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5605/2002]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Dinsha Patel – not present. Shri C.P. Radhakrishnan – not present.

12.03 hrs.

## STATEMENT BY MINISTER\*

### National Tourism Policy – Laid

[English]

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the New National Tourism Policy has been finalised by the Government with a view to enhance employment potential within the Tourism

Sector and also foster economic integration with other sectors. It attempts to:-

Position tourism as a major engine of economic growth;

Harness the direct and multiplier effects of tourism for employment generation, economic development and providing impetus to rural tourism;

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj) : Sir, the National Tourism Policy should not only remain just a statement but also needs to be debated on the floor of the House. Let him make a statement. But you may find some time for a debate on this subject.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : As the Statement is too long, the hon. Minister may lay it on the table of the House.

(Interruptions)

SHRI JAG MOHAN : Sir, I lay the Statement on the Table of the House.

New National Tourism Policy has been finalised by the Government with a view to enhance employment potential within the Tourism Sector and also foster economic integration with other sectors. It attempts to:-

- Position tourism as a major engine of economic growth;
- Harness the direct and multiplier effects of tourism for employment generation, economic development and providing impetus to rural tourism;
- Focus on Domestic Tourism as a way or driver of tourism growth;
- Position India as a global brand to take advantage of the burgeoning global travel and trade and the vast untapped potential of India as a destination;
- Acknowledges the critical role of private sector with Government working as a pro-active facilitator and catalyst;
- Create and develop integrated tourism circuits based on India's unique civilization, heritage and culture in partnership with States, private sector and other agencies;
- Ensure that the tourist to India gets physically invigorated mentally rejuvenated, culturally enriched, spiritually elevated and "feel India from within".

\*Also Placed in Library. See No. LT 5606/2002.

The previous policy which was formulated in 1982 no longer answers the needs of the time. The principles on which the new policy is based and its highlights are as under:

1. Account should be taken of the fact that for the last four decades or so, a tourism revolution has been sweeping the world. In 1964, the number of tourists leaving their homes, worldwide, was 100 million. This number increased to 200 million in 1974, 500 million in 1992 and 700 million in 2001. And this number is likely to swell to 1.5 billion by 2020 and receipts from it are estimated to cross \$2000 billion.

If India has to partake in this revolution in a meaningful way, it must change its strategies as well as the techniques and tools of its machinery of implementation. In this connection, it has to be noted with concern that during the last decade or so, India's share of world tourist traffic has remained static – 0.38 per cent.

2. At the institutional level, a framework would have to be evolved which is Government-led, private-sector driven and community-welfare oriented. Government have to provide a legislative framework to regulate tourism trade and industry, ensure safety and security of the tourists and create basic infrastructure and health-care facilities. The private sector has to act as a main spring of the activities and impart dynamism and speed to the process of development as well as conservation. Both Government and the private sector would be required to safeguard the stability and also the social and economic advancement of the local communities and the communities in the neighbourhood.
3. The deep-rooted relationship of tourism and our cultural assets should be fully recognised and provided for. Improvements and environmental upgradation of the protected monuments and the areas around them should be considered as a linchpin of the tourism industry.
4. Effective linkages and close coordination should be established with such Departments as Civil Aviation, Environment, Forest, Railways, Home, etc.

5. Sustainability should serve as a guiding star for the new Policy. The development and management strategies should be so worked out as to ensure that tourism largely acts as a smokeless industry and its ecological footprints remain as soft as possible. No one engaged, directly or indirectly, in the tourism industry, should be allowed to secure shortterm gains by resorting to what has been called the darker side of tourism. Neither over-exploitation of natural resources should be permitted nor the carrying capacity of the tourist-sites ignored.
6. Greater emphasis should be laid on eco-tourism whose parameters should be broader than those of nature tourism alone. It must help in eliminating poverty, in ending unemployment, in creating new skills, in enhancing the status of women, in preserving cultural heritage in encouraging tribal and local crafts and in improving overall environment and facilitating growth of a more just and fair social order.
7. Special thrust should be imparted to rural tourism and tourism in small settlements, where sizeable assets of our cultural and natural wealth exist.
8. Due importance should be given to domestic tourism, particularly tourism connected with pilgrimage, and it should be so designed that the infrastructure created under it serves as a backbone of international tourism in times to come.
9. A new class of young tourists, with marked preference for adventure and distant destinations, in hills, caves and forests, is emerging. This class is not looking for 5-star accommodation but only for simple and clean places to stay. The requirements of this class of tourists should be met and guest tourism encouraged through Panchayats and local bodies and associations.
10. Special attraction of tourist for the Yoga, Siddha, etc., as well as for the Indian cuisine should be made use of and effectively encouraged.
11. The tourist industry and travel agents should be persuaded to evolve and adopt voluntarily a Code of Ethics and its infringement should be firmly dealt with by Tour and Travel Associations.

[Shri Jag Mohan]

12. A section of the State police should be earmarked to act as tourist police and special training should be imparted to it.
13. At the international level, India should play a dynamic role and make its presence felt at the World Tourism Organisation, World Tourism and Travel Council and Earth Council. Its unique cultural values and spiritual heritage should be projected with dignity and elevation befitting a great nation, whenever suitable opportunity comes our way.
14. The civilisational issues as well as issues pertaining to civic administration and good governance must be attended to and made an effective part of the tourism policy. It should be ensured that good policies are not shipwrecked in the sea of half hearted implementation.

The new thinking on the subject was indicated by the Prime Minister on October 30, 2001 while delivering the Inaugural Address at the Chief Ministers' Conference on Tourism. He inter-alia said:

"Tourism is a major engine of economic growth in most parts of the World. Several countries have transformed their economies using the tourism potential the fullest...Tourism has great capacity to create large scale employment of diverse kind -- from the most specialised to the unskilled and all of us know that generation of massive productive employment opportunities is what India needs the most".

The background of the case and the provision of the policy are contained in the policy document which is placed on the table of the House.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam) : Sir, if it is to be laid, then copies of the statement should be made available to all the Members.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It has already been laid. Copies Will be made available to all of you.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Time may be fixed to discuss the Policy ...*(Interruptions)* There should be a debate on the subject under Rule 193.

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER : We can have a discussion on the subject under Rule 193 later.

12.04 hrs.

## MOTION RE: TWENTY-SIXTH REPORT OF BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

*[English]*

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : I beg to move :

"That this House do agree with the Thirty-sixth Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 3rd May, 2002."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

"That this House do agree with the Thirty-sixth Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 3rd May, 2002."

*The motion was adopted.*

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now, prof. A.K. Premajam, you have given a privilege notice. I have already received it. Your notice of privilege and the matter is under my consideration.

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM (Badagara) : Sir, It is against Shri George Fernandes...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj) : Sir, we want to know the matter of privilege raised by the lady Member of the House. What is that matter of privilege raised by Prof. Premajam?...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the statement in Gujarat Legislative Assembly...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have received her privilege notice. It is under my consideration.

*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN : The Prime Minister has denied it in Gwalior...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM : While participating in the discussion on Gujarat under Rule 184, the hon. Minister who is the spokesman of the Government of India had misused the floor of the House and sent a wrong message to the nation...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It is under my consideration. Please do not raise the matter. Please do not do that. Let us not have a new precedent in the House.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : Sir, it has been stated on the floor of the House and it is a matter on the record of the House. The speech delivered by him is in the record of the House. Everything is on record. He cannot deny it. This is a very serious matter...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have received the privilege notice. It is under my consideration.

*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA (Delhi Sadar) : I have been giving notice daily since Monday last. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Even Shri Advani has expressed reservation. It is the property of the House. What will he say on this? Will he deny what he had said on the floor of the House? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Prof. Premajam, you are not a new Member. You are a senior Member. You have given a privilege notice and it is under my consideration. You cannot make a statement on that. Shri M.L. Khurana.

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : Thanks, Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, finally you have called me. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, Prof. Premajam and Smt. Shyama Singh have given privilege notices. You may verify them. What the hon. Defence Minister has stated is a matter of record of the House. But they should be allowed to explain why they have given notice and thereafter, you may give your observation. Sir, it is not

something quoted from a newspaper. It is something which is on the record of the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Dasmunsi, if it is on the record, let me see the record. Before that, how can I allow them?

*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : No discussion please.

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI (Khajuraho) : Sir, you may finally decide about it. But we are requesting you on only one thing. Before you finally give your ruling on it, the Member who has raised this privilege issue should be given an opportunity to put her case forward. Then, based on the merits of what she says and the record of the house, you may give your ruling.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : She has given a detailed letter. I will go through that letter and also see the record. And then, I will come to a conclusion. There is no problem in it.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Radhakrishnan you are telling something which I have already ruled out.

*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to raise the issue relating to fare hike in Delhi on the pretext of CNG. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil) : He made the statement on the floor of the House. No notice is required. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Radhakrishnan, what is this going on?

*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Radhakrishnan, when you were Speaker in the Assembly, was there any occasion when Members spoke without your permission?

*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Radhakrishnan, I am on my legs.

*(Interruptions)*



MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Radhakrishnan, I am on my legs.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH (Aurangabad, Bihar) : Sir, the Minister must apologise for the statement that he made in the House. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I am on my legs.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH : Sir, some stern action must be taken against the Minister. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Prof. Premajam, I have already given my ruling. Please do not insist. Let us not spoil 'Zero Hour' today.

*(Interruptions)*

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM : Sir, I seek permission from you to make a statement. ... *(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SH. MADAN LAL KHURANA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, with your permission I would like to raise the issue relating to hike in bus fares in Delhi on the pretext of CNG. Delhites are already facing problems regarding buses. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI LAL BIHARI TIWARI (East Delhi) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, they are not allowing Khurana ji to speak. He needs your protection. ... *(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I will give you the floor.

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (Gopalganj) : What wrong I have done ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Mr. Jha, you may sit down ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, if he raises CNG issue then I too should be allowed to speak on this issue.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Alright. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You cannot do like this.

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH : He told a lie and went. ... *(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record now.

*(Interruptions)\**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have already stated what is to be done with regard to the Privilege Motion.

12.15 hrs.

## RE: SHORT SUPPLY OF CNG AND LIKELY RISE IN FARES OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT IN DELHI

*[Translation]*

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA (Delhi Sadar) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to raise the issue relating to the sufferings of Delhites consequent upon hike in bus fares in Delhi on the pretext of CNG. Delhites are already facing bus crisis and one more crisis has come up today on the 6th. Today, from 6 May, consequent upon order of Supreme Court fine on diesel buses has been enhanced from Rs. 500/- per day to Rs. 1000/- per day. The amount of this fine is being charged from commuters. Though, the Government of Delhi has not introduced increased bus fare slabs of Rs. 5-10-15, yet the operators have already started charging minimum bus fare of Rs. 5/- with a view to bring down DTC's losses, which amounted to Rs. 96 crore annually earlier. In the name of CNG they have abolished Kilometer scheme and all buses have been handed over to STA. As a result thereof, the monthly passes. ... *(Interruptions)* The buses running under kilometer scheme have been brought under STA. The collection through monthly passes which used to be around Rs. 8 crore per month has come down to Rs. Two crore. Earlier, passes were used under Kilometer scheme.

First thing is that, Supreme Court's order relating to CNG was pronounced in July, 1988 and Delhi Government came to power in November, 1998. Though, three and a half years have passed, yet the registration of diesel buses and petrol-run-scooters continued. You may remember, recently, with a view to control pollution, Andhra Pradesh Government have stopped registration of petrol or diesel driven scooters and taxis. Despite Supreme Court's order, the registration of diesel buses in Delhi continued unabated during last three-and-a-half years. The person, who purchased a bus, through Bank loan, one or two years

\*Not Recorded.

back is being asked to get that converted into CNG. I want to say that the Government of Delhi is fully responsible for it. If the CNG buses were registered and the Central Government was kept informed about the number of CNG buses coming on the road the arrangement for supply of CNG would have been made. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur) : Who would have arranged?

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA The Central Government.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj) : Advani ji is not inducting Khurana ji in the Cabinet, that's why he is talking all that. ...*(Interruptions)*

SARDAR BUTA SINGH (Jalore) : What is the role of the Government of India in this regard? Who was to provide CNG? Scooters and buses have to wait for CNG for three days

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : Sir, the order of Supreme Court may be all right in one perspective. But it is not in consonance with the ground realities. Even a Committee of this House has stated that monopoly of CNG should be avoided. In none of the countries of the world. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : If you object like this during Zero-hour I would adjourn the House. You would be given a chance after he concludes his speech.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It is the only objection that the Members interrupt in between.

*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record except the speech of Shri Madan Lal Khurana.

*(Interruptions)\**

*[Translation]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Sir, Athawale ji, today, I have given you a chance to ask supplementary also.

*(Interruptions)*

\*Not Recorded.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : Sir, every Delhite want the pollution to be controlled but we feel that ...*(Interruptions)*  
Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want your protection. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI (Khajuraho) : Sir, how long will he speak. Will you be giving the same duration to us also as is being given to him ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You will get more, only if you keep quiet.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Athawale, I have allowed you to ask a supplementary today, now please sit quietly.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : Sir, the solution of the pollution problem of Delhi is desired by every Indian, but my submission is that the general feeling is against the monopoly of C.N.G. No other country in the world does so. I have figures that 95 percent buses in New York run on ultra low sulphur diesel, and not on CNG. Only 4.9 percent buses run on CNG. In Paris also, only 2 percent buses run on CNG. The report of Mashelkar committee, constituted by the Government of India also says that ultra low sulphur diesel is a better fuel in Delhi. This is the opinion of scientists. ...*(Interruptions)* Just suppose that in case of monopoly. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please tell us what do you want to say to the Government.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : Sir, what I want to say is to reiterate the view of the House Committee that there should be no monopoly and a law should be enacted to ensure it. I would like to submit to the Union Government that there should not be the monopoly of CNG and the ultra low sulphur diesel should also be used. ...*(Interruptions)*  
A law should be enacted to provide for this alternative.

Second thing is that the fares should not be increased because of CNG and the fine of Rs. 1000 per day that they are paying should be compensated by the Government of Delhi because it is responsible for all that is happening. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali) : I also support the submission of Shri Khurana. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI LAL BIHARI TIWARI (East Delhi) Sir, I also should be given the opportunity to speak. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Your name is there in the list.

SHRI LAL BIHARI TIWARI : All right, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : If you have given the notice, you will be given the time to speak.

DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA (Outer Delhi) : Sir, Nine Members have put their signatures jointly. ...*(Interruptions)* Sir, I just want to say that the difference between cost of operation of a diesel bus earlier and now is. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : I also want to raise a related matter. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Your name does not figure among the notices received, still I will give you the opportunity to speak.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You are aware. You may have writtern a letter. Your name doesn't figure among the notices received, still I would call you. For now, I have called Shri Chaturvedi.

DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA : Sir, I only want to say ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Sahib Singh, I told you that I would give you the floor. I have already given the floor to Shri Satyavrat Chaturvedi. How can I give the floor to both of you together?

*[Translation]*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : This Government is anti-people and they do not have any moral values. We are being accused of exploiting the CNG issue. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I have also given notice. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Have I said that you have not given any notice. *[English]* You do not even hear me fully. Do you not want me to say anything?

*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA : Has he given notice? He is speaking without giving notice.

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Are you challenging my ruling? If you are challenging it, tell me so.

*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have said that I would call you. He has not given notice just as you also have not given notice. what does it matter?

*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : If you are casting as persions on the Chair, I will not give you the chance. This is not the way to behave with the Chair.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Sahib Singh, you will get the chance. After him, you will get the floor and at that time you say whatever you want to say, Please resume your seat now.

*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI (Khajuraho) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the people of Delhi had to face great inconvenience due to disruption in the transportation system of Delhi. Undoubtedly, whole House would be concerned about it. It was alleged here that the Government of Delhi is responsible for all the problems. Sir, I would like to go in its background and point out some facts. If we go in the past, we would recall that when the Bhartiya Janata Party was the ruling party in Delhi, Supreme Court had given the ruling that gradually diesel buses would be phased out and CNG buses would be introduced so that the environment of Delhi is improved. I don't want to go in the merits and demerits of that decision of the Supreme Court. Some may agree and some may disagree with it. But once the decision was made, whole responsibility was it to implement the orders. The then BJP Government did not take any step for two years. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, probably he is not aware of the decision made in 1998. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI : No effort was made by them to improve the system and the Supreme Court also expressed its displeasure. In the meantime, elections were held and congress party assumed power. In their reign, the above mentioned decision of the Supreme Court was announced. The State Government, the Chief Minister and the Minister of Transport made statements in this regard and they stressed the fact that the infrastructure needed to ensure adequate supply of CNG was not developed. It was to be developed by the Union Government. They had to develop the supply system pipe lines, mother stations, distribution points etc.

[Translation]

The Supreme Court issued the directives for maintaining the law and order in the entire Delhi. The Union Government was also a party to it. Union Government submitted before the Supreme Court that such a system will immediately be evolved so as to make available CNG in adequate quantity here. However it can be seen by everyone that a long queue of 500 to 1000 vehicles waits throughout the night to get CNG. Thereafter the Supreme Court repeatedly extended the deadline for 6 months but the Union Government did not make any arrangement for CNG in Delhi in its last order. Supreme Court has also scolded the Union Government and has held it responsible for investigation. They were to create infrastructure for the proper and adequate supply, distribution of CNG but they have failed to do so. I would like to know as how the State Government can be held responsible when the union Government will not make arrangements for the supply of CNG? State Governments are being blamed for everything.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the people have rejected their plea. The CNG supply was made the main issue in the previous elections for municipalities but they have swept cent in the elections. It proves that the Delhites have rejected their plea. Hence House can not be misled and the State Government can not be held responsible by stating wrong facts.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now, what do you want from the Government of India.

[Translation]

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want that the Government of India should comply with the instructions and directives given by the Supreme Court

within time limit. Besides, the sufficient infrastructure for supply and distribution should also be created. Unless it is done, the Government should explain its position in the Supreme Court by intervening. Therefore they should interact with the Delhi Government, address their practical problems and solve them so that the Delhites get relief. It is the responsibility of the Union Government to make an interim arrangement unless the proper arrangement is made.

DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA (Outer Delhi) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would only like to say that merely blaming will not do as has been done by Shri Satyavrat Chaturvedi regarding CNG. I am not blaming anybody and I would only state that readily. He said that the action regarding CNG was initiated only after the passage of two years after the Court's order in July. However the Government changed in Delhi after three to four months. I would like to ask as to whether the Government of Delhi was in slumber for three to four years. Two and a half years passed but no Minister met with any Union Minister nor told as how much quantum of CNG was needed. The Government gave it in writing to the Supreme Court that the station has been set up on all the places indicated. But there are some problems like in distribution and laying of pipelines etc. I would like to know, from the representatives of the Delhi Government, if he is sitting here and who has the everything in his knowledge as to how many times the Minister or the Chief Minister have met with the Minister of the Union Government? How many times they have asked the Union Minister to make arrangements in this regard?

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI : It has been asked many a times. ... (Interruptions)

DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I did not interrupt him but he is not allowing us to speak

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Let him speak.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Do not disturb him.

[Translation]

SHRI SAHIB SINGH VERMA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to know as to how increase in fares will take place in view of the increase in the price of CNG? I would like to know as to what is the operational cost of the diesel

as well as the CNG buses for each kilometer as regards the fuel consumption pattern, what will be the extent of increase? What will be the consumption per kilometer when the diesel buses are converted into the CNG buses. When the operational cost has decreased per kilometer then on what basis the fares will be increased? Hence I am of the opinion that it is not correct to say that the fares will be increase due to the increase in the price of CNG. There is no rationale behind it. It tantamount to deceiving the Delhites. Delhi Government should not be allowed to increase the fares in such manner because the poor and common people of Delhi travel in these buses, hence this burden should not be put on their shoulder.

SHRI RAMJILAL SUMAN (Firozabad) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this question was raised by Shri Khuranaji. The concerned Minister is sitting here, he should reply it.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You will get a chance.

[Translation]

SHRI LAL BIHARI TIWARI (East Delhi) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, lakhs of people from every look and corner of the country come to Delhi. Besides, the Juggi dwellers, poors and the common men of Delhi travel in buses. The Government of Delhi is increasing the fares owing to its anti-people policy under the guise of CNG. I have comprehensively studied the increased fare-slab. It is five, ten, 15 and 20 rupees. If the fares are increased to this extent then the poor people of Delhi will crush under it and it will be a gross injustice to them. It is right that the Union Government and the Delhi Government should find its solution jointly but there is not rationale behind such a huge increase in fares and I strongly oppose it. Such a big increase in passenger fares is a great injustice against the poor people, it should not be done at all.

DR. (SHRIMATI) ANITA ARYA (Karol Bagh) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Delhi Government is illegally increasing the passenger fares under the pretext of CNG. it is a grave atrocity against the people of Delhi and I oppose this atrocity. At the same time, I demand from the Union Government that a Bill seeking to allow the plying of ultra low sulphur diesel buses in Delhi besides CNG driven buses should be brought introduced in the Parliament so that the problem of the people in Delhi could be resolved.

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to say only this much that the hike in passenger fare is a wrong thing. Delhi Government is placing burden on the people of Delhi to make up the losses of DTC. I am of the opinion that if DTC is made efficient it will not incur any losses. If the Government can not prevent the losses then it should give subsidy but it is not right to make crores of Delhites bear the losses.

[English]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL (Latur) : Sir, I am looking towards this issue from a different angle, totally different angle. The Supreme Court has said that the city of Delhi is getting polluted and they have to take some steps to see that this pollution is reduced, and CNG appears to be a solution. If the Executive had taken timely action in this matter, probably it would not have become necessary for the Judiciary to pronounce that something has to be done to save the city. This shows that the Executive at the Union level and maybe the Executive at the other levels could have put their heads together, could have planned and could have done something to see that pollution in the city could have been reduced. That is one angle.

The second angle is that there are two issues involved. One issue relates to the fare of the buses and the second issue relates to the availability of CNG. Now, whether the fare should be increased or not is an issue which has to be independently discussed in the State Legislature itself. If this is not discussed in the State Legislature and this is discussed in the Union Legislature, probably it will appear that we are trespassing into their area. Let them discuss. The Members belonging to the party which is ruling here are sitting there also. They can raise that issue there.

The question that can be very well discussed on the floor of the House is the availability of CNG. CNG has to be made available by the Government of India. I am not saying that the Government of India can make CNG available within a short time, which is fixed by any other agency. They would also take time. What is lacking in this respect is a perspective planning. We are not paying attention to the fact that because of increasing number of vehicles running on the roads, the cities are getting polluted. There has to be a comprehensive plan to see that this pollution is reduced and the people are saved. Is there any plan? Who has to plan? We are not going to plan

for the city of Delhi only. We have to plan for other cities also. We have to plan for the entire country also. If the Government of India does not plan, who will plan? If environment is an important issue and if the Government of India is paying attention to it, why would it not be planned? We would not be saying that the Petroleum Minister has not been able to provide CNG within a short time and all those things. But I am finding fault with the fact that there is no perspective planning, there is no understanding of the fact that if the number of vehicles increases on the road, they will pollute, and there has to be a plan. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, what are you saying, if it is a State subject the Delhi Government should itself deal with it and make a plan for it. This way he is advocating for State Subject. You are saying that discussion should be held on it there and not here.

*[English]*

Environment is also a State subject. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

I am talking about you. You were saying that environment is also State subject. He is in the Government for three and a half years and what has he done about it so far? What is he doing?...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : If he finished, I will speak.

I am not apportioning the blame. If it has to be done by the State Government, let it be done by the State Government. If it has to be done by the Union Government for the entire country, let it be done by the Union Government. I am not blaming the hon. Minister sitting here. I am not blaming the Court. I am not blaming the State Government or the State Legislature. But if you do not properly plan and take timely action, this issue can not be solved.

We should not be blaming the Judiciary for issuing such orders if we ourselves, the Members of the Executive and the Members of the Legislature, are not taking any action. We have failed in our duty in understanding the problem, in not preparing the plan and not taking timely action. This is the real problem. Let this real problem be

first understood and let us take action together to see that this problem is solved.

We would like to have a response from the hon. Minister. Of course, he is not the Minister for Planning but he is part of the Government. He is responsible for telling us how he would be able to give CNG and all those things. Certainly, we would not burden him with the things that can not be done by him in time but he should tell us what the Government is going to do to solve this problem that is staring us in our face.

*[Translation]*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali)  
Listen to what people say. People are suffering due to CNG, what they have to do with bus? The person who is in problem, should be listened. Their people are rich and our people are poor, therefore, we should be listened.

Sir, as Supreme Court had given the verdict to replace diesel with CNG, to make CNG available is the responsibility of Union Government. They have failed in it, moreover, they have been unable to convince the Court. Due to this reason vehicles stand in queue stretching to 2 kilometres due to which drivers most often look fatigued always. Now, the price of CNG has also increased and the reason for price hike is political tussle between Delhi Government and Union Government. Some people of BJP, got Minister's portfolio, and some did not get due to internal political tussle. People were displeased and, therefore, people expressed their displeasure in the elections. It appears that they will ruin the common man, will not provide CNG, if they do, it would be at high price. People are in trouble in all circumstances. This issue should be considered. The Government should clarify as to what will happen to poor hardworking people who travel by bus. This problem is not of the people who travel by vehicles like Safari Balero etc. This problem is of the poor people who travel by the bus and Government are hatching the conspiracy to ruin them. Therefore, the Government should clarify as to how it will provide facility to the people travelling by bus?

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : All right, let us hear the hon. Minister's response now.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Ramdas Athawale,  
please resume your seat now.

*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : I too support Shri Khuranaji. This is a very important issue. A big problem has arisen after the increase in price of CNG...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record except Shri Ram Naik's response.

*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The hon'ble Minister is standing to give response. Khuranaji, please give support, but do not speak like this.

*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Members have expressed their views on an important topic in regard to Delhi and I would like to state the actual situation, rising above the party line.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am not commenting on it, and just relating the actual situation because, this case is under consideration in Supreme Court. The Supreme Court had issued order in April. It had asked to give the details of the work done till 9th May, 2002 by the respective parties whether it is Delhi Government, Government of India or Indraprastha Gas Limited. Keeping in view these types of rulings of Supreme Court, I can only state actual situation, because as per the Supreme Court's ruling the Government of India too will submit affidavit in the Court. Therefore, it is not appropriate to give any comments in this regard.

As the hon'ble Member, Shri Shivraj Patil pointed out, that there should be a prospective plan for this purpose. I would like to tell you the situation as per date. The Supreme Court has given order to set up 78 CNG filling stations. Till now 94 CNG filling stations have been set up. The second thing was that the capacity of CNG filling stations should be increase. I would like to tell that efforts are being made to increase the capacity of CNG stations through compressores.

Thirdly, laying pipeline in Delhi City has been a very tedious job. 23 kilometres pipeline is to be laid in Delhi city. For this 'No Objection Certificate' from different organisations was required. As per the Supreme Court's ruling the Government have constituted two committees in view of obtaining these certificates. One Committee is set up in the chairmanship of Lt. Governor of Delhi. One meeting of it has already taken place. Obtaining of NOC's from different organisations is the biggest problem in the development of infrastructure, but I am glad to announce in the House that NOC and clearance from different organisations has been obtained and a meeting of Committees headed by Lt. Governor has been held. They have provided this information to me.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, besides this there are many things, but there is one thing to be noted that Indraprastha Gas Limited Company is joint venture company. Sometime hon'ble Members feel that this is a company of Government of India or Government of India Public Undertaking. I would like to tell that neither it is Government of India's Company nor public undertaking of Government of India, but it is a joint venture of Bharat Petroleum Gas Authority of India Ltd. and Delhi Government. It is another thing it has one Director from Delhi Government, but sometimes he does not attend its meetings. Delhi Government too has participation in this regard. Therefore, it should be assumed that it is a joint venture of state. Therefore, if Indraprastha Gas Limited is to be developed in that way, then more investment is required, for which Indraprastha Gas Ltd. required 253 crore rupees.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, according to the information I received from Indraprastha Gas Limited, I would like to tell the hon'ble Member that additional investment of approximately 250 crore rupees is required. Out of it some equity should be paid by Delhi Government, Bharat Petroleum and GAIL and rest of funds should be taken from financial institutions. Financial Institutions are ready to provide funds in this regard, but they want to know how profit would be earned from this amount. The Indraprastha Gas Limited has formulated working plan as to how profit would be earned from the funds taken from financial institutions. With this additional investment of 250 crore rupees, capacity of some stations would be increased and new stations would be set up.

As far as availability of land is concerned, we are developing the petrol pumps, wherever required. I would like to assure the hon'ble Members that we will do these

works in future also. Now the issue arises, whether there is need to increase the prices or not, this matter definitely relates to Delhi Government. The Government of Delhi will give reply in this regard, but since the issue has been raised here. I would like to tell you that present most of the buses are being run on diesel but despite after raising the price of CNG, it is much cheaper to run buses on CNG. Therefore, when CNG would be available in comparison to diesel price, then there would be a need to reduce CNG prices. I would apprise the Delhi Government about the feelings of the House, in view of reducing fares, that the House wants, as diesel is costlier, CNG is cheap, therefore, efforts should not be made to increase the fares.

I will definitely convey the sentiments of the House to him...(Interruptions) I have to file an affidavit before the Supreme Court on 9th May in this regard. I am giving you the details of the case as far as possible. So far as efforts are concerned a time limit for them cannot be fixed. I have, sometimes, said in a joke that if there is no water in the well, how can the bucket have water if it is drawn up. As per the orders of the Supreme Court, we would try to provide all the gas that is available.

The Supreme Court has also said another significant thing. I will conclude by referring to it. It has said that primacy should be given to transport fuel. It means that the supply of CNG for other purposes such as power generation for industries should be drastically curtailed, if not withdrawn altogether. Thus the order has some references which are policy matters. We will present our case to the Supreme Court on the next hearing on 9th May. We could try to provide enough CNG to all the existing vehicles as well as those likely to come on the roads in the near future, but the present position is such that inspite of our best efforts the people of Delhi will have to bear with long queues. Such is the situation. A way out could only be found collectively because the problems will continue to exist as long as the infrastructures are not developed. As for the main question of Shri Madan Lal Khurana regarding rationality of increase in fares, in my opinion there is no need to increase fares. The price of CNG has been hiked. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : Please convey to the Delhi Government, the sentiments of Parliament that the fare should not be increased even though the price of CNG has been increased. ...(Interruptions)

DR. RAGUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : The need is of supplying adequate CNG and not of raising its price. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM NAIK : That is why I said that we can supply only that much of water that is available. We are trying but its availability is...(Interruptions)

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Please explain it to the Supreme Court where you are going to supply CNG from when the well is dry...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM NAIK : CNG supply for other uses will have to be cut. That is it. We have to obey the orders of Supreme Court. This is the difficulty in it...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Why was the price of CNG increased? What is the logic behind it?... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAM NAIK : Do you want a political replay? ...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : You are giving the political reply. You have figures which do not support the price increase of CNG Why then it was increased? ... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAM NAIK : The political reply is that you can ask the Delhi Government whether their Director was present in that meeting or not? ...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : You first inform us whether the Directors of Bharat Petroleum Limited and of Gas Authority of India Limited were present in the meeting or not? These two are under the Government (Interruptions) Please do not mislead us.

[English]

Though the Gas Authority of India is a corporation, it is working under the Ministry of Petroleum. How can they deny their responsibility? ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : Please speak full truth in place of half truths...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : I shall check up what the Director of the Delhi Government proposed in the



[Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi]

meeting. I demand the Minister to place the minutes of the meeting in the House so that the House should know why the CNG price has been increased.

You please place the minutes of the meetings of Bharat Petroleum and Gas Authority of India on the Table of the House to understand why the price of CNG has been increased and then we will accept it.  
...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAM NAIK : Indraprastha Gas Limited hiked the price of CNG on commercial considerations. Even after the price increase CNG in Delhi is cheaper than in Mumbai which is the source of CNG or in Surat where it is similarly utilised. That is why I say that to expand infrastructure, more capital will have to be invested and make more capital its price will have to be increased. You will also have to see that the price of diesel and petrol are now four times more than of what they were in 1992 but the price of CNG has not been increased even once from 1992. That is why commercial considerations compelled indraprastha Gas to hike its prices. But as I said, the running of vehicles on diesel is cheap and there was no need to increase bus fare....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : What are your plans for other States because the problem is going to occur sooner or later there also....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM NAIK : This is laid down in the orders of Supreme Court also.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : I am not talking of orders of Supreme Court.

*[English]*

We are not going to act only according to the order of the Supreme Court.

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAM NAIK : I am referring to it only because it mentions a few cities. The cities belong to different States. We have to discuss it with the Governments of various States and we will. We have asked Gas Authority of India Limited. A few States such as, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal have signed MOU with Gas Authority of India Limited on the subject of the manner of availability of CNG there.

Finally, I would like to say that in places where gas is in short supply we have completed arrangements to import LNG. Now about

*[English]*

thirty percent of the work is over.

*[Translation]*

We are constructing a terminal in Dahej with a capacity of five million metric tonnes which would bring CNG from katar. It will be completed by the next year, i. e. by 2003 The whole work is going on in that background.

*[English]*

Thirty percent of LNG work at Dahej has already been completed. We expect that by the end of the next year it will be completed. When that work is completed, the gas can be made available.

*[Translation]*

SHRI J. S. BRAR (Faridkot) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the Mig that had asked....*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Yes, we will extend the time and all the hon. Members will get chance and then we will adjourn.

*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Yes, we will extend the time and all the hon. Members will get chance and then we will adjourn.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please do not disturb now.

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the House had discussed the Gujarat issue on 11th March under rule 193 and on 30th April under rule 184 and currently Rajya Sabha is discussing it under rule 170 In that discussion, the Minister of External Affairs and leader of the House Shri Jaswant Singh said that Government associate themselves with the spirit of the resolution and they would act under Article 355 of the Constitution, Yesterday, the Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, while talking with the journalists, in Gwalior, said that there is no need to take action in Gujarat under Article

355. It is a very serious matter ... *(Interruptions)* Bloodshed in Gujarat is continuing unabated. Yesterday also seven persons were killed. It is a very serious matter. After the Godhra incident, Government have been propagating that the incident was pre-planned. According to the report of the I.G., railway Protection Force, The Godhra incident was not pre-planned. The statement of the Minister of Home Affairs, Shri L.K. Advani, is published in Asian Age

*[English]*

Advani rejects Modi's riot theory.

13.00 hrs. •

*[Translation]*

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is a very serious matter, the inquiry is being deliberately influenced. What Shri Jaswant singh said in Rajya Sabha on behalf of the Government, is being contradicted by a person no less than the Prime Minister. In Gujarat....*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Ramji Lal Suman, if it is a serious matter, then please suggest what ought to be done by the Government of India in this regard. Zero Hour is not meant for making speeches. Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi has also given a notice on the same issue. Both should say as to what should be done by the Government of India.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN : Mr, Dupty Speaker, Sir, the Government of India do not want to do anything ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : In this way your subject will not come up.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir yesterday, I was in Ahmedabad ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You too have given a notice, I will call you also.

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Ramdas, let him complete, Please do not disturb.

*(Interruptions)*

*[Traslation]*

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN : Mr Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the Government of India do not want to do anything.

Yesterday, Shri Parmod Mahajan stated in his speech that come what may, we are not going to replace Narendra Modi. I am not interested in raising Gujarat issue daily. The most important question is that the State Government is not adopting positive attitude nor taking any action and violence is going on unabated. How ironical it is that when Security Advisor to the Chief Minister, Shri KPG Gill went to Gujarat to inquire about the situation prevailing there, senior police in Gujarat told Shri Gill that they had directions from the Government to take lenient view of Bajrang Dal and VHP. *(Interruptions)*, I would like to quote the news-item appeared in the Hindustan Times, yesterday.

*[English]*

"Senior Police Officers ...

*[Translation]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Ramji Lal Suman Ji please take your seat. It is zero-hour....*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You may ask what the Government of India are doing in this regard It is a matter of Zero-hour. What would happen if you make it a speech.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It is an important issue, please take your seat for a minute. I have told you that there are 7-8 Members who give notice daily so they should be given an opportunity to raise the issue. I want to adjourn the House after concluding it when you start speaking, all these people rise on legs. Then same thing would happen here also. it is Zero-hour.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Listen, please sit down. Raghuvansh ji, please resume your seat. Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi has also given notice in this regard.

*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Let him conclude now.

*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN : I will take two minutes. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to quote the news-item carried out by 'Hindustan Times' yesterday, wherein the senior officers in Gujarat have stated:

[Shri Ramji Lal Suman]

[English]

"We were told to go slow, Gujarat cops tell K.P.S. Gill: Senior policy officers with whom K. P. S. Gill held a series of meetings on Saturday are learnt to have told the former Punjab police chief that law and order machinery had collapsed in the State because they were given clear instructions to go soft on Bajrang Dal and Vishwa Hindu Parishad activists."

[Translation]

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, if it wasn't State sponsored violence, then what it was? It is a very serious matter. Over two months have passed and the Government are doing nothing : and Shri Narendra Modi is not being replaced then what should be done?. The people have lost confidence in the Government. Today "Indian Express" carried a story.

[English]

"You can come back to your homes only if you ... drop rape charge, convert to Hinduism ... villagers in Gujarat are setting terms for Muslims to return."

[Translation]

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, what shall we do and where to go? We expect the Government to take action. How it is possible that State-sponsored violence is going on unabated and we should not even raise it in the House. Gujarat Government have incited riots and unless Narendra Modi is removed from Chief Ministership, normally cannot return to Gujarat at any cost. It is clear from the speech of hon., Prime Minister that he does not intend to replace Shri Modi in Gujarat. He does not want normalcy to return to Gujarat....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi has given a notice. Shri Ramdas Athawale, please sit down.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, through you. I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the following matter

Sir, in this House. We all debated the issue of Gujarat and, without any political acrimony, we all desired that peace must prevail in Gujarat. People of all sections in

Gujarat must, once again, revel in being Gujaratis and being Indians. I am not here to score any political points against any party. The situation in Gujarat has very well been explained by all sections of the house the other day, and the debate is now on in the other House.

I would only like to place one matter before you. The hon. Prime Minister, in this very House, made an appeal to bring back peace in Gujarat, and also assured all of us that he would act firmly. The Hon. Home Minister, Shri Advani, equally echoed it. We discussed the Gujarat issue under a lighter Motion. I do not know the reason, and I am not competent to question that, but we came to know through the newspapers – neither am I sure about the proceedings, nor am I competent, to quote the proceedings of the other House – that the Government, in principle, has accepted that the situation in Gujarat is such that the provision of article 355 applies. Article 355 is a provision which puts the complete obligation on the Government to take the responsibility of ensuring peace, tranquility in a State, here, in this case, the State of Gujarat.

Having accepted that in principle, no less than our Prime Minister and the Leader of the House, to whom we all look to, made it known in Gwalior, and I am quoting from the Asian Age, "Vajpayee told reporters on Saturday night that although there was a provision to issue a notice to a State Government under article 355 of the Constitution, this was not needed in the case of Gujarat where the State Government was doing reasonably well." I think, this very statement is not only an assault on the Constitution, but also shows the casual nature of treating the collective wisdom of this House, which unequivocally appealed, including the NDA partners, that cognizance should be taken of the happenings in Gujarat and efforts should be made to bring back normalcy. The Prime Minister feels that though the provision is there, there is no requirement to give any notice. The Shahpura incident, the incidents taking place one after the other in various parts are creating such a situation, I feel that the Prime Minister should not have said that or expressed his own view, ignoring the provision of the Constitution.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I will not take any more time. I only appeal, through you, Sir, that political parties may score their points outside the Parliament. However, is it fair to bring down the stature of Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel, the Iron Man of the country, the great patriot of the country, and the secular leader of the Nation? In Gujarat, a chorus is going on that Narendra Modi should be treated as the Bada Sardar. It is another attempt at diluting the stature

of our national leaders. This should not be encouraged. I think, the Government, on its own, should condemn such method of equating Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel with Narendra Modi.

Sir, in the Ramayana, when Lord Rama, the Maryada Purushotham, comes back after conquering Lanka, a *dhobi* points out, Lord Rama, I praise you. You are my God. You are ruling Ayodhya in true sense of the term democracy. I may be a *dhobi*, but I have a doubt on great Sita *maiyya*. After hearing this, Lord Rama said. "Since you have a doubt, I ask Sita to go to a separate place and prove herself." When people question the bona fides of Modi – when Lord Rama could do that to Sita – can Shri Vajpayee not ask Modi to get out, if they are true followers of Shri Ramachandra?... *(Interruptions)*

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA (Contai) : Do you believe in Lord Rama?

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Therefore, I appeal through you, Sir, that the Prime Minister should take immediate cognizance of the fact, apply article 355, give the notice and give specific direction as to how the things should be restored to normalcy. This is my appeal, through you, Sir, to the Government and I expect an appropriate reaction from it.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now, except Shri Prahlad Singh Patel, there are three other Members who have given notice on this recent crash of Mig-21. They are, Shri Sahib Singh Verma, Sri Ramdas Athwale and Shri Jagmeet Singh Brar.

SHRI PRABODH PANDA (Midnapore) : Sir, I also have given a notice.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Your notice is there. I will call your name. We would finish the list today.

*[Translation]*

SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL (Balaghat) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the incidents of Mig-21 crash have been occurring for the last ten years. We have lost 40 pilots in these incidents and suffered losses extensively. It has been going on for the last ten years. Now the Government have decided to conduct an inquiry in this regard and its flying has been suspended. These crashes raise several questions. I would like to raise three points and would like to draw the attention of the Government towards it. I do not know what would be the terms of reference of inquiry?

First – Whether technical snag led to air crash?  
Second – Second – if there was no technical fault, were the spares sub-standard? Third – earlier during war time, the matter relating to sub-standard spares was raised by officers of DRDA. If it was pointed out, then why no action was taken for so long? Why I am raising this issue, because with your permission, I would like to place the official figures in this regard provided by hon. Minister in reply to a written question.

The details regarding air crashes involving Mig-21 during 2001 are – 4 MIG –21, crashed because of human error, 4 because of technical failure, and one because of bird hit. Similarly, 2 Mig-21 crashed because of human error, one because of technical failure one Mig-27 crashed because of technical failure and one Mig-29 crashed owing to human error. Recent incident is tenth one. Through you, I want to know why no attention was paid towards use of sub-standard spares? Whether the people in the Government are not responsible for it? Government officials concealed everything on the pretext of secrecy and the country had to suffer such a great loss. These incidents resulted in loss of Rs. 117 crore. Therefore, my submission is that while deciding the terms of reference the House should be taken into confidence.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Sir recently a Mig-21 crashed in Jalandhar. Three incidents took place in a month. Thereafter, the Government thought of suspending flights of Mig-21, but the flights continued. It needs to be pondered over. Jalandhar incident resulted in death of poor bank employees. My submission is that compensation of Rs. 5 lakh be paid to the family of the deceased persons and the Government should order suspension of flying of Mig-21 aircraft.

SHRI J. S. BRAR (Faridkot) : Sir, my colleague Shri Prahlad Singh Patel expressed his views on a very important issue. This tragic incident occurred in Punjab wherein ten employees of Bank of Rajasthan died and more than 20 people injured. 8-9 people are critically serious. Through you, I would like to bring only three points to the attention of the Government. So far, we have lost more than 100 pilots in these air incidents and during last 9 years total 238 incidents have occurred. I am surprised that Public Accounts Committee, in its 29th report has recommended immediate phasing out of this aircraft. Yet, the Government took no action. I would like to quote the statement of Chief of Air Staff, Chief Marshal Krishnaswami.

[Shri J.S. Brar]

[English]

These Mig-21s are still full fit to fly"

[Translation]

There is so much contradiction in the statement of the Government and the Ministry of Finance.

Through you, I would like to say that so many incidents have occurred. Ten MIGs crashed in 1998-99, 13 crashed in 1999-2000 and 12 in 2000-2001. You can imagine the loss of life. We may have suffered. The Government had decided to go on AJT but no progress has been made so far. The Government should take immediate steps in this regard. We often read horrowing news of incidents of fire in ammunition-depots. It has resulted in a loss of over Rs. 800 crore. The people of Punjab are known for their bravery in shooting down aircraft. But, one tragic incident occurred when an engine failed within five minutes of take-off at Adampur. It totally demoralises Indian Air Force and the public as well. The Government should find out some solution keeping in mind the recommendations of Public Accounts Committee.

[English]

\*SHRI P. MOHAN (Madurai) : Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, ancient temples and mahals are there in good number in Tamil Nadu. These places have rich treasures of invaluable Panchloha idols, carved stone sculptures, artefacts like engraved copper sheets and ancient palm leaves. These ancient treasures that vouchsafe for the rich cultural traditions must be conserved, preserved and protected. In order to ensure their maintenance with the financial assistance from the Centre there used to be seven centres in Tamil Nadu. These centres were there in Chennai, Madurai, Chidambaram, Coimbatore, Thanjavur, Tiruchirappalli, Tirunelveli. Register offices were there in these 7 centers. In 1987 the number of these centres were reduced to four due to paucity of funds as the fund flow from the Centre was not regular and most often much delayed. The central assistance was released in a non-systematic way. It would stop for ten months at one go and after that delay Central fund would be released just for 2 months. This indifferent way of assisting the conservation of our ancient treasures had resulted in the closure of

archeological registration information centres further. The Government of Tamil Nadu was forced to close down two of the 4 such centres in 1991. Even now the Central assistance is not forthcoming periodically. That is why even the existing two centres are about to be closed down in the month of May this year. This forebodes danger to the invaluable ancient sculptures made of five metal alloys and quality granite stones. There are about two lakh panchaloha sculptures in Tamil Nadu. But only about 50,000 are registered and preserved. The remaining sculptures of about one and a half lakh are not found in the record and face the danger of being robbed and smuggled out of the country. When such a threat persists to our ancient treasures even the remaining two centres face closure. In Tamil Nadu there are 30 districts now. I do not insist upon setting up 30 centres for each district. It would be better that the 7 centres that were there till 1987 are revived and put in operation there. Now that there are only 2 such offices the officials have to spend considerable amount on Travelling Allowances to visit several places for registering art objects to ensure their conservation and protection. Considering the hardship and financial crunch Tamil Nadu Government is hard pressed to close down even the existing two archeological information centres. Hence I urge upon the Union Government to intervene so as to ensure emergency measures to provide funds for the conservation and protection of these priceless cultural objects. All the 7 offices must become operational with liberal assistance from the Centre. Hence I request the Centre to release funds in time in an appropriate manner to reopen all the Centres that used to be there. With this I conclude, thank you.

PROF. A. K. PREMAJAM (Badagara) : Hon. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I wanted to bring to the notice of this august House a very important matter. On Saturday last, to that is on the 4th of this month, the hon. Union Home Minister Shri L.K. Advani named the Port Blair airport after V.D. Savarkar. In the cellular jail in Andamans, hundreds of patriots and freedom fighters had languished through their lives. Instead of giving the name of such martyrs, V.D. Savarkar's name was given to the Port Blair airport. ...\*

...(Interruptions) What is the justification in giving his name to that airport? ... (Interruptions)

\*Translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

\*Not recorded.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : That remark, will not go on record.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Hon. Members, please resume your seats.

*(Interruptions)*

YOGI ADITYA NATH (Gorakhpur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, it is an insult to the freedom fighter Veer Savarkar and I strongly object to it *(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Yogi Aditya Nath, please resume your seat.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have already asked that such things will not go on record.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia) : Sir, all parties had suggested that it should be named as Shaheed Airport. ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. A. K. PREMAJAM : Sir, there is a publication Penal Settlement in Andamans. It is a record published by Gazetteer Unit, Department of Culture Ministry of Education and Social Welfare *(Interruptions)* ...

*[Translation]*

YOGI ADITYA NATH : We won't tolerate this contempt of the Veer Savarkar who served life imprisonment for the freedom of the country *(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

PROF. A. K. PREMAJAM : ...*(Interruptions)*\*... What is the justification of giving his name to the airport? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Again, you are raising it. Unless you have the copy of the order, I will not allow it to be raised.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Prof A. K. Premajam, anything that you have alleged must be authenticated.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It is not proper. I will not allow it go on record.

*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

YOGI ADITYA NATH : The great freedom fighter of the country is insulted here, we won't tolerate it ...*(Interruptions)*

*(English)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan, I am also sitting here. I will give you a chance Please have patience.

*(Translation)*

SHRI YOGI ADITYA NATH : Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to draw the attention of the Government of India towards the fact that the public health inspectors appointed by the Ministry of the Health and Family Welfare of the Government of India in 1978-79 are in a pathetic economic condition today. The public health inspectors were appointed with a view to make available better health facilities and create better health awareness among the people in a developing country like India They used to get only Rs. 50 as monthly allowance for their job. These were informed on 31st March that their services had been terminated. Through you, I would submit to the Government of India to reinstate their services and they should be engaged in works like creating health awareness among the people and for eradication of malaria etc. Their monthly allowance should be increased from Rs. 50 to Rs. 500 and their services be reinstated.

SHRI C.N. SINGH (Machalishahar) : I welcome the suggestion give by Shri Mahantji and associate myself with him.

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali) : I also support him....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH (Farrukhabad) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw your attention towards the cantonment board. It is seen that an arbitrary blockade or hinderance is often created in the roads or national highways passing through the Cantonment area by the Commanding Officer due to which the passengers have

[Shri Chandra Bhushan Singh]

to face a lot of problem. I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the Fatehgarh Cantonment area in U. P. The PWD roads in that area passes through the Cantonment area. That road has been closed for the common people for long causing a lot of problem to them. Two colonies of that area-Durga Colony and Nagla Dina falls under the Cantonment area. The water drainage of these two colonies have been stopped by Cantonment board. A long wall has been erected. A nallaha was being constructed through the MPLAD funds there. Now that nallah is filled with dirty water due to which there is a likelihood of the outbreak of an epidemic there.

I urge upon the Government to instruct the officer commanding to make arrangement for the drainage of water so that the common citizen may get relief.

[English]

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil) : Sir, I am raising a very importance point.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You always raise only important points !

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : It is a very important point and it is regarding economic development of the State of Kerala. Clearance of Vallapadam Container Terminal Project is pending with the Shipping Ministry for a long time. The Ministry has not taken a decision, in spite of repeated requests from the Kerala Government.

I have received a letter from the Chief Minister of Kerala, Shri A.K. Antony. He has also requested that the matter may be raised here. I am not reading out that letter, but he had said that the issue had already been discussed a number of times, in the Conference of MPs, but still the matter was pending.

All the Ports have been developed and the projects sanctioned or cleared. So, it is high time that the Union Ministry of Shipping, the Union Finance Minister and the Prime Minister should consider this for expeditious clearance of this project. I request the Central Government to clear this project without further delay. Otherwise, they will be doing a great injustice to the State of Kerala because the economic development of the State would get adversely affected

So, I once again request the Central Government with all emphasis at my command – in the light of the letter that I received from the Kerala Chief Minister – to give clearance to this project.

DR. V. SAROJA (Rasipuram) : Mr. Deputy -Speaker, Sir I draw the attention of this august House to one news item that appeared in The Hindustan Times on the 3rd May 2002, captioned '50,000 Government employees in Orissa may be retrenched'. It says:

"The team, comprising members of the Joint Technical Mission of the World Bank and Department for International Development of the UK Government, worked in collaboration with the State Government in operationalising fiscal, governance and related reforms. The State Government has no choice but to do as the team suggests. Orissa is negotiating a Rs.3,000 crore aid from the World Bank for the fiscal and governance reforms."

In this context, I would say that the financial crisis is not only with the Government of Orissa, but also with all other State Governments. I would also like to draw the attention of this House to the letter that the hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Dr. J. Jayalalitha has written to the hon. Prime Minister of India on 25.03.2002

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Dr. Saroja, you have given a notice to raise the matter pertaining to retrenchment of 50,000 employees in Orissa Where have you reached now?

DR. V. SAROJA : The Orissa Government has requested the Government of India to allocate Rs.3,000 crore for the bailout package. In this context, I would like to say that not only the Government of Orissa, but also the Chief Minister of other States have requested the Government of India for immediate allocation of funds for the bailout package, to get out of the financial crisis that they are in. The Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu has already made a request. So, will the hon. Prime Minister of India immediately convene an emergency meeting to discuss the financial crisis of individual States and to take stock of the situation?

In this context, I would point out that there is a report on the Union Budget 2002 captioned 'Sinha dangles Rs.12,300 crore reform carrot for States'. So, through you, Sir, I would plead with the Prime Minister of India to immediately convene an emergency meeting.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : All right, you have already done your job.

DR. V. SAROJA : I also request him to allocate Rs.3,000 crore to the Government of Tamil Nadu from the Fiscal Reforms Incentive Fund. Thank you.

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RE. REPORTED STOCK SCAM INVOLVING  
 CENTRAL CO-OPERATIVE BANKS OF  
 NAGPUR, OSMANABAD AND WARDHA  
 DISTRICTS OF MAHARASHTRA

[Translation]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA (Mumbai North-East) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the news of a new scandal by share broker in the cooperative banks of Maharashtra is being reported in all the newspapers for the last five to seven days. As per the information I have, an amount of approximately four hundred crore rupees of the depositors are on the brink of being lost. The Chairmen of the four large cooperative banks and the leaders of various political parties are involved in it, the money is in the brink of getting lost. They gave the money to the stock broker of home trade without receiving any receipt. Not only in Maharashtra but the cooperative banks in Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and other States also gave the money to the broker of home trade similarly. In total this scandal involves an amount of six hundred crore rupees. The Union Government need to clarify as to whether the small depositors will get their money back or not because the deposit insurance company of the Reserve Bank of India gives a guarantee on the sum of upto one lakh rupees of the small depositors. However, the Centre has not clarified the position so far in this regard. I submit that the Union Government should immediately clarify the position in this regard.

Besides, the number of Banks who have been named has risen to more than 17 and the State Government have not taken any concrete action in this regard. I would like to commend the Government of Maharashtra that it has arrested the MLA's of the ruling NCP for illegally keeping the RBI deposits with them for 12 days. However, only doing this much will not help. I submit to the Union Government to handover the matter to CBI, as this crime involves more than one State, besides immediately confiscating the passports of the concerned offenders.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is the second biggest scam after the Ketan Parikh Scam. The Kapur Committee, in the report it has recommended that all the accounts of 143 banks out of 400 co-operative banks should be investigated. I would like to demand from the Union and the State

Government that immediate action be taken by the RBI, NABARD and Cooperative departments of the State Government in this regard and also bring this truth before the people as to what are the names of the remaining banks which have given money to the broker of the home trade. Thousands of investors in Nagpur are waiting in queues to get their money back and a law and order problem has erupted there. Through you, I would submit to the State Government to take concrete action to compensate the lackadaisical attitude shown by them in this regard. Besides the Union Government should also invite to the other State Governments Governments to desist the co-operative departments to undertake investigation in it. I would like to mention that so far the Union Government have done nothing in this regard. No statement has been given by it. We have met with RBI as Well as SEBI officials, I demand the immediate action by the Union Government in this regard. Union Minister hon. Ram Naikji and the Deputy Leader of Maharashtra are present here and both of them are aware about the seriousness of the situation. Approximately four lakhs investors are in the hope of as to what role will be played by the Union Government in this regard. It is a matter involving the fortunes of 4 lakhs families. If the Union and the State Governments do not make an immediate announcement in this regard then the investors will start withdrawing their deposits from the remaining co-operative banks also. This way the entire co-operative banking sector will be in danger to be wiped out in Maharashtra also after Gujarat. Hence the Union Government should pay an immediate attention and make an announcement in this regard. Shri Ram Naikji is present here, I would submit to him to tell about the latest position in this regard later on, I do not have any objection to it. However, the Centre need to make an announcement in this regard. I do not have any objection if he gives full information to the House in this regard later on.

SHRI PRABODH PANDA : Hon. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to draw the kind attention of the House...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Panda please wait The hon. Member has raised a very important point.

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK) : Shri Kirit Somaiya has raised a very important issue. I would ensure that the finance Minister is informed of what he has said as early as possible.

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SHRI PRABODH PANDA (Midnapore) : Hon. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of this august House and the Government to the depressing situation in Gujarat, especially the relief camps. It is reported in the papers, especially The Hindu daily today that the situation of the relief camps is worsening day-by-day.

Sir, seven or eight leaders of various national trade unions visited those camps. They told that the allocation provided for the relief camps is inadequate. Even the children are not getting medicines. They told that in one of the camps only 15 toilets have been provided for 10,000 persons. Around 132 death cases have been reported from one of the relief camps. The situation is very grave. Only 15 toilets have been provided for 10,000 persons. Around 132 death cases have been reported from one of the relief camps. The situation is very grave.

So, I urge upon the Government that the amount of Rs 150 crore is not adequate. Therefore, at least, Rs.1000 crore should be provided for relief and rehabilitation. It is a matter of shame for us that more than one lakh people have become refugees in their own land. It is a shame to our nation. I would, once again, urge upon the Government to provide Rs.1000 crore for relief camps.

*[Translation]*

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jipur) : Sir, as you are aware I come here after having been elected from Jaipur, the capital of Rajasthan.

MRT. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Yes, I do.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Hence I would like to submit that presently Rajasthan is the largest State in the country and it is contiguous to Pakistan. I would like to say that fencing of the border is not taking place. There is a paramount need to immediately undertake the work of fencing at the border on Rajasthan side because the State is contiguous to Pakistan. There is also a need to install flood lights there because many a militant equipped with weapons intruded into Jaisalmer and Barmer in large numbers. You should certainly think in this regard. Several psychotropic substances and drugs are smuggled from Pakistan into India. The situation therein is very grave. I demand from the Union Government to immediately start the fencing work and installation of floodlights on the Rajasthan side of Indian border contiguous to Pakistan to check the smuggling of weapons and drugs.

DR. RAGYHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Government of India have announced that six tourist spots will be selected and developed at the international level under the Tenth Five Year Plan. I would like to submit to the Government that the ongoing work for developing the Buddhist Circuit is pending. So, I would request the Government to include the name of the Buddhist Circuit among the proposed six circuits to be chosen by the Government so as to complete its development because the largest stupa in the World has been found at Kesaria. Vaishali, Kesaria, Lodia, Nandangraha, Kusinagar, Lumbini etc. should be connected to this Buddhist circuit. Five more circuits remain there. A Sufi circuit be included in it. Ajmer Sharif is an international spot wherein the people from throughout the World visit. Similarly, Lakhs of people from the country and abroad visit Kanti Mazar and Serukanhi Mazar at Kanti. Hence a Sufi circuit should also be developed. Then a Jain circuit, Mahavir circuit be taken as third priority. Mahavir was born at Vaishali while he attained Nirvan at Pawapuri. Ujjain is considered as a sacred pilgrims spot throughout the country. Hence a Jain circuit should be developed. A Mahatma Gandhi circuit should also be developed connecting the places which are the tourist places associated with Mahatma Gandhi. A Ramayana circuit, Ram Janaki circuit be developed. The religious places boasting of our ethnic culture should also be connected. There is a place named Sravanbelagola in Karnataka wherein a 58 feet statue of God Bahubali is situated at the Chandragiri mountain which was visited by Chandragupta Maurya or Badhrobahu from Pataliputra in that era.

Hence, I demand that the statue of God Bahubali at Indragiri which is the world's largest statue in the the mountains be declared as world heritage and national heritage. The stupa of Lord Buddha should also be declared as the world heritage. The six circuits namely the Lord Buddha circuit, Mahatma Gandhi circuit, Mahavira circuit, Jain circuit, Ramayana circuit, and Sufi circuit, be selected to be developed as the tourist spots of the world standard.

Sir the World Trade Tourism Council has maintained that there is a possibility of creating employment opportunities for about 70 lakh people in India in the tourism sector out of which 3 lakhs 60 thousands employment opportunities can be created in Bihar alone.

I urge the Government to complete these circuits on priority basis for encouraging tourism.

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE (Malegaon) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to draw the attention of the House towards the fact that a large number of workers are working in the Cement Corporation of India but they have not been received salary for the last five months. On the other hand, the Chairman of the Corporation and other senior officers are committing atrocities on the labourers. Charges of corruption have also been levelled against the Chairman and the senior officers which are being looked into. Through you, I would like to submit to the Government that the labourers should immediately be given wages and an honest and impartial probe be held against the senior officers so that corruption could be rooted out.

DR. SANJAY PASWAN (Navada) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to bring it to the notice of the House and the Government that merciless killings of farmers and labourers is taking place in Bihar, Bengal and Assam. It is especially worrisome in case of Bihar that elected representatives are being killed there. You will be surprised to know that 26 panchayat heads, 18 panchayat members and prominent persons and 7 people belonging to the Zila Parishad have been killed in the past three months. Five dalit muslims were killed in Seewan the day before yesterday. All these things are very painful. Hence, there is a need to make some special arrangements. Through you, I would like to submit to the Union Government and the Home Minister especially in regard to Bihar that the Government must intervene and take steps to stop killings of people's representatives, killings of labourers and farmers in Assam and Bengal so that peace and prosperity could be restored.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned to meet again at 2.30 p.m.

13.42 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till Thirty Minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.*

[Translation]

*The Sabha reassembled after Lunch at Thirty Six Minutes Past Fourteen of the Clock.*

[SHRIMATI MARGRET ALWA in the Chair]

14.36 hrs.

[English]

## MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

### (i) Need to display separate identification mark for Vegetarian and non-vegetarian food packets

[Translation]

SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE (Jabalpur) : Madam Chairmen, Sir. The Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare issued a notification GSR No. 908(a) published in Gazette of India (Extraordinary 20th December, 2001) which is related to vegetarian food staff. Similarly, a Notification GSR No. 245(A) was published in the Gazette of India (Extraordinary 4th April, 2001) wherein the explicit definition of the non vegetarian food staff was given. It will be displayed by a brown coloured circle within a square touching the outer side of the main display panel.

Similarly a replica of green colour will be carved out on the vegetarians food package. However this norm has not been followed so far due to which a feeling of resentment is prevailing among the people.

I would like to submit to the Union Government to take immediate action in this regard.

### (ii) Need to provide employment to the local people whose land has been acquired for setting up Industries in Bharuch Parliamentary Constituency, Gujarat

[Translation]

SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA (Bharuch) : Mr. Chairman Sir, a number of heavy industries have been set up in my Parliamentary Constituency Bharuch by acquiring land of the farmers and Adivasis rendering them jobless. Several of them have not been given any employment in the concerned industries as they are claimant of the same as the people belonging to the displaced families. Many industries in my Parliamentary Constituency Bharuch were set up to develop the backward areas. These backward areas could only be developed honestly only when the unemployed local persons of these area are provided with employment.

I through the House, I would like to submit to the Government that the local people of these areas be given employment in these industries.

**(iii) Need to provide more Air Services between Ahmedabad and Delhi, Particularly during day time**

[Translation]

SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY (Banaskantha) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, there are two flights between Delhi and Ahmedabad during day time. Normally there is a long waiting list for those flights. Businessmen and others have to face lots of difficulties in the absence of any day time flight. People have to reach Delhi via Mumbai. The people of Gujarat have been demanding a flight between Ahmedabad and Delhi during day time around noon. There are about 20 flights between Delhi and Mumbai. Some of these flights can also be operated at noon via Ahmedabad.

I request the Government to introduce a flight between Ahmedabad-Delhi at noon as soon as possible.

[English]

**(iv) Need to set up a research centre of medicinal plants at Jalpaiguri in North Bengal**

SHRIMATI MINATI SEN (Jalpaiguri) : Sir, seven hundred different species of medicinal plants are available widely in the forest of sub-Himalayan range. These species are time-tested recognised plants for indigenous system of medicine like Ayurvedic, Homeopathic, Siddha and Unani system of medicines.

In the absence of proper collection, utilisation, research and development, these rare species remain unexplored and become extinct mercilessly by unscrupulous people due to their ignorance. Due to the agreement with WTO, the drug manufacturing units have been facing an acute crisis. Even the human right to obtain the essential medicines is jeopardised. Whatever self-reliance the country had is worsened due to National Health Policy and amendment to the patent law. Simultaneously, the medicinal drugs which are not on our record are illegally sneaking throughout our country, particularly from the hilly, Tarai and Dooars areas in North Bengal.

In this critical situation, I urge upon the Government to set up a Research Centre at Jalpaiguri of North Bengal for proper collection, utilisation, research and development of the vast resources of drugs which can generate employment and can fetch export earning.

**(v) Need to ensure Uninterrupted electric supply in rural areas of U.P., particularly in Partapgarh Parliamentary Constituency**

[Translation]

SHRI C. N. SINGH (Machhlishahar) : Mr. Chairman Sir, I would like to draw attention of the Government towards shortage of power supply in U.P., especially in my Parliamentary Constituency Pratapgarh and Jaunpur. Supply of power in this area is almost nil which has paralysed the life of people, industries are badly affected and irrigation and plantation of crops in rural areas is also badly affected.

Therefore, I demand that uninterrupted power supply in U.P., particularly in my Parliamentary Constituency be ensured immediately. For this purpose, additional power should be made available to Uttar Pradesh Government from Central Power Grid.

**(vi) Need for Construction of By-Passes at Fatehabad and Sirsa, Haryana**

[Translation]

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA (Sirsa) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, improvements are required on National Highway passing through Delhi, Hissar Sirsa and Bhatinda and other border towns of Punjab. In absence of these improvements the purpose of this highway seems to be defeated. The vehicles should be able to ply at fast speed on this road but since this road passes through cities the density of traffic creates an impediment in quick movement of vehicles. Secondly, when the local traffic mingles with highway traffic it creates traffic jam and then it seems as if entire city is jammed at one place. Fatehabad is an agriculture producing area of Haryana and NH-10 passes through it. There is a need for a by-pass here so that the traffic on national highway passes smoothly and the traffic in the town is not disturbed.

I request the Government to construct a by pass on NH-10 at Fatehabad and Sirsa without further delay and four-lane the highway.

[English]

**(vii) Need to develop Pitchavaram in Tamil Nadu as a place of tourist resort.**

SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY (Chidambaram) : Madam, Pitchavaram in my constituency, Chidambaram, in Tamil Nadu, is a place of tourist attraction. This is a beautiful

place, surrounded by back-waters with natural groves and canals. This can be developed by the Tourism Ministry by providing boating yards, site seeing facilities, which will certainly attract thousands of people not only from the constituency but also from the surrounding districts, earning revenues for the Government.

Tourism Ministry, Government of India, should develop this place with hotel, boating and other infrastructures so that hundreds of people could be benefited both directly and indirectly by creating shopping complex and other facilities.

I request the hon. Minister for Tourism and Culture to develop Pitchavaram as a major tourist attraction to earn revenue for the Government and employment to hundreds of people of the area. Thank you very much.

**(viii) Need to accord Sanction to the Proposal for Construction of Beena river irrigation Project at Sagar, Madhya Pradesh**

[Translation]

SHRI VIRENDERA KUMAR (Sagar) : Beena River Irrigation Project of my parliamentary Constituency Sagar was sent by the M.P. Government to the Central Government in 1991-92. Ten years have elapsed since then and so far no progress has been made. This is an important irrigation project which would benefit thousands of farmers of Sagar and Vidhisa districts. It will also help raise the water level.

I request the Central Government to direct water Resources Ministry for undertaking Beena River Irrigation Projects on priority basis.

**(ix) Need to provide stoppage of Gyanganga, Kamayani and Ganga Cauvery Express Trains at Maihar Railway Station, Madhya Pradesh**

[Translation]

SHRI SUNDAR LAL TIWARI (Rewa) : Maihar, in addition to being a major pilgrimage is also are industrial centre of Jabalpur division. About ten lakh devotees visit this place during Navratra Paksha alone. In ansence of stoppage of trains passing through this town, pilgrims have to face lots of difficulties. If two minutes stoppage of Gyanganga Express Varanasi, Kamayani Express Varanasi and Ganga Cauvery Express train is provided at Maihar the pilgrims and businessmen will get great relief. People

of this area have been demanding for stoppage of trains at Maihar for the last several years.

I request the hon'ble Railway Minister to provide two minutes stoppage of Ganga Express Varanasi, Kamayani Express Varanasi and also Ganga Cauvery Express trains at Maihar and provide relief to lakhs of people.

[English]

14.47 hrs.

**PETROLEUM REGULATORY BOARD BILL\***

MR. CAHAIRMAN : We will now take up the Legislative Business. The Petroleum Regulatory Board Bill, 2002 to be introduced. Shri Ram Naik.

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (Shri Ram Naik) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment of the Petroleum Regulatory Board to regulate the refining, processing, storage, transportation, distribution, marketing and sale of petroleum and petroleum products excluding production of crude oil and natural gas so as to, protect the interests of consumers and entities engaged in specified activities relating to petroleum and petroleum products, ensure uninterrupted and adequate supply of petroleum and petroleum products in all parts of the country, promote competitive markets and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Motion moved :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment of the Petroleum Regulatory Board to regulate the refining, processing, storage, transportation, distribution, marketing and sale of petroleum and petroleum products excluding production of crude oil and natural gas so as to, protect the interests of consumers and entities engaged in specified activities relating to petroleum and petroleum products, ensure uninterrupted and adequate supply of petroleum and petroleum products in all parts of the country, promote competitive markets and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

On this, Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan has something to say.

\*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dt. 6.5.2002.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil)

Madam, I rise to oppose the introduction of this Bill on two grounds. The first one is about the legal necessity. The second one is the legal impediments. As regards the legal necessity, I will submit that the Government have already taken a decision to dismantle the Administered Price Mechanism. They have also decided to completely deregulate the petroleum products. When the Government have taken a final decision, why should there be any interference in the distribution and also marketing of these products. The purpose of the Bill is against all common-sense. This is one thing.

Another thing I would like to point is this. It is stated that the Board would operate at arm's length from the Central Government. It is a wonderful statement. The arm of the Central Government is extending throughout the country. Will the Heaven's fall down, if the Board operates beyond the arm's length of the Central Government? I do not think so. The Board would operate within the arm's length means that it is functioning beyond the arm's length. Is it the way to state the objective of the Statute? A statement like this is not only wonderful but also ridiculous. There is an assurance that the Board would operate at arm's length from the Central Government. The Central Government is omnipotent and omnipresent and its arms would extend throughout the country.

We have already passed a resolution regarding giving protection to consumers. The Consumer Protection Act is here. This House has finally passed it. The main purpose of this legislation is to give protection to the consumers and to the entities as per the provisions of the statute. If that is the case, why should there be a Board? As per the estimate before the House, there would be a recurring expenditure of Rs. 7 crore and a non-recurring expenditure of Rs. 3 crore. Roughly, the expenditure would be Rs. 10 crore per year. This is likely to increase in future. This is only a preliminary estimate. The real estimate would be much more than that. This amount is meant for paying salaries to the Board, etc.

Some retired officers would be operating as members of the Board. Retired bureaucracy would be setting the rest house here. Retired bureaucrats would become the members of this Board. They may enjoy the benefits till the age of 65. In order to provide some employment to the retired bureaucracy, this Act has been brought in with a view to spend Rs. 7 crore as recurring expenditure. Not only that, Rs. 3 crore is meant for non-recurring expenditure. This amount is likely to go up. What is the purpose of this? The purpose would be served very easily by

appointing an officer to look after the affairs of the Board. The office of Controller would be sufficient. Instead of appointing a Controller, they have to put in a Board in the scheme to spend Rs. 10 crore of the Exchequer's money. I do not understand the purpose of all this. The Government says that they have deregularised it. They claim that a fantastic thing is, administrative price mechanism has been dismantled. Why should such a Board function? It is quite sufficient that you appoint an officer to look after the affairs of the consumers. The consumer law would protect consumers rights. A separate law is not required. We already have the Consumer Protection Act to look after the interests of the consumer. If any violation is committed, there is a Tribunal, which would take action, and compensation would be awarded to the consumers. Hence, this Board is not required.

This is an afterthought of the bureaucracy to find accommodation for retired people to act as members of this Board. So, I oppose it because we already have passed a similar legislation. There is a legal impediment in passing this Bill. Hence, I oppose the introduction of the Bill.

SHRI RAM NAIK : I am thankful to Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan for bringing out the issues. Since I was finding it very difficult to read his notice- I read it five times I went to him personally to know exactly as to what he has written. What he has said in his notice is beyond the legislative competence.

He has not explained as to what is beyond the legislative competence of this House. At this stage, the merit of the Bill is not to be discussed, but he has tried to discuss the merit of the Bill. Then, he said that we have passed a similar law in this respect. If a similar law had been passed, then definitely this law also can be passed.

Then, there are two more important aspects about which I would like to draw the attention of the House. The hon. Member asks as to why the Government should interfere in the functioning of the Board. Let me just explain one case. Now, hereafter those who have invested Rs. 2,000 crore in infrastructural activities of the petroleum sector can establish retail outlets, that is, petrol pumps all over India.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Who will be appointing the dealers?...*(Interruptions)* ...

SHRI RAM NAIK : Two parties have applied for establishing retail outlets. One party who is qualified wants to establish 5,000 retail outlets all over the country and another party wants to establish 1,700 retail outlets. Where

will they establish them? Every new petrol company would like to concentrate only in cities and highways. So, the far-flung areas like Jammu and Kashmir, Assam and even remote areas will not be taken care of. So, we will put a condition that if they want to establish 5,000 petrol pumps, 5 per cent or 10 per cent of them would have to be necessarily set up in the far-flung areas where normally setting up a petrol pump would not be commercially viable. Like that, there would arise so many occasions which have been indicated in the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Ministry can also do that.

SHRI RAM NAIK : That is why he has raised another issue about the Board functioning at arms length from the Central Government. As far as possible, the Government should not interfere in this type of administrative work. So, this administrative work will be regulated by the regulator. So, instead of Government doing this work, this is supposed to be done by a Board.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : You can appoint a person for that. He can look after all these things.

SHRI RAM NAIK : The basic purpose of setting up this Board is that as far as possible this work should not be done by the Government.

The hon. Members can refer to page 18 of the Bill wherein it is stated that the President, having been informed the subject matter of the Petroleum Regulatory Board Bill, 2002, recommends the introduction and consideration of the Petroleum Regulatory Board Bill, 2002 in the House, Under article 117 (1)(3) of the Constitution of India. So, this Bill was sent to the President and he has cleared it for introduction and consideration.

Then, I would like to deal with the second aspect also because it has something to do with the Constitution. The Constitution envisages what are the Central subjects and what are the State subjects. Now, in the Seventh Schedule, the Union List clearly says that this is a matter to be regulated by the Centre. Under the Union List, Entry 53 says

"Regulation and development of oilfields and mineral oil resources; petroleum and petroleum products; other liquids and substances declared by Parliament by law to be dangerously inflammable."

So, it is within the competence of Parliament to legislate on this subject and that is why we have brought this Bill before the House.

I will try to reply in brief to other points which have been raised because they do not go to the root of the constitutionality of the Bill. This Bill will certainly help to develop a competitive market in the country. When more and more parties come, the benefit would reach the consumers. When competition sets in, the service will improve and even the prices will also be competitive.

These are the basic reasons for which this Bill is being introduced and I do hope that the Bill would be passed when it is taken up for consideration.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment of the Petroleum Regulatory Board to regulate the refining, processing, storage, transportation, distribution, marketing and sale of petroleum and petroleum products excluding production of crude oil and natural gas so as to, protect the interests of consumers and entities engaged in specified activities relating to petroleum and petroleum products, ensure uninterrupted and adequate supply, of petroleum and petroleum products in all parts of the country, promote competitive markets and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

*The motion was adopted.*

SHRI RAM NAIK : I introduce\* the Bill.

15.00 hrs.

## MULTI-STATE CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES BILL

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, we go to item No. 11 – Multi-state Co-operative Societies Bill, 2000. The time allotted is three hours. Shri Ajit Singh.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH) : Madam Chairperson, I beg to move:

That the Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to co-operative societies, with objects not confined to one State and serving the interests of members in more than one State, to facilitate the voluntary formation and democratic functioning of co-operatives as people's institutions based on self-help and mutual aid and to enable them to promote their economic and social betterment and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, be taken into consideration.

\*Introduced with the Recommendation of the President.

[Shri Ajit Singh]

The Multi-State Co-operative Societies Bill, 2000 is intended to replace the existing Multi-State Co-operative Societies Act, 1984. The Co-operative Societies is a State subject under entry 32 of the State List. The States have accordingly enacted their own Acts. In order to facilitate the organisation and functioning of the co-operative societies having jurisdiction in more than one State, the Parliament enacted the Multi-State Co-operative Societies Act, 1984 under entry 44 of the first List of the Constitution.

In view of the increasing demand from the co-operative sector and recognising the need for promoting democratic and autonomous functioning of the co-operatives, the Planning Commission appointed a Committee in 1990 under the Chairmanship of Ch. Brahm Prakash to examine the whole issue. The Committee submitted its Report in 1991 and, inter alia, recommended a 'Model Co-operatives Law' for the States aimed at providing a genuine character to the co-operatives with the deletion of restrictive provisions in the existing State Acts and to facilitate the building of an integrated co-operative structure. The Government of India in the Department of Agriculture and Co-operation an Advisory Committee under Shri R.N. Mirdha to advise the Central Government on matters relating to ensuring autonomous functioning of the Multi-State Co-operatives.

Based on the recommendations of Ch. Brahm Prakash Committee and Mirdha Committee, a legislative proposal to replace the existing Multi-State Co-operative Societies Act, 1984 was formulated and accordingly the Multi-State Co-operative Societies Bill, 2000 was introduced in this august House in the winter session of the year 2000. The Hon'ble Speaker referred the Bill to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Agriculture for examination and the Committee has since submitted its Report.

The object of the Bill is to remove the so identified restricted provisions in the existing Multi-State Co-operative Societies Act, 1984 and to provide full functional autonomy and democratic management of the multi-State Co-operative Societies. As the hon. Members are aware, the process of co-operative reforms has been engaging the attention of the Government for quite sometime. There is a general view that co-operative institutions suffer from the undue Government interference and bureaucratic control. These institutions should in fact be member-driven institutions. With the passing of the Bill, a new era in the co-operative history will be ushered in which would enable

them to function as real democratic and autonomous institutions for the mutual benefit of the members. The Bill will restore the faith of members in these institutions and will increase awareness amongst them. The co-operatives consist of the small and marginal farmers, the artisans, the workers and members of the weaker sections of the society. The new co-operative approach would enable these sections to improve their social and economic lot by availing the benefits of economy of scale. After the enactment of this new law, the State Governments will also be requested to amend their Acts on similar lines as most of the co-operative activities take place in the States.

The salient features of the Bill as follows:

- (i) Preamble of the Act is proposed to be widened to reflect the policy of the Government based on the internationally recognised co-operative principles. It is proposed to widen the preamble of the Act to reflect the policy of the Government towards the co-operatives. The basic co-operative principles as internationally recognised have been included in the first schedule.
- (ii) Registration process is proposed to be simplified and made time-bound. Procedure for registration of the co-operative societies has been simplified by reducing the time from six months to four months and by providing for deemed registration if the Central Registrar fails to register the societies or their byelaws within the stipulated period.

It is proposed to omit the provision of prior consultation or approval of the Central Registrar for amalgamation or division of a society.

Co-operative societies will be enabled to form subsidiaries. It is proposed to enable a society to form subsidiary institutions for furtherance of its stated objects which may be registered under any law for the time being in force.

It is proposed to give greater responsibilities to the federal co-operatives towards their affiliated members.

To ensure active participation in the management, provisions for disqualification of a member have been made on account of absence from the three consecutive General Body meetings or failure to use services to the minimum level as provided in the bye-laws of such society.

Besides disqualifications prescribed in the existing Act, the Bill proposes to add a new provision rendering

a persons disqualified to become President or Vice-President or Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson, if he holds office of a Minister in the Central or State Government.

It is proposed that the tenure of the elected members of the Board shall be such as prescribed in the bye-laws, but not exceeding five years instead of three years as in the existing Bill.

It is proposed that the elections shall be held by the society itself, failing which, the Central Registrar shall cause the conduct of elections at the cost of the society.

The Government nominees on the Board will be in proportion of shareholding, but not exceeding three or one-third of the total number of members of the Board, whichever is less.

The Government shall continue its role of promoting and assisting the co-operatives. On the request of a society, the Government shall continue to promote and assist the co-operative by way of share capital, loans and advances, guarantee and financial assistance in any other form including subsidies.

The societies will have full liberty to raise resources and utilise its surplus funds. It is proposed to enable a society to raise resources to augment its funds and to utilise its surplus funds in accordance with its bye-laws without approval of the Central Registrar.

The societies will have power to get the audit conducted on their own. It is proposed that the audit of the society shall be conducted by the auditor appointed by the society itself and not by the Central Registrar. However, in case of failure on the part of the society, the Central Registrar may appoint the auditor.

The powers of the Central Registrar for inquiry and inspection have been restricted. It is proposed that the Central Registrar shall invoke powers of inquiry and inspection only on an application of the federal society or a creditor or a complaint filed by at least one-fifth of the total number of members of the society and after a reasonable notice and opportunity to the management of the society.

It is proposed that the disputes of a society shall be settled by an arbitrator as per provisions of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 and not by the Central Registrar.

In order to make the management of a society accountable, it is proposed to widen the area of offences and stringent penalties.

It is proposed to restrict the powers of the Central Government to give directions or supersede the Board of Directors, to such societies only in which the Government holds not less than 51 per cent of the equity.

It is proposed to withdraw the powers of the Central Government to exempt a society from any of the provisions of the Act and Rules.

Now, I request the House to consider and pass this Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Motion moved:

"That the Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to co-operative societies, with objects not confined to one State and serving the interests of members in more than one State, to facilitate the voluntary formation and democratic functioning of co-operatives as people's institutions based on self-help and mutual aid and to enable them to promote their economic and social betterment and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, be taken into consideration."

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, Shri Shivraj V. Patil

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL (Latur) : Madam Chairperson, this Bill gives an opportunity to the Parliament to discuss the co-operative movement in India.

As is rightly said, co-operative societies generally come under the authority of the State Governments but there are one or two references made to co-operatives that could come under the Union Government also. I am not going into all those things.

The Multi-State Co-operative Societies Bill, 2000 is before us and the positive provisions of this Bill have been explained very lucidly and convincingly by the hon. Minister. This Bill, as I said, is trying to replace the Multi-State Co-operative Societies Act, 1984. The hon. Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Shrimati Sonia Gandhi had written to the hon. Prime Minister asking that this Bill should be brought before Parliament and that the old legislation should be replaced by this Bill in the light of the recommendations made by the Brahma Prakash Committee; and we are happy that this Bill is before this House.

I would say that this is a welcome Bill. Many of the provisions are very salutary and they are going to help the co-operative movement in the country. So, we would like to welcome this Bill. I would first refer to the positive



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provisions then refer to the deficiencies in the Bill and later refer to the general policy and philosophy that could be adopted to encourage the co-operative movement in the country. After that, I shall refer to some of the changes that could be introduced in the Constitution to strengthen the co-operative movement.

I agree with the hon. Minister when he says that this Bill empowers the co-operative societies to amalgamate, to divide and to create subsidiaries without seeking the prior permission of the Central Registrar. This is a salutary provision and we welcome it. The second salutary provision is that without the prior approval of the Central Registrar, the co-operative societies can raise their resources. It is not necessary for the Multi-State co-operative societies to obtain the permission of the Central Registrar to raise resources and to invest in shares. They can do it according to their decisions taken in the General Body or according to the decisions taken by the Society. This is also a salutary provision. In fact, these two provisions give greater autonomy to the co-operative societies. The first provision gives managerial autonomy and the second provision gives financial autonomy to the societies. What was sought to be done by replacing the old law with the new law was to give more autonomy to the societies and this has been achieved to a very great extent by having these two provisions.

The third most important provision according to me that Ministers are not allowed to be Chairpersons of Multi-State Co-operative Societies. To our surprise, in some States, we have found that there are co-operative societies that have Ministers as Chairpersons and when the question came up whether they should give up their positions as Chairmen in the societies or their Ministerships, they preferred to give up their Ministerships rather than the Chairmanship of the societies. This means, if they could be Minister and also be Chairpersons of these co-operative societies, the authority available to the Chairperson is likely to be misused. That possibility has been done away with by specifically providing that Chairpersons should not be Ministers in the State Governments or in the Union Government. In our Standing Committees also, we have seen that the Chairpersons are not Ministers.

They are the Members of Parliament and not the Ministers. Now the same principle has been accepted and it is a good principle.

15.16 hrs

[SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV *in the Chair*]

The fourth salutary principle is that sometimes it is found that the people who are working in the societies, they do not manage the societies in a proper manner and in order to retain the societies with them, they go to the court and the disputes are kept pending in the court and no solutions are found to the disputes for a pretty long time and that makes the shareholders to suffer. This Bill is trying to avoid this kind of contingency. This Bill provides very rightly a Disputes-Settlement Authority and, I think, this is also a very salutary provision. The only one objection with respect to the Disputes Settlement Authority I have is that it provides that the disputes shall be settled in three months' time. I doubt whether the disputes would be settled in three months' time. Practically, it is not possible. Even then, if it is provided, then again there is a provision to that Bill which says that for any reason it is not possible for the Disputes Settlement Authority to settle the disputes within three months' time, then they can give the reason for not having been able to settle the disputes in three months' time and they can settle the disputes in some more time. I think, this provision is little unrealistic. Something has to be done to see that this provision is actually implemented or enforced. One of the methods by which this can be done is to have many Disputes Settlement Authorities available in the country. It is provided in the law that there would not be only one Disputes Settlement Authority, but in different regions, there would be more Disputes Settlement Authorities. If we have Disputes Settlement Authorities in different States and later on in different districts also, if possible, it may be possible to see that these disputes are settled within the given time.

The last provision to which I would like to make a reference is this. Ultimately, these societies have to help the people. The hon. Minister has rightly said that the cooperative societies help the people coming from the rural areas. The people who do not have big resources with them, who are not in a position to start the private sector enterprises, who are also not in a position to get the finances from the financial institutions or the banks; and with the small amount of money which are available with them, they contribute to the funds of the societies and that fund is used for the benefit of the people. At times it is found that these funds are not used for the benefit of the shareholders. Sometimes, there are mistakes committed

and these societies disappear and the funds kept by them in the society disappear. That is why, it becomes the responsibility of the State Government or the Union Government to protect the interests of the shareholders in the cooperative societies, as they have to protect the interests of the depositors in the banks or the shareholders in other institutions. This Bill rightly provides that the Government of India is given the authority to give the directions to the societies to see that the funds they have are used in such a fashion that the interest of the common man are protected. I am satisfied with that.

Madam, now, I come to the deficiencies. What are the deficiencies? I know that the Bill is introduced and we would like that it should be passed with amendment or without amendments. But as far as deficiencies to which I am making references should be borne in mind for future to make the amendments, if possible and if necessary, to see that this law becomes more efficient and more useful. This Bill provides that in one State here shall be only one Multi-State Cooperative Society.

If it is not, then I withdraw my comments, but if you are restricting the number of multi-State co-operative societies' registration in one State, I think that would not be helpful. Why should we put a restriction on that? If it is not there, if I have read the law wrongly, I withdraw my comments, but if it is there, I would beseech that that kind of a provision should be done away with and we should allow more multi-State co-operative societies to come up in different States. If there are two multi-State co-operative societies or more multi-State co-operative societies, it should be welcome, rather than it should be restricted.

I am not having a very strong doubt about it, but then some people have been saying that the law provides that the distribution of the surpluses has to be done in a particular manner. I know the intention with which it is done - to protect the interests of the shareholders, to protect the interests of the workers, to protect the interests of the modernisation of the societies, and things like that. I have absolutely no objection to that. But if this provision is used too strictly, it is likely to create problems. So, it has to be used in a very-very discreet manner, in a manner which really helps it. Now, the question of using this authority in a proper manner arises. I do not quarrel with the provision but I quarrel with the discretion which can be used in using this provision.

The third point I would like to make is that we have accepted the principle of allowing women to participate in *Gram Panchayats*, in Municipalities, in *Taluka Panchayats*, in *Zila Panchayats*. There is Bill pending in the Parliament to have the representation given to women in the State Legislatures and in the Parliament. But at least at the district level, at the *Taluka* level, at the Municipalities level and the village *Panchayat* level, this has been done. That means, in political democracy we have allowed the participation of women. Why should it not be allowed in economic democracy also? Why is this provision not made in this law? Some State Governments have a provision of this kind. If I am not wrong, I would like to say that this kind of provision is there in Madhya Pradesh Act and in Maharashtra Act also.

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL (Buldana) : Yes, it is there.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : If this kind of provision is there in a State law, this law it should be there in the Union Law also. This should not be retrograde law; it should be something better than the law which is available in the States. So, my request is that participation of women in the co-operative movement, in the economic activities of the country, specially of women coming from the rural areas, from the poorer sections of the societies, should be facilitated. This point should not have been lost sight of while framing this Bill. This is a very glaring deficiency according to me which becomes visible to me.

The second deficiency which has become visible to me is that in the Maharashtra Co-operative Societies Act and in the Madhya Pradesh Co-operative Societies Act, the members of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes are given a recognition. The laws provide that in the Board of Directors, there shall be a representative of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes. If the shareholders elect them to the Board of Directors, all right, but if there is no Director in the Board, then there should be a provision for nominating persons coming from the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes so that they are in a position to protect the interests of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes through the co-operative society. What is found in these co-operative societies is that those people who have money are the members. They do not have lot of money with them. They have limited funds with them. Yet, there are people who do not have money at all and they are very-very poor. Such people should be

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helped more. And in order to help more through the co-operative societies, it should be possible for somebody to be there in the Board while the decisions are taken to see that the help can be extended to the members of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes in order to protect their interests.

[Translation]

SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL (Monghyr) : There should be provision of reservation for SC/ST and OBC also in it ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Brahma Nand Mandal Ji, you may take your seat.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : Would I request the hon. Member that when he makes his speech he may make that point. I am making two points. I should leave something for others also.

I think that this should have been there I am of the view that the Multi-State Cooperative Societies Bill will be used to help the cooperative banks which function in more than one State. It is likely to help the cooperative insurance societies also which will be working in more than one State. I think we should welcome this kind of provision for the Multi-State Cooperative Banks. We have the uni-State Cooperative Banks. I think we do not have the Multi-State cooperative Banks and with this, there would be Multi-State cooperative banks. Insurance is open to the private sector. If it is available to the individuals, if it is available to the private sector, then it should be available to the cooperative sector also.

I repeat it more than once that this should be there. There should be Multi-State cooperative banks and there should be Multi-State cooperative insurance societies. At the same time I would like to caution the Government. What has happened to the cooperative banks? It is only today that one of the hon. Members on the floor of the House shed light on what has happened to some cooperative banks. When we allow the common man to be the member of a bank and run the bank, we should not allow the Board of Directors to run the bank in such a fashion that the depositors are put to difficulties.

We know what has happened to the UTI. We know what has happened to a few cooperative banks. We know

what has happened in Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and in other States. That is why I would like to caution that something has to be done to see that the interest of the depositors in the cooperative banks is protected. It should not be difficult to do it. If you use all the modern gadgets which are available like the computers and others and if every day the supervision is done in a proper manner by somebody who is given this responsibility and if every week the supervision is done by the Board, then it should not be difficult. It should be allowed, but it should be allowed in such a fashion that the poor people who keep money in the banks will not be lost to their savings. The cooperative insurance societies are more dangerous to manage than the cooperative banks because the people from the rural areas will ensure themselves, their properties. Supposing these societies disappear or these societies are not in a position to really protect the right and the property of the people, the poor will suffer.

In the present circumstances, on the one hand we would have to see that lot of freedom is available to those who want to come forward and who want to be very active in the economic field; but at the same time we shall have to see that those who are living hand to mouth and saving money and using that money or putting that money in these financial institutions are also protected. We cannot say that in order to see that there should be a speedy growth, let the people who have earned their money suffer. We cannot take that stand and if we take that stand, it will not be economic justice. Ultimately, it will not be accepted by the people.

So, I am cautioning that in the cooperative banks and in the cooperative insurance societies, the byelaws have to be such that the interests of the people will be protected. Of course, the law is made by the Parliament, the rules will be made by the Executive, the Government and the rules will be put on the Table, of the Houses. Even in the rules we can take those precautions. More than in the rules, we can take precaution in byelaws. The byelaws of the cooperative banks and the byelaws of the cooperative insurance societies have to be such that the interest of the common man is protected.

The third most important activity which can be started by the Multi-State Co-operative Societies, is to export the agricultural produce to the neighbouring countries. This is an area which is vacant. It remains unoccupied. The private sector is not playing its role; the Government sector is also

not playing its role; and the public sector is not playing its role. This is an area which is really vacant and this can be occupied by the Multi-State Co-operative Societies. I would like to say that they should not be uni-State co-operative societies; they should not only be multi-State co-operative societies, but they should be multinational co-operative societies. They should be in a position to function in other countries also that has to be done, and are very important.

The Government of India has taken a decision to see that the surplus which is available from the agriculture is exported to other countries. Simply by making a declaration of this nature, it may not be possible for us to export the surplus, which is available, to the other countries. So, what has to be done? The small farmers have to produce the vegetables, the flowers, the fruits, the grains, the pulses, the oilseeds, and the surplus, which is available with them, has to be collected by somebody. It has to be transported from the field to the cold-storages, from the cold-storages to the airport and sea port, and from the sea port, these things have to be transported to the foreign countries by using ships, aircraft or other means of transport. They have to sell these things in other countries and then get the money and return it to the farmers. This cannot be easily done by a small farmer who is living in the village. It would be very difficult for him. He does not have the funds. He does not have the knowledge. He does not have the confidence in himself to do it, but he has seen as to how the sugar factories have developed, as to how the spinning mills have developed and as to how banks have worked. He would have confidence in these kinds of co-operative societies and if these kinds of co-operative societies are brought into existence, I think, the vacancy, which is available, will be filled by these co-operative societies and one of the objectives of giving remunerative prices, good prices will be fulfilled by exporting these things.

But here, a lot many things have to be done. It is not enough to have a law of this kind and then, have done with it. The Agriculture Ministry has to look into it; the Ministry dealing with foreign trade has to look into it; the Ministry of Shipping has to look into it; and the Ministry of Civil Aviation has to look into it. The financial institutions have to provide the finances. The EXIM Bank has to give the credit and for this purpose, we had made the plans and programmes. Those plans and programmes were made as back as in 1983 and they are lying in the

Government in the Ministry of Finance. They can be looked into and, if possible and if they are found feasible in the present circumstances, they should be used. According to me, some of these are the drawbacks with which they are suffering.

The penultimate point I would like to make is that the co-operative movement is the movement of the common man. It is not the movement of the rich man. It is not the movement of a Government. It is the movement of the common man, and if really the common man is to be economically helped and assisted, the co-operative movement should develop. Fortunately for us, in some States like Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat and Tamil Nadu, the co-operative movement has struck roots, but in other States, the co-operative movement has not struck roots. It is not feasible there and people pine for it, they ask for it, and we shall have to do something to see that the co-operative movement is started there. But if we analyse the co-operative movement even in the States where it appears to be doing well, we shall have to classify as to how the co-operative movement has done.

As far as village co-operative movement is concerned, this is doing well. As far as spinning mills and oil mills are concerned, they are not doing well. As far as sugar industry is concerned, 60 per cent of the industry is doing well and 40 per cent of the industry is not doing well. As far as banks are concerned, they have done well so far, but now it appears that even the banks are slipping in their performance and they are becoming a liability.

We shall have to do something to see that this does not happen. Why this is happening, it has to be understood by us. In my opinion, this is happening because initially, those who were in the movement were ideologically one with the cooperative movement. They were made after the cooperative movement. They did not pay attention to anything else; they paid attention to cooperative movement, and the cooperative movement, in some States, was accepted. I have seen the persons sitting at the site where the sugar factory was coming up without taking food, without sleeping and working there; they brought those sugar factories into existence and they are doing very well.

The second phase was, that of the people who came in this movement who were supposed to be efficient, capable of running these institutions. It was also good. One cannot have any objection to it.

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We are now in the third phase in which people are coming in this movement because they think there is money. People are coming because they think that they would be able to earn some money out of this movement, and they do not have good of the people at their heart, nor are they efficient. However, they are manipulators. They get elected, come there and manipulate. When they manipulate, their only intention is, to feather their nests, and then leave is saying that because of this reason or that reason, the cooperative society has not done well. We shall have to see that this does not happen. It is not a very easy thing to do. It is a very difficult thing to do and, yet, it has to be done.

What the law provides is that if there are people of this nature, then there would be a registrar and his colleagues to see that this does not happen; and registrar and his colleagues did work to see that this kind of thing did not happen. But I know the persons, we have personal knowledge, that the registrars and the officers also have not done well. They have created hurdles. They have not stopped the embezzlement of the money from the cooperative societies, but they have become partners in embezzling the money from the cooperative societies. So, when there was one person, it was suffering. Now, there are two persons, it is likely to suffer more so. So, the registrars and officers also, in some cases, have helped; in some cases, they have not helped.

The third is that these cooperative societies, big cooperative societies at that, have become a tool in the hands of political bosses. They are used not for creating the educational institutions, the hospitals, and the cultural institutions, but they are used for political purposes, for collecting money. They are collecting the money not only to get the people elected, but also to get the people defeated. Now, this is happening.

So, you have the co-operators, the officers and the Government machinery which are contributing towards the failure of this movement. It is in the interest of this movement that something has to be done to see that this does not happen. I am not sure whether you have any panacea for this, whether you have anything which you can really, totally and fully accept. Now, what has to be done is to see that there is a balance between the authority available to the co-operators, to the registrars and to the Government.

One of the things you have done is to see that the Ministers do not become the Chairpersons. It, by itself, is not going to root out the embezzlement and the corruption and, yet, it will certainly help. In this fashion, the process of thinking has to go on in this direction. It has to be done not only because the cooperative movement should be there, but because this cooperative movement helps the man at the lowest rung of the society economically. That is why, this has to be done. This is a very difficult task. I do not know how this task can be performed by the Government and, yet, if the thinking is started, if the inputs are given by those who are there, it can be done.

This last point which I am making is that the Seventy-third and the Seventy-fourth Constitution Amendments are the most important Amendments which have been introduced in the Constitution.

They have strengthened the district *talukas* and the village bodies. They have not only given them financial powers but also have given them the authority to function without any restrictions from the State Governments. These amendments have been very useful for decentralisation of political power and to make the *Panchayati Raj* Institutions stronger. The *Panchayati Raj* Institutions are one of the most important elements for providing political democracy. In the same fashion, the co-operatives are one of the most important instruments that could be used to provide economic democracy to the people of our country. What I am trying to suggest is that in the Directive Principles of State Policy only one sentence has been used. It says that the cottage industry shall be organised on individual and co-operative basis. There is only one sentence for it. Why not you have one separate article in the Directive Principles of State Policy dedicated to the Co-operative movement saying that co-operative movement is an important movement right from the village to the *talukas* to even the international level? Why not have something very elaborately provided for in the Constitution and under that, laws could be made by both the Union as well as the State Governments? We have Chapters IX and IXA which provides for the *Panchayats* and the Municipalities. In the same fashion if we have a separate chapter relating to the activities of the co-operatives, then, I think, we would have done something very basic and something so very important that economic democracy could be made available to the people.

Sir, I am leaving this idea with the hon. Minister for his consideration. I do not expect that suddenly something

will happen. But this is only a direction in which the thinking has to be there if we want to give economic democracy to the people. Political democracy alone is not sufficient. We shall also have to give economic as well as social democracy to the people. Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar, while presenting the Constitution to the Constituent Assembly said in his final speech that political democracy is not sufficient, economic democracy should be there and there should also be social democracy. If we do not have a provision for this in our Constitution, then it would be very amorphous and would be very difficult for us to move in that direction. I am leaving this idea with the hon. Minister and the Parliament of their consideration.

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI (Kutch) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to speak on this Bill. I rise to support this Bill.

Sir, first of all I would like to congratulate the hon. Minister for having brought forward this very important Bill. This has, in fact, been a long demand of the people from the co-operative sector. This Bill seeks to provide almost full autonomy to the co-operative sector in which the Government has a minority equity holding. The interference of the Government, by way of the Registrars, was so much that the co-operative sector was not in a position to function as an autonomous body that it should. This Bill seeks to provide autonomy to this sector. I would like to congratulate the hon. Minister for having brought forward this Bill.

Sir, this Bill also seeks to drastically slash the role of the Registrar of Co-operatives who, at present, enjoy virtually dictatorial powers. The provisions as contained in this Bill will not bar a person from holding office in more than one society simultaneously. At present if somebody is a member of one society he cannot be a member of another society. Under the provision, in this Bill, now, a person would have the freedom to be a member of two societies and there would also be no limit on the number of times a person can serve as an office bearer.

Sir, presently the co-operatives are treated as an appendage to the Government like the Public Sector Undertakings. Many social obligations of the Government have been passed on to the co-operatives without realising that the co-operatives are essentially business organisations set up with the motive of earning profits for their members. They can earn profits and utilise them for the betterment of their members.

Cooperatives are enjoined by their philosophy to be socially responsible but they are not social service organisations. At the moment, there are more than about 5,04,000 cooperative societies in the country. Their membership is more than 20 crores. The capital involved in them runs into crores and crores of rupees. Under the control of the Government, these cooperatives are not in a position to exercise their powers, as they should. They are not able to do their work in a professional manner. Therefore, this autonomy is being given and it is a very welcome step.

The first obligation of cooperatives is to serve the interests of their members. Therefore, there is a dire need for the cooperatives to be truly democratic and professionally-run bodies capable of competing in the open market. Those who are unable to do so have no right to exist. This Bill seeks to provide functional autonomy any democratic management to the Multi-State Cooperatives.

For settlement of disputes, the present Dispute Settlement Machinery is not as effective as it should be. This Bill also provides for a mechanism for settlement of disputes. It is proposed to be a quasi-judicial authority namely, Cooperative Disputes-Settlement Authority. This would replace the existing system of settlement of disputes by the Central Registrar. It is envisaged that by this, settlement of disputes would be quicker and more judicious.

A Minister of State or a Central Minister will not hold office of the Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson. Adequate provision has been made in the Bill for filing a complaint by a member, for prosecution of offences. This provides for access to information. It also provides disqualification of membership on account of non-attendance of three-consecutive General Body Meetings.

I heartily congratulate the hon. Minister for bringing this much-needed Bill. When the provisions of this Bill come into effect, interests of the cooperative sector in the country on the whole will be taken care of. Therefore, I support this Bill.

SHRI MOINUL HASSAN (Murshidabad) : Respected Chairman, Sir, I would like to support this Bill, which is brought by hon. Agriculture Minister Shri Ajit Singh. It is a long-pending demand of the cooperative sector of the country. It is the need of the time.

At the time of introduction of the Bill, the hon. Minister has stated the perspective of the Bill. The original Act, the

[Shri Moinul Hassan]

Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act, 1984, extended to the whole of the country including Jammu and Kashmir. What was the aim of that Act? It was to fulfil the objective of bringing uniformity in regard to administration and management of multi-State cooperatives, and bringing them under a single cooperative law.

However, I feel that one aspect was not discussed at that time. How to ensure that they function like a autonomous and democratic organisations was not properly discussed at the time of enacting the Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act, 1984. That is why it is stated in the Statement of Objects and Reasons, to remove the lacuna of 1984.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, para 3 of the Statement of Objects and Reasons says:

"The object of this Bill is to provide the restrictive provisions in the existing Multi-State Co-operative Societies Act, 1984 in order to provide functional autonomy and democratic management of multi-State co-operative societies."

For this reason, I would like to support this Bill today.

What is the intention, so far as the co-operative is concerned today? I suppose that there are three points which are very much relevant with cooperative movements, namely, (1), to ensure the atmosphere of democratic and autonomous working of the co-operative; (2), to have structural reforms related to the co-operative sector in the context of changing economic scenario of the country; and (3), to have provisions of appropriate and adequate policy support to the co-operative movement in the country. I suppose that this is the prime need of the co-operative sector today.

Sir, I would like to refer to the performance of the co-operatives briefly in our social and economic life. I do not know whether everybody knows it or not but it is a fact that 100 per cent villages of our country is covered by the co-operatives, 67 per cent of the household is covered by the co-operatives; 230 millions are the Members of the co-operatives, and the amount of primary agricultural co-operative societies is nearly Rs. 1,30,347. At all levels, the number of co-operatives is 5,28,249.

So, in the national economy what is the role of co-operatives? The co-operatives play a very important role

in our nation-building. In our total agriculture, the credit of the co-operatives is nearly 50 per cent, namely 49.3 per cent, fertiliser distribution contributes 35.2 per cent; fertiliser production contributes 23.5 per cent and sugar production contributes nearly 60 per cent, namely, 59.73 per cent. So, for the animal feed, milk procurement and market, the co-operatives have done a commendable job throughout the country.

In this situation, Sir, I would like to submit that the entire co-operative sector is facing some genuine problems also. One such problem is lack of democratic environment in the co-operative system. Many a time, it is a Government sponsored co-operative. Many a time, the co-operative is managed by the vested interests. We are talking about people co-operatives where people are the deciding factor. We are talking about universal membership, mass membership in the co-operatives. So far as the universal membership is concerned, whether a common man is a member, we have nothing to do with it. We are saying that the Government has a greater role to play to achieve the democratic system of cooperative. But in the Government provisions, many a time, there is restriction to flourish the co-operative system in the name of Act, rules, registration and so on. In the name of register, in the name of Secretary, there are many restriction also.

So, my conclusion is that we should provide highest possible democratic norms and provisions to the co-operative sector.

Sir, here, I would like to read out from para 6 of the Statement of Objects and Reasons. The hon. Minister also stated that. Our hon. colleague Shri Shivraj V. Patil also stated that, and I support the attitude of this Bill. Para 6 says:

"In order to ensure minimum control by the Central or State Governments in the management of Multi-State Co-operative Societies and to depoliticise their management," it has been proposed in the Bill that, "a Minister in the Central Government or State Government shall not be eligible to hold office of the Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson in such societies..."

I support it.

Sir, I have a knowledge that one Deputy Chief Minister was the Chairman of one State Co-operative Bank. I suppose that it is not correct.

I second this proposal made by the hon. Minister which stated in the para (6).

But I would like to say that this is not sufficient. The State Governments should, in this respect, amend their respective provisions in the spirit of democratic character and self-reliance.

Second problem that is facing the cooperative sector is about human resource development. Human resource development is very much needed for the success of not only the cooperative sector, but also it is needed for the success of any organisation today. So, human resource development is very much required today, in cooperative sector but the cooperative sector is lacking in this field. So, I propose to the hon. Minister that NABARD should find out a solution and provide proper guidelines to the cooperative sector.

My third point is regarding professionalisation. The cooperative banks should work as a professional one to overcome the problem amicably. But how will we overcome this? NABARD has told that they would provide professional personality in cooperatives Boards. I feel that it is very much undemocratic and it will be democratic, only if the Board has the right to select its own person. So, I firmly believe that it is very much necessary that the cooperative sector meets the need of the time.

Another problem that is facing is the duality of control. When we are working in the lower level in the cooperatives, we feel who will control the cooperatives? Will the Government of India control? Will the State Governments control? Will the RBI or NABARD or the apex federation control? So, I feel that it is very much necessary to regulate the system. We should resolve it and the RBI should do it. I suggest to the hon. Minister to find out a mechanism to remove the duality of control from the present system.

At the time of the hon. Minister's speech, he took the name of Chowdhary Brahm Prakash, Shri Shivraj Patil also told us something. When he took the name of Chowdhary Brahm Prakash, he has made a suggestion to the Government and a model act. The Minister took the name of Shri Ram Niwas Mirdha also. I had the opportunity to meet these two personalities. I would like to say that there is some lacuna in the present Bill in respect of model act. There is also a provision in the Bill which was not there in the model Act of Chowdhary Brahm Prakash. There is ample scope in the Bill by which the democratic right may be curbed.

Here, I would like to mention three points, which are on co-option in the Board, the nominee from the Government and supersession. In the model Act, there is no provision for these three. The Government has provided them in Section 141 and others. I would request the hon. Minister to look into the matter and ensure that the democratic right is not curbed and to ensure that the democratically formed board is not superseded.

I will take a few minutes to speak about financial sector and I will mention only two points. The first point is about the support to re-capitalise cooperative credit and banking institutions. At the time of the Budget proposals, our hon. Finance Minister has proposed a token amount of Rs. 100 crore for cleansing the balance sheet of the cooperatives. Hon. Agriculture Minister knows it better. Throughout the country, the main demand of the cooperative sector is to cleanse the balance sheets. I suppose that it is not the question of State subject or the Central subject; we should do something for the cooperatives.

16.00 hrs.

[DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA *in the Chair*]

The Finance Minister has provided token Rs. 100 crore and I would suggest him to provide sufficient fund, as given to others, to recapitalise cooperative credit and banking institutions.

My second point is about the general limit of credit. After 18 years from Rs. 1200 crore, it has come to only Rs. 5700 crore. I propose that it should be Rs. 10,000 crore. The expectation of this Government is, that there is 25 per cent growth in lending for agricultural purposes. How to achieve it if GLC is not enhanced? So, I would request the Minister of Agriculture to do this.

The common man should take entry into the cooperative sector. In West Bengal, there is a provision of universal membership. The Government of West Bengal has provided 50 per cent of the membership fee. Under this system, lakhs of common people, like the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes, and the OBC take entry into the cooperative sector. Shri Shivraj Patil has made a good proposal and I second it. There should be a provision to see how the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes, the OBCs and women also can participate in the Board of the cooperative sector. I suppose it is the demand of the time.



[Shri Moinul Hassan]

I will not take any further time and will only quote our founder Prime Minister Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru. He said:

"Cooperation is not Government-controlled. If there is any Government control, good or bad, it is not cooperation at all, whatever else it may be."

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL (Buldana) :  
Thank you, Chairperson, Sir. On my behalf and on behalf of my party, Shiv Sena, I support this Bill with some suggestions.

Sir, the cooperative movement is the movement of very common persons. If we were to define this movement, we can define it as 'one for all and all for one'. In short, we can define it by saying that self-help is made effective by this organisation. That is why I say that every amendment should be in the interest of the common people. I will go section-by-section.

Section 29 of this Bill says:

"A person using services below minimum level or not attending three consecutive Annual General Meetings will not be eligible for being a member."

It is vague. In the Bill, it has not been made clear as to what is the minimum level of service. Sometimes, a member may be opposing for a valid reason but in the name of this minimum level his membership may be seized just because he is opposing. That is why, a clear definition of this minimum level of service should be there.

Secondly, if he does not attend three consecutive Annual General Meetings, his membership is seized. My experience of Maharashtra is, every agenda of the General Body says that if quorum is not there, after one hour the meeting will go on and it can transact the business. It has no adverse effect on the cooperative movement. Ultimately, he is a common person. He is the founder member of the society. It may be a bank, sugar factory, spinning mill, credit society or a milk-producing society. The common persons are the members of these societies. The controversial point is in Section 38 which says:

"A smaller body shall exercise the powers of the General Body."

A small body of the General Body could not be there. General Body means the General Body. This is the controversy in the Bill. Section 50 of the Bill says:

"The Board meeting to be held at least once in a quarter and in the absence of the Chairman, the Board can choose some one to preside over the meeting."

The common members are electing the Directors. Directors are electing their Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen. If the Chairman is not there, automatically the Vice-Chairman will preside over the meeting and conduct the business. It is not necessary to choose any one to preside over the meeting. Secondly, with regard to the meeting to be held at least once in a quarter, I would like to take the example of a financial institution like the Cooperative Bank. If I am in need of money and I have applied for loan, if this provision is there, then at least for three months I will not get the loan. That is why, today there is a provision that at least once in a month the Board should meet. Otherwise, it will adversely affect the interest of the people. For the financial institutions, this amendment should not apply and for them the provision should be that at least once in a month the Board should meet.

Section 53 says:

"Transfer not less than 10 per cent of profit to Reserve Fund for meeting the unforeseen losses."

Already there is a provision of transferring 25 per cent of the Provident Fund for this purpose. Providing additional 10 percent will affect the working of the institutions. This is an unnecessary provision. Contributing 25 per cent is compulsory but why have 10 per cent more?

Section 67 says:

"Societies can issue non-convertible debentures up to 25 per cent paid up share capital."

My suggestion is that instead of share capital on own fund, they can provide more money for the debenture purpose.

Section 69 says:

"Societies may establish contributory Provident Fund for the benefit of the employees."

It is a good provision.

But simultaneously, the same provision should be applied for gratuity of the employees. Section 78 will adversely affect the financial institution, that is why, it should be suitably amended. That is my suggestion. There is a provision for Co-operative Disputes Settlement

Authority. Sir, the appointment to the Authority should be made from the judiciary so that each High Court is authorised.

Now, I come to Sections 112 and 114 There should be a provision to empower bank officers with the power of Central Registrar for attachment and adjudication of the decree so as to save time and cost. That is my suggestion. There is a provision for inspection of the books of accounts by any member. There is always internal audit in financial institutions. The Government audit is also there and then the Reserve Bank inspection is also there. So, dual control is there. On the one side, for the proper implementation of the Societies Act in the State, there is a control of the Department of Co-operatives and for banking regulations, there is Reserve Bank of India. When there is audit, there is annual report, there is General Body, why should there be individual member inspection? I think, it will affect the secrecy of the bank. That is why, it is also not proper, at least, for financial institutions like banks. Section 128 says that Minutes of the meeting shall not be attached to any books by pasting. If proper Minutes of a meeting are not ready in time, then the pasting is done. Afterwards the minutes are written and pasted on the register. I don not know what is harm in it. It is a suitable method. Then, inspection and other things are also there.

A very important point has been suggested by hon. Shri Shivraj Patil. In Societies Act, a provision for the participation of women, weaker sections, and Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes is always there. It is there, at least, in Maharashtra. It is mandatory as per the Societies Act. Last but not least, the participation of the employees must be there. It could be with some clarification. In the Societies Act of Maharashtra, the employees' participation is according to the number of Directors on the Board. Suppose, if there are ten members, one person would be from the employees, if there are 11 members, two persons would be from the employees, if there are 21 members, 3 persons, and if there are 31 members, there would be four persons, like that. That is very clearly stated in the Societies Act of Maharashtra. Suppose there is no Union, then election should be held for this specific purpose with the help of Co-operative Department. If the Union is there, a recognised representative of the Union should be there. It should be clearly mentioned.

With all these things, I support the Bill and I wish the hon. Minister for Agriculture will take cognisance of the points that I have made and do the needful.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR (Mayiladuturai) : Mr. Chairman, I rise to extend my heart-felt support to this path-breaking Bill before us. When Shri Rajiv Gandhi introduced a Bill to amend the Constitution to give constitutional sanction to *Panchayati Raj*, he stressed that *Panchayati Raj* for political empowerment needed to be complemented by economic empowerment through the cooperative movement as well as access to justice through village level *Nyaya Panchayat*. It has taken a decade and more to move from political empowerment through the *Panchayats*, a process still in the doldrums, to the essential complementary step of legislation for the cooperatives. Of course, the Bill before us deals with only one segment of the cooperative movement, namely, Multi-State Cooperatives. But certain key concepts legalised through this Bill could provide a model for States to follow in regard to single State Cooperatives.

I draw the attention of the House in particular to section 7(1) (b) which provides that the Central Registrar must satisfy himself that the bylaws of the cooperatives are "in accordance with cooperative principles". Section 11(7)(b) provides that no amendment of any bylaw will be accepted until the Registrar is satisfied that the proposed amendment "does not conflict with cooperative principles". But, more important even than these provision is section 24(1) which stipulates that federal cooperatives must facilitate the voluntary formation and democratic functioning of cooperative societies.

With regard to audit, with regard to merger, with regard to division, with regard to self-management, with regard to the appointment and removal of the Chief Executive Officer and other key officers, the Multi-State Cooperatives Bill I think lights up the beacon which show us the path ahead not only in Parliament but to those in the State Assemblies also. I think we need to stress the importance of these cooperative principles because the abuse of the cooperative movement in post-Independence India is largely a saga of the violation of the three fundamental principles of cooperation, namely, voluntary association, democratic character and autonomous functioning. Unless and until the lakhs of cooperative societies in our country pass the litmus test of being voluntary, democratic and autonomous, I am afraid, merely multiplying the number of cooperatives to the point where India has by far the largest number of cooperatives in the world is no guarantee of cooperatives functioning in accordance with cooperative principles.

[Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar]

Cooperation without adherence to cooperative principles is no cooperation. The principles of cooperation were laid down as far back as the Rochdale Conference in the United Kingdom in 1847, more than a century and a half ago. There has been much cogitation and evolution since then - specifically Reifeisen - and we now have codified these principles undertaken through the International Cooperative Alliance in 1937 and again in 1966. There is no doubt that the ICA Code must, of course, be refracted through the prism of our realities, but they do constitute a useful benchmark against which to measure our performance. Alas, when we do so, we find we do not measure up. The proof lies in the two key committee reports which I would like to restore to the attention of our distinguished Union Minister for Agriculture and Cooperation: the Ardhanareeswaran Committee Report of 1987 and the Brahm Perkash Committee Report of 1991, besides of course the Ram Niwas Mirdha Committee Report of 1996 which has resulted in the Bill before us.

The Ardhanareeswaran Committee stressed:

"The essential character of co-operatives is voluntary co-operation which has to be democratic and therefore, autonomous."

The Brahm Perkash Committee subscribed to the same view and drew attention to what it called the "progressive erosion" of these essential characteristics. Yet, the plague of co-operation in our nation has been that co-operatives, by and large, are not voluntary because primary societies are forced by State Governments to merge and divide like ameoba, not because the primary societies wish to do so of their own volition but because the State Government through the Registrar compels them to do so. As for democracy, co-operatives are not democratic either because, as the Brahm Perkash Committee somewhat inelegantly put it, politicians on the Board of Management and Management Committees of Co-operatives have "manoeuvred wrongfully to gain ulterior end." Not quite grammatical but entirely accurate!

Democracy within co-operatives has been suborned by manoeuvring for ulterior ends and autonomy has been given the go-by because the Registrar in the Indian co-operative system has emerged as the be-all and end-all of the Co-operative Movement. This is a long-standing tragedy. I have read a report by a British ICS officer, Edward MacLagan, in 1915, in which he says:

"When we think of co-operatives in India, we do not call to memory the humanitarian and philanthropic Reifeisen, but the mercenary Registrar of the co-operatives society."

And the Gorwala Report of 1954, with its ringing affirmation "Co-operation has failed. Co-operation must succeed." I learned that at university nearly forty years ago. It is a national tragedy that 40 years on - indeed, nearly a 100 years on from MacLagan - our co-operatives remain the hand-maidens of venal Registrars and their political masters. That is why I greatly welcome the stress in this Bill on Multi-State Co-operatives fulfilling the three key criteria of being voluntary associations, democratic in character and functioning autonomously.

The task before our distinguished Minister is not so much to get this Bill passed - which, I am sure, will be done later today - as to work towards ensuring that the three basic principles get incorporated into the law of the land.

This requires a constitutional amendment at least as important as Part IX and Part IX A which were brought into the Constitution as the eventual outcome of Shri Rajiv Gandhi's historic initiative.

Co-operatives are a State subject and the only way in which State legislation can be brought in line is to oblige the State Legislatures to follow constitutional requirements. And because there is no constitutional sanction of a sufficiently detailed kind for the co-operatives, we have seen the fate of the Brahm Perkash model State Co-operatives Bill languishing for over a decade with nobody in the least interested in accepting Choudhary Brahm Perkash's model as a model for themselves. That is why we need a constitutional amendment on the lines of Part IX and Part IX A for the *Panchayats* and Municipalities respectively.

The need for such action through the Constitution has been underlined since the very disturbing judgement given by Justice O. Chinnappa Reddy on article 19(1) (c) read with article 19 (2) of the Constitution.

The key consideration in that Supreme Court judgement was that the word 'cooperatives' does not appear explicitly in article 19, and, therefore, the right to freedom of association given to political parties, NGOs, trade unions and chambers of commerce and industry does not extend to cooperatives. I am not faulting the judgement because the Supreme Court, after all, has to

go by what is said in the Constitution. What I am suggesting is that since the Chinnappa Reddy judgement has explicitly drawn attention to these lacunae in our Constitution, we must, as a Parliament, move to fill the lacunae. This can be done by the simple addition of the word 'cooperatives' to article 19(1) (c). May I seek an assurance from the hon. Minister that Government will, in fact, move urgently towards considering such a Constitutional amendment? However, while amending article 19 as proposed might provide Constitutional sanctity to one principle of cooperation - that association must be voluntary - that would not do all that is required to deal with the other two key principles of democracy and autonomy.

Studies made by a Group of us, under the aegis of the Cooperative Development Foundation of Hyderabad, a Group, which incidentally included the present Convener of the National Democratic Alliance in his personal capacity and myself, (so you can see the twain do sometimes meet!) along with a host of distinguished jurists and cooperators of long standing, Shri Rajeev Dhawan, Shri Rajinder Sachar and Shri L.C. Jain, among others, did prepare some draft amendments to the Constitution, involving changes to articles 19 (1) and (c) and (g), article 31 (A) (2) and article 40, besides proposing a new part IX B to the Constitution comprising two new articles, article 243 ZH and article 243 ZI.

Our Group never completed its work, but I would be more than happy to share our preliminary suggestions with the hon. Minister of Agriculture, so that the work is carried forward, perhaps with the further involvement of some of the more knowledgeable members of the CDF Group.

I would like to go one step further than the CDF Group and suggest, along with hon. Shri Shivraj Patil and several other Members of this House, that if we are to get a really effective Cooperative Movement going in this country, we must include in the proposed Constitution Amendment, provision for reservations for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, where applicable, as well as universally for women as has been provided in the case of the *Panchayats* and the Municipalities under Parts IX and IX A of the Constitution.

While, therefore, hailing the present Bill as a step in the right direction, may I, in conclusion, appeal to the Government through the Treasury Benches that we avail of this historic milestone to launch ourselves on a major Constitution review exercise?

Sir, in conclusion, I would like to draw hon. Minister's attention to two letters written by the Leader of Opposition, Shrimati Sonia Gandhi to the Prime Minister in August, 2000 and September, 2000 respectively, on the conversion of existing producer cooperatives into producer companies. We have no problem with having producer companies. We have no problem with producer cooperatives shutting down and re-constituting themselves with whoever wants to be in it as producer companies. But the provision that is being considered is this: the existing producer cooperatives will, through pressure upon the members of the cooperatives, convert into producer companies. The joint stock companies are the exact contradiction of the principles of cooperation. So it shows that there is a great deal for us to proceed slowly in this matter. The fact of the matter is that with the wide variety of cooperatives that we have in this country, there is a major distinction in reality between large-scale producer cooperatives such as, for example, the sugar cooperatives of Maharashtra and small marketing cooperatives, cooperatives meant for inputs in agriculture and consumer cooperatives. We need to distinguish **between these things**. That is why, it is necessary to be very careful about any kind of an omnibus provision for the conversions of cooperatives into producer companies...*(Interruptions)*

Sir, It is really my last word because I can see that you are deeply concerned about my standing up and speaking. Coming to my point, I would mention that in the same letter, Shrimati Gandhi had drawn attention to the need for a National Cooperative Bank,. When she wrote this letter to the Prime Minister, we did not have the Madhavpura Bank scandal or the recent Nagpur scandal. It is clear that the Reserve Bank of India is just incapable of conducting the kind of a surveillance of cooperative banks which cooperative banks actually require. With this dyarchy that we have of the Reserve Bank of India also being responsible and the Registrars in the States also being responsible and each passing the buck to the other, we need to do something I cannot say more about this because I am a Member of the JPC. We will be reporting on this in detail. But the fact is that the Reserve Bank of India is simply incapable of doing this. And they themselves do not want continue being involved in the surveillance and monitoring of our cooperative banks. Unless we get a proper surveillance and monitoring system in, we are not going to be able to properly regulate the cooperative banking sector. Therefore, there is a very

[Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar]

urgent need for the hon. Union Minister of Agriculture to stop concerning himself exclusively with Uttar Pradesh as he has been doing in the last three months, and start turning his attention to his portfolio's responsibilities, and an early aspect of which must be constitutional amendments relating to the cooperatives and the establishment of National Cooperative Bank.

With these words, I conclude.

[Translation]

DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA (Damoh) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, cooperative movement is the movement of common man and the expectations of poorest of the poor, backwards and the people of remote areas are fulfilled by it. I remember, that in the times of land revenue, the lands and properties of the farmers were auctioned by the private money lenders. It often led to the ruin of the farmers. But cooperative movement has provided relief to the people. I welcome and wholeheartedly support the Multi-State Co-operative Society Bill moved by the hon. Minister with a view to strengthen the movement.

The transaction of these societies is not limited to one state but in a number of States. The bill has been brought to bring about uniformity among them so as to introduce democratic features among them and to avoid political arbitrariness. All these things have been considered in this Bill. The recommendations of Chaudhary Brahma Prakash Committee could not be implemented earlier and the Bill introduced by the hon. Minister is a revolutionary step which seeks to implement these recommendations and also to make them more topical and in tune with a present circumstances.

Sir, it has been seen that the same set of people till the posts in a number of societies. Thus the cooperative movement has become captive of certain people. Therefore it needs to be regulated. Keeping this in view, hon. Minister has provided in the Bill that Ministers cannot become their Chairpersons and Deputy Chairpersons. He has tried to scuttle political pressures. NAFED, NCUI and APEX need to be given more powers.

I would like to say one more thing. The women, SCs and STs and the OBCs have been given reservation facility in Gram Panchayats and in other places. Similarly these classes should be provided reservation in cooperative societies also to help them emerge in cooperative sector. I support the endeavor of the hon. Minister to infuse new life in Cooperatives through this Bill.

[English]

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA (Kanakpura) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to welcome this Bill. There is no difference of opinion particularly on this Bill but there are certain issues where I need certain clarifications from the hon. Minister.

While piloting the Bill, he has made some initial remarks. This particular Bill is going to be applied for those institutions which are mentioned in the Second Schedule. He rightly pointed out that the State Governments would be requested to implement some of the salient features of this Bill because every State has got its own Act. To carry forward the very object of this Bill, the State Governments have to cooperate. Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar has made some valuable suggestions. In the case of Panchayat Raj institutions, the Seventy-third and Seventy-fourth constitutional amendments have been brought in. Ultimately, all the States have to proceed on the basis of the Seventy-third and Seventy-fourth amendments. But, here you are going to make a request.

To what extent these States are going to extend their co-operation? The States have their own compulsions. I do not want to bring politics here. There are many reports of the Committees. I do not want to again go back to the previous reports or the recommendations made by various committees. But you may have to think again to bring a suitable constitutional amendment to give teeth to this particular Bill. It has got its own far-reaching positive effect on the implementation of the entire cooperative system. I do not want to take much time of the House. Most of the economy, as far as the agricultural sector is concerned, depends only on the cooperative lending. Be it marketing, credit, fertilisers, seeds, and sugarcane. All most all these issues come only to strength the agricultural economy.

I would like to quote what some of the economists have said. One economist has said:

"This is a dangerous trend for a nation like ours. Limited value addition in agricultural products and inability to provide agricultural finance have been quoted to be the main reasons for this trend. If Indian economy is to secure a stable growth over a long period, agriculture should never be neglected. The kind of financial support which is provided for the service sector ought to be made available for the agricultural sector as well."

I do not want to go on quoting the views of several other agricultural economists and waste the time of the House.

Sir, I am very happy that Shri Ajit Singh is piloting this Bill. He is the son of a farmer who has dedicated his entire life to the cause of farmers. While piloting this bill, the hon. Agriculture Minister has mentioned some of the salient features of the Bill. Clause 44 of the Bill prohibits any Minister of the State Government or Central Government from holding the office of the Chairperson of a multi-State cooperative society. It is a welcome move.

Sir, as far as the strength of the nominated members is concerned, Clause 48 says that the number of such nominated persons shall not exceed one third of the total number of members of the boards. It also prescribes the right of the nominated members. But I would like to know from the hon. Agriculture Minister whether a nominated member can become the Chairperson of a multi-State cooperative society or only an elected member can become the Chairperson. It has not been clearly prescribed in this Bill. Clause 44 of the Bill only says:

"No member of a board shall be eligible to be elected as chairperson or president or vice-chairperson or vice-president of a multi-State cooperative society if such member is a Minister in the Central Government or State Government".

It has not prohibited a nominated member from becoming the Chairperson of the society. So, I would like the hon. Minister to clarify the doubt which is lurking in my mind.

With regard to Board of Directors, Clause 41 (3) says:

"The board shall consist of such number of directors as may be specified in the bye-laws:

Provided that the maximum number of directors in no case shall exceed twenty-one:"

It is all right. But as far as nominated members are concerned, Clause 48 says that the number of such nominated persons shall not exceed one third of the total number of members of the board. It means that the Government is going to nominate seven members. What does it mean? Is it not political interference of the Government in the functioning of a multi-State cooperative society? I do not understand this. The hon. Minister should clarify as to why seven members should be nominated to the board. Clause 48 (1) (a) says:

"where the total amount of issued equity share capital held by the Central Government or the State Government is less than twenty-six per cent of the total issued equity share capital, one member of the board;..."

If it is more than 26 per cent, there will be two members.

It has been further mentioned as under:

"(c) where the total amount of issued equity share capital held by the Central Government or the State Government is fifty-one per cent, or more of the total issued share capital, three members of the board:"

This is one suspicion whereby you are going to take the powers to nominate about one-third of the members, that is, seven members. I would like to ask the hon. Minister to clarify this point during his reply.

I also want to know the mind of the Government about the Chairperson. You kindly clarify these two issues.

The powers of the Chairman have been prescribed nowhere. You have prescribed the powers of the Board against clause 49 and of the Chief Executive against clause 52. What are the powers of the Chairperson? That provision has not been made anywhere.

You want to supersede a society under clause 141. The powers for supersession are going to be taken by the Central Government. But the recommendations made by the Brahm Perkash Committee and all these things have not been brought forward fully in this amending Bill or the repealing Bill.

Even at the State level, the co-operative society is empowered to supersede an institution. Then, there will be Deputy Registrar, Joint Registrar and then Registrar. Then, it goes to the Minister. You are going to say: "I am going to request the State Government." Is it going to be carried away as a model Bill by all the States? They have got their own political compulsions. You know how the things are going on there. These are some of the issues.

Even for supersession of the Board, the entire powers have been given to the Chief Executive. You go to the powers of the Chief Executive. All the powers are with the Chief Executive. The Board is only nominal. They are going to meet once in a quarter because the functions of the Board are like that. They have no financial powers. Everything has been vested with the Chief Executive. Why

[Shri H.D. Deve Gowda]

do you want to supersede the Board? You must see not only to suspend that officer but also to take further steps to penalise that officer. If you want to give all the powers to the Chief Executive and you have no trust in the elected members of the Board or the elected Chairman, then what autonomy are you going to give? These are some of the issues that are creating doubts in my mind. Kindly clarify when you are going to reply to the debate.

DR. V. SAROJA (Rasipuram) : Hon. Chairman, Sir, I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to talk about this very important Bill. The genesis of the co-operative movement started in 1901. We are bringing forward a very important Bill after 100 years - still with some modifications.

I rise here to support the Bill with certain reservations. The first President of India, Bharat Ratna Dr. Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan said:

It is by suffering that we understood."

Is it a fact that we are trying to learn the problems and difficulties that we are facing through this co-operative moment after hundred years? At least now we should critically evaluate the Bill, that is, the purpose for which we are debating this Bill. Are we going to achieve the results of these amendments?

If so, is there any time limit by which we are going to achieve the purpose of this Bill?

Mr. Chairman, Sir, let me go straightaway to the topic. What are the key elements of a good co-operative law? Firstly, it should be fundamentally and inalienably consistent with co-operative principles. Secondly, it should enable, not prescribe. Thirdly, save where the public interest is at stake - and that is normally the concern of other law - co-operative laws should leave matters to the members and their bye-laws. Fourthly, co-operative law should not duplicate, much less replace, other laws - too often, misdeeds are protected by co-operative laws. Fifthly, co-operative laws should enforce the fiduciary responsibility of elected leaders and senior managers, holding them accountable for managing the affairs of a co-operative with the same prudence and integrity as they would their own. Is this Bill addressing or incorporating all the elements of a good co-operative law?

There are a few positive points that I could see but this Bill fails to address certain issues. Sir, I am a lady

Member participating in this important co-operative movement. I appeal to this august House that even after 52 years of Independence, in spite of all the human resources and all other sources available with us, we have not achieved what we should have achieved. I am sure that if this co-operative movement is going to be a hundred per cent woman-oriented, I think, we will be able to achieve the results. I am sure that within the completion of the Eleventh Five Year Plan, we will be able to see the results. Sir, we can even take stock of the achievements after five years. I would appeal to all the Members of this august House to pass unanimously this legislation; it should be included in the Ninth Schedule of the Constitution of India; and it should have a separate Chapter for this.

My hon. senior leaders have spoken about the reservation for SCs, STs and OBCs. Within that 100 per cent co-operative movement for women, we can provide reservation within reservation. I would like to make an appeal to all the leaders and to all the political parties in this House and outside the House to critically evaluate this point, and on this one point, we should rise above the party lines and we should show to the entire world that we are one in this co-operative movement.

Sir, there are plus points in this Bill. The bye-laws can be formulated according to the need of the Multi-State Co-operative Act. The conduct of election is the responsibility of the members and the Board of Directors. The restriction on terms of holding the office is removed. Sir, this is a very welcome point. There are points like right to promote the subsidiary units as well as the joint ventures, which will create more job opportunities; also the buy-back policy when we make the Multi-State Co-operative Act; deemed registration and amendment in bye-laws. Sir, the very important point that I could appreciate is the disqualification of the Board members for non-performance.

This one point, I think, would create awareness and inculcate in the minds of the members of co-operative societies a sense of responsibility and accountability for timely conduct of elections and preparation of financial reports. Timely audit is not being done. In spite of the fact that auditors are being paid over and above their fees, audit reports are not being placed on time.

The Multi-State Co-operative Societies Bill gives the power to the societies to choose their own election commissioners, which is very welcome. Clause 27

provides for educational courses for members. There are about 21 crore members in the co-operative movement. There are five lakh co-operative stores catering to the needs of the country, out of which rural credit outflow is 43 per cent through the co-operatives. In respect of fertilisers, it is 37 per cent, 55 per cent for sugar production, edible oil production through co-operatives is 51 per cent and storage capacity through co-operatives is 63 per cent. In respect of milk production and dairying, co-operatives enable India to attain a hundred per cent. This is again because of empowerment of women. They are playing their role in achieving this. Here, clause 27 provides for education and training programmes to the 21 crore members of the co-operative movement. I would like to draw the attention of the House to the Budget allocations.

In the Expenditure Budget, 2002, the hon. Finance Minister announced for the year 2001-2002 a Plan Budget of Rs. 13.75 crore. For the year 2002-2003, the Budget allocation is Rs. 37.70 crore. The co-operative movement is for the welfare of the members of the movement. May I appeal to the hon. Finance Minister through this august House that the members' welfare should be taken care of and more funds should be allocated?

When we are discussing this Bill, are we not concerned about related Acts and amendments to those Acts? In the year 2001-2002, the hon. Finance Minister gave tax exemption to the co-operative societies. He gave tax exemptions of about 30 per cent to 35 per cent. May I request that he should bring an amendment to the Income Tax Act before this august House because the co-operative movement is for the welfare of the members of the co-operative societies? It is not for commercial purposes. So, I would appeal that an Income Tax (Amendment) Act may be brought in. I would also suggest that there should be a separate cell in the Banking Division under the Ministry of Finance to address the related issues and ensure timely credit outflow to the societies for the welfare of the members. This is also for the consideration of this august House. May I get a reply from the hon. Minister, which I hope would be purposeful and meaningful, whether within a short time we could have these amendments incorporated?

I would also like to point out here that clause 142 provides rule-making powers to the Central Government.

17.00 hrs.

Again, if you are going to invite the Government for rule-making power and you are inviting the Government

in encroaching upon the freedom of the cooperative societies, then the purpose of this Bill will be totally defeated.

Sir, Clauses 84 to 103 mention about the Cooperative Dispute-Settlement Authority. Is it possible to have an Authority with so many officials in that Authority with the Chairman, Secretary and other subordinate officers? When there is a settlement by arbitration and reconciliation, I fail to understand what is the necessity for the Cooperative Disputes-Settlement Authority. I would like to know from the hon. Minister about it, while he is replying.

As the hon. former Prime Minister has rightly pointed out, if 20 per cent share is there, there will be one person and if 20 to 50 per cent share is there, two persons can be nominated and if more than 50 per cent share is there, three persons can be nominated and if it is less than 15 per cent, we cannot give the place in the cooperative society. I would be very happy, if the hon. Minister of Agriculture enlightens us on this aspect.

Sir, I would like to quote clause no. 41(3) of the Bill because I am more bothered about the reservation...  
(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Dr. V. Saroja, please conclude.

DR. V. SAROJA : Sir, I will just conclude.

The 18 per cent and one per cent reservation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes must be earmarked.

Sir, last but not least I would like to refer to clause 7 (1) (d). I strongly appeal that that clause must be deleted.

Sir, with these few words, I conclude my speech.

17.03 hrs.

[SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN in the Chair]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore) : Sir, I rise to congratulate the hon. Minister of Agriculture for piloting such a path-breaking Bill. I also congratulate the first speaker from the Opposition, Shri Shivraj V. Patil. He is a leading light in the cooperative movement. He made so many illuminating suggestions. I congratulate him for his suggestions also.

Sir, I do not come from a State like Maharashtra or Gujrat where the cooperative movement has got very strong roots. I have come from a State like Orissa where



[Shri Kharabela Swain]

cooperative movement means it is an appendage to the Government. Till I became an MP, I thought that cooperative movement means it is a Government department. This is the real feeling I had. Here only I understood that it is something very different. I come from a State where conduct of elections to the cooperative bodies is regularly irregular. I come from a State where the political leaders vie with each other to be nominated to the cooperative bodies as Directors or as Chairman. But when I came here I just found that the cooperative movement has got so many ideologies and so many ideas.

Sir, why should there be a cooperative movement? Firstly, it is to supplement the planning efforts of the Central and the State Governments in undertaking various developmental activities in the economic and social sphere. Secondly, it is to supply various inputs like quality seeds, fertilisers, pesticides, etc., to help raise agricultural production. Thirdly, it is for promotion of social good and social welfare through reducing exploitative tendencies unleashed by the private sector.

Fourthly, it is the flow of adequate and timely credit to the rural sector at concessional rate of interest.

Last but not least, it is improving management excellence and training workforce through education and training programmes for the co-operative leaders and members at different locations of the country.

These are the basic ideas of the co-operative movement in this country. What ails actually is the co-operative movement? What is the problem of this co-operative movement? The co-operative organisation has virtually become a Government organisation, as I have already told you, and it has lost its distinct identity and self-reliance as the co-operative societies have become totally dependent upon the Government patronage. Co-operative societies, at times, have been used as the tools for implementation of the Government programmes, like distribution of credit, procurement of agricultural produce on behalf of the Government agencies, distribution of consumer items, and providing relief to some displaced groups. Just on the other day, in Orissa, there was a clamour that if the Food Corporation of India is not buying paddy from the farmers, let the co-operative societies buy the paddy from the farmers themselves. How is it possible? The Co-operative Department will buy paddy from the farmers and if it is not sold within six months, the co-operative society will be finished. But everybody wants that co-operative societies should do such things.

I will not go into the details of the Bill because these have already been enumerated by the hon. Members. The hon. Minister in his initial speech has already told that he has piloted this Bill to remove the bureaucratic interference from the Co-operative Department. I fully agree with him. But with regard to the reservation, whereas I fully agree that there should be reservation for women and for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, let me tell you that in Orissa, there is provision for women and for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes to be nominated, to be elected to the co-operative bodies. So, what further reservation do we require, I do not know. I do not know if that rule persists everywhere in India, but in Orissa, there is a provision in the primary societies, in the district societies for the nomination of women and the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

Now I shall come to the point as to what are the key elements in the Brahma Prakash Committee which have not been included in this Bill. I would request the hon. Agriculture Minister to listen to me because I would just make some suggestions with regard to the points which have been left here.

In this Bill, the rule making power is still left with the Department. The Government Department will still prepare the rules. How was the Government Department preparing the rules earlier? In the past, the Department utilised this power to act arbitrarily and beyond the scope or the intent of the law. So, I hope, the hon. Agriculture Minister will see to it that the Government Department also does not behave in the fashion in which it was behaving earlier. If he wants that the bureaucratic interference should be removed, then why should there be a rule making power with the same bureaucrats? So, my first point is, you should look into it.

My second point is, the proposed Bill continues to provide the Government the right to subscribe to the equity of the multi-State co-operative societies. Why should the Government still have the equity in the multi-State co-operative societies? Why do they not give it full independence? Let it collect from its own resources. Let it have its own equity money. Why should the Government intervene in the co-operative societies? If the Government is having its equity in the co-operative society, it will positively have bureaucratic interference and political interference. So, if you want that there should be no interference from the politicians, then you will have to remove it.

The third point is, the proposed Bill does not provide for any liability for deficit. If there is a deficit, then who is liable for it?

The hon. Minister of Agriculture should look into that point also. The proposed Bill is contrafy to the spirit of the model Act. It imposes restriction on holding of office in more than two Multi-State cooperatives. The hon. Minister should look into this aspect also.

There is another point which I will just try to bring to the attention of the hon. Minister. The proposed Bill imposes restriction on the cooperative's ability to deploy its funds and disposal of surplus. It has allowed for the mobilisation of capital. This Bill has given independence for the mobilisation of the capital. But what about the deployment of its funds and what about the disposal of surplus? This privilege also should have to be given to the Multi-State cooperative societies.

On the area of operation, the proposed Bill imposes restriction on the new Multi-State cooperative societies in the area of operation of an existing Multi-State cooperative society. Hon. Member Shri Shivraj Patil has also told the same thing. If there is one Multi-State cooperative society in one State, then why can there not be another society? It should be allowed and it should not be restricted to only one and it should be allowed.

Sir, I will give one or two suggestions in a minute or two and then conclude. This particular point has been raised by many hon. Members and I am also raising the same thing. Kindly abolish the dual control on the cooperative societies by both the State Government and the RBI or the NABARD. In the last securities scam, everybody knows the role played by the Lucknow Urban Cooperative Bank. The loans were taken from the bank without filling up any form. The Directors of the bank behaved as if it is their personal property. They took the loans themselves just without signing any form etc. There was no collateral security. Nothing was there.

When you asked the RBI they say : "We cannot take any action; we are only confined to policy decisions." When the District Magistrate or the State Registrar of Cooperative Societies is asked about it, he also said : "We do not have any responsibility and it is the CBI which is looking into it". How will the CBI look into all sorts of irregularities committed by these cooperative societies? So, there should be some responsibility. Who is responsible to look into it? Is it the State Registrar of the Cooperative Societies or the Reserve Bank of India? Therefore, the hon. Minister should look into this aspect and he should see that there is a single control and not a dual control.

On the banking function, if there is any cooperative bank, the banking function should also come under the Banking Regulation Act. The States should ensure the freedom of the cooperative societies so that they can have the enabling progressive Cooperative Acts.

Last but not least, I will now raise a very important point for the kind attention of the hon. Minister. The cooperative societies now give loans to the agriculturists. They bring loan from NABARD. All the nationalised banks are supposed to give 18 per cent of their total loans to the farming sector, to the farmers. But they do not do it. They give that money to NABARD and NABARD gives that money to the cooperative societies and the cooperative societies give the loans to the State cooperative societies which in turn give the money to the district-level societies and then it comes to the primary cooperative societies. Everybody charges some administrative charges and ultimately the rate of interest comes to as high as 22 per cent. Can you believe that somebody will return money by paying as high a rate of interest as 22 per cent? How is it possible? From the very first day that you give the loan to the farmer, you see to it that he falls sick, he defaults and he does not pay back.

Therefore, my request to the hon. Minister is : if you really want that the agriculture sector is improved, the farmers should take the money and should invest it in the agriculture sector, then give the farmer the loan at the rate at which he can repay; you give him a loan at a rate of interest which should be less. The Reserve Bank of India is cutting the interest rate in every aspect. You see to it that this rate of interest is reduced.

With these words and with these suggestions, I conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI DHARM RAJ SINGH PATEL (Phulpur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, while discussing the Multi-State Cooperative Society Bill, 2000, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister towards the pitiable condition of co-operative societies. Especially in Uttar Pradesh, the condition of cooperative Cold storages and cooperative sugar mills is very bad. Similarly corruption is rampant in the distribution of fertilizers among the farmers and the procurement of wheat through the cooperatives. Keeping in view their condition, I am apprehensive about the fate of National Cooperative societies and also of those likely to be formed in future. How they are to be regulated? The Bill says that they will be regulated. We have some recent examples.

[Shri Dharm Raj Singh Patel]

A number of insurance companies have started functioning. In addition, a number of banks have been opened in private sector. People deposited their money in those banks and their money was embezzled. Even the registered societies have vanished. I am afraid that with the exception of the societies formed by the Union Government, the capital of common man, farmer and the worker is not safe even with the cooperative societies of the State Government. What will happen if the Chairman of the society starts committing irregularities? I request you to keep in place a minimum level of safeguards.

I have not gone through the Bill in detail, but whatever have I read, indicates that some efforts to regulate them have been made. I would like to give some suggestions. I don't want to name any society since we are still gathering information. There is a well-known cooperative society that works in the field of fertilizer production. That society indulges in unprecedented levels of exploitation. All the rules and regulations of the Government are being openly flouted there. That society is not regularising their workers who have been working for 8-10 years. Machines worth crores of rupees are being purchased without inviting any tender. The whole company, whole plants have been bought just on work order. I am surprised to see such levels of corruption in a prestigious company. Whenever I will get an opportunity, I would inform the House, in detail, about the condition of such societies. It is going to enter the insurance sector, What is going to happen if it does not mend its ways? Therefore I request the hon. Minister to be vigilant about this and also to regulate the service conditions of the people who have been working for 8-10 years, and also the purchase of machines and other articles worth lakhs and crores of rupees. In future, it should be ensured that another scam of the magnitude of UTI Scam does not take place. I also request the Government to be cautious so that scams do not take place and the money of the people is not misused. With these words I once again support this Bill on behalf of the Samajwadi Party.

[English]

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA (Kolar) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

Our Deputy Leader, Shri Shivraj V. Patil, Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar, and the former Prime Minister, Shri Deve Gowda, have given their valuable suggestions. On the same lines, I wish to give you a few suggestions.

The cooperative movement in Karnataka first started at Gadag, Hubli. Even to this day, people of that entire area owe their survival to these cooperative organisations. This movement needs freedom from the political parties. I wish to point out one very important thing to the hon. Minister that the political interference is the only reason why the cooperative movement is suffering. It is because of this that it cannot survive. You have to take out the cooperatives from the clutches of the political parties. Let the representatives of the political parties be there in the Board of Directors as members. However, we have to remove clause 48 from this Bill because then only this cooperative movement will survive.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, through the Constitution Seventy-third and Seventy-fourth Amendments, you have made the provision so that all sections could participate in the local body elections. Like that, in the cooperative sector also, you have to make some amendments to see that all the weaker sections and the Scheduled Castes participate in the elections. In Karnataka, this is already there. There is reservation for women in the primary societies, and also there is reservation for the Scheduled Castes. When there is such a provision, where is the need for nomination? Earlier, there was the need for nomination because there was no provision to protect the interests of the weaker sections. Now, when there is a provision, there is no need for the Government to interfere by way of nomination, whatever share or amount they contribute. Cooperative society is a semi-public institution.

The Government may have its share in the society but simply because they have got share in that, they should not control the organisation. There should not be any political interference. Whichever Government comes to power it nominates its members on the Board of the society and completely destroys the system. I would not like to go into the details of it. But one thing that I would like to mention here is that the executive powers should be limited. The societies have a democratic set up. If the Board commits a mistake the society should have enough authority to check and control it. The Government has to find a mechanism for this. But there should be total freedom for the societies from political interference. In a village any member of a family should have a passbook and whenever he wants he should be able to go to the societies and get fertilizers, seeds and whatever else he requires and he should return the amount due to the society. So, there should be total freedom to run the societies. These societies suffer because of political interference. To ensure

this freedom, the Government needs to have a fresh look at clauses 41, 48 and 51. The Government needs to make a slight change in these clauses and see that a new thrust is given to the co-operative movement. The people from the farming community and the agricultural labourers should be made members of the societies. The participation of these people is necessary in the co-operative movement. Nomination of Members to the Board by the Government should be stopped. It is under these circumstances only that the organisation of Co-operatives would survive. The Government must find a way out by which political interference in the co-operatives could be stopped and see to it that a new thrust and a new look is given to the co-operatives by nominating members from the farming community and agricultural labourers in the Board of these co-operatives.

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur) : Sir, I rise to support the Bill introduced by the hon. Minister of Agriculture. Two committees had been formed under Shri Brahma Prakash and Shri Mirdha. Their recommendations have been incorporated in the Bill. The Bill was first introduced in 1984 but it has some shortcomings hence these two committees have worked to remove the shortcomings of that Bill. Union Government have tried to include such trans-State cooperative societies in the Bill which have similar objectives of expansion.

I will discuss other things later, but firstly I would like to point out that the Bill says that if the person who has applied for registration, does not get any information for four months, the society would be considered automatically registered. Similarly, if a member fails to attend three meetings, he would be considered absent and be removed from membership. Another important feature of the Bill is that no Minister either of State Government or of Union Government would be eligible for the post of Chairperson of any society. It is also a good feature, aimed at introducing democratic elements. It will remove the possibility of the interference of either a State Minister or a Union Minister.

Similarly, the Bill also says that the audit of the society would be conducted by itself. We may also consider a few suggestions given by our earlier hon. Speaker with a view to remove the shortcomings of Multi-State cooperative societies. An important issue is to ensure the participation of women in the societies. The Bill does not provide for that, therefore the participation of women should be

ensured. Another important thing is to provide for the representation of SCs, STs and of poorer sections.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Bhargava, you can continue Half-an-hour discussion.

[English] -

17.30 hrs.

## HALF-AN-HOUR DISCUSSION

### Damage to National Highways due to Flood

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House shall now take up Item 16 - Half-an-hour Discussion.

Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi! You can make a short statement.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, first of all I would like to compliment the hon. Minister Shri Khanduri for his wonderful work. He is one of the finest Ministers of the Government, who is equal to reciprocate and respond to the queries of Parliament Members. I once again thank him for his sincerity. Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am thankful to you for admitting Half-an-Hour Discussion on this vital issue of public interest - the National Highways and allowing me to speak.

Earlier, on March 21, the hon. Minister replied to me in writing giving me the position in regard to widening and strengthening of National Highways No.31, 34 and 35, and on the assistance of Asian Development Bank. In his letter of March 21, the Minister wrote to me:

"As the Ministry lays top priority on the improvement of riding quality of National Highways throughout the country, problems like improvement of flood-prone sections were deferred."

This Half-an-Hour Discussion relates to damages caused by floods to the National Highways. I raise this issue of the need to take special care of this matter. If the hon. Minister kindly sees the map of India, by this time he must already be in possession of the map of National Highways that run through flood-prone areas, he will find that there are three basic reasons, in my own understanding, for the damage caused to the National Highways. The logged water, either due to the overflow of the river or because of lack of depth in the river, during heavy

[Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunji]

monsoon creates floods. The waters do not find a way out to be released and flood the nearby National Highways as a result of which the roads get damaged on both sides. Pavements of some of the narrow roads, which were built long ago, on the National Highways have now been encroached. The work of widening them, even if the Government desires to do it, gets halted due to existence of old trees or due to encroachment along the road.

Another reason is the level of the road. There are many roads which are built 20 to 40 years ago. At that time, the level of the river was different. Now that the level of the river, due to silting and other reasons, has gone up, it flows on to the road. Since the height of the National Highways is not sufficient, the water flows over it and creates a precarious situation.

Mr. Chairman, I represent three Districts – Dakshin Dinajpur, Uttar Dinajpur and Malda; and parts of Murshidabad by which I come to Kolkata. Every monsoon, for months together, these four parts in my State are hit by floods. The severity of the problem is such that even the essential supplies are held up because trucks cannot move as the water flows over the National Highway. The damage caused to the National Highway and to the Government Exchequer as well as to the people there, the trading community is so high that I cannot explain it. Yet, I must thank the Minister for taking cognisance of it and making serious attempts to better the situation.

The West Bengal Corridor Development Project as package 3 from Farakka to Raiganj with loan assistance of Asian Development Bank should start shortly. It might strengthen the existing road, particularly flood-prone points on 334 km to 355 km within District Malda. Further, I draw the attention of the Minister on the following vulnerable stretches which are liable to flooding and which require help from the administration. What I mean by 'vulnerable stretches' is that at such places the road is good but the level of the road has gone down so low that the entire road gets affected when that particular vulnerable part is affected by floods. These are: 361-362 Km – 100 metre length; 363-364 km – 250 metre length; 405-407 km – 700 metre length; 418-419 km – 800 metre stretch; 419-420 km – 700 metre stretch; 426-427 km – 120 metre stretch. All these facts are collected from the District Collector and the National Highways Authority in my State yesterday. The District of Malda, the entire subdivision of Jangipur of Murshidabad, Districts of Dakshin Dinajpur and Uttar Dinajpur are the worst affected areas in West Bengal.

There, the national highways are non-operational due to several reasons.

The level of the national highways are lower than the level of water that recedes from the rivers during floods. The widths of those roads are narrow. Supporting cover of those roads in points like Moina in Malda, Rupahar in Uttar Dinajpur, Botalbari in Uttar Dinajpur are so vulnerable that the roads get cracked and there is a soil erosion because of the flow of the river water.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, here, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to a very pertinent point. The cooling bridge which is the National Highway-34 at the headquarters of Uttar Dinajpur, Raiganj is also now sulking, and anything may happen any time. I am told that the National Highway authorities are already in possession of the materials and facts about the damage of this bridge, and they are considering to plan some thing. It is true that the National Highway authorities in India are doing excellent jobs. I have stated this fact earlier also. But here, my precise points in today's Half-An-Hour Discussion are:

Will the hon. Minister, in the first instance, prepare a small Paper stating the parts of Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Assam, Madhya Pradesh etc. where actually the flood-prone areas are linked with the national highways?

Secondly, I want to know whether those national highways are to be maintained by the National Highway Authority of India or by the State Governments. I am saying so because there are two separate arrangements.

Thirdly, I want to know whether the assistance from the Asian Development Bank and the assistance that the Ministry provides from their Budget are enough to meet the situation before the monsoon. It is because sometimes the tender queries are done and the working pattern starts partly during monsoon and before monsoon. Then, it gets again washed away. So, decisively, he should take up the plan in such a way that the tender completion and other works are done at either pre-monsoon stage or post-monsoon stage in order to save the money of the Government and do the work in a better way. The areas which I have identified to the hon. Minister of my district, namely, Uttar Dinajpur, Malda, Murshidabad and Dakshin Dinajpur need special attention. Why I am saying so is that this is the corridor of the North-East. All the goods that you send from Delhi or from Mumbai or for that matter from any part of India towards North-East, they cannot be routed

without this road. So when these four roads are blocked during floods, the entire North-East suffers. The North-East also do not get any support from this road.

So, I would be extremely grateful to the hon. Minister if he takes special care, namely, (a) to ensure widening of the road; (b) raising the level of the road; and (c) on the vulnerable points, to see how to get the logged water out without hitting road base. In this regard, in consultation with the Irrigation Department of the State, they may prepare some tunnel or pipe in order to see that the water logged is not a threat to the national highway, and it is strengthened.

Sir, on these three aspects, if the hon. Minister takes a special note and appoint a Special Cell to help the flood-prone areas besides their normal routine work of expanding the national highways, I think, he will be doing a tremendous job both to help the State and the people of the flood-affected areas.

Sir, I would like to give two examples. During the 1999 floods, when the Government of India and the Government of West Bengal planned to send some relief, they could not send it by trains because even the railway track was not in a position in some parts to operate the heavy goods by trains. Then, the Government took a decision to send them by trucks. But all those trucks were to be halted at a point between Moina and Gazol. For six months, the villagers had to feed those truck drivers because they could not get the food from outside, and all those relief materials were dumped in those trucks. A few trucks were even looted. Serious violence took place. In the end, those roads became usable only after eight months.

Sir, Assam, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal are all experiencing the same sort of problems, in their flood-prone areas and the areas adjacent to rivers. So, my request would be that the hon. Minister may prepare another note with the help of his Ministry to see which are those rivers adjacent to those areas which are causing floods and handle the situation efficiently. He can very well handle this situation with the help and coordination of the State Irrigation Department, State PWD and the Ministry of Water Resources, and see what mechanism can be applied about the bund, barrage; what can be done about improvement of rivers; what arrangements can be made by the Irrigation Department for clearing the water logged in the areas by tunnels etc. and then what arrangements can be made from his

Ministry's side for building or widening and raising of those roads.

If these things are done in this manner, by combining all these Ministries, this Minister who has a wide and a long experience in the Army, would deliver very good result really to the people of those areas in those States.

I would like to put these two questions to the hon. Minister. Will he consider the suggestion of mine, to combine the Water Resources Ministry, and the Irrigation Department and the PWD of the State Government to draw an action plan for the flood-prone areas of India, especially in my State and the areas that I have mentioned? Secondly, if so, will he announce a policy or a plan as to how and when these flood-prone pockets of the National Highways – which are limited in number, but decisively destroy the entire National Highways, which are built at the cost of the national exchequer – could be averted?

With these words, I conclude.

MR. CHAIRMAN The Minister may reply now. Normally four hon. Members are eligible to put questions. But today, there is nobody else to put questions. So, you can cover the whole of India in your reply.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI) : All right, Sir.

I am extremely thankful to Shri Dasmunsi for two things. Firstly, for highlighting the problem of National Highways that are getting affected or damaged every year, by floods in the country and causing extreme inconvenience or hardship to the people apart from massive damages to the road system. Secondly, I am also thankful to him for appreciating whatever work my Ministry is doing with regard to road sector.

In our country, floods have become a matter of routine. Every year, we get floods in some parts of the country or the other. Even the normal monsoons in some parts are very heavy due to which also the roads get damaged. But in addition to this, every year, we keep on getting floods in a big way in various parts of the country. As National Highways are spread all over the country, these roads are damaged and disrupted; and particularly during monsoons, the repair-time is also not available. Monsoons also continue for over 2-3 months. So, roads do get damaged and disrupted. Therefore, this is a problem which is occurring every year.

[Maj. Gen. (Retd.) B.C. Khanduri]

We are also, every year, trying to do fire-brigade action; we keep on doing the patch-repairs. But the long-term solution to these problems certainly needs to be considered as suggested by Shri Dasmunsi.

Having said that, I would also like to mention that different parts of the country have different types of problems. West Bengal has one type of problems with regard to damage of roads by water – whether it is floods or normal rains or otherwise. Bihar has got different types of problems. Certain rivers are coming from Nepal side where there are no dams and it creates unexpected problems because suddenly very heavy quantum of water comes in. In certain other areas in the State of Assam, because of the vast rivers we have problems like the case of the River Brahmaputra. These are natural problems for which due care has not been taken over the past years. In addition to these, there are also other problems.

Shri Dasmunsi has raised this question earlier also. We had to explain it every time, as he himself stated. As of today, we have 58,112 kms. of National Highways. All of these were State Highways which have been converted into National Highways. This is for the first time that a new agency is creating new roads, that is, the National Highway Authority of India, under the programme of the Prime Minister's National Highway Development Project. We are constructing 13,000 kms. of new roads; we construct them as per the new design. Under this, even some of the existing roads are being improved. Sometimes, the standard of the State roads are even lower than the State Highway standards, but we have taken over these from the States. Therefore, the problem becomes worse.

Shri Dasmunshi raised the question of height of the roads; it is very clear and it is very correct also. Before this, he had raised the same question once; I had given him the figure at that time also. If we were to design a road *ab initio* or from the beginning, then there are various structures of the road, starting from the sub-grade up to the top or the black top of the road, etc. Today, NHAI under NHDP is doing the design. Sub-grade is the lowest portion of the road and we build on that. The road should have a minimum of 0.6 meter to one meter above the highest flood level in that area.

Therefore, as you have highlighted, if these roads were to be made in normal high flood area, they should

never get over-topped. Water should never flow over the roads. But unfortunately, as I have said, these roads have been made earlier on. They have been made with design specifications on an *ad hoc* basis. We have now taken over them.

If I were to convert all the roads, which comes to about 58,000 kms., into the standard national highway specifications, it will be tremendous task. A study was carried out three years back. At that time, the National Highway quantum was less, around 45,000 kms. And the money required was Rs. 1,65,000 crore. We do not have this money. Therefore, we are just maintaining the normal roads or trying to deal with the flood damages. *Ad hoc* arrangements are going on. I used the term fire-brigade action. Every year, some or the other damage is being caused. My Ministry's Budget is around Rs. 1500 crore and every year we keep about Rs. 100-120 crore for flood. This does not meet the total requirement of the flood damages which run into a thousand crore. Therefore, we try to find out the priority areas and do the patch-up work.

What is the procedure for giving the flood relief? You have given a very good suggestion that we should start earlier on. Now, since my attention has also been drawn to this subject, I have asked myself as to what I can do. Can I do some planning? The present planning is, whatever damages take place during the monsoon season, we tackle them in two ways. One is, when an emergency requirement comes from a State saying that such and such road has been damaged and they require a certain amount of money. For example, last year a State asked for Rs.5 crore as assistance but we gave them only Rs.2 crore to start the immediate patch-up work which was required. This is the emergency requirement during the monsoon as the damage has already been caused.

The second stage is when the monsoon is over. The State Government deputs its own engineers, and our regional officer sit together and make a plan. This plan takes two to three months' time. By the time, it is December. Then they send their requirement. If everything is all right and there is no query, money is released at the earliest by Jan. next. Whatever they are able to spend in the same year, it is all right otherwise it goes to the next year. So, the whole system is such that even though the money is available it is not satisfactorily utilised for the repair work. As it is, we tell them that since the monsoon is coming,

whatever repairs are required, they may carry out the work. That is how although we release the money only in the month of January, some money is used by the State earlier as they have already started the repair work and have incurred some expenditure. By the time the money comes, it gets adjusted. Sometimes, the money is not fully utilised or not properly utilised. These are the kinds of problems that we face. Therefore, we will certainly look into what you have suggested and try to find a method.

Flood damages cannot be anticipated everywhere. As you have suggested, certain areas are flood prone areas where every year flood damages take place but the fact is if some preliminary work is done before monsoon, we can save time and utilise money properly. These are the problems on ground.

You have mentioned that I have a lot of experience in the Army. Yes and I have carried out a lot of flood relief work, particularly in the State of Bihar. In 1971, I had taken a regiment. The entire sector from Patna-Sahibpur-Kamal and Eastern sector was totally disrupted. There was no rail link between this part of the country beyond Patna. We were going on a narrow metre gauge road. There was no broad-gauge. The whole life was disrupted. Therefore, there are certain areas which get damaged by floods every year.

There are areas where the drainage system is not proper or there are irrigation channels. The irrigation channels get blocked for various reasons either due to over-silting or they are blocked deliberately by the people who want to save their own places. You block one particular place so that water gets diverted to other area. Therefore, individual or a group of people also try to divert water from their areas to different areas because the drainage system is not adequate. This also causes damage to the roads.

As I said earlier on, when the roads were constructed, even at that time the number of culverts was not adequate. Therefore, we have to create additional channels where the water can get out. These are the types of problems that we are having. The problems are of a very large magnitude. We have, as I said, tried to spend around Rs. 120 crore every year on flood relief. But it is not sufficient. You have given certain specific areas and certain specific roads. After the last Parliamentary question, I had also given you information regarding your Constituency and West Bengal as a whole where we have given the money.

I hope you have received that information. Even in the year which has just concluded, we had given Rs. 10.13 crore to West Bengal. Their demand would have been much more. Therefore, the State Government utilises this money as per its own priority. By and large, the priority is given by them. Therefore, apart from needing more money, we also need a system.

You have mentioned specific problems about specific areas. I will look into them. You had also mentioned National Highway - 34. There is a very good scheme coming with the loan from Asian Development Bank. This project is progressing quite fast. The preliminary stages have been completed. The Consultants have been identified; Terms of Reference have been finalised, and now we are going to the next stage of tendering and all that. Once that work starts, that road connecting the North Bengal side would be reasonably good, at least, from Siliguri to Dalkhola. So, this is the type of thing that is being done.

You have also asked me specifically two questions. One is regarding the level of the road. Now, we can do it only in bits and patches because of the type of money required. Every hon. Member including myself wants that the road from his Constituency should be converted from State Highway to National Highway. Today, if I take over one kilometre of road from State Highway and if it is reasonably good, we have to spend huge amount. We all know and I had stated it last time also that we have taken over roads which are not only of not State Highway standard but are virtually village roads. We all know that for various reasons these have been converted. If I have to convert a State Highway standard road into National Highway standard road, I would need Rs. 1 crore to Rs. 1.5 crore per kilometre. So, we need around Rs. 1,65,000 crore. So much money is not available. On the one side, we want to have more National Highways but on the other side money is not available. Therefore, even the normal maintenance is not being done. We want to spend more money on improving the riding quality because there are so many potholes. Whatever may be the width of the road the surface should be good. But side-by-side, there is a demand that we should increase from one lane to two lanes and that National Highways are supposed to have two lanes. Therefore, the amount of Rs. 1400 crore to Rs. 1500 crore which is budgetary provision, is to be divided in a manner that it can be used in an optimum manner so that we are able to give some money everywhere.



[Maj. Gen. (Retd.) B.C. Khanduri]

Sir, in the last two-three years, we have concentrated on Improvement and Riding Quality Project. We have also been doing a little bit of widening so that some intermediate lanes become two lanes and some single lanes become intermediate lanes. So, this is the type of problem that we have.

You have talked of raising the height of the road which means re-doing the complete structure. As I told you, from the bottom of the road to the top of the road, on an average it comes to 1.3 metre. The height that I have to build is around 1.3 metres of various types. There is earth, then there is some consolidated soil, then, bitumen and then the thicker bitumen and finally, the wearing coat. So, 1.3 metres of the road will have to be built above the flood level. Now, if you have to do it at various places, you could understand how much money would be required. So how to tackle it, is one issue.

Then, there is the question of controlling flood and ascertain damages. For that, you have suggested some thing. I will also try to involve the State Irrigation people and the Central Flood Control people and if we can find some method, it will be good. But we can apply our mind and certainly do whatever is possible.

You had also mentioned that there is no drainage from National Highways. I agree with you. It is because there are two things. The drainage system whatever is in existence is inadequate. Sometimes, the existing drainage channels are blocked, somewhere cultivate has come up, and at some places various things have happened for various reasons. As you have said, somewhere encroachment has come up.

Therefore, this type of things are adding to our problems further. Encroachment in itself is a separate major problem, probably worse than floods. In our country encroachment of road has become such a problem that whatever effort we are putting today on roads becomes infructuous within a matter of two to three years. I have gone and seen myself that if today I construct a by-pass, before it gets completed in two to three years, encroachment problem would have already become the centre of our attention. Thus, this encroachment problem is contributing to floods also.

Shri Dasmunshi has asked me two specific questions. Firstly, about coordination, we will certainly try and do our

best. He has also asked me whether I have a policy plan for a specific road. It is quite difficult for me to say anything at this stage; but I will certainly try to get it identified in consultation with the State Governments as to which are the areas which get affected frequently. We will also look into the various other suggestions that he has made.

I am talking of National Highways. Certain stretches of National Highways do get affected every year. We will certainly look into the fact whether in those areas we can put some thought and find out some specific types of development activities.

With this, I think I have covered whatever the Hon. Member has asked me.

MR. CHAIRMAN : What about NH-7 of Tamil Nadu?

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI : It is getting converted into a National Highway and made into a four lane road under the National Highway Development Project. You will have no problem on that.

MR. CHAIRMAN : From Madurai to Tuticorin, because of torrential rains, the whole road gets damaged.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI : Once it is made into a National Highway and the road gets constructed, you will have no problem. It is going to be constructed under the National Highway Development Project in which it will have a width of four lanes. You may be seeing that at some points the road is being dug four to five feet below the ground level. So, after the conversion, you will have no problem on this count.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to Dalkhola, since he took this name. The point is that the entire road system collapses during floods because of which everything gets jammed at the level crossing. Within less than a kilometre the four lane road work is going on near Dalkhola. A road over-bridge and a railway level crossing, besides making it four lane, need to be considered and examined so that in future even if there is a threat of flood here and there the fly-over can take the load and divert all the traffic towards the north-east and towards Calcutta. On this aspect I have already written a letter to the hon. Minister and I request him to kindly examine and find out the possibility.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI : I will do that.

SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN (Sivaganga) : The east-coast road from Pondicherry to Kanyakumari is not completed.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have not given notice; but it is allowed.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI : Thank you, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN : We will resume discussion on the Multi-State Cooperative Societies Bill.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, hon'ble Minister has given good reply. I would like to submit only that every year roads are damaged due to occurrence of flood and as a result of this the Department have to spend money for the repairing of the roads. As has been stated by hon'ble Dasmunshi ji that where there are floods, flyover are required to be made. Every year the roads which are damaged due to floods are repaired. However, on several occasions the Government officials after conducting survey declare even those roads damaged which are not damaged due to floods so it is essential for the Government to check and ensure whether roads have been damaged due to floods or due to some other reasons. All the National Highways of the country are in a zig-zag manner. You are a military person and the military person should be straight forward. The National Highways in our country are very zig-zag...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE (Jabalpur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I should be given opportunity to speak...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : I would like to submit only that the damaged roads are required to be repaired...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nobody has given notice to ask questions. There is one minute more before it is 6 O'clock. Therefore, if you want the Minister to reply, you can stop now and allow the Minister to reply. The Minister may give the reply now.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I should also be allowed to participate in the discussion

and the Minister should take up all the questions together at the end of the discussion.

18.00 hrs.

SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE : Mr. Chairman, Sir, presently discussion is being held on the National Highways. You may increase the height of the National Highways but unless a proper drainage system is put in place, on the one side there will be sea like scene and on the other side there will be no water. So I would like to request that the rivers should be dredged as it has not yet been done so far. There should be drainage along the roads and if its height is increased then water outlets should be made in the middle otherwise there will be water logging on the one side and there will be no water on the other side. It should also be included in it.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI : Mr. Chairman, Sir, hon'ble Members have asked two questions. First question is whether inquiry has been held to know whether roads are being damaged due to floods or due to corruption. Though the term corruption was not used however you meant to say that the roads are not being damaged due to floods though such things are reported. I had said in the beginning that the destruction due to flood is so severe that there is no scope for corruption. But as per the procedure whenever any damaged due to floods in a State is reported a team of the State Government visit there and alongwith that our regional officer who is posted in every State also goes there to evaluate the situation.

The second question that the hon'ble Member has asked related to the Zig-Zag roads. The repairing and widening of roads are taken up continuously wherever it is possible and efforts are made to reduce the incidents of accidents.

The Hon'ble Member has suggestion that rivers should be dradged. I will be obliged to her for her suggestion as it is true that there is no proper drainge. Dasmunsi ji has also pointed out that too much of silts have deposited on the river beds and water comes to the road instead of following in river. On behalf of the road transport department I will be highly obliged if rivers are desilted as it will save the money of the Department. It is collective work and as Dasmunsi ji has said that every one including the irrigation department should collectively think about it and efforts will be made in this direction.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : As a special case, I have permitted Members who have not given notice to get clarifications from the Minister. This should not be taken as a precedent. And I have given permission for myself also!

Now, Shri Bhargava may continue with his speech.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj) : Sir, the time of the House would have to be extended now.

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY (Basirhat) : Sir, how can you extend the time of the House? How will you continue with the business of the House?

MR. CHAIRMAN : In the Business Advisory Committee meeting, a decision has been taken that the House may continue the debate till 8 p.m.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please wait for a minute. Let him find out the position.

(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Members who want to speak may be allowed to speak. ... (Interruptions)

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali) : The report of the Business Advisory Committee is not circulated. I do not know about the decision taken by the House. Where is the circular?

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur) : The circular has been circulated today.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : I have searched it. We did not get it. How is it decided in BAC to sit till 8 P.M.? Who has decided it?

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Today it has appeared in the Bulletin.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : With the mood of the House, can I go on with the discussion?

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY (Basirhat) : No... (Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : You may adjourn now... (Interruptions) If the time of the House is to be extended, then how many Members are there to speak?... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : The Business Advisory Committee has given report about what was passed and what was not passed, however, we did not get it.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, all the Members have agreed to resume discussion.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : In the Business Advisory Committee meeting, the decision has been taken to sit upto 8 P.M.

(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : We have discussed this matter in the BAC and we felt that if we have to sit beyond 6 p.m. to pass some important business like this, then we may sit late. I also plead that the Bill may be passed today after accommodating other speakers to take part in the discussion... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the matter relates to cooperatives so we should also cooperate in conducting the business of the House. If we do not cooperate how the proceedings of the House will be carried on. So we cooperate in the House for proceeding the discussion on the Cooperative Bill.

[English]

18.05 hrs.

## MULTI-STATE CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES BILL—Contd.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House will continue the discussion on Multi-State Cooperative Societies Bill, 2000.

Shri Girdhari Lal Bhargava may continue.

[Translation]

18.10 hrs.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, hon'ble Minister has introduced Multi-State Cooperative Societies Bill in the House to get it passed. I rise to support this Bill. I rise to support this Bill because this Bill has been introduced with the purpose to ensure that the objectives of such cooperative societies should not remain limited to only one State and the members of such societies should remain in more than one State. In the present set up there is lack of uniformity. The Central Government have brought this Bill to balance the situation. The hon. Minister deserves to be felicitated for this.

Sir, Chaudhary Brahma Prakash and Shri Ram Niwas Mirdha Committees were constituted which have given such recommendations. I would like to submit that it has been mentioned in the Bill that these societies may increase their resources without the interference of the Registrar as there is relaxation in the requirement of Registrar for increasing the resources. I welcome this provision. There is provision of Constitution of Cooperative dispute Resolving Authority in the Bill that will resolve dispute if there is any. This Bill certainly provide solutions to several things. Any person who is Minister in the Centre or in the State Government cannot become the Chair person or Deputy Chairperson of the society. It is good thing that is included in the Bill. There is also a provision in the Bill that if any member remains absent from three consecutive general body meetings, then his membership will be terminated.

Sir, I feel that no one will oppose this Bill. In opposition to the Bill it has been stated that the tribunal that will be constituted by the Central Government will resolve the dispute and give the decision in this regard. There will be one Chairman and four Members in the tribunal. They will be appointed by the Central Government. The Chairman and the Deputy Chairman together will perform entire works. I would like to submit that many good provisions have been made in this Bill and it is also very good that this amendment has been made however I would like to request that as many good suggestions have been given regarding this Bill so these should be included in life.

[Translation]

Sir, the multi-State cooperative societies should be allowed to develop, the participation of women should be

ensured in the State Government and Municipalities. Since the Union Government are going to introduce a Bill providing 33 per cent reservation to women, therefore, women needs to be co-opted. Similarly the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other Backward Classes have not been included in it. To protect their interests, a clause should be added in the Bill to include them.

Sir, in my opinion, the people of rural areas should be given some concessions while depositing their money with the cooperative banks and their money should be properly used and it should be ensured that their money is neither embezzled nor misappropriated.

Finally, I would like to thank the hon. Minister for taking pains to introduce a comprehensive Bill aimed at the development of cooperative societies and I hope that action would be taken with regard to my suggestions of the inclusion of women, SCs, STs and OBCs, safekeeping of people's money, ensuring that no embezzlement takes place in banks and cooperative societies and the strict punishment to officials found guilty of embezzlement. I once again thank hon. Minister and whole heartedly support the fine Bill he has introduced.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, this is a multi party Government and so they have introduced a multi-State cooperative. In my opinion, the Bill has been brought after much delay. Chaudhary Brahma Prakash Committee was constituted in 1990. It submitted its report in 1991, but the report was not implemented till now. The Government seems to be under the influence of multi nationals, hence the delay was made. I would like to know what exactly caused the delay? My opinion is that the multi national companies are against cooperative societies and they don't want the latter to exist. I am of the view that the condition of the poor and the unemployed can't be improved without the cooperative movement.

Similarly, Ram Niwas Mirdha Committee was constituted. The Bill was referred to the standing Committee. The Government didn't even go through the recommendations of the standing Committee. It had provided for the reservation of OBCs, SCs and STs and women. Why it was not implemented? Why the delay in introduction? When in the recommendation, the justifiable things were not considered, then what caused the delay? All parties are represented in the Standing Committee. When that Standing Committee recommended reservation for SCs,

[Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh]

STs, OBCs and women, then what prompted them in not including those provisions in the Bill? How the Government dared to ignore the recommendations? We are ready to fight till the issue is settled. We would see that the Bill is not passed without providing for reservation to them. All Members agree that unless SCs, STs, OBCs and women are not included in the cooperative societies, the Bill will have no meaning and the institution will become dominated by some sections. Therefore the Government should include the recommendations of the Standing Committee, otherwise we will not let the Bill pass. We have the public opinion. I have heard all Members and So I say that the Bill can't be passed against the general opinion. I have moved amendment in this regard. It will not pass without Voting. None of reports submitted by Chaudhary Brahma Prakash, Shri Ram Niwas Mirdha or by Standing Committee said that a person will not be given more than two terms as Chairperson. I would like to know from the hon. Minister, how did he include these amendments? We have given an amendment that the proposed amendment in rule 44 that stipulates not more than two terms on the post of Chairperson may be given to a person. He cannot become a Chairperson for the third time. I would like to know the basis of such a stipulation. The Committees have not recommended like that. It is not the post of American President. MLAs and MPs can win elections for eight or ten times, they can become Minister, Chief Minister and Prime Minister any number of times, then is it such an important post where more than two terms cannot be allowed? Why you don't want more than two terms for one person? I have moved amendment to your amendment since your's was introduced without the recommendation of any committee. You explain your decision or prove with arguments. Why a person can't have more than two terms as Chairperson? Why would anyone initiate productive long-term measure if he knows beforehand that he cannot remain chairperson for more than two terms? One the contrary he may commit some irregularities because of his short tenure. And if he has the capability to win, and you won't allow him, he would rule indirectly by making his wife or subordinate as chairperson. Will it improve the working of cooperatives, If you really want improvement in cooperatives, then there should be ineligibility norms. It may be laid down that a chairpersons, under whose tenure cooperative goes in loss, would become ineligible for another term. No good will come out of the provision of not allowing one person

two terms. Why have you done that? That is why, I have moved the amendment. If I am wrong, convince me by logic otherwise please consider my suggestion. It should be provided in the proposed legislation any Chairperson would not be allowed to seek re-election if the loss of the Cooperative increased under his tenure. If a person is doing good work, then not allowing him more than two terms is not likely to yield good results. Therefore, the hon. Minister should reconsider and withdraw his amendment, if not, then let him convince us about the rationality of his measure. If the amendment is allowed it will make a person less enthusiastic about doing good work.

Hence It should be linked with performance. If a Co-operative is performing well under the period of a particular persons he should be allowed to remain in this post and if not performing well one should not be allowed to contest again.

People become the Members of Co-operative in order to grab lucrative posts in it by purchasing the shares of very small value whereas as they are least concerned about the Co-operative. There is such provision in Co-operative like NBDB that only farmers shall have the voting who supplies the milk for three months to it... (Interruptions). Similar provisions should be made in regard to these Co-operatives that only those Members are involved in and take service of their Co-operative shall be entitled to have a right to vote. The four States namely Bihar, Jammu and Kashmir, Andhra Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh have enacted and implemented this model co-operative law. The reform has been done only recently in Bihar, A total of 2600 co-operatives are making as model co-operatives in Bihar, It is true that bifurcation of the State has not resulted in the division of co-operatives and it has been stressed that the co-operation will be registered under the many State cooperatives set. The law which is in the process of being framed now seeks for the minimal interference of the State. It is true that it will lead to further democratisation and autonomy of the co-operations but the law of the National co-operative Development Board and NABARD provides that the loans can only be granted in case of the counter guarantee by the State. Now when the State co-operatives are being disbanded and the State's interference is being put away with why the State will give guarantee. The State will not give guarantee when the interference of the State from the co-operative is removed. Hence there is a need to accordingly amend the law enacted by NCDC and NABARD i.e. the provision making the guarantee of the State mandatory will have to be removed. Only then it can

be accepted that the interference in the Co-operatives is sought to be removed and its autonomy is sought to be given to it. How can autonomy be achieved unless the loan is not provided by NCCB and NABARD due to the lack of guarantee by the Government and if the State's interference is withdrawn how those can get the loans? Hence the hon. Finance Minister should amend the NCCB and NABARD law. Then what provision is there for giving loans to the people in small village? How will they get loan. Hence a Pax Deposit Scheme which provides for giving small loans to the farmers has been quite a successful experiment but letters have repeatedly been sent to them asking as to why the Bank's name is being used. Hence a provision to this effect should be made else the anti farmer Government would like even the farmers to deposit at once the small loans they receive. They should get the loans in the villages, PAX deposit scheme is functioning well but the impediments in its working being created by the union Government, should be removed. The provisions under the integrated co-operative development Programme made by the Government are being the drawn in the Tenth Five Year Plan. I allege that the Government is taking anti-farmer and anti poor steps. The Integrated co-operative Development Programme should be strengthened and its allocation should be increased but it is not being done. Rather the allocation under the Tenth Five Year Plan has been deaseased, there is a need to improve it.

I also demand that the ICD)P proposal for Bhojpur, Saran, Seewon, Khagorisa, Kaimur should be cleared. There are a total of 381 central cooperative banks in the country out of which 141 are in a bad condition and 60 banks have been served the Notice for their closure. The Government of India and its institutions have given ten thousand crore rupees for improving the balance sheet of the commercial and rural banks. However on assistance has been given to the central co-operatives and small cooperative banks to improve their balance sheet so as has been done in regard to the commercial banks. Why has not a provision been made for them. On one hand 10 thousand crore rupees have been provided while on the other not even a rupees has been give. Hence I demand that assistance be provided to the Co-operative banks on line of the commercial banks to improve their balance sheet so that these may not be wiped out. It has been suggested by move other then you that a National co-operative Bank will be constituted in the country.

Lastly, I would like to ask as to why an allocation of 100 crore rupees has been made to implement the

recommendations made by the Kapoor Committee of RBI. The recommendations of the Kapoor Committee should be implemented to make its progress. I would like to have specific replies of the questions raised by me else I shall consider that this Government is not only anti farmers but also against the interest of the Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe and the Backward Classes. There is need to pay attention towards as how to improved the condition of all the farmers, and how to make the co-operative movement and multi State co-operative societies successful by minimising the Government's interference in them. The clause brought should be withdrawn else we shall invisit for a voting on it.

SHRI THAWARCHAND GEHLOT (Shajapu) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I support the multi State co-operative societies Bill, 2000. We all know that cooperative movement is very important in our country. It is through co-operatives that the people in the country, by mobilising and collecting the capital, by organising in the agriculture sector and in housing sector and in other areas like banking, are contributing a lot. This Bill brought to strengthen such institutions have many provisions for attaining its cause and I support it.

I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister standards some points. If he would be little alert while framing the rules then the small discrepancies being seen by the hon. Colleagues of opposition will also be removed.

18.28 Hrs.

[DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH *in the Chair*]

Mr. Chairman Sir, when you were sitting there you had said that the Brahma Prakash Committee has submitted its report in 1990. It was intentionally delayed after 1990. So you had leveled some direct and indirect allegation that under the influence of these reason the legislation was not being presented. And you not been in the chair I would have asked, you that when you served as a union Cabinet Minister in 1996-97 and 1998-99 and had many esteemed colleagues and a very friendly Prime Minister then why did not you try to bring this Bill Now when this Bill has been brought then it should be commended and supported. The small lacunas and apprehensions about the Bill will be addressed so that this Bill could be implemented. Hence the Government will have the power a frame laws. Provisions to do away with the shortcomings in the laws can also be formulated.

[Shri Thawarchand Gehlot]

I am also of the opinion that the provision of reservation should be made in this Bill which is lacking in it in its present form. Either the decision to the effect of including the provision of reservation be included right now or if the hon. Minister is competent to do so ... then can do so while framing the rules or it should be done after staying it from legal point of view. The experts of co-operative sector were invited here before introducing this Bill. The consultations and discussions with the eminent persons associated with the co-operative movement including the office bearers of various cooperative bodies, bureaucrats serving as officers in co-operatives in like P.J. Kurein were held.

There was a doubt and that related to the restriction of the registration of another cooperative society if one is already registered for the same purpose. There may be merits and demerits of this proviso. First point is that it would bring a competitor but arrival of another society may be harmful for the society already in existence. Secondly, suppose any society is not performing well, then after arrival of a competitor it would be forced to better its functioning. So, there are merits and demerits of it. Still, I would like the Government to be cautious in this regard. How the restriction on registration of another society would affect the former one and whether it would be able to function properly or not? The Government should ponder over it.

There is one good point in the Bill. That relates to settlement of disputes. Earlier, societies had to go to court for redressal of a dispute, whereas, now, a Judicial tribunal has been set up which would decide the case expeditiously. This kind of provision is commendable. In addition, opening of more than one office should also be considered. It is provided that multi-State cooperatives can open office only in one State. But, If it wants to open offices in two States, the Government should have no objection to it. If the societies want to open head office at two places, it would be beneficial for Members. There is no provision for appointing Ministers as Chairman. I welcome it I would like to submit that it comes under the Jurisdiction of State Governments. Though, in Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act a provision has been made restricting Minister from holding such office, yet in States, such as Madhya Pradesh, even in case of Milk Cooperative societies and cooperative Banks, Cabinet Ministers are holding the post of Chairman. If Ministers are restrained from doing so through a Central Act, then there should be a uniformity in this regard throughout India. A meeting should be held

with Ministers of cooperatives and Chief Ministers and in State Acts a provision should be made debarring Ministers from holding the post of Chairman of cooperatives. A provision should be made in this regard, otherwise the States would keep following what they desire. And it would damage cooperative movement.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, when you were speaking before me, you stated that none should hold the office more than twice. Why the Government have made such a provision. And you have mentioned clause 44. In fact it is clause 46 and not 44.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Amendment has been mentioned.

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : The Amendment is in clause 42 and provision is in clause 46. I would like to submit that if you have mentioned Amendment in clause 42 then it is wrong and if it refer to clause 44 then it is something different .

MR. CHAIRMAN : Earlier there was no provision in the Bill. Hon'ble Minister has moved amendment. You may kindly see it.

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : It is in clause 44, whereas you made a mention of clause 42.

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is in clause 44.

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : It is in clause 46 in it, If you want, I can read it out.

Sir, I would like to draw attention of Hon'ble Minister towards some other issues. Nothing should be done which may harm cooperative sector. I would like to quote an example. In my constituency Janata Sahakari Bank is situated in Devas which was set up on 21 July, 1940 and it was registered on 25 December, 1941. Later on, it decided to venture into banking sector. Section 22 of compains Act deals with this provision relating to banking sectors. Under the provision of Sec 22 the bank applied for licence on 28 April, 1966, I want to draw hon'ble Minister's attention towards this fact in particular because the application seeking licence had been kept under consideration since 1966. And a decision could be made after a span of 40 years on 13 March, 2002. Shri B.P. Mathur, Executive RBI Control Office, took the decision in this regard and he rejected the application. With rejection of the application he issued one more order to stop banking work and the transaction. With effect from 16 March banking work was stopped.

Sir, I would like to submit that there are 49 thousand members of this cooperative society and 21 thousand account holders who have invested their money in different schemes, such as FD or Saving Scheme No transaction is being done for the last one month because of RBI's order to stop it. They have ordered to appoint a liquidator. Earlier when elections to the society were not held, and liquidator was appointed, the administrative officer made mess of everything and dragged the bank in loss. He disbursed loans more than the specified limit and desired percentage of recovery of loan was not maintained. If he is appointed liquidator again the bank will suffer great loss. We have appealed to the Joint Secretary to the Ministry of Finance in this regard. He can directly intervene in it since the department of cooperatives is with him. Therefore, my submission is that he should intervene in it and may please provide relief to these societies.

Sir, I would like to draw your attention towards two things First-the Central Government schemes are implemented through these societies in the States. In some of the States, even ration is distributed or purchased through these society. Wheat is purchased at support price. Considering this as a medium of income, income tax is imposed on them causing great loss to them. Second as the Board is empowered to audit the accounts of multi-State cooperative societies. The Board decides, appoints auditor and that auditor would come and collect tax. But the societies have to get their transactions audited by Chartered Accountant also and it is also to be done by departmental officers. When the societies request them for auditing their account, Government and departmental officials do not come for auditing for months together. Therefore, the Income Tax Department imposes penalty under relevant existing provisions and even in some of cases action is taken against them. Therefore, some arrangement should be made in this direction so that either departmental officials should audit in time or auditing done by Chartered Accountant, appointed by the society, should be considered as authorized. If this type of arrangement is made it would be better, otherwise cooperative movement would continue to suffer. I would like the hon. Minister to pay attention towards it and consult the States to bring a comprehensive Bill so that the Bill introduced by the Central Government would take shape of an Act which would be similar to the Acts prevailing in the State and there should be nothing contradictory in these Acts, so that cooperative movement may make rapid strides If the Government take efforts in this direction it would be better. With these words I support the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN : According to Rule 46 no person can hold a post in two societies simultaneously.

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : I do agree to it .

[English]

SHRI PRABODH PANDA (Midnapore) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you very much for giving me an opportunity to participate in the discussion.

I rise to support the Multi-State Cooperative Societies Bill, 2000. In the present economic scenario of our country, while our country is passing through a difficult situation, when our economic sectors are almost under the clutches of exploiting capital of corporate sectors, multinational companies, foreign monopolies and NRIs, our hon. Minister for Agriculture has introduced the Bill for passing in this august House. I think, it should have been enacted earlier.

Sir, the main thrust is given on more autonomy to the cooperatives. In regard to the amalgamations, dividing and choosing the staff to run the cooperatives, more autonomy should have been given to the cooperatives. It has been mentioned in the Bill and the hon Minister also spoke today during his speech that to remove the Ministerial and bureaucratic interference, some provisions are there. That is why, no Minister would be the Chairman of the cooperative. But it is not understandable to me whether he would be the member of the Board, of Directors or not. If there is a bar and restriction to be the Chairman of the Board, and on the other hand, there is no restriction and bar to be a member of the Board of Directors, then the same thing would happen.

So, I request the hon. Minister that a provision must be there so that no Minister can be the member of the Board of Directors and even no bureaucratic officer should be there. What would be in the lower level? Nowadays, the local self-Government is supposed to be the Government. The head of the local bodies, whether they would be the members of this Board or not and whether they can be the Chairman of this Board or not, represents Government. If the Minister cannot be the Chairman of the cooperatives, then why the same provisions would not be applied in regard to the head of the local bodies? So, I request the hon. Minister to think over it.

Another thing is there. I am of the same opinion that reservation for the woman, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes should be there. I am happy that our Government would like to promote the cooperative movement and also they would like to promote the cooperative sectors as well. But may I ask the hon. Minister



[Shri Prabodh Panda]

through you, Sir, that so far as the NABARD is concerned, they are not even lending 18 per cent credit to the agriculture? Is there any guarantee that that they will lend minimum 18 per cent to the agriculture sector through the cooperatives?

The next point is about the interest rates. So many hon. Members in this House have raised that point and I am also raising the same point. The Minister should think that the NABARD should lend money to the co-operatives at zero per cent interest so that the burden of interest would be less. Otherwise, the co-operatives will not be strengthened and the burden of interest will be imposed on the ordinary peasants and on the poor people.

Enactment of this Bill may open a new scope to strengthen the co-operative movement. I do agree. Mainly it would facilitate the small farmers, the marginal farmers, the medium farmers and the unemployed youth. The co-operatives will help them for their upliftment. It is all right. It is said about the Panchayat system that the Panchayat system in the countryside is an effective instrument for unfolding the democratic aspirations of the people. That is all right. But without strengthening the co-operative system, the Panchayat system will not go ahead. So, It is inter-related. To help the Panchayat system, to strengthen the Panchayat system, the co-operative system should be strengthened. So, it is very much important nowadays.

More power to the Panchayat is all right, but more power to the Panchayat does not mean more power to the farmers. The farmers can get more power if the co-operative movement is strengthened. I hope, in the present scenario, not only in words but in deeds, the co-operatives will come up and this proposed Bill will help to strengthen the co-operative movement at large. So, I support this Bill and hope that the hon. Agriculture Minister will think over the proposal which I have given and will respond to them.

SHRI E.M. SUDARSAN NATCHIAPPAN (Sivaganga): Respected Chairman, Sir, I support this Bill as one of the dreams of the late Shri Rajiv Gandhi is fulfilled. In India, every village, every house is having the theory of interdependence and co-operation. The karta of a joint family is just like Chairman in the society and he looks after everything jointly — food, worship and estate. That is the feeling of a Hindu family. As the Kautilya Arthashastra says, "Whoever stays away from any kind of co-operative undertaking, shall send his servants and bullocks to carry on the work, shall have a share in the expenditure, but none in the profits. That is the way of life of Indians. We may have had the cultural invasions and also invasions

of various countries on the borders, but we never left the life of a joint family system and the Panchyat Raj system. Therefore, this co-oprative system as enunciated in the history by the Britishers is new to us because when a co-operative society is created, the mind goes that it is created only for the purpose of getting some loan or such other benefit through it.

That is not the way of life of the Indians. The way of life of the Indians is Dharma, without expecting anything they unite together, live together and create a community, a society, a village and a country. That is the life of the Indians.

When we see the history of India, we could find out that Sir Horael Plunkett has explained the cooperative system as "Self-help made effective by organisation". In the same way Hubert Calvert described it is as follows:

"Cooperation is a form of organisation wherein persons voluntarily associate together as human beings on a basis of equality for the promotion of the economic interests of themselves."

This is the English thinking which has made us to have our own Cooperative Societies Act. When Sir F. Nicholson was assigned by the Government of Madras Presidency in 1892 to give a report on the advisability of starting a system of agricultural or land banks in that province, he created two volumes of data which he collected and recommended on it. On that advice the Indian Government at the time, in 1899, has appointed H. Dupernex who created the "People's Bank for Northern India". He created this in 1899 based on the successful experimenting with village banks in the United Provinces. In the same way we could find out that in 1901, for the first time in Madras Presidency, even before the evaluation of cooperative undertakings, there was this thing in the form of indigenous method of Nidhi which was formed, under which mutual loans were given. About 200 Nidhis or the institutions were created with a total of 36,000 members who were subscribers and an amount of Rs. two crore was saved by those Nidhis in Madras.

In the same way we can find out that following two terrible famines, a Famine Commission was constituted under Sir F. Nicholson in May, 1901 which has given its recommendation for mutual credit association in June/July, 1901. He drafted a Bill and model rules were made in Simla which lead to the Cooperative Credit Societies Act, which was made as a law, on 25th March, 1904. That was made on the lines of the English Friendly Societies Act.

The thinking of the Britishers at the time when they ruled the country was, in between the villagers and the Government in the country there was a wide gap

and to fill up that gap this society was created for helping the people who were suffering in the famine. That Act says that, "for any ten persons living in the same village or town or belonging to the same class or caste, they might be registered as a cooperative society for the encouragement of thrift and self-help among the members." That was the objective of the first Act of 1901.

Subsequently, a broadened view was taken by the Cooperative Societies Act II of 1902. Subsequently the 1984 Act has come in and now we are in the year 2002 when we are bringing this Act. When we take these aspirations and when we take the relevant aspects of today, we are very happy that the comprehensive Act has come into force which is brought in by the Government which has presented this Bill now on the basis of previous recommendations.

Every aspect of this is based on the previous Act of 1984 where there were about 14 chapters and 110 Sections. It is an improvement here with 15 Chapters and 144 Sections. But, at the same time, we feel that the very important aspects were also taken into consideration. I need not repeat the same things and, therefore, I want to tell that this particular clause 88(a)(1) gives a new thinking. For the Dispute Resolution Authority where a High Court Judge can be the Chairman, for that purpose due consideration is given here for the Member of the Bar. Therefore, I thank the Government for making this provision which says "If qualified to be a Judge of the High Court", such person can also be a Chairman.

In the same way, I can show many things to show that this enactment has taken into consideration a lot of things. I would like to conclude saying that in Tamil Nadu, the co-operative movement is very powerful, but at the same time, it is under the control of the Government. It should also have the inspiration from this enactment to take that bureaucracy away from the co-operative system and allow the people to have their own transparent and very powerful movement of co-operative system. By this, people can develop themselves economically and can satisfy their own needs by transparency and accountability of creating, and contributing, participating, sharing and bearing the loss. At the same time, they can also develop in all other respects.

[Translation]

DR. SANJAY PASWAN (Nawada) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to speak in support of the Bill which unfortunately has not been taken up since long. Today it has been taken up and we all, with a joint effort, have to pass it all the parties have supported it and it is good for the country that the Bill is going to be passed.

Sir, this country is based on co-operatives. Infact it is in the veins of the country. It is not new to the country, nor it is an imported philosophy, but has been very much associated with the Indian culture. We all know that the country's economic condition always improved whenever there was lesser State control be it 19th century or 20th century. And we faced bad results only when the control of the Government started increasing and we remained more dependent on the Government. That is why today Government also feel that we are taking a good initiative as we have to keep pace with the developments in the whole World. This fact may be different, but it is according to our traditions and beliefs.

after independence we started working out on private sector, or public sector, or Government sector etc. but we actually forget the peoples sectors' in the country, which is neither private nor public. The Bill related to co-operatives has been introduced to revive it and hon. Minister of Agriculture and the Government have revived the Indian System which become almost dead. It is a different issue that separate co-operative policy should be made, discussion should be held, a comprehensive policy be made, or an extensive discussion be held on it and co-operative may be introduced in the areas where they are not in existence, and one could have benefits out of these. This Bill is a step forward in this direction. This would definitely benefit the society and the Government, though late, have also given consideration towards the farmers in the present Budget. Infact now it is becoming impossible to survive in the conditions prevailing in the World. There is maximum of mainstay agriculture in our present economy and the co-operative play a very important role in the Agricultural co-operative. Introduction of this would provide benefit. Many restrictions and limitations which were imposed, have now been lifted. We cannot altogether remove the co-operative Mafias due to which the whole system has ruined, but we have definitely attacked them. Therefore, this Bill would increase people's participation and would give it a certain direction.

We would via-a-vis like that the present N.D.D.B. and Amul Model of our country and the Co-operative Model of Thailand may be followed.

19.00 hrs.

We may observe the difference in these and that may be removed. Today the Act, existing in Andhra Pradesh is more advanced than the said act. A lot of progress has been made in the co-operative sector in Gujarat and Maharashtra, but the Co-operative movement in rest of country needs attention. The Co-operative movement in some States has made a lot of progress but in some States it has made no progress at all. This creates regional

[Dr. Sanjay Paswan]

imbalance. We need to pay more attention towards this so that it may not cause confrontation and disparity among them and every State should get the benefits of co-operative movement equally.

It is important to ponder over that how can we provide credit facility to the general public through micro credit system and to the weaker Sections, helpself groups and other weaker sections of the society. It is very important to look into this matter. I wish that efforts should be made to give new impetus of capital and assets formation in the society through the co-operative.

I hope that the present leadership and the view point of the hon. Minister will definitely help in getting benefits of this in the coming time and the economy will improve and we would play a meaningful role in the world. Alongwith this, I also want to say that economically weaker States like Bihar, Orissa, eastern Uttar Pradesh and Assam should get benefit of the Co-operatives and I not only hope but believe that all the States would get equal benefit of this section.

[English]

SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO (Dhenkanal) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, 6th of May, 2002 is a red-letter day for us because the Thirteenth Lok Sabha, in cooperation with the Government unanimously, is about to pass a Bill which, in the hon. Minister's words, is unshackling the restrictions and the bureaucratic control over the cooperative societies. It has taken ninety-eight years. From 1904, when service cooperative societies were set up by the British, it was a product of the freedom struggle, the evolution has taken ninety-eight years. We are not really unshackling it fully, but substantially.

I must compliment the hon. Minister for having accepted many of the recommendations of the Standing Committee. I compliment his distinguished predecessor for having brought the Bill in the last Session, which is being piloted by Shri Ajit Singh here. I would be failing in my duty if I did not compliment the former Speaker, Shri Shivraj Patil because he was responsible for the advent of the Standing Committee. The Standing Committee of 45 eminent Members of both the Houses, many eminent people like Dr. Kurien, Shri S. S. Sisodia and a host of others, have made valuable contributions by going through with a fine-tooth comb the entire gamut of the Multi-State Co-operative Societies Bill of 2000. Today, this Bill is a product of the effort.

I am not very clear in my mind about one thing, and I would expect the hon. Minister to clarify it. Therefore, I have moved an amendment, which is listed at third place in the serial order. When you talk about unshackling and entering into a new era of democratic functioning' why are you leaving out 50 per cent of our population, which is the women of our country, 42 per cent of the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes and other Backward Classes? They make about 75 per cent of the people. I was associated with the Joint Committee that examined the Constitution (Seventy-Fourth) Amendment Bill, which Shri Shivraj Patil has referred to.

When the dynamic and young Prime Minister of that day the late Shri Rajiv Gandhi wanted to decentralise power and give to the Panchayati Raj institutions and the Municipalities and empowered the woman and the people belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the Zila Parishads and Panchayats, why is this Government hesitating to make a special provision for the women, the people belonging to the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes and the Backward Classes? This point was very eloquently put forth by your honourable self when you were speaking from these benches. Why is the Government denying them a special provision when this Parliament – in the last 50 years of its existence, which we are going to celebrate on the 13th of May, 2002 – has made a special provision for the empowerment of women, the people belonging to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes and the Backward Classes in various sectors, why is this Government denying this opportunity to them? This is what I would like to have a clarification from the hon. Minister. I have also given an amendment on this. This is at page 17 at lines 3 – For "21" I have said "31" so that it would bring in all the regions. Again at page 17, in line 4 and 5, "substitute provided further that the Board may co-opt for Directors who shall be from the SC/ST, other Backward Castes and women, in addition to 31 Directors specified in the first proviso." This is not a figment of my imagination. It is very much there in the 24th report of the Standing Committee that was submitted to Parliament in August, 2001.

Sir, I would like to conclude now because if I say anything else it would only be a repetition of what my eminent colleagues here have already said. The co-operatives have been a very important segment for the economic development and economic empowerment of people in the rural areas, particularly the poor people of the society.

Sir, I would like to conclude by saying that this is an important piece of legislation which the entire Parliament, the 3th Lok Sabha, is going to pass unanimously. The high priest of management, Mr. Peter Drukker, whose books are read in all Management colleges, has said that the best exponent of management is the common Indian housewife. This is not what K. P. Singh Deo is saying but this is what has been said by Mr. Peter Drukker. So, why is this Government deying an Indian housewife from having this special provision in the Act? Shri Kurien has brought out how the housewives of Gujarat, with the help of information technology, have done a wonderful job with their computers in bringing AMUL to what it is today. It is now competing with the multinational companies. Dr. Alagh also mentioned about the insurance sector and the banking sector. I hope, the hon. Minister would clarify this point.

Sir, with these words, I give my unqualified support to this Bill and I also compliment the hon. Minister for having piloted this Bill

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the draft of the Multi-State Co-operative Societies Bill, 2000 was prepared on 14th November, 2000, during the tenure of Shri Nitish Kumar Ji when he was Minister of Agriculture, Shri Ajit Singh, then became the Minister of Agriculture. The said Bill has perhaps been introduced in the House during his tenure because he takes more interest in agriculture and understand the problems of the farmers more closely. Our country cannot get strengthened unless we strengthen our co-operative movement. If the economic and social development of farmers, farm labourers and poor people has to be done then there is a great need to strengthen the co-operative movement. Therefore, the Bill which has been brought here is for their social and economic betterment. The co-operative institution is working not in one, but in many States. They have their members in other States and this Bill would be utilised for strengthening them. In our country the OBC people did not get reservations in the Constitutions of the country, but only the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes got it and Mandal Commission give reservation to the OBCs. My suggestion is that whenever the Government brings such Bill, there is a need to keep the guidelines of the Indian constitution in view and if we have to strengthen the Co-operatives then the position of people of lower strata of the society will have to be strengthened. There is no provision of giving reservation to SC and ST people in the Bill, introduced by Shri Ajit Singh. I rise to support this Bill, but would make a request that there is a need to give attention towards the SC and ST people. We have also

brought in an amendment and in that there should be 6 members in this, out of whom, 3 should be from the Scheduled Caste, 1 or 2 members should be from the Scheduled Tribes and other Backward classes and women.

Corruption increases when we try to strengthen the co-operative movement. The Directors procure maximum money from there by giving false certificate. This is happening at many places. Actually when we strengthen the co-operative movement, or the cooperative Bank, we also strengthen corruption I, therefore, wish to say that the corrupt people should get severe punishment ...*(Interruptions)* There is a need to make same amendments in the Bill in order to prevent corruption. He has recommended for four Members but 4 members would not serve the purpose. The Chairman of co-operative should not be a Minister. Person already holding the post of Minister should not be made the Chairman of the Co-operatives. There is a need to increase the number of members to 15.

13 employees are reported to be in the office of Central Registrar. Unemployment is increasing at an alarming rate, therefore, at least 50 people are needed ...*(Interruptions)* If All India Cooperative Movement is to be kept under control then we will have to employ 50-60 people in it.

There is a mention of peon in it. I feel word 'Peon' does not sound good, so there is a need to change it by the word 'Sevak'. Cooperative Agriculture should be launched for the benefit of SCs and STs. There is a need to club small cooperatives as Cooperative Farming Society and provide maximum assistance to it.

The bill brought by you is very good but you need to be more strict. Merely enactment will not set everything alright. The Government need to take it very seriously, if it want to control effectively. No doubt, this bill is historic one but Government actions too should be historic. Ortherwise it would be a futile exercise. Therefore, there is a need to control it. He is handling the Ministry well. Had he not joined NDA he would not have got the Ministry and Shri Nitish Kumar Ji would have brought this Bill. He is speaking here in the capacity of an able Minister

I, again support this Bill and I expect him to consider the amendments suggested by hon. Members.

[English]

SHRI P. H. PANDIAN (Tirunelveli) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you very much for having given me this opportunity to participate in this debate on the Multi-State Cooperative Societies Bill, 2000.

[Shri P. H. Pandian]

Shri, sub-clause (2) of Clause I says that it will extend to the whole of India. That is why I am rising on this occasion to support this Bill.

Sir, when you open the Criminal Procedure Code, it will exclude Jammu and Kashmir. That Act will exclude Jammu and Kashmir. That Act will not extend to Jammu Kashmir. When you open the Indian Penal Code, it will not extend to Jammu and Kashmir. When you open the Indian Evidence Act, it will not extend to Jammu and Kashmir. Our Indian Constitution is not applicable to Jammu and Kashmir.

But here, this Multi-State Co-operative Societies Bill will extend to the whole of India including Jammu and Kashmir. That is why I am rising to support this Bill

Sir, this is a Bill to integrate the whole country. We all know that the purpose of the co-operatives is based on the following seven principles. One is voluntary and open membership. Everybody comes voluntarily with a definite purpose. He becomes a member. He serves the society and he also gets the benefit. The society also gets the benefit and the community also gets the benefit. We have the Agricultural Co-operative Societies; the Workers Co-operative Societies, etc. In different forms, we have different societies.

Sir, to prevent the vested interests from continuing in power to hold the co-operative societies, this Bill is a welcoming measure. The fixed tenure of two terms or termination of the tenure after two terms is a welcoming measure. To site an example, I would say that my leader Dr. M. G. R, when he was the Chief Minister, had to pass the Bill to fix the tenure for two terms for syndicate membership in two universities because there a person was continuously a Member of syndicate for about eight or nine terms. That is why the vested interests come in.

So, to decentralise our diverse powers from the vested interests, this Bill is a welcoming measure. Then, it has a democratic member control. Every member has got control over the society. So, also there is members' economic participation. They also invest money. That is why Clause 44 clearly abdicates powers of the Minister. It says that 'no Member of the Board shall be eligible to be elected as a Chairperson if he is a Minister in the Central Government or State Government'. So, no Minister has got powers to sign a cheque. But a President of a co-operative society

has got the powers to issue a cheque. That is why the executive power of a Minister is lesser than that of a president of a national co-operative society.

You are accountable to this House. He, President of a co-operative society, is accountable to the members, to the society and to the community.

Now, I would say about the autonomy and independent part of it. No court can interfere by virtue of Article 226 in the affairs of the co-operative societies. No court has the powers in the writ jurisdiction. It is an independent and autonomous in nature. No co-operative officer's order can be challenged in a writ petition. The orders of a Sub-Registrar or District Registrar or the top co-operative cannot be challenged

Then, it has the greatest concern for the community cooperatives. While focussing on the needs of the members, the cooperative work for sustainable development of communities through policies accepted by the members. So, I would say that this piece of legislation is an important one. It may suffer one or two lacunae here and there, but we should not mind that and we should not precipitate that. It is a welcome measure and I support this Bill.

When I was going through the Second Schedule of the Bill, I was not able to find out any national cooperative society from Tamil Nadu or from Channai. The list includes Mumbai and Delhi. Tamil Nadu is a pioneer in cooperatives and we all know that. We have a large cooperative housing society and we have a big cooperative bank. So, it should be developed to the level of national cooperative societies like that of the Anand Dairy or some other cooperative organisation. I would say that this society alone can enrol members irrespective of gender, caste, religion, etc. There is no such discrimination at all. I would say that the cooperative societies are cooperating with the community.

Sir, you have said that we have a multi-party Government and we have a multi-party system. Earlier, we had one party rule, but now we have different parties ruling. So, cooperative societies are setting examples for good functioning of the Government. In that way, the Government has brought forward this Bill for the benefit of the whole country.

Regarding education and cooperation among cooperatives, I would say this. There is a cooperation among

cooperatives also, which is not there in any other field. All the different cooperative societies are cooperating in a unified way. We have the largest weavers' society in Kancheepuram. We also have the largest society of housing. We have a small lawyers' society in Chennai High Court. Every member has got the unit of his own to serve. In that way, this Bill will enable the cooperative movement to grow. This will also enable and protect the cooperative movement to sustain itself with the members' will.

Will these words, I thank you very much and I welcome this Bill.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH) It is very heartening to note that hon. Members from each and every party have supported this Bill. It is not surprising because this Bill has been brought forward since most political parties wanted it. Many cooperators also wanted this Bill. In fact, it has been overdue and it should have been passed long ago.

I am happy that this Session is going to see the passage of this Bill; it is going to be a historic Session for this reason that it is going to pass this Bill.

Further more, Chowdhary Braham Perkash Committee, then Mirdha Committee and then the Standing Committee had gone over this Bill. So, there are a very few contentious issues left; most of them have been sorted out.

19.24 hrs.

[SHRI P.H. PANDIAN *In the Chair*]

That is another reason why all the Members have wholeheartedly supported it. But there are some apprehensions and some questions that have been revised. I will try to answer them.

Shri, Shivraj Patil has initiated the debate and he raised many questions. Most Members have raised those questions and some other questions also. The first one is this. I would like to clear the misapprehension that Shri Patil has, that there is a restriction on having more than one cooperative with the same objective and with the same geographical area. That clause has been deleted and there is no restriction in having more than one cooperative in one area with the same objective. In fact, we want to encourage more cooperatives to come. In fact, if I may add, the Milk Reservation Order also has been removed by the Government so that more milk cooperatives can operate in the same geographical area.

Shri Shivraj Patil and some other Members have raised a question about the insurance cooperatives and the cooperative banks. Under the proposed Bill, the control of the Central Registrar of the Government is limited to registration of a society etc. A question was raised about the duality of control. So, in case of cooperative banks the Registrar's authority is limited to the registration of a society, elections, audit and conduct of meetings, etc. Under the Banking Regulations Act of 1949, all the financial operations, the banking operations are regulated by the RBI. The RBI has also been given certain powers under the Multi-State Cooperative Act, that is the RBI can direct for amalgamation, division, winding up and suppression of the Board of Directors. Hence, RBI has got enough powers to regulate the cooperative banks, both under the BR Act as well as under this Multi-State Cooperative Act. So, the apprehension that the cooperative banks...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL (Latur) : The multi-State cooperative banks should not fall between the two. . . (Interruptions) We have just expressed our apprehension that they should be successful.

SHRI AJIT SINGH : I know. That is why I am saying this. But the banks have to operate under the RBI, whether they are cooperative banks or schedule banks. Therefore, the Registrar's action or control is very limited only because they are cooperatives. Since they are banks, they are to be regulated by the RBI. There is no getting away from that.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore) : But the RBI says that only with regard to policy decisions they have the power and nothing else.

SHRI AJIT SINGH : Yes. With regard to the multi-State Cooperative Insurance Societies, hon. Member, Shri Shivraj Patil has said that there is a lot of scope for the cooperatives to go to into that. So, the insurance societies can be registered as cooperative insurance societies after the Insurance Regulatory Authority (Amendment) Bill is passed. That Bill is still pending. At the moment the cooperatives are not allowed to undertake insurance business under the Insurance Regulatory Authority Act, 1999.

In fact, there are many multi-State cooperative banks operating. There are 31 of them which are urban cooperative banks and there is also one State Cooperative Bank in Goa which fall under the Multi-State Cooperatives Act.

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA (Contai) : In the West, there are many successful instances of cooperative societies working as Insurance companies.

SHRI AJIT SINGH : Under the Insurance Act they cannot act as the insurance cooperatives. Only when this Bill is passed, they can be registered as cooperatives. Maybe they are registered as societies.

Another big question which has been raised is about the reservation for the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes and women. I would like to mention that the whole idea behind this Bill is to offer freedom to the cooperatives. Since the mutuality of the members will collectively decide the nature of the Board of Directors, introducing artificial restrictions as to the representation on the management of the cooperatives may not be desirable. I would also like to mention that many of these multi-State cooperatives would be institution-based and not individual-based. If you make the reservation, those institutions which will be represented by the Chairman or the President may not have the number of Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe or women. So, it is not as simple as making reservations here.

I would also like to mention that Braham Perkash Committee did not recommend any reservation for the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes, women or OBCs in the management of the cooperative societies.

There may be co-operatives of woman only or Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes only. In fact, there are many women self-help groups being formed which may graduate and become co-operatives. So, putting any control over them and asking them what kind of directors they will have, would not be advisable. We are not prohibiting it. Any co-operative can have bylaws and could provide for any reservation which they want. All we are saying is that we are not going to impose it on them. But if the co-operative society is formed and if they want to have reservation, their bylaws can mention it and they can have the reservation done.

*[Translation]*

DR RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali) : The Standing Committee have recommended for reservation and why he is bent upon not accepting the recommendations of said Committee.

SHRI AJIT SINGH : Raghuvansh Prasad Ji, we are not bent upon not accepting it. I told you about a practical

difficulty that there are institutions based multi-State cooperatives whose apex body is the federation and vote of the Chairman of Member institutions of multi-State cooperatives will be cast here. If there is no provision of reservation in it how can it be enforced? It is one of the practical problems. Secondly, we are not denying.

*[English]*

Co-operative means people get together and decide what they want to do, how they want to do, and what kind of management they want. If you do not want any Government control and if we do not want any Government control, then let them decide. When they form a co-operative, let the bylaws mention that they want to have reservation for women or OBCs or Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes or any other social group or any other economic group. They are free to do that. That is the reason, we are not imposing reservation. We are not imposing it. Moreover, some small co-operatives may be formed in a village where there are no Scheduled Castes or Scheduled Tribes or OBCs. Why do you want to impose that they have to have it? As I said, There may be co-operatives solely of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. So, people get together for a certain purpose and for a certain objective. We want them to decide what kind of membership they will have and what kind of management they will have. That is the only reason. As I said, they are free to have the bylaws to have reservation. They can co-opt two members and if the directors decide, they can co-opt any one as a director who are two in number.

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA (Kolar) : If one third nomination is from the State or Centre, then the spirit of the movement of co-operatives will be defeated.

SHRI AJIT SINGH : I am coming to that point because that point was raised by hon. Shri Deve Gowda also. There was an apprehension that there will be too many Government Directors. The Bill provides that there can be at the most three Government Directors and there cannot be more than one-third of the total number of Directors whichever is less. If the Government shareholding is more than 51 per cent, its interests have to be represented by the Government nominees. Even in such cases, they are restricted to a maximum of three. If the Government holding is between 26 per cent and 51 per cent, then the maximum is two and if it is less than 26 per cent, only one nominee can be there. Even otherwise also, there cannot be more

than one-third of the total number of Directors. If there are six Directors and Government has 51 per cent shareholding, even then they cannot have more than two Directors. So, the apprehension that the Government nominees can dominate is not founded on facts. But if the Government has any shareholding that interest has to be represented by somebody and that is why this provision is there for having the Government nominees.

A mention was also made that we should change the Constitution so that this law can be applicable anywhere. We would like to do it by persuasion.

Recently there was a meeting of the Group of Ministers which was attended by seven Chief Ministers. They were very encouraging. Their resistance to change the cooperative laws seemed to be going away. Some hon. Members mentioned that the Brahm Praksh model law has not been enacted anywhere. I would like to mention that there are at least four States – Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir and Karnataka – which have enacted this law. I would like to compliment Bihar also which has a very good cooperative law. So, these States have already enacted the cooperative law. We would like to cajole and persuade other States also to do it. With so many States having done it, I am sure, persuasion is a better way of doing it. If you want to amend the Constitution for this purpose, this is something to be discussed in a different forum and not here.

We already have a National Policy on cooperatives which has been laid on the Table of the House and a Task Force has been formed to see how to implement this Policy and to make sure that the States do implement the model law.

Some questions were raised to know whether the Government's nominee can be the chairman of a cooperative society or not. Shri Deve Gowda raised this question. There is no bar. Since they are always in a minority, there is no danger that the Government would be able to impose its chairperson. The Chairperson's duties are not defined because it is up to the Directors or the decision making body to decide as to what functions they allow to their chairman or what powers they give him and what directions they give him. It is for the managing body to decide what specific jobs or powers they want to give to the Chairman.

Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh was concerned about the Government not giving money to the cooperatives

directly and why the States are supposed to interfere into it. That amendment to the NCDC is still pending here. When it comes up, it would answer most of the questions raised by him and the NCDC would be able to give money directly to the cooperatives without a State being there as an intermediary.

Some questions have also been raised about the disqualification of a Member. Some have praised it and some are against it. But the fact is that the problem that we have with cooperative in India today is that there are many members of cooperatives who do not even know that there are many members. They are being manipulated as Shri Shivraj Patil said. They are made members, but they are not taking part in the activities of the cooperatives and that is leading to all kinds of malpractices in the cooperatives. That is why what we are saying is that if a member does not attend three consecutive general body meetings or if he does not carry out the objective of the cooperatives, which is to help its members, or if he does not avail of the minimum level of services of the cooperative societies for two years, then there is no point in having him as a member. These are the members who facilitate all sorts of malpractices in the cooperatives because they are not even aware that they are members. Even if they are aware of it, they do not know what they have to do in order to be the members; and what are their rights and duties. So, it is necessary to make sure that the cooperatives function properly. People who come together know for what purpose they are there and if they cannot participate in the functioning of the cooperatives, there is no point in being their's as members.

We do not want a limited company where there are just shareholders; they are not active participants in the functioning of the company. Then there is no difference between a public limited company and a cooperative society. That is why this disqualification provision has been made.

The reason why a maximum of two consecutive terms have been fixed for a chairman is that this was there in the 1984 Act. It was done on the basis of the recommendation of the Chief Ministers. A meeting was also held here and they recommended this provision. One term used to be of three years maximum period earlier. Now we have raised it to five years. So, any Chairman can get up to ten years and the Government feels that it is enough time for any Chairman to run the cooperative as he wants.



[Shri Ajit Singh]

By changing and discontinuing for a term, may be a new thinking will come in and may be other people will get a chance. It always helps in an organisation which has an intention of bringing up new thinking and new blood. Nobody should be able to manipulate it for personal profit. That is why, this provision has been retained. It was in 1984 Act. It was put in the suggestions of the meeting of the Conference of Chief Ministers. As I said, from six years, the maximum time has been made to ten years. And we feel that ten years is enough time for any person to mould a co-operative society the way he wants to mould and achieve the objectives that he wants to achieve for the members of the co-operative society.

Disqualification is there. We have already mentioned that. At the end, I would like to say that an amendment has been moved about increasing the number of Directors. For a management to be effective, the number should be small. If a very large number of Directors vests all the powers in the Chairman, then the Directors become ineffective. Only a small group can really discuss things and participate in the management. If you make a very large group, then they cannot really be effective in managing any group. And we feel that 21 is not too small a number and too large a number. That is why, that number has been put there. I would request the hon. Member to withdraw his amendment when the time comes to move his amendment.

As regards co-option, we have already provided for co-option. Basically, co-option of two members has been provided to get the technical expertise. In many of these small co-operatives, the Directors may not have the expertise or the management expertise. So, that provision has been made that they can co-opt two members who can provide technical input to the working of the co-operative societies.

I would once again thank all the hon. Members who have participated in the debate. There have been minor differences. But at this point of time, I would request that, for a bigger cause, this Bill may be passed. This Bill has already been delayed for many years, not days or months. Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh asked as to why it has not been enacted since 1991. But now, let us not delay it any further for whatever reason. There is no point in blaming others on why it got delayed and which multinational or which multiparty Government was delaying it. There have been many Governments in the last ten years that delayed it. But let us not delay it further. It may not be perfect. Most

of the recommendations of the Standing Committee have been accepted. What Brahm Prakash Committee intended is part of the Bill. That is why, this Bill is here. I would request now to...

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : Please pass it as early as possible.

[English]

SHRI AJIT SINGH : My colleague has done the rest.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Mr. Chairman, Sir, my Amendment is that...

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : When you would move your amendment, you may speak.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : If put for voting, it would not be passed.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have already participated in the discussion.

SHRI AJIT SINGH : Sir, I have answered all the queries...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Minister has also replied.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Mr. Chairman, Sir, It was neither recommended by Ch. Brahm Prakash Committee, nor by the Standing Committee nor by Ram Niwas Mirdha Committee and none has prohibited anyone holding the post for more than two terms-nor it was mentioned in the original Bill. An Amendment has been brought at later stage. To nullify their amendment I had suggested that the rule should provide that...

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have already spoken the point.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Mr. Chairman, Sir, it will not be good. Putting restriction regarding 'not more than two terms' will do no good.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is:

"That the Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to co-operative societies, with objects not confined to one State and serving the interests of members in more than one State, to facilitate the voluntary formation and democratic functioning of co-operatives as people's institutions based on self-help and mutual aid and to enable them to promote their economic and social betterment and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, be taken into consideration."

*The motion was adopted.*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, the House will 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 3 Definitions

*Amendments made:*

Page 2, —

*omit lines 4 and 5.* (4)

Page 2, —

*omit lines 16 and 17.* (5)

(Shri Ajit Singh)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is:

"That clause 3, as amended, stand part of the Bill".

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 3, as amended, was added to the Bill*

*Clauses 4 to 6 were added to the Bill.*

#### Clause 7

#### Registration

*Amendment made:*

Page 4, --

*omit lines 32 and 33.* (6)

(Shri Ajit Singh)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is:

"That clause 7, as amended, stand part of the Bill".

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 7, as amended, was added to the Bill.*

*Clauses 8 to 40 were added to the Bill.*

#### Clause 41 Board of Directors

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri K.P. Singh Deo, are you moving your amendments?

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO (Denkanal) : Yes, I am moving the amendments.

I beg to move:

Page 17, line 3, --

*for "twenty-one"*

*substitute "thirty-one"* (37)

Page 17, --

*for lines 4 and 5*

*Substitute* "Provided further that the board may co-opt four directors who shall be from SCs, STs, OBCs and women, in addition to thirty-one directors specified in the first proviso." (38)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I shall now put amendment Nos. 37 and 38 moved by Shri K.P. Singh Deo to the vote of the House.

*The amendments were put and negatived.*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Ramdas Athawale, are you moving your amendments?

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur) : Yes, I am moving the amendments.

[Shri Ramdas Athawale]

I beg to move:

Page 17, line 3, --

for "twenty-one"

substitute "thirty-three" (39)

Page 17, --

for "Lines 4 and 5"

substitute "Provided further that the Board may co-opt 6 directors out of which 3 will be from Scheduled Castes and one each from Scheduled Tribe, Other Backward Classes and Women in addition to thirty-three directors specified in the first Proviso."

(40)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I shall now put amendment Nos. 39 and 40 moved by Shri Ramdas Athawale to the vote of the House.

*The amendments were put and negatived.*

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is:

"That clause 41 stand part of the Bill".

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 41 was added to the Bill.*

*Clauses 42 and 43 were added to the Bill.*

**Clause 44** Prohibition to hold office of chairperson or president or vice chair person or vice President in certain cases

MR. CHAIRMAN : Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, are you moving your amendment?

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali) : Yes, I am moving the amendment.

[Translation]

I beg to move—

that serial no. 7 of list no. 1 of amendments proposed by Shri Ajit Singh:-

(2) No member of a board shall be eligible to be elected as the Chairperson or president of a multi-State co-operative society, after he has held the office as such during two consecutive terms, whether full or partly, be deleted. (36)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : I shall now put amendment No. 36 moved by Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh to the vote of the House.

*The amendment was put and negatived.*

*Amendment made:*

Page 18, .

for lines 21 to 23, substitute —

"Prohibition to hold 44. (1) No. member of a board office of chairperson or president or vice-chairperson or or vice president in certain cases

(2) No member of a board shall be eligible to be elected as the chairperson or president of a multi-State co-operative society. After he has held the office as such during two consecutive terms, whether full or part:

Provided that a member who has ceased to hold the office of the chairperson or president continuously for one full term shall again be eligible for election to the office as such.

*Explanation —* Where any member holding the office of the chairperson or president at the commencement of this Act is again elected to that office after such commencement, he shall for the purpose of this section, be deemed to have held office for one term before such election." (7)

(Shri Ajit Singh)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is:

"That clause 44, as amended, stand part of the Bill"

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 44, as amended, was added to the Bill.*

*Clauses 45 to 69 were added to the Bill.*

#### Clause 70

*Amendment made: Appointment and remuneration of auditors*

**Page 25, for lines 42 and 43, – substitute**

"Provided that such auditor or auditors may be appointed from a panel of auditors approved by the Central Registrar or from a panel of auditors, if any, prepared by the multi-State co-operative society." (8)

(Shri Ajit Singh)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That clause 70, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 70, as amended, was added to the Bill.*

*Clauses 71 to 77 were added to the Bill.*

#### Clause 78

*Amendments made: Inquiry by Central Registrar*

**Page 29, line 49, --**

*for "one-tenth"*  
*substitute "one-fifth" (9)*

*Page 30, after line 2, insert--*

"Provided that no inquiry under this sub-section shall be held unless a notice of not less than fifteen days has been given to the multi-State cooperative society." (10)

(Shri Ajit Singh)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is:

"That clause 78, as amendment,  
stand part of the Bill"

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 78, as amended, was added to the Bill.*

#### Clause 79

*Amendments made: Inspection of multi-State Cooperative societies.*

**Page 30, lines 29,--**

*for "one-tenth"*  
*substitute "one-fifth" (11)*

**Page 30, line 31,--**

*for "hold"*  
*substitute "make" (12)*

**Page 30, after line 32 insert,--**

"Provided that no inspection under this sub-section shall be held unless a notice of not less than fifteen days has been given to the multi-State cooperative society." (13)

(Shri Ajit Singh)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is:

"That clause 79, as amendment, stand part of the Bill"

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 79, as amended, was added to the Bill.*

*Clauses 80 to 83 were added to the Bill.*

#### Clause 84 Reference of disputes

*Amendments made:*

**Page 32, line 18,--**

*for "referred to the Authority for decision"*  
*Substitute "referred to arbitration" (14)*

**Page 32, line 31,--**

*for "referred to the Authority"*  
*Substitute "referred to arbitration" (15)*

**Page 32, line 33,--**

*for "Authority"*  
*substitute "arbitrator" (16)*

**Page 32, after line 34, insert,--**

"(4) Where a dispute has been referred to arbitration under sub-section (1), the same shall be settled or decided by the arbitrator to be appointed by the Central Registrar."

(5) Save as otherwise provided under this Act, the provisions of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 shall apply to all arbitration under this Act as if the proceedings for arbitration were referred for settlement or decision under the provisions of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996." (17)

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(Shri Ajit Singh)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is:

"That clause 84, as amendment, stand part of the Bill"

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 84, as amended, was added to the Bill.*

#### **Clauses 85 to 102**

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is:

"That clauses 85 to 102 stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was negatived.*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Since clauses 85 to 102 were deleted from the Bill, the subsequent clauses may be re-numbered accordingly.

#### **Clause 103**

*Amendments made: Limitation*

Page 36, line 28,--

*for "referred to the Authority"*  
*substitute "referred to arbitration"* (18)

page 36, line 40,--

*for "referred to the Authority"*  
*substitute "referred to arbitration"* (19)

page 36, line 41,--

*for "Authority"*  
*substitute "arbitrator"* (20)

page 36, line 43,--

*for "Authority"*  
*substitute "arbitrator"* (21)

page 36, line 45,--

*for "Authority"*  
*substitute "arbitrator"* (22)

(Shri Ajit Singh)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is:

"That clause 103, as amendment, stand part of the Bill"

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 103, as amended, was added to the Bill.*

*Clauses 104 to 111 were added to the Bill.*

#### **Clause 112**

*Amendments made: Executive of decisions etc.*

**Page 39, line 37,--**

*omit "or the Authority"* (23)

Page 39, line 47,--

*omit "or the Authority"* (24)

(Shri Ajit Singh)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is:

"That clause 112, as amendment, stand part of the Bill"

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 112, as amended, was added to the Bill.*

*Clause 113 was added to the Bill.*

#### **Clause 114**

*Amendments made: Attachment before award*

**page 40, line 9,--**

*for "Authority"*  
*substitute "arbitrator"* (25)

page 40, line 14,--

*for "Authority"*  
*substitute "arbitrator"* (26)

(Shri Ajit Singh)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is:

"That clause 114, as amended, stand part of the Bill"

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 114, as amended, was added to the Bill.*

page 47, line 38,--

**Clause 115**

*Amendments made: Central Registrar or Authority or person authorised to be civil Court for certain purposes.*

*for "one year"*  
*substitute "six months"* (32)

page 47, line 40,--

*for "two years"*  
*substitute "one year"* (33)

page 40--

*for line 19, substitute—*

"115. The Central Registrar or the arbitrator or any person authorised by him in" (27)

Page 40, line 22,--

*omit "or it"* (28)

Page 47, after line 40, insert--

"Provided that in the case of a cooperative bank, the provisions of this sub-section shall have effect as if for the words "one year", the words "two years" had been substituted." (34)

(Shri Ajit Singh)

(Shri Ajit Singh)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That clause 115, as amended, stand part of the Bill"

"That clause 141, as amended, stand part of the Bill"

*The motion was adopted.*

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 115, as amended, was added to the Bill.*

*Clause 141, as amended, was added to the Bill.*

*Clauses 116 to 135 were added to the Bill.*

**Clause 142**

**Clause 136**

*Amendments made: Power to make rules*

*Amendments made: Indemnity*

**Page 48, line 39,--**

page 46, line 40,--

*omit "Authority or"* (29)

*for "section 139"*  
*substitute "section 39"* (35)

page 46, line 41,--

*omit "its or"* (30)

(Shri Ajit Singh)

(Shri Ajit Singh)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That clause 142, as amended, stand part of the Bill"

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 142, as amended, was added to the Bill.*

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That clause 136, as amended, stand part of the Bill"

*Clauses 143 and 144 were added to the Bill.*

*The motion was adopted.*

*The First Schedule and the Second Schedule were added to the Bill.*

*Clause 136, as amended, was added to the Bill.*

*Clauses 137 to 140 were added to the Bill*

**Clause 1**

**Clause 141**

*Amendments made: Short title, extent and Commencement.*

*Amendments made: Supersession of board of Specified multi state Cooperative society*

Page 1, line 4,--

page 47, line 33,--

*for "141" substitute "140"* (31)

*for "2000"*  
*substitute "2002"* (3)

(Shri Ajit Singh)

**20.00 hrs.**

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is:

"That clause 1, as amended, stand part of the Bill"

*The motion was adopted.**Clause 1, as amended, was added to the Bill.***Enacting Formula***Amendments made: Enacting Formula*

Page 1, line 1,--

*for "Fifty-first Year"**substitute "Fifty-third Year" (2)*

(Shri Ajit Singh)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is:

"That the Enacting Formula, as amended, stand part of the Bill"

*The motion was adopted.**The Enacting Formula, as amended, was added to the Bill.***Long Title***Amendments made: Long Title*

That in the Long Title,--

*for "social betterment"**Substitute "Social betterment and to provide functional autonomy". (1)*

(Shri Ajit Singh)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is:

"That the Long Title, as amended, stand part of the Bill"

*The motion was adopted.**The Long Title, as amended, was added to the Bill.*

SHRI AJIT SINGH : Sir, 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.**[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, shall we take up item no 12?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Opposition has cooperated with us to pass this Bill today itself. So, I leave it to them.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL (Latur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, we can take it up tomorrow.

MR. CHAIRMAN : All right. We will take it up tomorrow.

**20.02 hrs.**

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, May 7, 2002/  
Vaisakha 17, 1924 (Saka)*

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