

# **LOK SABHA DEBATES**

## **(English Version)**

**Sixth Session**  
**(Thirteenth Lok Sabha)**



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# LOK SABHA DEBATES

## LOK SABHA

11.02 hrs.

## ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Wednesday, March 7, 2001/Phalgun 16, 1922 (Saka)

[English]

(The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock)

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, riots took place in Sambhal on the occasion of Id. For two hours local administration could not do anything there....(Interruptions)... It is a very serious issue.

MR. SPEAKER: You may raise this issue in Zero hour, this is Question Hour.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Sambhal): We don't want to put any question.

MR. SPEAKER: If you want to ask any question it should be relevant to the question raised in the House.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Deliberate efforts have continuously been made to cause riots in our area. We don't blame the Local administration. It has worked properly. But how far is it appropriate not to allow them to make a ritual sacrifice which is traditional. It was said that if they make a ritualistic sacrifice, they will be shot and when they did it they were shot at killing two people.

MR. SPEAKER: Kindly raise this issue in Zero Hour.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Murderers are being favoured....(Interruptions)... Prime Minister is sitting in the House and we will ask him to tell his partymen that we don't want riots. I request that rupees five lakhs be paid to the dependents of each of the deceased persons and kindly direct your party workers not to favour the murderers by doing 'Gheron' of the police station and do anything which may lead to riots. Kindly favour us with these two things. It is our request to kindly give directions to maintain peace there.

## Visit of Li Peng

\*141. DR. B.B. RAMAIAH:  
SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the bilateral and multilateral issues discussed with Chinese leader Li Peng who had visited India recently;

(b) the details thereof, issue-wise;

(c) the details of agreements signed on the occasion;

(d) whether disagreement persists between the two countries on the border demarcation;

(e) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken to narrow down the differences on this score; and

(f) the efforts being made to establish harmonious relationship between the two countries?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (f) A Statement is placed on the Table of the House.

## Statement

*Visit of Li Peng, Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National Peoples' Congress (NPC) of China to India, 9 to 17 January, 2001*

Mr. Li Peng, Chairman of the National Peoples' Congress, during his official visit to India from 9 to 17 January, 2001 had frank and cordial discussions with our leadership on bilateral relations. He described the primary objective of his visit as the promotion of friendship and cooperation with India in which context, inter-alia he said:

China places emphasis on maintaining good-neighbourly relations with India; that China does not pose a threat to its neighbours; and does not view India as a threat; also that China wishes to see a prosperous, developed and strong India and welcomes a more active role by India in regional and International affairs.

Mr. Li Peng expressed a view that China desires to expand trade and economic cooperation with India.

He emphasised that there was need to enhance mutual trust and understanding, and that the common ground between our two countries far outweighs the differences, also that unresolved problems in our relations should not become impediments to the expansion of our relationship.

Prime Minister and other leaders reiterated Government's commitment to developing friendly and good-neighbourly relations with China on the basis of Panchsheel and mutual sensitivity to each other's concerns. The boundary question was discussed in broad terms. During discussions with Mr. Li Peng, it was also agreed that recent development represented progress and marked a good beginning. We have proposed that this process of LAC clarification should be expedited.

Our concerns regarding international and cross border terrorism were conveyed to Mr. Li Peng. He said that China condemns international terrorism in all forms.

We exchanged views on the international situation in general and agreed upon the desirability of a multi-polar world.

Mr. Li Peng said that cooperation between India and China will benefit peace and stability in the region and the world.

It has been agreed to establish Parliamentary Friendship Group in both Parliaments.

No specific bilateral agreement was signed during the visit.

The Government's principled approach is based on the premise that good-neighbourly relations with China are to mutual benefit. This high-level dialogue with China has led to an overall improvement in our bilateral relationship. We believe that the two countries must solve all problems through dialogue, in a fair and reasonable manner, to the satisfaction of both countries, and with due sensitivity to each other's concerns.

DR. B.B. RAMAIAH. Hon. Speaker, Sir, with reference to India-China trade relations, I would like to mention one thing...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Today, attendance in the House is very thin. What is the reason?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI: That way, we have more time....(Interruptions) There are so many holidays....(Interruptions)

DR. B.B. RAMAIAH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, with reference to Indo-China relations, there are a number of issues. We have trade relations and other things which should be improved. I am just wondering how the discussion went on about technology, commerce and industry between these two countries. Also, in respect of Indo-China trade issues, I would like to know whether the delegations have been given any assignment in respect of any of these things. We need to have a lot of improvements in this sphere. The trade is so small between these two big countries. I am just wondering how the Minister could tell us about these things.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the question really relates to the visit of Mr. Li Peng, Chairman of the National People's Congress. But mindful of the hon. Member's justified concern about developing trade between India and China, I would attempt to answer the essentials of it.

As the hon. Member knows, we have a specific Grouping, which is the Joint Working Group on Trade and Commerce. Secondly, the trade in the last year between our two countries has grown from roughly \$ 1.9 billion to \$ 2.9 billion. I am not giving the exact figure. But it is from roughly \$ 1.9 billion to \$ 2.9 billion. The hon. Member might be interested in knowing one thing. They should set at rest a great deal of misapprehension and canard that is spread about dumping of Chinese goods in India.

Exports from India to China has grown by 63 per cent whereas Chinese exports to India, in the same period, has grown only by roughly 36 and odd per cent — it might be 36 or 33 per cent. But it has grown at about half the rate at which India's export to China has grown. So, this is complete misapprehension.

The Government is very mindful also about the Anti-Dumping Regulations. I do not think the volume of trade, having grown from 1.9 billion dollars to 2.9 billion dollars, is really not satisfactory, given the size of the two countries and the economies of the two country. The Government is fully seized of it and addressing this issue very purposefully.

DR. B.B. RAMAIAH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is one serious issue about which I would like to ask. The Nepal-China Treaty is really causing more dumping of goods in this country. Even the small-scale sector is affected severely. It may not be directly affecting the trade between

China and India but indirectly it is causing a big damage. Is there any possibility to prevent it? Has any criteria been developed regarding settlement of border issue?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are two separate aspects to it. One relates to the bilateral relations between Nepal and China, which really does not arise. Nevertheless, I address myself to the hon. Member's concern. The other relates to the overall boundary question that we really have with China.

So far as the question of trade that Nepal conducts with the People's Republic of China and the hon. Member's apprehension that some of those goods given the open nature of Indo-Nepalese border tend to find their way into Indian market are concerned, the Government is aware of this and this particular aspect has consistently been discussed with His Majesty's Government in Nepal. But this does not really arise from it. But on a subsequent occasion, we would have an opportunity to discuss the Demands for Grants for the Ministry of External Affairs. Then, there is no doubt, we would be able to satisfy the hon. Member.

On the question of a larger boundary aspect, as the hon. Member would, no doubt, be aware, there has been, to my mind, significant progress in this regard. When I had visited the people's Republic of China in 1999, I had proposed to my distinguished counterpart and colleague, His Excellency, the Foreign Minister, Tang-Jiaxuan. The progress on the Line of Actual Control is not satisfactory and we should give it a push. Thereafter, in the year 2000, I have made a formal proposal to him by writing to him and saying that we should expedite it. When he visited India in the month of June last year, then a decision was taken that on the Line of Actual Control in the middle sector, on a designated scale of maps, the two countries will exchange maps. That, as the hon. Member knows, has already taken place. This is the first time ever that the two countries have exchanged maps on the Line of Actual Control in the middle sector.

During His Excellency, Li Peng's visit, he also found an occasion to say that this should be resolved and the clarification of the Line of Actual Control expedited.

SHRI R.L. BHATIA: I would like to know from the hon. Minister, the Chinese mind has been very much exercised by the presence of Karmapa Lama in India, who escaped from Tibet surreptitiously. I would like to know whether any discussion took place with Li Peng in this regard. I would also like to know what diplomatic advantage we can have by keeping Lama here.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Sir, as far as the first point made by the hon. Member is concerned, it is a suggestion made by him about the presence or otherwise of Karmapa. As far as the other question whether any discussion took place between His Excellency Mr. Li Peng and the Prime Minister or the President during his visit about Karmapa Lama is concerned, I would like to inform that no such discussion took place. As regards the hon. Member's opinion that the Chinese mind is considerably troubled by this, it is his opinion. We have not experienced that trouble so far.

SHRI R.L. BHATIA: What is the diplomatic advantage that we have by keeping him here while the man has escaped from Tibet?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Sir, it is not a question of diplomatic advantage or disadvantage. After full consideration of the issue, the Government has granted him a refugee status, but there are restrictions placed as to where he can or cannot go. It is an age-old tradition of India that those who seek refuge in India are not ordinarily turned away. There are some questions that arise from the manner and method of his leaving Tibet and arriving in India, but the Government is fully seized of this issue and after having examined the issue in its totality, the Government has taken a stand, which is entirely justifiable.

[*Translation*]

SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the issue of border is linked with Tibet. I would like to know from the Hon'ble Minister whether India has ever discussed the Tibet issue with them? Secondly, as Shri Bhatia ji has said, Dalai Lama and Karmapa have come here. Whether their arrival makes the situation some what clear? Under such situation we have taken their responsibility and the responsibility of Tibet comes automatically. I would like to know from the Hon'ble Minister as to what kind of discussions were held over this situation and whether the Government of India had discussions with them on this?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, India's thinking over the issue of Tibet is clear and it has been clear from the very beginning. Tibet in itself is an autonomous region of China. Not only today but for decades we have been of this opinion and the Government still holds the same opinion.

So far as the question of having any discussion during the visit of honourable Li Peng over the issue of Tibet is concerned, no discussion has been held. I have already given the reply over the issue of Karmapa.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon'ble Minister has said that we are alert. But today we are not alert but concerned. I would like to give two examples regarding this. The way Chinese goods are being dumped in India is causing unemployment and threat to our industries. I would like to give one example of Bhadoi also. Chinese carpets are being purchased by the common man taking into consideration their price and quality. The carpets of Bhadoi have been considered so fine and durable that they are being used in the White House of America. The carpet industry is in danger. The export of Bhadoi carpets alone has come down to 50%. Sir, similarly the Glass industries particularly of Firozabad are in danger. Kindly review and examine the situation. Thirdly due to the dumping of Chinese toys, poor people are facing the problem of unemployment. You may keep good relations with China, you may maintain good commercial relations with it. We are not against it. As you have replied there could be differences over the issue of Border. Whenever this issue and foreign policy will be discussed in the House, we will convey our feelings.

This is a very serious and sensitive issue and we are neither in favour of giving light replies nor having nominal discussion over this issue. It is a very serious issue and we are aware of the prestige of our country. It is a separate issue. I am giving three examples. So far as the Toys and carpets of Bhadoi are concerned....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Mulayam Singh ji, other Members have also to ask questions.

[English]

They are raising their hands.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: You have said that we are alert. Now you have to be concerned. How you will save the carpet industry of Bhadoi and Toys industry? Today we have sufficient stock of glass. I am just giving an example of Firozabad. I have got full information about Uttar Pradesh and all our Hon'ble Members must also be aware of it. How will you check it? How you will protect these industries? When the Britishers were ruling India, they had to enact a law in 1817 to prohibit the entry of such kind of Indian goods in London....(Interruptions) The art of our country is being destroyed. We want to ask one thing how do you propose to stop that process?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, although this question does not arise out of the original question.

Since the hon'ble Member has expressed his concern, it is my duty to give clarifications on behalf of the Government. I have given some data regarding the trade between India and China which has increased from 1.9 billion dollars to 2.9 billion dollars during the last year. Exports from India has increased by 63% while China's exports to India has just increased to 36%. Hon'ble Member has said that import from China has adversely effected the carpets, Toys and Glass industry of Firozabad. Question regarding toys was also asked earlier and the Commerce Minister and the Finance Minister conducted a complete inquiry about it. Perhaps, they also gave some figures to make it clear that this thing has not happened due to the imports from China. There could be a possibility that some shops in big cities might have brought such kind of toys. There could also be possibility that these toys might have come via Nepal or some other place. But this is not a fact that this thing has happened due to imports from China....(Interruptions)...

SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV: Goods are being smuggled from China....(Interruptions)

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Jagdambi Babu is Senior to me but I want to inform him that smuggling of goods is not taking place from China. Government is vigilant if there is smuggling of goods from any other place. So far as the question of carpets, glass, and toys is concerned Government is not only alert but also feels its responsibility and the Government will pay full attention to it. We will be able to find some solution to this problem. When discussions over the budget will take place then the Hon'ble Minister will surely satisfy the Members by giving full facts.

[English]

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Mr. Li-Peng's visit to India is very much welcome because of the fact that we, the Indian people, would like to have good friendly and good neighbourly relations with China. You had long discussions with him regarding our border dispute. It is also a fact that border dispute is the main hurdle in easing the relations between India and China.

You have mentioned that the boundary question was discussed in broad terms. I would like to know, through you, from the hon. Minister as to what are those broad terms.

Secondly, you had also discussed with Mr. Li-Peng the issue of cross-border terrorism. If so, had you suggested any positive steps or action to China regarding cross-border terrorism? What was his reaction thereto?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member has enquired about two aspects. He wanted to know that when the border question was discussed in broad terms, what did it mean. I am afraid, I can only say that it was discussed in broad terms. I really cannot say anything more than that. That was precisely how it had been discussed.

His Excellency Mr. Li-Peng is the Chairman of the People's Congress. He does not any longer hold any executive office. As you know, his visit was really a visit on inter-Parliamentary basis. He is certainly one of the most respected and senior Members of the Chinese political hierarchy. He has been Prime Minister of China twice. It was a stand alone visit to India. It was an eight-day long visit. Mr. Li-Peng had lauded the visit while he was present here. When he went back, he had described it as a landmark event and a highly successful visit.

When it came over to the Line of Actual Control and the boundary question between India and China, he had discussions with the Prime Minister. Then, I called on him. There were also other discussions. The Line of Actual Control only was discussed in broad terms. The only specific reference that came up was that we should attempt to resolve this issue, and not let the matter stand as any kind of an issue between India and China.

The question of terrorism had also featured. His Excellency Mr. Li-Peng said that he, in China was opposed to terrorism, and would stand and cooperate with international action in this regard.

[*Translation*]

If you kindly permit me, I would like to answer the question asked by Shri Mulayam Singh. The imports with regard to toys and sports materials from China as compared to other countries stand at the 44th place.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: I have said that China is providing its goods at cheaper rates. Don't go over the data provided by the officials. Toys and other materials are being smuggled into India via Nepal. The Chinese goods are being smuggled through Nepal.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: That it is cheaper is a different issue. Similarly the imports from China in respect of Glass and textiles are placed at 13th and 26th place respectively. Shri Mulayam Singh ji when the discussion over the Budget will commence we will satisfy you fully. When the goods are coming via Nepal then this issue is not related with China but with Nepal.

[*English*]

### Earthquake in Gujarat

\*142. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI:  
SHRI SHIVAJI MANE:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated loss of lives and property due to recent earthquake in Gujarat;

(b) whether due to shortage of equipment, hundreds of lives could not be saved in time;

(c) if so, whether the Government have fixed any responsibility in this regard;

(d) whether the Union Government have also deputed Central Team to the State of Gujarat for making assessment of loss;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) the details of Central assistance provided to Government of Gujarat against their demand in addition to calamity relief fund alongwith the quantum of donations/ financial assistance received so far within and outside the country;

(g) whether any foolproof mechanism has been evolved for proper monitoring of the relief and rehabilitation process;

(h) if so, the details thereof; and

(i) the measures taken/proposed to be taken for such eventuality in future?

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

### Statement

(a) The State Government has reported loss of more than 19800 human lives and estimated the damage, based on preliminary assessment, at about Rs. 21,000 crore.

(b) and (c) It was a calamity of unprecedented magnitude which caused large-scale damage to houses over extensive areas in Gujarat and also resulted in the break-down of vital infrastructure. Despite physical limitations, rescue and relief operation was started immediately by State officials. Armed Forces and Para Military Forces were also deployed for assisting in the operations. Foreign teams with sniffer dogs have also helped in search and rescue operations.

(d) and (e) An Inter-Ministerial Central Team is visiting the affected areas in the State tentatively from 6th March, 2001 for an on the spot assessment of the damage and assistance required by the State Government.

(f) Immediate assistance of Rs. 500 crore from the National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) has been released. As per reports received by this Ministry, the other State Governments and Union Territory Administrations have provided financial assistance amounting to about Rs. 48.68 crore. The other countries and International organisations have contributed assistance of about Rs. 175.00 crore, besides relief in the form of rescue teams, medical assistance, etc.

(g) and (h) The State Government has set up the Gujarat State Disaster Management Authority for coordinating and overseeing all rehabilitation and reconstruction programmes. A separate Department for earthquake relief has also been set up by the State. Senior Officers have been made incharge for coordinating relief.

(i) All the State Governments including Gujarat in seismic zones IV & V have been advised to update their Contingency Action Plan and take appropriate measures with emphasis on preparedness and public awareness.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Member, I think, we had a lengthy discussion on this matter in the House recently.

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI: Sir, that day, the lottery had been taken from the BJP only.

Sir, we have discussed the Gujarat Earthquake issue many times, but still there is no consolidation to many of the people. The loss of life that has been stated is 19,800. But in addition to that the number of people injured is more than 1.66 lakhs. They are also disabled and are also to be treated as invalid. The loss due to damage of property so far is being estimated at Rs. 21,000 crore. The relief that has been received so far from the Government of India is Rs. 500 crore; NCCF— Rs. 85 crore; Prime Minister's Relief Fund — Rs. 10 crore; from various States— Rs. 49 crore; and from various international agencies it is Rs. 175 crore. All put together it is around 3.5 per cent of the total estimated loss. If this is the case, how can we build again the earthquake area and bring it to normalcy?

I would like to know from the hon. Minister, how much time it will take to rebuild it. It is a very serious problem. The hon. Minister should be able to answer my question as to when he could be able to bring normalcy in those areas.

Sir, a team was expected to reach there yesterday, the 6th of March. I hope the team had gone there. I would also like to know when it is expected to submit the report and how they are formulating to rebuild the earthquake areas and bring people to work.

*[Translation]*

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, so far as the financial assistance is concerned, it is the total relief given so far. NCCF had announced a relief of Rs. 500 crores which had already been released. Keeping in view the drought situation in Gujarat, an amount of Rs. 85 crore was also released earlier. Rupees 10 crores has been given from the Prime Minister relief fund. A total amount of about Rs. 49 crore has been received from various States. Roughly it was estimated that assistance to the tune of Rs. 175 crore was received from foreign countries and immediately sent there. The Government of Gujarat has given its memorandum to the Central Government. On the basis of this memorandum a Central team has reached there on 6th of March. This team will evaluate the situation from 6th March to 9th March. The decision for giving further relief will be taken only after taking the stock of the total loss suffered there.

*[English]*

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI: Sir, the hon. Minister has replied what I have stated in my question. There are so many rumours being floated that another earthquake is predicted on 10th March. It is creating panic there among the people. Sir, you might have seen the report and today also there is a wide report that another earthquake is being predicted.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister, what action he is going to take on these predictors who are creating panic among the people by spreading rumours. The hon. Minister of Home Affairs of Gujarat has stated that the disaster due to earthquake is mainly man-made because 79 buildings totally collapsed, 18 buildings partially damaged and totally 97 buildings got damaged. It is reported:

"It was a man-made disaster in Ahmedabad, Hiren Pandiya, Home Minister stated."

I would like to know from the hon. Minister what action is being initiated on this man-made disaster.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Murthy, please do not create panic in the House and straightaway ask your supplementary.

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI: Sir, I would like to know whether Prime Minister's Food Scheme would be made liberally available to all those affected people, at least in the Gujarat area. Many people have to be encouraged. The Municipal Corporation of Delhi has stated that a 100-bed hospital will be built and like that. I would like to know when they are going to bring people back to normalcy by inviting people and what action they are going to take on these man-made disasters.

[*Translation*]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, nobody can say anything about rumours. Scientifically it is not possible to forecast about earthquake. People make different comments on it. I am not able to clarify it. Hon'ble member has mentioned about man made disaster. So far as the quality of building construction is concerned due to which buildings collapsed, the Government of Gujarat has taken action in this regard and many cases have been registered. About 40 persons have been arrested. The Government of Gujarat is taking action in this regard expeditiously.

As far as the question of bringing normalcy is concerned, temporary shelters are being provided to the people and action is also being taken for their permanent rehabilitation. For this purpose, an authority has been constituted under the chairmanship of the Chief Minister of Gujarat and a rehabilitation package has been announced by pooling all the resources. They are taking action expeditiously in this regard. Various ministries of the Government of India are cooperating in it. Various types of relief has been announced in this year's budget for Gujarat.

SHRI SHIVAJI MANE: Hon'ble Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Ministry of Urban Development, Government of India had announced possibility of earthquake in Bhuj and its neighbouring areas in 1997 about which the ministry had informed the Central Government and the Government of Gujarat. I would like to know from the hon'ble minister that on receiving this information what steps had been taken by the Union Government at that time? Whether the Government has received that report of 1997 or not?

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, building construction code is already there and the Minister of Urban Development has also stated that the States were warned about it. In spite of all these things, that code has not been implemented properly. It is being said by the whole country. The Government came to know about this fact when earthquake occurred in Gujarat. Now action is being taken keeping this fact in mind. The houses should be constructed according to the set standard and more emphasis should be on quality.

SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA: Hon'ble Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have discussed the Gujarat earthquake issue in this House but being a Gujarati, I would like to say that on 26th January 2001 when earthquake hit Gujarat, the Central Government and the Government of Gujarat acted earnestly. Financial assistance is being given to the rehabilitation package. As the hon'ble minister has told that a study group has reached there on 6th of March. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister as to what is the criteria for sending this study group?

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to tell that during the last three years, Gujarat has suffered a heavy loss due to natural calamities. Earlier, Surat faced flood situation and upto 20 inch rainfall was recorded in Kamawati but nothing had been done for that. Through you, I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister as to what is the criteria for sending the Central team there and what improvement he would like to make in this regard?

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, besides to a leader there are 18 representatives in the said study group. This team will take full stock of the earthquake hit areas in Gujarat. This team has been sent there keeping in view the memorandum about loss submitted by the Government of Gujarat. On the basis of the report of this team, additional assistance will be given to Gujarat from N.C.C.F.

SHRI DINSHA PATEL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Minister has told in his reply that a loss of Rs. 21,000/- crore has occurred there. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister the quantum of relief amount which the Government of Gujarat has demanded because Gujarat has been facing drought situation for the last three years. The people of entire Gujarat, particularly Kutch region, are facing the problem of drinking water. Two years ago, a cyclone hit Kandla in which 3000 houses of the poor people were collapsed. At that time, the Government had promised to construct 3000 houses there but even after such a long time only 240 houses have been constructed and that too have not been given to the affected people. The Government is saying that they would construct the houses and a Central team has gone there yesterday and it would come back on 9th of March. It has just been told that an amount of Rs. 723 crore has been provided for this purpose. I would like to submit that the amount of Rupees seven hundred crore is a meagre amount in the situation where a loss of Rs. 21 thousand crores is estimated. How much money has been demanded by the State Government? A lot of relief material is available there but proper distribution has not been done. People want to live with self respect and they want to get loan at low rates of interest. Is the



Government considering to give them loan at low rates of interest or not? They want to construct their houses. But the Government gives only Rs. 30,000/- to those people whose entire house has been collapsed while Rs. 30,000/- are spent only for removing debris. Rs. 15,000/- are given to those whose house has been destroyed partially which is not sufficient. Is an amount of Rs. 30,000/- sufficient for construction of a house? How much money has been demanded by the Government of Gujarat and the time by which this amount will be given. How much money has been contributed to Prime Minister relief fund and how much money has been released out of this fund?

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, a reference was made about it when discussion was held in the House on this issue. But now the hon'ble member has desired to know about it, so I repeat it. The Government of Gujarat has demanded an assistance of Rs. 8,318 crore and 79 lacs in its memorandum submitted to the Government of India. In this financial year the Government of Gujarat will require Rs. 5,500 crore for housing, Rs. 649.24 crore for emergency relief and rest for education, power, roads and building, health, irrigation, water supply, administrative building, agriculture and industries etc. This will amount to Rs. 2775 crore which the Government has also mentioned in its memorandum and keeping this in view, a Central team has gone there.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, the hon. Member is asking whether any loan facility is to be provided for the construction of houses.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: The Government of Gujarat has announced a rehabilitation package also and every thing has been mentioned in it....(Interruptions)

SHRI DINSHA PATEL (Kaira): The people of Gujarat want to get loan at low rate of interest. Many packages have been announced so far. Four packages have been there so far but not even a single package has been distributed in time. I am asking about loan....(Interruptions)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government of Gujarat has announced four packages for reconstruction, particularly for construction of houses after dividing the entire area into four parts. I think the hon'ble Members must be having its details. It was discussed during the debate. The Government has also made an announcement about the temporary shelters for the people of Kutch, Bhuj, Bachau and Rapar where damage is extensive. It has also announced other reliefs. So far as

the assurances given at the time of earlier cyclone are concerned, I do not have information about it at this time. I will inform you about it later on.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: That is not necessary please.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): He has asked a different question. His question is altogether different. His question is this. How much had the Gujarat Government asked for, how much they gave, and what is the loan?...(Interruptions) There are is a confusion here.

MR. SPEAKER: It is already there in the reply also.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: He has asked about the loan. The Minister is not replying to that.

MR. SPEAKER: Sometimes, the Members are not going through the replies given by the Ministers also. It is already there in the reply:

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have mentioned about the amount they have asked for in their memorandum. We have announced about their total requirement this year and it has also been announced that the amount which will be required from the Central Government, after coming back the central team here, will be given from N.C.C.F. The required amount will be given from the Funds of various ministries of the Central Government also.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Ramdas Athawale, please speak.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, question no. 160.

MR. SPEAKER: Not on question no. 160, speak on this question only.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Gujarat has suffered a heavy loss due to earthquake. My question is that the Government is going to reconstruct four lakh houses, how much amount the State Government is having now for that and the Central Government has announced Rs. 1500 crore for the completion of its plan.

MR. SPEAKER: Your question relates to the children who have become orphan. So stick to that only.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, many children have become orphan after the earthquake hit Gujarat. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister the total number of children who have become orphan and whether the Government has any scheme

for their adoption or not? The hon'ble Minister has mentioned in his reply that he had ordered the State Government to rehabilitate the orphans and to give them relief which was due. The relatives of some of these children may not be able to adopt them. So, I would like to submit to the Government that some specific arrangements may be made for them and their adoption scheme may be implemented properly. What is the total number of orphans and what programmes are being implemented by the Government for their adoption?  
...(Interruptions)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: This relate to question No. 160 which has not been asked from me....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Athawale ji please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, the hon. Member has raised the question with your permission. The answer should come from the appropriate Minister....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Madam, would you like to respond?

...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): Sir, no directive has been issued by the Ministry to the State Government of Gujarat regarding adoption of children who have become orphaned. However, the Ministry has advised the State Government and we have taken out advertisements in the papers also saying that steps should be taken to rehabilitate all affected children with their surviving relatives and adoption should be resorted to only as a last measure.

As far as I can tell you, informally, only about 400 children have been identified so far. There are a large number of requests from their relatives to adopt them.

[Translation]

#### Restructuring of CBI

\*143. SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY:  
SHRI C.N. SINGH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to restructure the existing set up of the Central Bureau of Investigation in order to dispose of the large number of cases lying pending for investigation;

(b) if so, the details of the cases pending with C.B.I. for investigation during the last three years; and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken to dispose of all the cases within a definite time frame?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (c) A statement is placed on the Table of the House.

#### Statement

(a) and (b):

1. The Government had constituted an Independent Review Committee on 8th September, 1997 inter alia to examine the structure and working of the CBI. The report of the said Committee was considered by the Supreme Court in the case of Vineet Narain and others Versus Union of India. The Supreme Court in its judgement dated 18.12.1997 in the aforesaid case gave directions inter alia for entrusting the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) with the responsibility of the superintendence over the CBI's functioning, including review and progress of cases under investigation. The Government has decided to implement the aforesaid directions and action has been taken/initiated accordingly.

2. In December, 1998 and July 1999, the Government sanctioned a total number of 183 posts of various levels including technical posts, for augmenting the Special Crime Division and the Economic Offices Wing of the CBI with a view to strengthen the in-house expertise by inducting professionals from the revenue, banking and security sectors.

3. The details of the cases pending investigation during the last three years are as under:

Year (As on 31st Dec.)	Cases Pending Investigation
1998	1629
1999	1573
2000	1555

(c) The CBI Crime Manual provides for a time frame for disposal of cases under investigation and submission of progress reports to senior supervisory officers for monitoring the progress of investigation. Targets for registration of cases, disposal of cases under investigation are also prescribed for all Branches of CBI. All cases under investigation are constantly monitored/reviewed at the higher level and performance of Branches assessed on the basis of the targets achieved. Special attention is given to the disposal of cases pending investigation for more than two years and progress in these cases is centrally monitored in CBI. Instructions have been issued to all supervisory officers of CBI to pay special attention to these cases and conduct a threadbare review of the cases to remove the impediments. All out efforts are being made by CBI to cut down delays, expedite investigations and reduce pendency.

[Translation]

SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, C.B.I. is an institution which was established before independence. But till date no reforms have been made in it. Hon'ble Minister has replied that a review committee has been constituted and the central vigilance commission has been made responsible to bring reforms in it. Even today more than 5000 cases are pending with CBI. I want to know from the hon'ble Minister whether there would be any reform in CBI or whether it would be restructured or not even after the report of Central Vigilance Commission?

[English]

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: Sir, first of all, I would like to say that the CBI was conceived as a very small organisation which was going to deal with only corruption related cases. This was actually brought into being by a Government of India Resolution dated 1st of April, 1963. Since then it has become a multi-dimensional organisation and deals with a lot of other kinds of crimes. The nature of the crimes it is dealing with is also changed. A certain amount of restructuring has taken place since 1963.

In 1964 itself, the Special Economic Offences Wing was added. In 1967, based on the recommendations of a committee headed by the Cabinet Secretary, a Special Crimes Division was created which then actually subsumed the Special Economic Offences Wing. In 1994, due to the increase in the workload because of the bank frauds and other economic offences, a separate Economic Offences Division was added and the functioning of the Anti-Corruption Division was decentralised with the creation of the Zonal Joint Directors. As on date, the CBI has

three Divisions which are: (1) The Anti-Corruption Division, (2) the Special Crimes Division, and (3) the Economic Offences Division which also takes care of the Criminal Intelligence Cell. In September, 1997, an independent review committee was set up, on the basis of which the Supreme Court also, in the Vineet Narain case, gave directions to insulate the CBI from certain extremist influences and also to improve its functioning. These were the independent review committee's recommendations as well as those of the Supreme Court, which actually initiated certain measures for statutory status to be accorded to the Central Vigilance Commission, and a Bill to this effect has been introduced in Parliament. This, on becoming an Act, would vest the CVC with powers to exercise superintendence over CBI in the investigation of cases under the Prevention of Corruption Act.

Then, Sir, a CBI Selection Board under the Chairmanship of the CVC has been appointed on the 20th of May, 1998 to make recommendations for the appointment at the very senior level positions. Then, a panel of lawyers with good reputation has been prepared so that they can be engaged as special counsels in particular cases.

Finally, 183 posts, which include technical posts, have been created within the CBI to strengthen the expertise. The idea is to induct professionals from the Revenue Service and from banking and security sectors, and this should help strengthen the functioning of the organisation. But basically, the restructuring is an on-going process....(Interruptions) Sir, it is a very lengthy question and it is important for the facts to come out.

The restructuring is basically an on-going process and is completely need-based. As and when required, the restructuring process goes on.

As far as pendency of the cases is concerned, first of all, we have seen the number of cases that have now started to come to the CBI. In the beginning and even as of now, the sources of information are basically collected and developed by the Zonal officers. But then, there are also complaints on references which come from PSUs, from other organisations and also from the Government of India. Then, references and requests are also increasing from the State Governments. There was a time when references used to be about 48; today those references have gone up to almost 250. Then, there are orders from the Supreme Court and the High Courts. These references, at one stage, were about 16; these have also gone up to over 200 now. Then, there are, of course, complaints from private individuals as also from the Members of Parliament. This has now got international ramifications also. Very recently, the cricket match fixing

case was discussed here, in the Parliament, and the Lok Sabha gave directions that this was a case which should be taken up by the CBI. But, Sir, if you look at the number of cases that have been taken up and disposed of, I would just like bring it to the notice of the Members that the cases which have been pending investigation, have been steadily coming down....(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Madam, there are others also who would like to ask the Supplementaries.

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: But, Sir, I would like to tell because he has asked the question. It is important for the people to know these details....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, this matter requires a discussion because the Supreme Court cannot direct the Parliament what laws should be passed and what laws should not be passed. If the Parliament is to function at the behest of the Supreme Court, then our days are over. So, I think this matter requires a serious discussion for future guidance of the Parliament. This is too much. The Parliament should legislate and the Parliament's laws should be implemented by the court. The Court cannot direct the Parliament how to make the laws.

MR. SPEAKER: This is your suggestion.

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: Sir, I would just like to say that the cases which were registered during the three years were over 3,000, but those which have been disposed of are over 3,000. I would, therefore, say that the performance level has gone up....(*Interruptions*) I would also like to say that the cases which are pending with the courts are over 6,000 at this moment.

Sir, we have to keep in mind the fact that the Government is also concerned about the number of cases which are pending. But the truth of the matter is that they are *sub-judice* and they cannot be dealt with straightaway....(*Interruptions*) We have opened up special courts....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, we want a full-fledged discussion in the House on this issue. In future, nobody should follow the dictates of the Supreme Court so far as proposing or amending a law is concerned....(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Dasmunsi, this question is different.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, this is my suggestion.

MR. SPEAKER: This is question relating to restructuring of the CBI.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: The courts cannot give a direction to Parliament.

MR. SPEAKER: It is not any direction to Parliament. The question is on restructuring of the CBI.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI A.C. JOS (Trichur): Sir, the subject calls for a discussion.

MR. SPEAKER: Please understand that this is a question on restructuring of CBI.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, the reply is on restructuring at the behest of the Supreme Court direction in a matter....(*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: Sir, this has been very extensively discussed. We have a Parliamentary Committee on which the hon. Member is also there. This question has been discussed there.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: We have said it there which you are not reporting to the House. The entire Committee rejected that the Supreme Court...

MR. SPEAKER: This will not go on record.

...(*Interruptions*)\*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, she should inform the House.

MR. SPEAKER: Madam, please address the Chair and not Shri Dasmunsi.

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: Sir, this can be discussed in any case when the CVC Bill comes up for discussion. As far as the Supreme Court directions are concerned about which hon. Member Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi is speaking about, these have been discussed in the Standing Committee. The decision was put together after the recommendations of the IRC were also taken into consideration. All I would like to say over here is that the backlog of cases is actually lying with the courts is over 6,000 cases. The intake of cases with the CBI itself is about 1,200 per year out of which, at the moment, about 350 would be pending.

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\* Not recorded.

[Translation]

SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY: Mr. Speaker, through you I want to bring to the notice of the Hon'ble Minister that all the cases of the CBI all over the country are forwarded to Delhi and decision are taken on them there. This causes inordinate delay in disposal of these cases. Therefore, I would like to know from the Hon'ble Minister whether she would make such arrangements so that the decisions could be taken in the regional offices of the CBI also.

Sir, my another question is whether it is a fact that the CBI has lost its credibility because of its unfair conduct?

[English]

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: Sir, I was just explaining the number of cases. The question of 'Vishwas' does not arise because more and more cases have been given by the State Governments as well as by the courts and also by the Lok Sabha and the hon. Members. This proves the credibility of the organisation itself.

As far as the zonal offices are concerned, the zonal offices have been set up and there has been a certain amount of decentralisation.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Would you send the BALCO case to CBI?...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri C.N. Singh is not here. Shrimati Margaret Alva to ask the supplementary now.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: Sir, the main problem in dealing with the pendency of cases has been in not setting up enough special courts. One of the requirements of clearance is more special courts. But we have found repeatedly that the special courts do not function in sufficient numbers.

Secondly and more important is the question of your panels of counsel. The fees that are paid to the counsel for Government work is so low and you talk about getting the best people on the panels and they are never available or able to deal with these specialised cases because the other side always has the best counsel at the highest fees. Because of your fee structure which the Government has refused to change all along — even I tried it at one time — you cannot get these cases moving.

Sir, I am only asking the hon. Minister to tell us more specifically whether there are enough special courts in the country and secondly what are the vacancies in the CBI. You bring people on deputation. You do not have specialist people in it and when the deputation tenure ends they go back and these vacancies are not filled up on time.

I would like to have specific answers to these two questions.

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: Sir, the number of cases which, as you said, pending in the courts is high. The Government is more concerned about that. Twenty-one special courts have already been set up in the States so far. We feel that there should be at least 23 more which need to be set up. Seven of those have been set up last year — three in Maharashtra and four in Gujarat. As far as we are concerned, we will sanction more. We have written to the State Governments. If the proposals are received from the State Governments we will be happy to set up some more and even the expenditure which is incurred by the State Governments to set up these courts will be defrayed and reimbursed by the Government of India.

As far as the vacancy position is concerned, yes, there is a certain amount of vacancy position. We are doing our best to try and fill them up at the earliest.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: What is the percentage of vacancies? Sir, I asked specific numbers. What is the percentage of vacancies today in the CBI?

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: The total number of those who are at this moment working with the CBI is approximately a little over 5,000 and the vacancy position would be approximately about 800.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: It is about 1,000. One-fifth of the allotted staff are vacancies.

MR. SPEAKER: Madam, it is 800.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: Twenty per cent of the posts are not filled.

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: Sir, I will break it up. The number in Group C is approximately 651. The rest are scattered. Six hundred and fifty one are those in Group C which do not really have a great deal of ramification on the investigation and taking to trail of the cases.

As far as the counsel and lawyers are concerned, they are paid now a little bit better per hearing. The rates have been enhanced.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri K. Yerranaidu is not here. Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan to ask the supplementary.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Sir, is there any procedure laid down now for the CBI to take up investigation *suo motu* or is there any procedure for the State Government to direct the CBI to investigate certain matters? Now, the question has become vital because there are thousands of public interest litigations pending before the High Courts requesting the CBI investigation and also criticising the CBI investigation regarding public interest litigations. So, there is a confusion with regard to CBI investigation throughout the nation. Will the hon. Minister please give me the exact position?

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: Sir, when the request has been made to us by the State Government and after we have deliberated upon it, we take up those cases and they can take up *suo motu* investigations through their own sources of information.

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to know what is the rationale behind creating 183 more posts when more than 800 posts have not been filled up so far. I also want to know how many posts out of these newly created 183 posts have been filled up from the CBI? Similarly I also want to know the number of cases solved out of 1555 cases pending for the last one year and number of persons punished?

Just now an hon'ble Member has expressed his grouse that every thing is written in the manual and we are seeing it for the last 50 years but it is not being implemented. I want to know what extra efforts are being made by the Government in this regard. You must have read in the newspapers that D.T.C. passes would not be entertained in private buses anymore. This adverse decision came following the abeyance of public prosecutor in the court. Whether similar cases are here also where public prosecutor are not appearing in the courts and as a result of that ex party decisions are being given.

[English]

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Sir, please allow me.

MR. SPEAKER: I have called your name. You were not available at that time. You missed the chance.

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: Sir, as far as pending 1,555 cases are concerned, I have tried to make it clear in the answer given to the question a little while

before that the number of pending investigations have been coming down slightly every year. The cases which we have disposed of through investigations have increased over the ones that we have registered during the year.

SHRI VIJAY GOEL: What is the number?

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: I gave you the number. At that time you said 'Why are you giving us the numbers?' I gave the number. The number of cases which were registered during the period is 3,400 and the number of those which are disposed of after investigation over the last three years was 3,500. The main backlog is lying with the courts which is over 6,200.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: Government lawyers are paid hardly Rs. 10,000 a day....(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: Sir, as far as the 183 posts are concerned, these are specialists in nature. We have sent out information to collect those people who could work as specialists for the CBI to help them with the investigation. We have a few posts there where we need to fill them up. But out of these 183, more or less two-thirds have been filled up.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN: Sir, with regard to the first part of the question, while we are deliberating upon the CVC Bill we expressed our dissent that the Supreme Court has no power to direct the Parliament to pass a legislation. Nowhere in the world, except in India, the Supreme Court has directed like that and so the Members of Parliament have expressed their displeasure over this issue.

In regard to part (c) of the question, the CBI Criminal Manual provides for a time frame of cases for investigation.

12.00 hrs.

After 17 years last week, the CBI has filed a charge-sheet. It is not a trial.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Pandiyan, did you see the watch?

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN: After 17 years, the CBI has filed a charge sheet against a Minister for abatement. What about the time-frame? Will they file cases after 17 years? Will they file charge sheet after 17 years? Then, there is a member of the higher judiciary, the Chief Justice against whom the case is pending for the last 25 years....(Interruptions)

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: There should be a criteria to refer the cases to the CBI. All the cases are referred to CBI and cases are piling up there....(Interruptions)

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN: For 25 years, that case is pending....(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: This is Question Hour.

....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: This is the most important question....(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Pandiyan, please wind up your supplementary. There is no time left.

....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN: The Government should withdraw cases against the former Minister who has been charge-sheeted after 17 years.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Pandiyan, please wind up.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN: What is the reply? What is the criteria of withdrawal of cases? What is the criteria of filing charge sheet? Do they have any time-frame? Do they follow the manual?

MR. SPEAKER: Madam, you can send the reply later.

## WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*English*]

### Ban on Advertisement of Cigarettes

\*144. SHRI SHRINIWAS PATIL:  
SHRI P.R. KHUNTE:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the ban on advertisement of cigarettes is not effective;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to enforce it effectively;

(c) whether, despite the ban on smoking in public places, very few people get prosecuted in Delhi; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken to strictly enforce the ban?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) to (d) There is no central law yet in force that prohibits advertisement of

cigarettes. A comprehensive legislation on discouraging use of tobacco, which includes provisions for banning advertisement of tobacco products, is proposed to be introduced shortly in the Parliament. However, the Delhi Prohibition of Smoking and Non-smoker Health Protection Act, 1996, inter alia, prohibits advertisement in any place or public service vehicle which may promote smoking or the sale of cigarettes and beedies etc.

As regards the ban on smoking in public places in Delhi, it is reported by the Government of N.C.T. of Delhi that during the year 2000, 1404 raids were conducted in public places and public conveyances to check smoking resulting in fines being imposed in 294 cases. In the year 2001, 604 checks have been conducted in public places and conveyances and 238 people have been fined. The Health Department is deploying more teams for the enforcement work. Regular meetings at the level of Minister of Health, Government of N.C.T. of Delhi are being held with the representatives of Delhi Police and other concerned agencies to review the progress made towards achieving the objective.

### Screening Tests for Doctors

\*145. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:  
SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY:

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

(a) whether the Government are aware that Indian doctors going to US or UK have to appear for screening tests before practising there;

(b) if so, whether Indian Government are also considering to make the screening tests necessary for foreign-educated doctors coming to the country on the same line;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether a large number of students, who have passed from unrecognised medical colleges abroad, have been applying to Medical Council of India (MCI) for registration;

(e) if so, whether the MCI propose to frame some new regulations for registration of doctors; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) to (f) As per information available with the Government, the Indian

doctors going to U.S.A. and U.K. have to appear in the USMLE and PLAB tests respectively before registration in those countries.

The Medical Council of India has been receiving a number of applications from foreign educated Indian doctors, particularly from C.I.S. countries, having unrecognised undergraduate medical qualifications. The Government will introduce a Bill in the current session of Parliament to amend the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956 for introducing Screening tests for Indian citizens holding medical qualifications from any foreign country before their registration with the Medical Council of India/State Medical Councils.

#### Life Saving Drugs and Assistance for Gujarat

\*146. SHRI DINSHA PATEL:  
SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN:

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

(a) whether the Government are aware of a possible epidemic in the earthquake hit areas of Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have received any request from the State Government of Gujarat for relief, aid and life saving drugs for the earthquake victims; and

(d) if so, action taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) and (b) A well-integrated disease surveillance network has been put in place in the affected areas of Gujarat. The various measures being adopted are intended to achieve the following outcomes;

- Earlier detection and reporting of suspected cases.
- Increased epidemiological surveillance.
- Laboratory confirmation of diagnosis of any disease of epidemic nature.

Teams of public health experts from the National Institute of Communicable Diseases (NICD), Delhi, National Anti-Malaria Programme (NAMP), Delhi, National Institute of Virology, Pune, National Institute of Cholera and Enteric Diseases, Kolkata, National Institute of Occupational Health, Ahmedabad, and NICD, Bangalore visited affected areas of Gujarat to assist and advise the State Health authorities about the public health measures required.

A self-contained team with personnel drawn from various institutes in Ahmedabad, under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, along with a field laboratory for early diagnosis, is stationed at Bhuj since 5th February. Disease surveillance and Public Health measures are being carried out effectively in co-operation with State health authorities.

The State Government has established control rooms at the State, regional and district health offices and deployed 239 mobile teams to visit villages of Kutch districts for rendering medical care, distribution of ORS packet, Chlorine tablets, and to monitor chlorination of drinking water. Inspection of cooked food is also being carried out by the Drug and Food Control Commissionerate. Disposal of dead bodies and disinfection of vulnerable areas have been carried out, laboratories have been established at Bhuj, Rapar, Anjar, and Gandhidham for examination of blood smears for malaria. A measles immunization campaign has been started for children under the age group of 5 years.

The proper and timely action taken by the State Health authorities in co-ordination with the Central Government has prevented the outbreak of any disease in the earthquake-affected areas of Gujarat.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Medical relief items worth Rs. 5.70 crores have been supplied to the State Government. Public Health experts along with necessary manpower have been stationed at Bhuj to assist the State Health authorities in the ongoing public health measures. A field laboratory, along with a specialist microbiologist, has been established at Bhuj since 6th February to detect the outbreak of any disease and check quality of drinking water.

[Translation]

#### Danger to Hospitals in Delhi

\*147. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Government Hospital buildings in Delhi are likely to collapse in any major earthquake, as reported in 'Dainik Jagaran' dated January 31, 2001;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that these buildings have become structurally weak due to absence of proper maintenance; and



(d) if so, the steps being taken to strengthen these buildings so as to be able to withstand an earthquake?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) and (b) The CPWD has informed on 2.3.2001 that most of the Central Government Hospitals buildings — namely Safdarjung Hospital, Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital and Lady Hardinge Medical College and Associated Hospitals - were originally single storeyed, built during the pre-independence period. Subsequently, multi storeyed buildings were constructed by CPWD in phases to meet the ever-increasing demand of patients. The old single-storeyed buildings have out-lived their useful life and have become weak. These are being dismantled in phases to make place for multi-storeyed blocks which have been designed to withstand earthquake forces as per relevant codes of Bureau of Indian Standards. These buildings are thus expected to withstand earthquakes of reasonable intensity as laid down in relevant codes.

After recent earthquake of 26th January, 2001 in Gujarat, CPWD Field Engineers carefully inspected all these buildings. No distress was noticed in any of the structural members of these buildings.

(c) No, Sir, Buildings have become structurally weak due to obsolescence and wear and tear, associated with extensive use of buildings. No structural distress was noticed on any of these buildings after the earthquake of 26.1.2001.

(d) Does not arise.

#### **Development of I.T.**

\*148. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI:  
SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made by India in the field of information Technology in the past one year;

(b) the names of the countries with whom MoU had been reached to promote information technology in the country;

(c) the details of progress made in this regard so far;

(d) the names of countries, which have sought Indian expertise in the field of information technology;

(e) the steps taken by the Government for maintaining global standard of this technology as also making it a source of inflow of foreign exchange so far;

(f) the future action plans in this regard; and

(g) the time by which the Government is likely to be self reliant in this field?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) The Information Technology sector has been growing apace with a compound annual growth rate of over 50% per annum over the last 5 years in the software/software services sector. In 1999-2000 the total output of this sector was Rs. 24,350 crores (US\$ 5.7 billion) of which exports were Rs. 17,150 crores (US \$ 4 billion) while the domestic software and services market was Rs. 7,200 crores (US \$ 1.7 billion). The projection for this sector for 2000-2001 is Rs. 38,000 crores (US\$ 8.34 billion) of which exports are projected to contribute Rs. 28,500 crores (US\$ 6.2 billion) while the domestic sector would contribute Rs. 9,500 crores (US\$ 2.1 billion). This sector currently employs 4.1 lakhs I.T. professionals as on 31.12.2000.

(b) and (c) The Ministry of I.T. has signed MOUs with the following countries for promoting bilateral cooperation in Information Technology and related areas; France, Bulgaria, Singapore, Hong Kong, Brazil, China, Australia, Mongolia, Mauritius, Vietnam and Egypt.

The Ministry has signed Agreement/Proposal/ Programme of cooperation with Russia, Ireland, Belarus. The Ministry is having regular interaction with these countries to discuss various proposals for cooperation and to review the progress.

(d) Individual countries have not sought Indian expertise in the field of IT at the Government level. However, the brand equity of Indian IT software professionals has been internationally recognized and this is reflected in the liberalization of Visa policies for Indian IT professionals by most of the developed countries of the world.

(e) and (f) The Government has taken several steps in the area of (i) Quality Upgradation (ii) Human Resource Development for IT, and (iii) Infrastructure Development. Thus, in terms of quality over 50% of the companies with a Software Engineering Institutes (Carnegie Mellon University, USA (SEI) / Capability Maturity Model (CMM) rating of Level 5 are located in India and this number is increasing. Similarly, in the case of Human Resource

Development, the Prime Minister has set up a Task Force to work out a long term strategy for doubling the intake of engineering students from 75,000 numbers per annum in 1991 to 1,50,000 numbers by the year 2001 and tripling it to 2,25,000 numbers in 2003.

Government has taken several measures in terms of providing better infrastructure through the setting up of 18 Software Technology Parks under the aegis of Software Technology Park of India (STPI) which are responsible for 2/3rd of the software/software services export from the country. Similarly, Government has ended the monopoly of Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited (VSNL) in terms of providing international gateways by throwing this sector open to private operators as also permitting them to set up their own landing stations.

(g) The industry is continuously striving to go up the value chain, a process in which Government acts as a facilitator.

[English]

#### **Lack of Minimum Support Prices**

\*149. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the agriculturists are badly affected due to hike in fertilizer prices and also the lack of minimum support price for their produce; and

(b) if so, the remedial measures taken by the Government to protect the interest of agriculturists in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) and (b) The percentage increase in the last revision of price of urea and Muriate of Potash (MOP) has been of the order of 15 per cent and that of Di-Ammonium Phosphate (DAP) about 7 per cent. The total impact of the price increase of urea and Phosphatic & Potassic (P&K) fertilizers effected in Budget 2000-01 on the cost of cultivation however was estimated to be less than 1.5 per cent.

The Government announces each season the minimum support prices (MSPs) for major agricultural commodities and organizes purchase operations through public and cooperative agencies, viz. Food Corporation of India (FCI), (paddy, wheat and coarse cereals); Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) — (cotton); Jute Corporation of India (JCI) — (Jute); NAFED (oilseeds & pulses); and Tobacco Board (tobacco). The cost of cultivation production taken into account includes all paid out costs, such as those incurred on account of hired human labour,

bullock labour/machine labour (both hired and owned) and rent paid for lessed-in land besides cash and kind expenses on use of material inputs like seeds, fertilizers, manures, irrigation charges including cost of diesel/ electricity for operation of pump sets, etc. The MSPs fixed by the Government cover not only cost of production, but also provide for a margin as an incentive to increase production and productivity.

Those commodities, which are perishable in nature and which are locally grown or where the cost differential varies substantially from State to State, are covered under Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) of the Government, where procurement is undertaken at the request of the State Governments.

Large quantities of cereals etc., have been procured under the MSP scheme and procurement of certain commodities is continuing. The Government has also been using instruments of trade to discourage the imports and encourage exports wherever necessary to protect the interests of the farmers.

#### **Indo-Pak Dialogue**

\*150. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:  
DR. ASHOK PATEL:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan Foreign Minister gave a response to the Prime Minister's New Year Eve-musing on Kashmir, indicating an expectation for a purposeful dialogue between India and Pakistan;

(b) if so, the details of Prime Minister's observations, referred to as New Year Eve-musing on Kashmir and the Pakistan's response thereto; and

(c) the efforts being made to resolve various issues pending between India and Pakistan?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (c) In his article titled "Kumarakom Musings" appearing in January 2001 Prime Minister, Atal Bihari Vajpayee, wrote, "*The Kashmir problem is an unfortunate inheritance from the tragic partition of India in 1947. India never accepted the pernicious Two-Nation theory that brought about the partition. However, the mindset that created Pakistan continues to operate in that country. This is why it is continuing with its untenable policy on Kashmir, disregarding the considerations of both good neighbourly relations with India and the well being of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.*"

*India is willing and ready to seek a lasting solution to the Kashmir problem. Towards this end, we are prepared to recommence talks with Pakistan at any level, including the highest level, provided Islamabad gives sufficient proof of its preparedness to create a conducive atmosphere for a meaningful dialogue. I am sad to note, however, that the Government of Pakistan is not doing enough to rein-in terrorist organizations based on its soil that are continuing their killing spree, targetting both innocent civilians and our security personnel in Kashmir and other parts of India".*

He also wrote, "In our search for a lasting solution to the Kashmir problem, both in its external and internal dimensions, we shall not traverse solely on the beaten track of the past. Rather, we shall be bold and innovative designers of a future architecture of peace and prosperity for the entire South Asian region. In this search, the sole light that will guide us is our commitment to peace, justice and the vital interests of the nation."

There has been no formal statement from Pakistan. However, several comments attributed to Pakistani leaders have appeared in the Pakistani Press on the Prime Minister's article. In one such report, Foreign Minister of Pakistan was quoted as having said, "we have taken due note of the statement that has been made specially by India and Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee on the New Year eve....We are impressed by what Indian Prime Minister has said." Notwithstanding such comments, there is no evidence of change in Pakistan's sponsorship of cross border terrorism in the State of Jammu and Kashmir or elsewhere in India. Pakistan continues to give state patronage to groups indulging in violence beyond its borders.

The Simla Agreement and the Lahore Declaration, which are the cornerstones of our bilateral relations, commit both countries to work towards the establishment of good neighbourly relations and to settle all issues peacefully through bilateral discussions. In order to build trust and confidence, establish a stable structure of cooperation and address outstanding issue, India initiated the Composite Dialogue in 1998 which covered discussions on: (1) Peace and security, including CBMs; (2) Jammu and Kashmir; (3) Siachen; (4) Tulbul Nagivation Project; (5) Sir Creek; (6) Terrorism and Drug Trafficking; (7) Economic and Commercial Cooperation; and (8) Promotion of Friendly exchanges. Government have repeatedly reiterated commitment to resuming the Composite Dialogue. For this, self evidently, an appropriate atmosphere is needed. That is why we expect from Pakistan an abjurement of violence; ceasing promotion, encouragement and abetment of cross border terrorism; and a commitment to the Simla Agreement of 1972 and Lahore Declaration of 1999.

#### **National Centre for Policy Research for SSI, ARI**

\*151. SHRI ARUN KUMAR: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up National Centre for Policy Research for Small Scale Industries, Agro and Rural Industries; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

#### **Funds for Research and Development**

\*152. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the state of research and development in the agriculture sector at present;

(b) whether the Government are aiming at a four per cent growth in this sector;

(c) if so, the funds required for this purpose; and

(d) the steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) At present the National Agricultural Research System comprising of 47 Central Institutes, 5 National Bureaux, 30 National Research Centres, 11 Project Directorates, 80 All India Coordinated Research Projects, 30 State Agricultural Universities and 1 Central Agricultural University for North Eastern Region is engaged in research in Crops, Horticulture Crops, Animal Sciences, Natural Resource Management, Agricultural Engineering and Fisheries. For development activities Agriculture being the State subject. Department of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry in each State undertakes the developmental activities in agricultural sector. Central Government also provides support for the agricultural development programmes keeping in view the national priorities.

(b) Yes, Sir. The National Agricultural Policy envisages a 4 percent growth from agriculture sector.

(c) The target of annual agriculture growth in excess of 4% as envisaged under National Agriculture Policy (NAP) is attainable. For attaining growth rate in excess of 4%, an investment (at 1993-94 prices) of the order of Rs. 29736 crore (by the end of the Tenth Five Year Plan i.e. 2006-07) will be required whereas during the Ninth Five Year Plan the allocations are to the extent of Rs. 9153 crores. For agricultural research and education the allocation for IX Plan period is Rs. 3376.95 crore whereas projection for the X Plan are to the tune of Rs. 6000 crore.

(d) In order to achieve 4 per cent growth, the National Agriculture Policy has placed greater emphasis on efficient use of resources and conservation of soil, water and bio-diversity. Growth with equity has been stressed, particularly growth which is wide spread across regions and categories of farmers. Diversification of agriculture, through emphasis on the horticulture, livestock and fisheries sectors has been given central importance in the development strategy.

#### PM's Visit to Vietnam

\*153. SHRI B.K. PARTHASARATHI:  
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the bilateral and multilateral issues discussed by our Prime Minister with his Vietnamese counterpart and other leaders during his recent visit over there;

(b) the details of the agreements signed on the occasion, sector-wise;

(c) the areas identified for future cooperation between the two countries;

(d) the steps taken or strategy chalked out for further increasing the bilateral trade; and

(e) how the visit is likely to strengthen the bilateral relations?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) PM discussed a range of bilateral and multilateral issue of political and economic significance. Among bilateral issues PM discussed (i) Trade and investment (ii) Peaceful uses of nuclear energy

(iii) Defence and (iv) Culture & Education, while under Multilateral issues were included: (i) UNSC Membership, (ii) Indo-ASEAN summit (iii) Mekong-Ganga Cooperation and (iv) WTO.

(b) (i) Agreement on Cooperation in Tourism (ii) MOU on Cooperation in Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy, (iii) Protocol on extension of CEP for three years, i.e., for 2001, 2002 and 2003.

(c) and (d) The methodology of expanding trade from the present low figure of US\$ 150 million to \$ 500 million in three years was discussed. Also to how to offset Vietnam's adverse trade balance with India and increase investment cooperation in keeping with rapidly unfolding economic reforms. Both sides expressed satisfaction at ONGC's plans for going on-stream in a major natural gas JV in Vietnam by end of 2002; we offered to assist Vietnam to set up software development and training centres and to improve its HRD skills.

(e) PM's visit reaffirmed confidence in Vietnam as a factor for peace and stability in the region and while recognizing need for efforts, widened areas of economic/technical cooperation between us. Vietnam's leaders reiterated their full support on matters of vital concern to us, including the candidature for permanent membership in the UN Security Council.

#### Medicare Insurance Scheme

\*154. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE:  
SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI:

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

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce a Comprehensive Medicare Insurance Scheme for serving retired Central Government employees, para military and defence forces;

(b) if so, the details of the scheme alongwith the number of employees likely to be benefited;

(c) the total expenditure likely to be incurred on this Scheme; and

(d) the time by which the Scheme is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) No, Sir.

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

**Indo-Iraq Ties**

\*155. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:  
SHRIMATI D.M. VIJAYA KUMARI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Iraqi delegation led by its Vice President including the Iraqi Oil Minister visited New Delhi recently;

(b) if so, the agreements signed on the occasion including the terms of the agreements; and

(c) the quantity of oil and food received by India and Iraq respectively under the oil for food programme?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. An Iraqi delegation led by its Vice President, Taha Yassin Ramadhan, which also included the Oil Minister of Iraq visited New Delhi from November 27 to December 1, 2000.

(b) During the visit of Vice-President, an Agreement on Economic, Technical, Scientific and Cultural Co-operation between the two countries was signed. Also an MOU between the Iraqi Federation of Industry and the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) was finalised.

(c) No exchange of foodgrains against oil has taken place so far. However, an understanding has been reached in principle about the possibility of a Counter Trade Arrangement which would enable Iraq to effect import of certain food items (especially wheat) against export of crude oil and oil products.

[Translation]

**Augmentation of Cotton Production**

\*156. KUMARI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI:  
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether production of cotton in the cotton producing countries of the world is 550 kg. per hectare while in India, it is approximately 260 kilograms;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the measures taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to augment the production per hectare of cotton in the country?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The average yield of cotton lint in the country during 1996 to 1998 was 232 kg. per hectare as compared to world average of 565 kg. per hectare during above period. The yield of cotton lint in major cotton growing countries during 1996, 1997 and 1998, were as below.

Country	Cotton lint Yield (Kg. per Ha.)		
	1996	1997	1998
World	553	591	550
USA	792	762	692
China	890	1025	842
India	265	208	224
Uzbekistan	727	720	631
Argentina	446	338	353
Brazil	421	441	501

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

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

For protecting the interest of farmers, Minimum Support Price (MSP) is fixed each year in order to ensure remunerative price to farmers.

The Ministry of Textiles is the nodal Ministry for implementation of Mini-Mission-III and Mini-Mission-IV. The

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

[English]

### **Indo-Sino Security Talks**

\*157. SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY:  
DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the second round of Indo-Sino Security talks was held in New Delhi in February, 2001;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the question of Kashmir was also discussed in the talks;

(d) if so, the reaction of the Chinese side thereto;

(e) whether any meeting of Indo-Sino Expert Group took place recently; and

(f) if so, the details thereof including its impact on the bilateral relations?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir, on February 8, 2001.

(b) In this Round, both sides agreed to enhance mutual understanding, expand common ground in their approach to international and regional security affairs and narrow differences. They held similar views on a number of contemporary, regional and international issues.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Chinese side stated that it was completely opposed to all forms of terrorism. China did not wish to mediate and favoured a resumption of dialogue between India and Pakistan;

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) The Eighth Meeting of the India-China Expert Group of Diplomatic and Military Officials was held in Beijing on 13-14 November 2000. The two sides

exchanged maps of the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in the Middle Sector. The two sides also discussed issues related to the implementation of the 1993 and 1996 Agreements on maintenance of peace and tranquility along the LAC in the India-China border areas, and confidence building measures, as well as other issues of mutual interest.

### **Warning to Pakistan**

\*158. DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to issue a warning to Pakistan not to encourage the activities of Lashker-E-Toiba, Hizbul Mujahideen and other militant outfits in Jammu and Kashmir and other States;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (c) Government have on several occasions called upon Pakistan to end its sponsorship of cross-border terrorism.

Such sponsorship, however, by Pakistan, of terrorism continues. It is, therefore, clear that Pakistan continues to ignore our calls, and those of the international community, to cease such activities.

### **Plan Size for States**

\*159. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY:  
SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether in a bid to correct the loopholes in the planning exercise, the Planning Commission has fixed a core plan size for all States on the basis of "visible resources";

(b) if so, the reaction of the States in this regard;

(c) whether the Commission has taken into account the expectations of the States for a 15% increase in allocation; and

(d) if so, the extent to which the decision of the Planning Commission is likely to correct the loopholes in the planning exercise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE

IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) Yes, Sir. States' Plan outlays for the current year 2000-01 have been finalized in consultation with the States concerned taking into consideration (i) the trend of aggregate actual resource mobilization for the Plan of the State over the first three years of the Ninth Plan; and (ii) a realistic estimate of resources available or financing the Plan. Since most of the States had already budgeted relatively higher Plan size prior to holding of Annual Plan discussions, the more realistic Plan size based on identifiable resources that was finally agreed upon in accordance with the criteria indicated above has been termed the "Core Plan". A statement-A giving approved outlay vis-a-vis actual expenditure for the first three years of Ninth Plan enclosed.

(b) States in general have appreciated this approach.

(c) No, Sir, Plan size does not, normally, involve any obligatory hike in the plan allocation by any specific percentage point. The size of the plan, and its increase from year to year, depends primarily on the additional resources that a State is able to mobilize. During State Plan discussions States were encouraged to mobilize additional resources to achieve a Plan size higher than the Core Plan size. At the same time, Core Plan outlays for 2000-01 are already higher by more than 15% over the previous year's revised approved Plan outlays in respect of the States of Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Goa, Gujarat, Karnataka, M.P., Meghalaya, U.P. and West Bengal. Statement-B giving State-wise details of revised approved outlay for 1999-2000 and approved Core Plan outlay for 2000-01 is enclosed.

(d) The core plan approach is part of the Planning Commission's on-going efforts to strengthen and streamline the planning exercise at the State level.

#### **Statement-A**

*Details Regarding Approved outlay/Actual Expenditure for Annual Plans 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000*

(Rs. Crore)

Sl.No.	States	Originally Approved Outlays			Actual Expenditure		
		1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000*
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3579.55	4678.95	5480.00	3707.23	4971.97	5480.00\$
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	600.00	625.00	665.00	489.38	463.02	503.00
3.	Assam	1510.28	1650.00	1750.00	1283.18	1293.67	1500.00
4.	Bihar	2268.42	3768.74	3630.00	1711.43	2424.65	2471.99
5.	Goa	230.56	291.34	281.19	198.59	220.61	241.00
6.	Gujarat	4509.62	5450.00	6550.00	3905.07	3939.19	6550.00
7.	Haryana	1576.04	2260.00	2300.00	1303.61	1522.91	1785.00
8.	Himachal Pradesh	1008.00	1440.00	1600.00	1294.33	1539.65	1601.17
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	1551.81	1900.00	1750.00	1496.28	1259.62	1758.00
10.	Karnataka	4153.59	5353.00	5800.00	4424.48	5649.04	5231.35
11.	Kerala	2851.10	3100.00	3250.00	2867.62	3355.27	3010.45
12.	Madhya Pradesh	3718.15	3700.00	4004.00	3343.91	3376.86	3473.75
13.	Maharashtra	8393.19	11600.73	12162.00	7938.03	8187.48	12161.66

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
14.	Manipur	410.00	425.00	475.00	345.55	388.55	475.00\$
15.	Meghalaya	382.00	400.00	465.00	248.83	299.38	350.00
16.	Mizoram	290.00	333.00	360.00	295.25	272.06	380.51
17.	Nagaland	291.00	300.00	315.00	232.33	245.97	320.50
18.	Orissa	2529.46	3084.43	3309.17	2037.14	2581.61	2553.13
19.	Punjab	2100.01	2500.00	2680.00	2008.80	2006.27	2680.00
20.	Rajasthan	3514.42	4300.00	4750.00	3987.35	3832.83	3855.14
21.	Sikkim	220.00	237.00	250.00	190.12	224.30	250.00\$
22.	Tamil Nadu	4004.90	4500.00	5250.00	4010.63	4515.81	5250.00
23.	Tripura	439.91	440.00	475.00	412.59	392.25	437.00
24.	Uttar Pradesh	7246.57	10260.00	11400.00	5652.36	6363.95	5104.08
25.	West Bengal	3907.62	4594.85	5787.00	2840.10	3459.64	3674.73
Total (States)		61286.20	77192.04	84738.36	56223.92	62786.56	71097.46

\* Actual Expenditure not available; Revised Outlay have been taken.

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

### **Statement-B**

*Statewise Revised Outlay for 1999-2000 and Core Plan and Budgetted Plan Outlay for 2000-01*

(Rs. Crore)

Sl. No.	States/UTs	Revised Approved Outlay 1999-2000	Core Plan Outlay 2000-01	Budgetted Outlay/ Proposed Outlay 2000-01	Percentage increase in Col. (4) over Col. (3)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	5480.00*	7,708.00	8228.12	40.66
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	503.00	640.00	850.00	27.24
3.	Assam	1500.00	1,520.00	2296.82	1.33
4.	Bihar	2471.99	3,100.00	4076.41	25.41
5.	Goa	241.00	332.00	325.00	37.76
6.	Gujarat	6550.00	7,600.00	7600.00	16.03
7.	Haryana	1785.00	1,920.00	2530.00	7.56
8.	Himachal Pradesh	1601.17	1,382.00	1720.00	—



1	2	3	4	5	6
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	1758.00	1,750.00	2525.00	—
10.	Karnataka	5231.35	7,250.00	7274.00	38.59
11.	Kerala	3010.45	3,317.00	3535.00	10.18
12.	Madhya Pradesh	3473.75	4,450.00	3827.33	28.10
13.	Maharashtra	12,161.66	11,500.00	12330.00	—
14.	Manipur	475.00*	451.00	681.95	—
15.	Meghalaya	350.00	480.00	517.00	37.14
16.	Mizoram	380.51	401.26	360.00	5.45
17.	Nagaland	320.50	326.00	496.98	1.72
18.	Orissa	2,553.13	2,665.00	3381.67	4.38
19.	Punjab	2,680.00	2,420.00	2700.00	—
20.	Rajasthan	3,855.14	4,146.00	4418.14	7.54
21.	Sikkim	250.00*	250.00	250.00	—
22.	Tamil Nadu	5,250.00	5,700.00	5700.00	8.57
23.	Tripura	437.00	485.00	720.40	10.98
24.	Uttar Pradesh	5104.08	9,025.00	9025.00	76.82
25.	West Bengal	3674.73	5,657.86	6342.58	53.97

\*Revision not sought by the State Govt; Approved Outlay repeated.

[Translation]

#### **Adoption of Orphans due to Earthquake**

\*160. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have issued directives to the Government of Gujarat regarding adoption of more children, who have become orphans in the recent earthquake;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are aware that many institutions engaged in adoption of children are exploiting them;

(d) if so, the number of such cases that have come to the notice of the Union Government during the past three years till date;

(e) the action being taken by the Government against such institutions;

(f) whether fresh instructions are being issued to the State Governments in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) and (b) No directive has been issued by the Ministry to the State Govt. of Gujarat regarding adoption of more children who have become orphaned in the recent Earth Quake. However, the Ministry has advised the State Govt. that steps should be taken to rehabilitate all affected children with their surviving relatives and adoption should be resorted to only as a last measure after necessary verification.

(c) to (e) On the basis of reports received by the Ministry, the recognition of 3 placement agencies have

been suspected/withdrawn. The names of the agencies are given in the enclosed Statement.

(f) and (g) The Ministry has been issuing instructions to the State Governments and concerned agencies from time to time to ensure that adoptions are carried out in a legal manner through licensed agencies. The State Governments have been requested to licence all Orphanages and to monitor and supervise adoptions as per rules.

#### **Statement**

Name of Agencies	Date of Suspension/ Withdrawal of License
1. Action for Social Development, Hyderabad	16th June, 2000
2. Good Samaritan Evangelical and Social Welfare Association, Hyderabad.	16th June, 2000
3. M/s Madras Social Service Guild, Chennai	18th June, 1999

[English]

#### **Meeting of Indo-Pak Experts**

1440. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a meeting of Indo-Pak experts on N-risk reduction was held recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the composition of Indian delegation; and

(d) the outcome of the said meeting?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) to (d) Government is aware of contacts and meetings between Indian and Pakistani academics and scholars on a whole range of topics including regional and international security related and other issues. Government is not involved in such unofficial meetings.

#### **National Calamity Fund**

1441. DR. V. SAROJA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Calamity Fund has been set up;

(b) if so, the initial amount thereof;

(c) whether any proposal is under consideration of the Government to increase the amount in occurrence of natural calamities; and

(d) if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir. The National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) has been set up.

(b) Rs. 500 crore;

(c) and (d) As per the NCCF scheme, the Fund is to be recouped by levy of special surcharge on Central taxes. 2% surcharge has been levied in the wake of earthquake in Gujarat. It is proposed to continue this surcharge, besides levy of 15% special surcharge on cigarettes, bidies, pan masalas to be credited to NCCF, as per the budget proposals for 2001-02.

#### **Facilities at Nagpur For Haj Pilgrims**

1442. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of Muslim pilgrims go to Macca for Haj every year from Vidarbha;

(b) if so, whether the provision of embarkation and other elementary facilities are not available in Nagpur; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken to provide the same during the next Haj Yatra (2001-2002)?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) No, Sir. Only a limited number of pilgrims from Vidarbha go for Haj every year. For Haj 2001, 1407 pilgrims have proceeded from Vidarbha out of 10,800 pilgrims from the State of Maharashtra and a grand total of approximately 71,000 under the auspices of the Central Haj Committee from the country as a whole.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

#### **Creation of Additional Mandays**

1443. SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to create additional mandays in the State which are suffering from natural calamities;

(b) if the steps taken in this regard, State-wise;

(c) whether the food for work is being launched in the drought affected districts; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) and (b) It is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments to provide relief to the affected people in the wake of natural calamities. However, the Central Government supplements the efforts of the States. At present, the States of Gujarat (earthquake also), Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Orissa, Maharashtra, Himachal Pradesh and Utranchal are facing drought like situation/scarcity of water. These States have initiated relief works for providing employment opportunities to the affected people.

(c) and (d) Five lakh MTs of foodgrains have been released free of cost to the drought affected States for undertaking Food for Work Programme.

[Translation]

#### **Unutilised Funds under MPLADS**

1444. SHRIMATI SUSHILA SAROJ: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that huge amount of funds is lying unutilized under MPLADS;

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

(c) whether the Government propose to take any action against the officials responsible for keeping the proposals pending sent by the M.P.;

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

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) and (b) The Government of India has so far released Rs. 683830 lakhs for various works under MPLAD Scheme. Out of this, the District Heads have issued sanction for Rs. 633590.3 lakhs and incurred an expenditure of Rs. 453321.5 lakhs. Thus with reference to release of funds, the percentage of sanction and percentage of utilisation are 92.7 and 66.3 respectively. The State-wise details are given in the Statement attached.

(c) to (e) Since most of the works relate to the civil works having gestation period, at any point of time there will be a time lag between the amount sanctioned and amount utilized. This Ministry, however, has advised all the District Heads to implement the works, recommended by the Members, of Parliament expeditiously, strictly according to the time schedule to be decided depending on the nature of work. As and when specific instances of undue delay in implementation of works is brought to the notice of this Ministry, the concerned State Govts./District Heads are advised to investigate the matter and take immediate remedial measures.

#### **Statement**

##### *Summary Statement for Release/Expenditure of LS and RS MP's (as on 28/02/2001)*

Sl. No. Name of State/UTs		1993-2001				
		Release by G.O.I. (Rs. Lakhs)	Amount Sanctioned (Rs. Lakhs)	% Saction over Release	Expenditure Incurred (Rs. Lakhs)	% Utilisation over Release
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Nominated	7090	5978.6	84.3	4419.5	62.3
2.	Andhra Pradesh	56645	53953.0	95.2	38927.4	68.7
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	2765	2512.1	90.09	1798.1	65.0
4.	Assam	18185	16027.0	88.1	13006.3	71.5

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
5.	Bihar	49780	46620.0	93.7	33718.1	67.7
6.	Goa	2165	1868.3	86.3	1487.9	68.7
7.	Gujarat	32275	28659.0	88.8	20653.6	64.0
8.	Haryana	13265	12313.0	92.8	9988.7	75.3
9.	Himachal Pradesh	6235	5776.0	92.6	4773.9	76.6
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	4700	4396.5	93.5	2547.3	54.2
11.	Karnataka	35500	32760.0	92.3	24649.1	69.4
12.	Kerala	24225	23156.0	95.6	13668.4	56.4
13.	Madhya Pradesh	35755	32708.0	91.5	25477.2	71.3
14.	Maharashtra	57615	54648.0	94.9	32628.4	56.6
15.	Manipur	2815	2536.0	90.1	2104.1	74.7
16.	Meghalaya	2015	1740.5	86.4	1712.0	85.0
17.	Mizoram	2010	1820.0	90.5	1711.4	85.1
18.	Nagaland	1760	1722.0	97.8	1510.0	85.8
19.	Orissa	27890	25377.0	91.0	15872.8	56.9
20.	Punjab	15905	14137.0	88.9	7898.9	49.7
21.	Rajasthan	31755	29757.0	93.7	21522.8	67.8
22.	Sikkim	1900	1810.0	95.3	1654.1	87.1
23.	Tamil Nadu	56385	54721.0	97.0	45973.6	81.5
24.	Tripura	2565	2577.5	100.5	1014.2	39.5
25.	Uttar Pradesh	100040	92732.0	92.7	67913.9	67.9
26.	West Bengal	46055	41443.0	90.0	25677.9	55.8
27.	A & N Islands	505	327.1	64.8	327.1	64.8
28.	Chandigarh	655	539.1	82.3	370.9	56.6
29.	D & N Haveli	955	914.2	95.7	536.9	56.2
30.	Daman & Diu	605	471.4	77.9	471.4	77.9
31.	Delhi	9195	7797.7	84.8	6039.8	65.7
32.	Lakshadweep	755	716.4	94.9	716.4	94.9
33.	Pondicherry	1810	1871.0	103.4	622.1	34.4
34.	Chhattisgarh	14600	13535.0	92.7	10239.2	70.1
35.	Uttaranchal	5325	511.17	96.0	3889.1	73.0
36.	Jharkhand	12130	10558.0	87.0	7799.0	64.3
	Grand Total	683830	633590.3	92.7	453321.5	66.3
	Orissa Relief	340	340.0			

**Cooperative Training and Education Programme**

1445. SHRI JAI PRAKASH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the grant sanctioned to various States during each of the last three years for Co-operative Training and Education Programmes, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government propose to assess the performance of this programme; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) The Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, Government of India has been implementing a Central Sector Scheme for Cooperative Training and Education through National Cooperative Union of India (NCUI) and National Council for Cooperative Training (NCCT). Under the Scheme, grants-in-aid are released to NCUI and NCCT for conducting Cooperative Training and Education Programmes in the country. No Statewise allocations are made by the Government. The NCUI/NCCT releases the funds to the Cooperative Training Institutions in the States as per their requirement. The grants-in-aid to NCUI and NCCT during 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 had been Rs. 931 lakhs, Rs. 1538 lakhs and Rs. 1760 lakhs respectively.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Cooperative Education and Training Programmes were last evaluated by the One Man Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri M. Ramakrishnayya, appointed by the Government of India in the year 1997-98. It has also been decided to further evaluate the programmes.

[English]

**Visas to Young Girls/Women**

1446. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state the number of visas issued by the Indian Embassies in Central Asian countries to young girls/women in the age group of 18 to 30 years during the last one year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): As per available information, the Indian Embassies in Central Asian countries have issued 985 visas to young girls/women in the age group of 18 to 30 years during the last one year.

**Financial Package to J&K**

1447. VAIDYA VISHNU DATT SHARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a new financial package has been worked out for Jammu & Kashmir State;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof; and

(c) the assistance of plan allocation utilized for the development of the State so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) However, during the Ninth Plan, the State has been receiving Special Central Assistance (SCA) from the Ministry of Finance and Special Plan Assistance (SPA) from Planning Commission as per details given below:

(Rs. crore)		
Year	SCA	SPA
1997-98	850	200
1998-99	850	250
1999-2000	850	300
2000-01	250	300

While the above Special Assistance to the State has been released and utilized for the first three years, details relating to the current year are yet to be received.

**Central Investment in States**

1448. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the per capit central investment in the States during the last three years, State wise; and

(b) the details of the special assistance providing to BIMARU States during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) Central investment in the States can be quantified in terms of investment in central

public sector units located in States and Central assistance to States for plan investments. Details of the State wise per capita central investment (gross block) in central public sector undertakings for the last three years as on 31st March 1998, 1999 and 2000 are given in Statement I. Similarly, the State-wise position of Central investment in States plan is for the last three years of 1997-98, 1998-99, 1999-2000 is given in Statement II.

(b) There is no special Central assistance solely for BIMARU States.

### Statement-I

#### State-wise distribution of Gross Block with per capita

Sl. No.	State/UTs	As on 31.3.1998		As on 31.3.1999		As on 31.3.2000	
		Gross Block* (Rs. crore)	Per Capita (in Rs.)	Gross Block* (Rs. crore)	Per Capita (in Rs.)	Gross Block* (Rs. crore)	Per Capita (in Rs.)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	20,527.90	2773	22453.65	2986	25073.64	3285
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1,142.78	11315	1006.11	9711	1271.98	11977
3.	Assam	15,360.88	6001	16768.94	6429	16068.35	6049
4.	Bihar	20,886.68	2114	22194.03	2202	22959.15	2235
5.	Goa	916.94	6920	933.10	6902	944.40	6843
6.	Gujarat	23,864.66	5171	26828.89	5714	29675.28	6215
7.	Haryana	5,167.56	2750	6126.02	3200	7031.59	3608
8.	Himachal Pradesh	5,974.05	10242	6960.36	11698	8097.06	13344
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	6,903.81	7796	7745.02	8580	8111.51	8816
10.	Karnataka	8,033.34	1626	8524.13	1703	9819.97	1937
11.	Kerala	4,717.39	1486	5962.18	1854	6827.77	2096
12.	Madhya Pradesh	19,977.88	2670	2464.55	3238	27276.26	2876
13.	Maharashtra	63,923.63	7166	70375.56	7745	77568.35	8382
14.	Manipur	260.54	1224	209.41	960	199.74	894
15.	Meghalaya	71.29	347	85.61	407	99.39	461
16.	Mizoram	69.16	823	74.40	858	111.17	1242
17.	Nagaland	760.99	5152	766.60	5027	949.52	6029

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
18.	Orissa	18,433.87	5197	19779.55	5484	20522.94	5597
19.	Punjab	2,435.05	1096	2950.33	1309	3004.01	1315
20.	Rajasthan	6,560.80	1310	6579.52	1291	8419.13	1623
21.	Sikkim	344.33	6914	425.26	8274	556.48	10480
22.	Tamil Nadu	15,258.73	2570	16926.83	2825	18394.41	3042
23.	Tripura	1,116.42	3498	1163.00	3559	1211.38	3619
24.	Uttar Pradesh	23,132.86	1491	25886.98	1643	29929.75	1870
25.	West Bengal	20,931.98	2770	21636.00	2822	21635.07	2783

\* "Gross Block" is defined as original cost of procuring and erecting the fixed assets as appearing in the annual accounts of the enterprises at the end of the accounting year and takes into account additions thereto and deductions therefrom by way of sales and transfers.

### *Statement-II*

#### *Per Capita Central Investment in State Plans*

(Rupees)

	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
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1	2	3	4	5
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#### **Special Category**

1.	Arunachal Pradesh	4734	5162	5406
2.	Assam	510	553	608
3.	Himachal Pradesh	1106	1538	1334
4.	Jammu & Kashmir	2546	2724	2861
5.	Manipur	1817	2092	2266
6.	Meghalaya	1593	1789	1958
7.	Mizoram	3679	3870	4298
8.	Nagaland	2375	2278	2506
9.	Sikkim	4525	4893	6213
10.	Tripura	1306	1832	1960

#### **Non Special Category**

1.	Andhra Pradesh	290	409	421
2.	Bihar	183	200	233

1	2	3	4	5
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3.	Goa	562	575	653
4.	Gujarat	255	300	300
5.	Haryana	358	498	524
6.	Karnataka	218	239	318
7.	Kerala	253	239	268
8.	Madhya Pradesh	196	274	282
9.	Maharashtra	243	205	162
10.	Orissa	395	445	554
11.	Punjab	441	305	325
12.	Rajasthan	232	274	318
13.	Tamil Nadu	297	284	260
14.	Uttar Pradesh	250	275	386
15.	West Bengal	306	357	426

[Translation]

#### **Fodder for Cattle**

1449. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to distribute the foodgrain categorised as fodder for the cattle free of cost for the famine affected areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the quantum of foodgrain likely to be given as fodder to the various States particularly to Rajasthan; and

(d) the time by which this fodder is likely to be made available?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) to (d) Food Corporation of India has been authorized to allot feed category foodgrains (Wheat and Rice) free of cost to the State Governments including the Government of Rajasthan for the famine affected areas. Cattle feed which is available in the States not affected by drought can also be made available for the famine affected States free of cost.

[English]

#### **Setting up of CGHS Dispensaries/ Hospitals in Kerala**

1450. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received a proposal to open CGHS Dispensary/Hospital of Homoeopathic/Ayurvedic in Kerala State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Requests have been received from the All India CGHS Employees Association and the Federation of Central Government employees for opening of ISM & H dispensaries under CGHS at Trivandrum.

(c) Further expansion of the ISM & H Units/Dispensaries under CGHS can be considered only after the Staff Inspection Unit of the Ministry of Finance undertakes the study of these Units/Dispensaries under CGHS and submits its report and subject to availability of resources.

[Translation]

#### **Amount Spent for Setting up SSI**

1451. SHRI BHAL CHANDRA YADAV: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state the total amount

spent by the Government for setting up of small scale industries in rural areas of Uttar Pradesh under the Ninth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): All units in the Small Scale Industries in the country are set up by private entrepreneurs. The Central Government supplements these efforts through various Schemes/Programmes. These Schemes/Programmes are uniformly implemented in the country and State-wise allocation is not made. During the Ninth Five Year Plan, an outlay of Rs. 4304.00 crores has been earmarked by the Central Government for development of Small Scale Industries Sector in the country.

[English]

#### **Prices of Agricultural Commodities**

1452. SHRI GANTA SREENIVASA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state;

(a) whether the price of agricultural commodities are falling whereas the costs of agricultural production are rising day-by-day;

(b) whether cheap agricultural commodities are also entering the country after lifting Quantitative Restrictions on imports by Government;

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take to improve farmers plight; and

(d) whether there is any proposal to increase plan outlay on agriculture for completion of agricultural projects pending in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) The prices of certain agricultural commodities exhibited a declining trend at certain centers during the year 2000. The cost of production/cultivation has generally been rising because of the increase in wages of labour and increase in the prices of inputs, such as diesel, fertilizers, etc.



(b) and (c) Import restrictions on various items including food produce and allied products are being removed as part of the import liberalization programme of the Government and also in terms of our international obligations.

However, all imports in the country are subject to applicable rates of customs duties and are also subject to domestic laws, rules, orders, regulations, technical specifications, environmental and safety norms as applicable to domestically produced goods. This should provide adequate protection to domestic farmers.

India's tariff bindings at WTO for most of the agricultural items are fairly high and effective rates of customs duties can be raised to those levels, in case there is any evidence of substantial increase in imports.

Import duties on many of the agricultural items have been increased to provide further protection to domestic farmers e.g., duty on rice has been increased from 0% to upto 80%, on maize from 0% to 50% on apples from 35% to 50%.

The imports are being closely monitored and Government is determined to ensure through appropriate use of the tariff mechanism that imports do not cause any detriment or injury to the domestic farmers.

(d) Plan allocations are made after duly taking into account both the pending projects as also new approved proposals. For the year 2001-02, plan allocation of Rs. 3009 crores, has been earmarked for the Ministry for Agriculture.

#### **Development of Rural Industries in Tripura**

1453. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:-

(a) whether the Government has any programme/proposal to develop rural Industries based on agro products in the State of Tripura; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) The Government through Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) gives support to khadi and village industries in the form of financial, technical and managerial assistance throughout the country including Tripura. For the development of village industries in rural areas, the KVIC is implementing the Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP) in the entire country including Tripura under which financial assistance is provided for setting up khadi and village industry units in rural areas. Under the programme the KVIC provides Margin Money Assistance at the rate of 25% of the project cost upto Rs. 10 lakhs and for the project cost above Rs. 10 lakhs and upto Rs. 25 lakhs, an additional margin money @ 10% on remaining cost of the project. In the case of weaker sections and for North Eastern Region the margin money is given at a rate of 30% instead of 25%.

#### **Food Processing Industries**

1454. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is good production of Mango, Banana, Lichi, Makhana etc. in Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that there is no Food Processing Industry in Bihar;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TH. CHAOBA SINGH): (a) and (b) Bihar ranks within first ten in the country in production of these fruits.

(c) and (d) As on 01.01.2001, 63 fruits and vegetable processing units in private, cooperative, public sector have been provided licence under Fruit Product Order — 1955 in Bihar.

(e) The Department of Food Processing Industries does not set up food processing industries on its own, but financial assistance is provided in the form of grant and loan for setting up/modernization of food processing industries including fruit processing industries to PSUs, joint sector, private/assisted sector, NGOs/cooperatives. During the first three years of the 9th plan, financial

assistance of Rs. 82.98 lakh has been provided to 11 units by the Department of Food Processing Industries under its various plan scheme in Bihar.

#### **Projects for Bio-Fertilizer and Bio-Medicine**

1455. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the KVIC has proposed to launch projects for the manufacturing bio-fertilizer and bio-medicines in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the estimated foreign exchange likely to be saved from these projects in the future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) In order to propagate manufacturing of bio-fertilizer, the KVIC have initiated action to identify pilot centres to provide facilities for demonstration, training, testing, etc. Moreover, under its Margin Money Scheme, the KVIC provides margin money to set up Khadi and village industry units in rural areas including bio-fertilizer manufacturing units.

(c) Since the bio-fertilizer project is still in the initial stages, no estimates on the amount of foreign exchange, which can be saved, can be made.

#### **Child Health Care**

1456. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the specific programme undertaken under Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) scheme in Chandigarh; and

(b) the funds allocated under the programme during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Under the Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) Programme, the Union Territory of Chandigarh is being assisted for strengthening the Primary Health Care system by providing Public Health Nurses/Staff Nurse, Laboratory Technicians, Safe Motherhood Consultants and Anesthetists on contractual basis, minor and major civil works, Information, Education and Communication Activities, training of health personnel and officers, strengthening of management information system, besides supply of vaccines, drugs and equipments etc.

(b) The details of year-wise Cash and Kind allocations made to Chandigarh are as under:

(Rs. in lakhs)			
Year	Cash	Kind	Total
1997-98	40.22	10.00	50.22
1998-99	28.22	27.31	55.53
1999-2000	118.11	21.38	139.49

Activity-wise details of cash allocation are given in the statement.

#### **Statement**

*Year-wise and Activity-wise Funds Allocated under the RCH Programme During the last three years to the Union Territory of Chandigarh*

Rs. in Lakhs				
Sl. No.	Activities	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Reproductive and Child Health Drugs	0.50	—	—
2.	Absorbent Cotton and Cotton Bandage	0.16	—	—

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Minor Civil Works	10.00	—	—
4.	Public Health Nurses/Staff Nurses	—	—	90.00
5.	Laboratory Technicians	—	3.56	—
6.	Standing/State Committee on Voluntary Action Staff/Consultants	10.00	—	—
7.	24 Hrs Delivery Services	—	5.60	—
8.	Community Need Assessment Approach/Target Free Approach	0.15	—	-
9.	Pethidine Injection Procurement	—	0.04	—
10.	Reproductive Tract Infection/Sexually Transmitted Infections Consumable	—	0.36	—
11.	Immunization Cards Printing	—	0.09	—
12.	Eligible Couples Registers Printing	—	0.01	—
13.	Maternal and Child Health Registers	0.01	—	—
14.	Cold Chain Maintenance	0.60	0.11	0.11
15.	Computer and Furnitures	—	—	—
16.	Pulse Polio Immunization	17.60	18.45	28.00
17.	Other Operating Costs	1.20	—	—
Total		40.22	28.22	118.11

#### Minimum Support Price for Agriculture Products

1457. SHRI S.P. LEPCHA:  
PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Minimum Support Price (M.S.P.) policy is in operation in the country;

(b) if so, the details of M.S.P. for all agricultural products and foodgrains fixed during the last three years;

(c) the measures taken by the Government to protect the interest of farmers if the prices fall below M.S.P. level; and

(d) the details of crops for which the prices fell below M.S.P. level during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement showing the Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) of major agricultural commodities fixed by the Government during the last three years is enclosed.

(c) and (d) The designated central nodal agencies undertake price support operations as and when prices fall below the MSP fixed by the Government. The quantities of major agricultural commodities offered by the farmers for sale are procured by the public and cooperative agencies. The crops for which the prices have fallen below the MSP level during the last three years include paddy, wheat, jowar, maize ragi, soyabean, mustard seed, sunflower seed, groundnut, copra, etc.

**Statement**  
*Minimum Support Prices*  
*(According to Crop Year)*

			(Rs. per quintal)		
S. No.	Commodity	Variety	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
1.	Paddy	Common	415	440	490
		Grade 'A'	445	470	520
2.	Coarse Cereals (Jowar, Bajra & Ragi)		360	390	415
3.	Maize		360	390	415
4.	Wheat		510x	550	580
5.	Barley		350	385	430
6.	Gram		815	895	1015
7.	Arhar		900	960	1105
8.	Mong		900	960	1105
9.	Urad		900	960	1105
10.	Sugarcane @		48.45	52.70	56.10
11.	Cotton	F-414/H-777	1330	1440++	1575++
		H-4	1530	1650	1775
12.	Groundnut-in-shell		980	1040	1155
13.	Jute		570	650	750
14.	Rapeseed/Mustard		940	1000	1100
15.	Sunflower Seed		1000	1060	1155
16.	Soyabean	Black	670	705	755
		Yellow	750	795	845
17.	Safflower		910	990	1100
18.	Toria		905	965	1065
19.	Tobacco (VFC) (Rs. per kg.)	Black Soil (F2 Grade)	20.50	22.50	25.00
		Light Soil (L2 Grade)	23.50	25.50	27.00
20.	Copra (Calendar Year)	Milling	2700	2900	3100
		Ball	2925	3125	3325
21.	Sesamum		950	1060	1205
22.	Nigerseed		800	850	915

@ Statutory Minimum Price linked to a basic recovery of 8.5 per cent with proportionate premium for every 0.1 per cent increase in recovery above that level.

X Including a Central Bonus of Rs. 55.00 per quintal payable from 01-04-98 to 30-06-98.

++ For J-34 variety also.

### **Computers Blamed for Memory Loss**

1458. SHRI SAIDUZZAMA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Blame Computers for Memory Loss" as reported in "Times of India" dated February 6, 2001;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether controlled studies will be undertaken to study the matter and find remedies; and

(d) if so, the programme worked out therefor?

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

(b) The problem of memory dysfunction is being recognized, however its relation with use of computers has not yet been established.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

### **"Indo-Russian Economic Cooperation"**

1459. SHRI V. VETRISELVAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Russian President during his recent visit to India had expressed dissatisfaction over the volume of trade between India and Russia;

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to increase the trade volume between the two countries; and

(c) the details of the trade agreements signed during his visit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) During the State Visit to India by the President of the Russian Federation from October 2-5, 2000, the Indian and Russian sides acknowledged that the volume of bilateral trade did not correspond to its true potential.

(b) The leaders of the two countries directed the Indo-Russian Inter-Governmental Commission for Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological and Cultural Cooperation (IRIGC) to draw up an Action Plan for further intensification of trade and economic relations. During the

7th Session of the IRIGC, which was held in Moscow on January 15, 2001, the Indian and Russian sides agreed to take appropriate measures towards further expansion and diversification of trade and economic cooperation between India and the Russian Federation. The issues considered, inter alia, included exports from India to the Russian Federation of additional quantities of tea, possibility of export of agricultural goods, export of pharmaceuticals and hi-tech items and import from the Russian Federation into India of rough diamonds. Cooperation in the energy sector between India and the Russian Federation, where there are considerable prospects, was also discussed. Both sides also agreed that all efforts would be made both at the Governmental level and through increased interaction among Indian and Russian businessmen to prepare for trading through normal commercial channels when the annual Rupee debt repayments get considerably reduced and ultimately depleted.

(c) A total of 17 Agreements/bilateral documents were signed during the visit to India by the President of the Russian Federation. The most significant of these is the Declaration on Strategic Partnership between India and the Russian Federation. The document defines the broad contours of Indo-Russian bilateral relations in the 21st century, including in the area of trade and economic cooperation. The other Agreements in this field were those relating to the processing and trade of rough natural diamonds and precious metals, in the energy sector and in science and technology. The Joint Statement issued at the end of the visit also touched upon trade and economic cooperation.

### **Committee on Communication & Information Technology**

1460. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission has constituted a Committee on Communication and Information Technology for the 10th Finance Commission (2002-07);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which this Committee is likely to submit its report;

(d) the broad terms of reference of this Committee;

(e) whether the Committee is also likely to consider the privatisation of postal service; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) No, Sir. No Committee has been constituted in the Planning Commission on Communication and Information Technology for the Tenth Finance Commission (2002-2007). However, a Steering Committee on Communication and Information has been constituted for the Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-2007). The Committee shall make recommendations on various policy and programme requirements relevant to the formulation of Tenth Five Year Plan for Telecom, Information Technology, Information & Broadcasting and Postal sectors.

(b) to (f) A copy of the Notification constituting the Committee is appended as statement.

**Statement**

No. 4(4)/35/2000-C&I  
Government of India  
Planning Commission  
(C&I Division)

Yojana Bhavan, Sansad Marg,  
New Delhi - 110001  
Dated: 21st, Dec. 2000

**OFFICE MEMORANDUM**

Subject: Steering Committee on Communications and Information for the Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-2007).

In the context of preparation Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-2007) it has been decided to constitute a Steering Committee on Communication and Information covering Telecom, Information Technology (IT), Information & Broadcasting (I&B) and Postal sectors to make recommendations on the various policy matters relevant to the formulation of the Tenth Five Year Plan.

II. The *Composition* of the proposed Steering Committee will be as follows:

- |                                |                 |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Shri Montek Singh Ahluwalia | <i>Chairman</i> |
| Member, Planning Commission    |                 |
| 2. Shri R.P. Sinha, Principal  | <i>Member</i>   |
| Adviser, Planning Commission.  |                 |

- |   |                         |
|---|-------------------------|
| 3. Shri Shyamal Ghosh                       | <i>Member</i>           |
| Secretary, Telecommunications               |                         |
| 4. Shri Vinay Kohli                         | <i>Member</i>           |
| Secretary, Information Technology           |                         |
| 5. Shri B.N. Som                            | <i>Member</i>           |
| Secretary, Posts                            |                         |
| 6. Shri Y.N. Chaturvedi                     | <i>Member</i>           |
| Secretary, Information & Broadcasting       |                         |
| 7. Shri R.R. Shah                           | <i>Member</i>           |
| CEO, Prasar Bharti                          |                         |
| 8. Member (Technical), Telecom              | <i>Member</i>           |
| Commission                                  |                         |
| 9. Member (Finance)                         | <i>Member</i>           |
| Telecom Commission                          |                         |
| 10. CMD                                     | <i>Member</i>           |
| Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL)         |                         |
| 11. CMD                                     | <i>Member</i>           |
| Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited (VSNL)         |                         |
| 12. CMD                                     | <i>Member</i>           |
| Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL)    |                         |
| 13. Shri Gautam Soni,                       | <i>Member</i>           |
| Adviser, Ministry of Information Technology |                         |
| 14. Shri Nirmal Singh                       | <i>Member-Secretary</i> |
| Director (C&I)                              |                         |
| Planning Commission                         |                         |

**Non-Officials**

- |   |               |
|---|---------------|
| 15. Shri Sudheendra Kulkarni  | <i>Member</i> |
| Prime Minister's Office (PMO)   |               |
| 16. Shri K. Harish or any other   | <i>Member</i> |
| representative of the Confederation of Indian Industries (CII)              |               |
| 17. Shri Arun Kumar or any other  | <i>Member</i> |
| representative of the Associated Chambers of Commerce & Industries of India |               |
| 18. Shri Dewang Mehta   | <i>Member</i> |
| President, NASSCOM  |               |
| 19. Shri Alique Padamsee, Media person                                      | <i>Member</i> |

20. Shri T.N. Ninan, Editor, Business Standard Member

21. Shri Nandan Nilkhani, Managing Director Infosys Technologies Member

22. Shri Pankaj Jalote Professor & Head Deptt. of Computer Science and Engineering I.I.T. Kanpur. Member

III. The Terms of Reference of the Committee will be—

*Convergence and e-Governance*

1. To take an integrated view of the development of telecommunications, IT and I&B sectors including the state of the industries, and the technological developments in these areas; convergence of technology, delivery systems and applications and to determine the needs of the individual sectors as well as new service emerging out of convergence.
2. To assess the requirement of bandwidth for proper growth of IT and suggest ways and means for achieving the expansion of Internet in the country.
3. To suggest measures for promotion of e-governance at various levels in the Government starting from Gram Panchayat level and to suggest strategy to be adopted in this regard.
4. To suggest measures to address the issue of digital divide and taking the benefits of IT to the masses.
5. To suggest measures for ensuring seamless transition to convergence of IT, telecommunication and information and broadcasting sectors.

*Information Technology Sector*

6. To evolve the Approach for Information Technology sector for the Tenth Plan keeping in view the comparative advantage, strengths and weaknesses of the IT industry, international scenario including WTO regime and the national goal of making India an IT super power.
7. To assess year-wise capacity and production for the different sub-sectors of the IT industry for the Tenth Five Year Plan period (2002-2007) in the line with perspective up to 2010 AD taking into account domestic requirements and export potential.

8. To make an assessment of the likely exports and imports taking into account the options available with respect to "make v/s buy" and also to assess year-wise projections for the Tenth Five Year Plan.

9. To estimate the investments required to be made in the public and private sector to achieve projections for the Tenth Five Year Plan.

10. To critically review the impact of the various policy measures already initiated, identifying the constraints and to suggest further policy framework to be adopted to achieve the set goals.

11. To examine the adequacy to the existing infrastructure facilities like Standardisation, Testing and Quality Assurance Centres, National and Regional Computer Centres, Components and Materials Development Centres, and Manpower Development and training centres etc. in areas of electronics, computer networks and networking centres etc. and to recommend steps for optimal utilisation of the existing facilities.

*Telecommunications Sector*

12. To evolve Approach on Telecom Sector for the 10th Plan keeping in view the basic goal of development of world class telecom infrastructure to support accelerated growth of IT and other sectors of the economy, objectives of New Telecom Policy (1999), convergence of services and markets, international scenario in the wake of WTO/IPR regimes and other relevant factors.
13. To make recommendations on development of an appropriate system of telecom network in rural areas which should be affordable but self-financing and capable of supporting a multi-media system of communications.
14. To make recommendations on the further restructuring/reforms required in the telecom sector in the post - convergence scenario.
15. To suggest measures to be adopted for promoting private sector investment in the light of the experience gained so far and the requirement of funds for future growth.
16. To review the performance of telecom equipment manufacturing sector so far, identify the constraints and make recommendations for evolving an appropriate policy to ensure growth on the pattern of software sector.

*Postal Sector*

17. To evolve Approach on Postal Sector for the 10th Plan keeping in view the strengths/weaknesses of Postal Sector, socio-economic needs of the country, objectives of providing world class postal services at affordable prices, international commitments of the country at Universal Postal Union, WTO etc.
18. To make recommendations on the restructuring/reforms required to make Department of Posts self financing.
19. To make recommendations on extent of privatisation of services and need and form of regulation required.
20. Role of post offices in promoting/facilitating e-commerce and the process of certification.
21. To examine the issue of optimum utilization of land, buildings and other physical infrastructure including commercial exploitation of properties held by Departments in metros and big cities and suggest an appropriate action plan in this regard with a view to generate additional resources for financing plan expenditure.

*Information and Broadcasting Sector*

22. To evolve Approach to the Information and Broadcasting sector for the 10th Plan keeping in view the emerging trends in radio, television and IT enabled media applications.
23. To examine the extent to which expansion of transmission network is needed and best way to provide the reach of radio and television signals to the uncovered areas.
24. To assess the total needs of investment in broadcasting infrastructure including that for content creation and to assess the extent of private investment that may come forward in the 10th Plan period and beyond and as to what steps should be taken to stimulate private investment.
25. To assess the human resources needed for the telecommunications, broadcasting, media, internet and IT and to suggest road map for making the same available.
26. To assess the status of the Film Industry and to suggest policy measures and other steps necessary to ensure production of good, socially relevant and aesthetically creative films.

27. To take a look at the needs of government publicity including sectoral publicity programmes and to re-assess institutional arrangements for bringing out Government publications, advertisements and media products.

IV. Any other item that the Planning Commission or the Steering Group, deems necessary to be included for making recommendations useful.

V. The Steering Group may set up Working Groups to go into specific sectors or issues for detailed information gathering and analysis. The Chairman of the Steering Group may coopt any person whose knowledge or expertise is considered to be useful to the Working Groups or the Steering Group and may invite any such person to specific meetings.

VI. The non-official members of the Committee will be paid TA/DA by Planning Commission as per SR 190 (a) for attending meetings of the Committee.

VII. The Steering Committee shall submit its report by 30th April 2001.

Sd/-  
(T.R. Meena)  
Deputy Secretary (Admn.)

To

Chairman and Members of Working Group

**Chinese Assistance for Controlling Floods**

1461. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether during the recent visit of the Chinese delegation the question of floods in Brahmaputra was discussed and Chinese co-operation to control these floods was solicited;

(b) if so, their response thereto;

(c) whether the feasibility of controlling Brahmaputra floods with Chinese and international co-operation has been examined; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) to (d) During the visit of the Chinese Foreign Minister in July 2000, EAM had proposed that the two countries enter into a dialogue to examine ways in which human suffering could be reduced on the Indian side in the



event of natural disaster. The matter was followed up. The Chinese side has recently indicated willingness to have discussions on this matter. Modalities are being worked out.

#### **Setting up of Agricultural Export Promotion Corporation**

1462. SHRI GUNIPATI RAMAIAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up Agriculture Export Promotion Corporation to purchase surplus grains and export the same to other countries to help the agriculturists, who find it difficult to sell their produce inside the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) is already looking after the export promotion of foodgrains which is a thrust area of current EXIM Policy.

[Translation]

#### **Visit of United Nations to Gujarat**

1463. SHRI PUSP JAIN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a crisis management group of United Nations have visited Gujarat recently to evaluate the destruction caused by recent earthquake and to identify the assistance required for rehabilitation works;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereon; and

(d) the details of the other international organisations involved in rescue works in earthquake hit Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) to (c) A 5-member United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) team visited Gujarat between 30th January to 19th February, 2001 with the primary objective of assessment of requirements and coordination between various UN agencies for relief. Accordingly, UN agencies

are now working at Bhuj under the guidance of the State administration.

(d) The International organizations were not involved in rescue work, which was assisted by the search and rescue teams of the foreign countries.

#### **Diseases of Teeth**

1464. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the diseases of teeth among the children and youths are taking the form of epidemics;

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

(c) whether All India Institute of Medical Sciences and Indian Dental Association have given suggestion to include Dental Disease Programme in National Eradication Programme; and

(d) if so, the decision of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) No, Sir, However, according to available information, the dental diseases among the children and youth are on the rise in the country.

(b) to (d) A National Oral Health Care Programme has already been launched as a part of the National Health Policy. In order to sensitize the Dental professionals about the need to prevent dental diseases in the country, various workshops have been held in the first phase and in the second phase, the training of dental surgeons and health workers has been planned in the second phase.

[English]

#### **"Liberalisation of Visa and Work Permit Regime"**

1465. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India's call for liberalisation of visa and work permit regime for professionals has found support in Germany as reported in the 'Times of India' dated January 23, 2001; and

(b) if so, the facts thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) Germany has recently initiated measures to liberalise its

visa and work permit regime to attract highly skilled foreign professionals. Since 1 August 2000, Germany has been issuing special work permits to skilled Information Technology professionals from non-EU countries, including India, under the so-called 'Green Card' Scheme.

(b) The scheme includes issuing work permits for a maximum validity of five years with local labour offices being authorised to issue work permits in each individual case. These work permits would be issued within a week of application. These facilities can be extended to members of Green Card holders (spouses and children under 18) but a work permit for spouses would only be available after two years of stay. Professionals can also freely change jobs during their stay in Germany.

[*Translation*]

#### Industries by KVIC in Bihar

1466. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of rural industries set up in the villages of Bihar by the Khadi Gramodyog Commission and the number of people working in them;

(b) the details of the registered rural industries/institutes;

(c) the present position of these industries and the number of industries earning profit and the number incurring losses out of them;

(d) whether there is a any scheme to provide assistance to industries incurring losses; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) The details of Industries and performance in terms of production and employment thereof in Bihar is given in the enclosed statement.

(c) The KVIC provides assistance to village industry projects under its Margin Money Scheme. Under the Scheme the techno-economic viability of projects are

appraised by the banks for their viability before sanctioning projects. However, information on loss making units is not maintained centrally.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

#### *Statement*

#### *Bihar State-Industries and Performance 1999-2000*

(Employment in lakh persons)  
(Rs. in lakhs)

S. No.	Industries	Production	Employment
1	2	3	4
<i>Village Industries</i>			
1.	Cottage Pottery	1350.22	0.14
2.	Lime MFG	116.68	0.01
3.	Match and Agarbatti	32.02	0.01
4.	Handmade Paper	48.56	(162)*
5.	Shellac	2.06	(6)*
6.	Cane & Bamboo	26.91	(450)*
7.	Bee-Keeping	424.97	0.32
8.	Ghani Oil	6846.47	0.13
9.	Gur & Khandsari	1418.72	0.14
10.	Palmgur	29.80	0.01
11.	PCPI	1396.81	0.10
12.	Collection of Medicinal Plants	8.34	(164)*
13.	Fruit Processing & Preservation	7.52	(80)*
14.	Fibre	90.49	0.02
15.	Cottage Soap	26.41	(84)*
16.	Cottage Leather	13114.73	0.13
17.	Bio-gas	1882.04	0.01
18.	Polymer	1.70	(6)*
19.	Carpentry & Blacksmithy	855.53	0.11

1	2	3	4
20. Household Aluminium Utensils	0.32	(2)*	
21. Electronics	8.52	(8)*	
22. Brass Copper & Bell Metal	0.85	(8)*	
23. Polyvastra	158.14	0.06	
24. Other Textiles	52.43	0.01	
25. Service Industry	56.52	(10)*	
<b>Total</b>	<b>16166.76</b>	<b>1.27+(980)*</b>	

\* Less than 500.

**Programmes for Increasing the  
Agricultural Production**

1467. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the Centrally sponsored schemes being implemented in the States of Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh for increasing agricultural production during last two years and names of the proposals under consideration for these States;

(b) whether some proposals have been sent by Rajasthan in this regard, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government are making any special efforts for the backward State of Rajasthan which is although largest from geographical point of view but a desert area from nature's point of view;

(d) whether any targets have been set for the achievement to be made after the implementation of the centrally sponsored agricultural in the State of Rajasthan; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) The names of Centrally Sponsored Schemes being implemented in the States of Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh for increasing the agriculture production during 1998-99 and 1999-2000 are given in the statement attached. These State Governments have forwarded their Work Plan proposals for undertaking various agricultural development activities for the year 2001-2002.

(b) In their Work Plan for 2001-2002, Rajasthan Government has proposed an allocation of Rs. 88.89 crore consisting 90% Central share and 10% contribution from the State Government to achieve the targeted production.

(c) Ministry of Rural Development is implementing Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP) and Desert Development Programme (DDP) for desert proofing and controlling desertification in Rajasthan for which amount as indicated below have been released:

Amount Released (Rs. in Crore)		
Year	DPAP	DDP
1997-98	4.19	34.64
1998-99	1.74	50.64
1999-2000	3.86	39.01
2000-2001	9.16	73.17

(d) and (e) For the year 2001-2002 targets as indicated below have been fixed for Rajasthan:-

Target (Lakh MT)	
Crops	2001-02
Wheat	66.25
Barley	4.00
Bajra	22.00
Jowar	2.20
Sugarcane	10.00
Guar	6.65

**Statement**

*Names of the Centrally Sponsored Schemes being implemented in the States of Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan.*

S. No.	Name of schemes
1	2
1.	Integrated cereal development programme-Wheat (Only in Rajasthan)
2.	Integrated cereal development programme-Rice (Only in M.P.)

1	2
3.	Integrated cereal development programme-Coarse-cereals
4.	Sustainable development of sugarcane based cropping system
5.	Intensive cotton development programme/Technology Mission on Cotton
6.	National Pulses Development Project
7.	Oilseed Production Programme
8.	Accelerated maize development programme
9.	National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas
10.	Balanced and Integrated use of Fertilisers
11.	Promotion of Agricultural Mechanisation among small farmers
12.	State Land Use Boards
13.	Soil Conservation in the Catchment of River Valley Projects
14.	Soil Conservation in the Catchment of Flood Prone Rivers
15.	Reclamation and Development of Alkali (Usar) Soils
16.	Development of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants
17.	Use of Plastics in Agriculture
18.	Development of Commercial Floriculture
19.	Development of Mushroom
20.	Integrated Development of Tropical, Arid Temperate zone Fruits
21.	Development of Root & Tuber Crops
22.	Development of Vegetables
23.	Integrated Development of Spices
24.	Development of Bee-Keeping (Only in Rajasihan)
25.	Integrated Development Programme of Cashewnut (Only in M.P.)
26.	Non-over due Cover Scheme
27.	Special Scheme for SC/STs
28.	Agriculture Stabilisation Fund
29.	Assistance to Women Cooperatives

*[English]***Rubber Production**

1468. SHRI V.M. SUDHEERAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any steps to include rubber in the list of agricultural products; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Under the on going negotiations in WTO on the Agreement on Agriculture, the Government of India has filed its initial negotiating proposals including for coverage of rubber in the Agreement.

**Recognition of Ganga Ram Hospital**

1469. SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that Ganga Ram Hospital, Delhi is not recognized for CGHS beneficiaries and as a result of which there is great resentment amongst beneficiaries;

(b) if so, the reasons for which CGHS beneficiaries are being deprived of specialized facilities in the same hospital; and

(c) the steps, the Government propose to take to recognize the said hospital for CGHS beneficiaries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Ganga Ram Hospital is not recognized under CGHS Delhi since the said Hospital did not apply for recognition under CGHS against the Advertisement issued by CGHS in the year 1994.

However, the medical reimbursement for the treatment taken in Sir Ganga Ram Hospital in emergency situation are admissible as per Govt. approved rates to CGHS beneficiaries.

(c) The Government has initiated steps for fresh recognition of hospitals.

**Palmoil Plantation Growers**

1470. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the palmoil plantation growers in Southern States have been agitating about the fall of Palmoil prices in their States resulting in uprooting of their plantations;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the palmoil imports from other countries are causing major concern to the domestic growers and industry;

(d) if so, whether palmoil imports are effecting the economy of groundnut farmers and coconut growers; and

(e) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to safeguard the interest of the farmers and industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Due to large import of crude palmoil (CPO) at reduced duty the price of indigenous CPO has come down from Rs. 32,000 per MT in 1998 to Rs. 13,000 per MT during current year causing concern among oil palm growers in the Southern States. Due to decline in prices of indigenous Crude Palm Oil (CPO) some area has been uprooted in various States implementing the Oil Palm Development Programme (OPDP).

(c) and (d) Large scale imports of edible oils has resulted in the decline in the prices of CPO and other edible oils due to which the farmers growing oil palm, coconut and oilseeds including groundnut are not able to get the remunerate prices for their produce.

(e) In order to provide remunerative prices to the farmers the Government is implementing a Market support through NAFED being the Central Nodal Agency for price support operation of various oilseeds except oil palm. For the procurement of oil palm fresh fruit bunches (FFB) the Government of India is implementing Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) to provide reasonable price to the Oil Palm growers. Besides, to reduce the adverse effect of import of edible oil on domestic prices of edible oils and to protect the interest of oilseeds, oil palm and coconut growers. Government has increased the import duty on various categories of edible oils in the recent Budget-2001-02.

#### **Welfare Schemes for Farmers**

1471. SHRI DAHYABHAI VALLABHBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the various schemes formulated by the Government for the welfare of farmers in the country;

(b) the details of the funds allocated for this purpose during the last three years, State-wise; and

(c) the number of farmers benefited therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) the objective of all Central Sector and Centrally Sponsored Schemes being implemented by the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation is to improve the production and productivity of crops and thereby improve the welfare of farmers in the country. Some of the major schemes which are expected to benefit the farmers include:

1. Integrated Cereal Development Programmes covering rice, wheat, coarse cereals.
2. Technology Mission on Cotton.
3. Oil Seeds Production Programme.
4. National Pulses Development Project.
5. Accelerated Maize Development Programme.
6. Promotion of Agricultural Mechanisation among small farmers.
7. National Watershed Development Project in Rainfed Areas etc.

(b) Details of fund allocated/released under the various programmes State-wise are given in the Statement.

(c) Due to lack of comprehensive surveys, it has not been possible to assess the specific number of beneficiaries under various programmes.

#### **Statement**

##### *Details of fund allocated/Released under the various Programme—State-wise*

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Allocation/ Releases 1997/98	Allocation/ Releases 1998/99	Allocation/ Releases 1999/2000
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	7725.48	7540.81	8217.88
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	504.66	528.87	592.55
3.	Assam	397.48	600.7	543.11
4.	Bihar	1198.83	591.46	519.65
5.	Goa	100.06	237.22	200.07
6.	Gujarat	4066.3	5364.36	5507.60
7.	Haryana	2913.54	2956.85	2939.40

1	2	3	4	5
8.	Himachal Pradesh	1152.47	1533.7	1240.16
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	1528.6	1061.74	1088.36
10.	Karnataka	8122.59	9429.92	8758.48
11.	Kerala	3568.26	4255.46	3181.32
12.	Madhya Pradesh	6995.95	8168.25	8201.21
13.	Maharashtra	9947.47	12611.17	12176.94
14.	Manipur	1146.4	653.34	1125.58
15.	Meghalaya	256.28	569.21	759.02
16.	Mizoram	723.77	1408.75	1311.77
17.	Nagaland	884.73	1626.31	1586.02
18.	Orissa	4116.26	3599.91	4725.85
19.	Punjab	2538.78	3231.31	2960.32
20.	Rajasthan	9716.43	10242.02	9791.82
21.	Sikkim	340.76	504.83	560.85
22.	Tamil Nadu	5886.95	6484.51	6308.60
23.	Tripura	533.97	745.81	1124.08
24.	Uttar Pradesh	10306.87	12205.96	10738.75
25.	West Bengal	1056.2	1445.96	1650.08
Total		85729.09	97598.43	95809.47

**Integrated Pest Management**

1472. SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the progress of promotion of Integrated Pest Management in various districts of Maharashtra; and

(b) the achievements made during the last three years, district-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) and (b) The State Government of Maharashtra is promoting Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach in the State since, 1994. The State has appointed a Nodal Officer for effective implementation and monitoring of IPM approach in the State. The State is implementing the following IPM promotional activities:

1. Conduct of IPM demonstrations and farmers training under the various Centrally Sponsored Schemes viz., National Pulses Development Programme (NPDP), Intensive Cotton Development Programme (ICDP) and Oilseed Production Programme (OPP).
2. Establishment of State Biocontrol Laboratory for mass production of biocontrol agents.
3. Production and supply of biopesticides to farmers under National Water Shed Development Programme in Rainfed Areas (NWDPA).
4. Wide publicity through mass media for adoption of IPM and use of biopesticides.

The Central Integrated Pest Management Centre, Nagpur has trained 440 Agricultural Extension Officers and 2640 farmers on IPM through Farmers' Field Schools.

The district-wise achievement made by the State during the last three years is given in the statement.

**Statement**

*District-wise and Scheme-wise Details of the IPM component during the last three years (1997-98, 1998-99 & 1999-2000).*

S. No.	Districts	NPDP (Pulses)		ICDP (Cotton)			OPP (Oilseeds)			ICDP (Cereals)		Maize	
		IPM Demo. (No.)	Farmers Trg. (No.)	IPM Demo. (No.)	NPV Demo. (Ha.)	Pheromone Traps (No.)	IPM Demo. (No.)	Farmers Trg. (No.)	Pheromone Traps (No.)	IPM Demo. (No.)	Farmers Trg. (No.)	IPM Demo. (No.)	Farmers Trg. (No.)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1.	Thane	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	11	0	0
2.	Raigad	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	20	0	0
3.	Ratanagiri	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	16	0	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
4. Sindhudurg	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	0	0	16	0	0
<b>Thane Division</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	0	11	63	0	0
5. Nasik	106	3	0	0	0	209	23	975	18	27	31	29	
6. Dhule	121	4	244	213	776	233	22	1068	15	36	25	24	
7. Jalgaon	130	40	214	238	855	186	76	384	5	23	18	28	
<b>Nasik Division</b>	357	11	458	451	1631	628	121	2427	38	86	74	81	
8. Ahmednagar	79	5	21	23	68	186	36	735	19	39	4	4	
9. Pune	95	4	0	0	0	154	26	582	14	27	29	4	
10. Sholapur	74	1	10	38	124	241	30	82	22	36	45	41	
<b>Pune Division</b>	248	10	31	61	192	581	92	1399	55	102	78	49	
11. Satara	39	4	103	159	356	188	32	815	18	41	4	4	
12. Sangli	51	1	0	0	0	163	40	578	11	22	30	28	
13. Kolhapur	22	1	0	0	0	191	36	698	4	22	4	4	
<b>Kolhapur Division</b>	112	6	103	159	356	542	108	2091	33	85	38	36	
14. Aurangabad	110	6	278	326	848	234	27	234	16	32	26	24	
15. Jalna	57	2	158	204	574	106	25	60	5	22	21	22	
16. Beed	83	4	110	181	391	165	33	169	11	21	0	0	
<b>A'bad Division</b>	250	12	546	711	1813	505	85	463	32	75	47	46	
17. Latur	140	5	118	194	519	272	34	165	8	12	0	0	
18. Osmanabad	92	4	0	0	0	410	37	70	7	19	0	0	
19. Nanded	142	3	285	314	852	200	23	115	6	28	0	0	
20. Parbhani	111	4	298	570	1051	689	32	82	8	21	0	0	
<b>Latur Division</b>	485	16	701	1078	2422	1571	126	432	29	80	0	0	
21. Buldhana	115	4	458	523	1524	263	39	280	9	20	46	323	
22. Akola	144	5	528	641	1805	184	20	55	9	27	0	0	
23. Amravati	160	4	501	609	1839	113	27	431	12	32	0	0	
24. Yavatmal	154	4	538	638	2154	38	15	445	12	33	0	0	
<b>A'vati Division</b>	573	17	2025	2411	7322	598	101	1211	42	112	46	323	
25. Wardha	114	4	307	412	1138	39	31	176	24	29	0	0	
26. Nagpur	111	3	96	110	324	55	33	252	22	45	0	0	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
27. Bhandara		31	1	0	0	0	4	15	0	38	88	0	0
28. Chandarpur		45	4	40	47	86	33	27	0	22	53	0	0
29. Gadchiroli		0	0	0	0	20	16	12	0	30	65	0	0
Nagpur Division		301	12	443	569	1568	147	118	428	136	280	0	0
Grand Total		2326	82	4307	5450	15314	4572	766	8451	376	883	283	535

### Deaf People

1473. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT, be pleased to state:

(a) whether any estimate has been made of the deaf people in the country by the National Institute for the Hearing Handicapped, Mumbai;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the percentage of defects estimated to be congenital;

(c) the other causes for deafness from non-congenital causes;

(d) whether any media awareness campaign has been launched to help the public; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The causes for non-congenital deafness/hearing impairment include perinatal infections, high fever and convulsions, infectious diseases (e.g. whooping cough, mumps, measles, syphilis, meningitis, viral fever, T.B.), intake of ototoxic drugs, acoustic trauma or head injury, sudden exposure to loud sounds or long durations of exposure to sounds, ear infections which are left untreated, high blood pressure, diabetes, hereditary predisposition to late-onset hearing loss, acoustic tumours, ageing (Causes presbycusis).

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. The Institute has been organizing public awareness programmes in various parts of the country on issues including prevention, early identification, intervention and rehabilitation of the hearing impaired in the country. Media awareness campaign has been taken

up to help the public in terms of early identification and prevention of hearing impairment which includes the following:

1. T.V. Screening of films developed by the Institute, such as feature film on deaf child "Surmanthan", a documentary on Prevention of hearing impairment "Sunibe".
2. Display of posters, pamphlets and public address system used to disseminate information to public on prevention of hearing impairment and importance of early identification of hearing impaired.
3. Audio cassettes containing folk songs on prevention and rehabilitation of hearing impaired.
4. Besides, exhibitions awareness programmes of information officers, media persons, school children, parents, organised workers, social workers etc.

### Investment in SSI

1474. SHRI C.P. RADHAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount spent in the small scale sector so far and the percentage out of these industries which are sick;

(b) whether the percentage of sick small scale industries has gone up in 1999-2000; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

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



GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) The total fixed investment in respect of permanently registered SSI units by the end of March, 2000 is estimated at Rs. 82,745 crores. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) maintains information on sick SSI units financed by the scheduled commercial banks. As per the information received from RBI, about 3,04,235 SSI units were sick at the end of March, 2000. This works out to 9.7% approximately.

(b) and (c) The number of sick SSI units who have availed credit from scheduled commercial banks has come down from 3,06,221 at the end of March, 1999 to 3,04,235 at the end of March, 2000, as per the information received from RBI.

[Translation]

#### **Co-ordination for Crisis Management**

1475. SHRI P.D. ELANGOVAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have made any efforts to inter-connect all the District Collectors and other District level officers as well as Tehsildars or Taluk officers in the country in a single network to co-ordinate during crisis period;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have any Disaster Management Committee to tackle the serious problems arising out of sudden natural calamities like cyclone or earthquake or big accidents;

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, whether the Government have any such plans in the coming years;

(e) the details of the damages occurred in terms of money due to various natural calamities and catastrophes in the country during the last two decades and the relief measures in terms of money during the same period; and

(f) the measures taken by the Government to have inter-connected and rapid force co-ordination for the crisis management during the natural disaster?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) and (b) Institutional arrangements exist at the National, State and District levels for management of natural disasters. The primary responsibility for undertaking rescue, relief

and rehabilitation measures as well as disaster preparedness and mitigation programmes, in the event of natural disasters is that of the State Government concerned. Relief efforts are coordinated within Districts and States, Government of India supplements them, as the need be.

(c) and (d) National Crisis Management Committee under Cabinet Secretary and Crisis Management Group under Central Relief Commissioner exist at the Central level. Similarly, a Committee exists under the Chairmanship of Chief Secretary at the State level assisted by the Relief Commissioner and under District Magistrate at the District level. In the wake of the earthquake in Gujarat, a National Committee on Disaster Management has been set up under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister having representation of the Presidents of the National and State Level political parties to inter-alia suggest institutional and legislative measures needed for an effective and long-term strategy to deal with major natural calamities in the future.

(e) Due to geographical features, the Country is prone to various natural disasters. Almost every year one part or other of the Country experience one or more natural disasters with varying magnitude, causing damage to infrastructure and private properties besides loss of human lives. Damage in terms of money due to various natural calamities and catastrophes in the country for the last two decades are not available.

(f) The Department of Agriculture & Cooperation is the nodal Department for coordinating central efforts in close association with the concerned Department/Agencies and the affected State for calamities of severe nature and the Control Room for the purpose functions round the clock.

#### **Threat by Lashker-E-Toiba**

1476. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH:  
DR. ASHOK PATEL:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any letter of protest has been sent to Pakistan with regard to the threat posed by Lashker-E-Toiba; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) Pakistan encourages terrorist groups such as the

Lashkar-e-Toiba. These groups are based in Pakistan, operate freely in its territory and openly proclaim their involvement in terrorist acts in Jammu & Kashmir and elsewhere in India. Government have on numerous occasions called on Pakistan to end the sponsorship of cross-border terrorism including through groups such as the Lashkar-e-Toiba.

Pakistan's State sponsorship of terrorism continues unabated. It is, therefore, clear that it has not responded to our calls and also those of the international community to cease such activities.

[English]

### **Poverty in Andhra Pradesh**

1477. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Andhra Pradesh has forwarded any proposal to the Union Government in regard to reservation on the estimation of poverty ratio under the Lakdawala formula;

(b) if so, the follow-up-action of the Union Government in this regard; and

(c) the date on which proposal was submitted to the Union Government and the reasons for delay in clearance of the above proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) Yes, Sir. The Planning Commission has received representation from the State Government of Andhra Pradesh in this regard. The State Government of Andhra Pradesh urged that in estimating poverty the impact of the price depressing effect of the food subsidy scheme, funded from the State Exchequer, be eliminated. The Government of Andhra Pradesh at a later stage also represented for reversion to the earlier methodology of poverty estimation, known as the Task Force method.

(b) The Planning Commission in a meeting held on 10th March, 1997, under the chairmanship of the then Prime Minister had taken the view that estimates of poverty at national and state level be made from the

methodology contained in the Report of the Expert Group on Estimation of Proportion and Number of Poor (Lakdawala Committee). After carefully considering the representations, the Planning Commission has decided to continue with the Expert Group methodology. However, by eliminating the impact of the state-sponsored food subsidy scheme, the Planning Commission has raised the poverty ratio of Andhra Pradesh from 22.19% to 25.68% for exclusive use in the matter of allocation of foodgrain under Targeted Public Distribution Scheme (TPDS).

(c) The letters dated 23.2.1997, 20.3.1997, 4.7.1997, 4.9.1997, 19.4.1998 and 28.12.1998 from the Chief Minister, Government of Andhra Pradesh were received in the Planning Commission. The replies conveying the decisions of the Planning Commission mentioned in the answer to Part (b) above, were sent to the Government of Andhra Pradesh on 25th June, 1997, 17th September, 1997 and 12th May, 1998.

### **Establishment of Cultural Centre in China**

1478. DR. RAJESWARAMMA VUKKALA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to open a cultural centre in China; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) The opening of an Indian Cultural Centre in China has been discussed with the Chinese side, who have said that they will examine the proposal.

### **Review of Pension Scheme**

1479. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH:  
SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV:  
SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to review the existing pension schemes and set up a pension fund for Government Employees;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have sought the view of Government Employees' Organisations in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the decision of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (e) Various proposals to review the existing pension scheme of the Central Government Servants including creation of a Pension Fund and related recommendations of the Fifth Pay Commission are being debated in various Government and non-Government fora. The subject of creation of Pension Fund has also figured in discussions of the Standing Committee of the Joint Consultative Machinery (JCM) of the Central Government.

No final decision been taken by the Government to create a Pension Fund for the Central Government servants.

[Translation]

#### Dave Committee

1480. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Committee constituted under the Chairmanship of Shri S.A. Dave has recommended for constitution of a Committee to manage the pension liabilities;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) No, Sir. The Dave Committee has not made any recommendation for constitution of a Committee to manage pension liabilities.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[English]

#### Production of Pulses and Oilseeds

1481. SHRI ANANT GUDHE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated demand and actual production of pulses and oilseeds during the last five years alongwith the imports made year-wise;

(b) the projections of production and demand for oilseeds and pulses in the country for next five years;

(c) the review of the schemes implemented to increase production of oilseeds and pulses in the country to meet domestic requirement; and

(d) the details of fresh schemes/incentives proposed to increase production of oilseeds and pulses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) The working group on demand & supply projections for the 9th plan constituted by the Planning Commission has estimated the production requirement of pulses at 15.3 million tonnes in 1996-97 and 17.2 million tonnes in 2001-2002 as per normative approach and 15.5 million tonnes in 1996-97 and 19.5 million tonnes in 2001-2002 as per behaviouristic approach of GDP at the growth rate of 6%. Similarly, the requirement of oilseeds has been given at 19.4 million tonnes in 1996-97 and 21.20 million tonnes in 2001-2002 as per normative approach and 20.00 million tonnes in 1996-97 and 25.00 million tonnes in 2001-2002 as per behaviouristic approach at GDP growth rate of 6%. The production of pulses & oilseeds and import of pulses & edible oils during the last five years are given below:-

#### Production of Pulses & Oilseeds during last five Years.

Year	(Million Tonnes)	
	Pulses	Oilseeds
1995-96	12.31	22.11
1996-97	14.25	24.38
1997-98	12.98	21.32
1998-99	14.91	24.75
1999-2000	13.35	20.87

Import of Pulses & Edible Oils during last five years.

Year	(in Lakh Tonnes)	
	Pulses	Edible oils
1995-96	4.91	10.62
1996-97	6.54	14.16
1997-98	10.08	12.66
1998-99	5.64	26.22
1999-2000	2.04	41.96

(b) The projections of the production and demand for oilseeds & pulses in the country for the terminal year of 10th plan i.e. 2006-2007 have been indicated by the Planning Commission at 17.90 million tones for pulses and 42.70 million tonnes for oilseeds.

(c) The review of the centrally sponsored schemes of oilseeds production programme (OPP) and National Pulses Development Project (NPDP) was carried out and accordingly the necessary changes were incorporated during 9th plan so as to make these schemes more effective to increase the production of oilseeds & pulses and to meet the domestic requirement. In addition to this, the scheme of NPDP was also reviewed by Expert Committee on Pulses under the chairmanship Dr. R.S. Paroda, Secretary DARE & DG, ICAR and accordingly necessary changes have also been incorporated in the scheme of NPDP as recommended by the Expert Committee on Pulses.

(d) There is no proposal to introduce fresh schemes for the production of oilseeds & pulses. However, the higher incentives have already been incorporated in the schemes of OPP & NPDP during 9th plan effective from the current year for increasing the production of oilseeds & pulses.

#### **Lisbon Summit Meetings**

1482. SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the gains accruing to India on account of Lisbon Summit meeting with the European Union held in June, 2000 with special reference to trade, diplomatic relationship and international understanding;

(b) whether these gains have been achieved collectively or individually with European Union members;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether these gains are based on mutual give and take; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) The India-EU Summit held in Lisbon on June 28, 2000 enabled both sides to review bilateral, regional and multilateral issues of mutual interest. The EU-India Summit Joint Declaration provides a blue print for upgrading the relationship to a qualitatively higher level and forging a new strategic partnership in the 21st Century. On the political front it fosters regulation interaction at different levels and calls for strengthening cooperation to combat terrorism and its inter-linkages with international drug trafficking. It also provides for a strengthening of dialogue between intellectuals and civil society through institutional mechanisms such as EU-India Round Table. On the economic and commercial side, it envisages enhanced high level economic and commercial dialogue and fosters joint initiatives in the fields of technology and communications.

(b) to (e) The outcome of the Summit represented collective views of all the 15 member States of the European Union and those of India and are of mutual benefit. The Summit laid down the broad policy outlines for future co-operation between India and the EU, based on shared interests and common perspectives on the issues outlined earlier. Detailed plans to implement the policy directives are being worked out at various levels including through the institution of regular Summits between India and the EU.

#### **Water Crisis**

1483. SHRIMATI MINATI SEN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken various short term and long term measures to tackle the water crisis arising due to deficient rainfall resulting in drought in some States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the extent to which the short term measures is likely to solve the water crises; and

(d) the names of States which have since been benefited?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government of India have taken various short term and long term measures to tackle the water crisis arising due to deficient rainfall resulting in drought.

A large number of Centrally Sponsored Schemes are being implemented through the State Governments. The State Governments in turn are implementing these Schemes directly or through Panchyati Raj Institutions, People's Institutions and NGOs etc. Also, various long term and short-term measures have been undertaken. The important measures are as follows:-

#### **Long Term Measures**

(i) The major Centrally Sponsored Schemes being implemented are:-

##### **A. Ministry of Agriculture**

1. National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPR)
2. Soil Conservation in the Catchments of River Valley Projects and Flood Prone Rivers (RVP and FPR).

##### **B. Ministry of Rural Development**

1. Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP)
2. Desert Development Programme (DDP)
3. Integrated Wasteland Development Programme (IWDP).
4. Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme
5. Prime Minister's Gramodaya Yojana (PMGY) — Rural Drinking Water.

##### **C. Ministry of Water Resources**

1. Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP)

(ii) Other measures/Initiatives

1. Group of Ministers under the Chairmanship of Finance Minister and Ministers of Agriculture, Rural Development, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution and the Deputy Chairman of Planning Commission as members has been constituted to look after the drought like situation and scarcity of drinking water.
2. Management Group under the Chairmanship of Cabinet Secretary has been constituted to monitor and coordinate drought mitigation.
3. Drought contingency Action Plan circulated to concerned States.
4. Construction of large reservoirs with carry over storage and long distance conveyance system.

5. Development of Farm Ponds, desilting and repairs of irrigation tanks.
6. Participatory Irrigation Management/Formulation of Water User's Association.
7. Transfer of surface water from surplus river basins to deficit areas.
8. Promotion of sprinkler and drip irrigation measures.

#### **Short Term Measures**

1. Identification of suitable locations of tube-wells and its construction.
2. Taking over of the exploratory wells in drought prone areas by the State Government from Central Ground Water Board.
3. Early completion of ongoing irrigation and water supply projects so as to immediately exploit their potential.
4. Deployment of Central Ground Water Board Drilling Rigs.
5. Planning for efficient and optimal use of scarce water resources.
6. Department of Drinking Water Supply is in close liaison with the States.
7. Department of Drinking Water Supply relaxed the norms in regard to release of funds under its schemes to facilitate completion of projects in time.
8. Department of Drinking Water Supply has relaxed the norms for renovation, restoration and replacement of existing Rural Water Drinking Schemes.
9. State Governments requested to prepare specific plans to ensure supply of drinking water by roads, rail or sea clearly indicating the source of supply as well as destination and also make arrangements for procurement of storage tanks, trucks, etc.

(c) The short term measures taken by Central and State Governments provide relief in affected areas to great extent.

(d) Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan.

*[Translation]***Contaminated Drinking Water**

1484. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the people in various States are getting contaminated drinking water containing fluoride;

(b) whether a large number of people are falling prey to fluorosis disease as a result of consuming this water;

(c) if so, names of the States worst affected; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (d) As per studies conducted, certain States in the country have been found endemic for diseases occurring from an excess of fluoride in drinking water.

Some of the States are Karnataka, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Kerala & Gujarat. In order to counter the problem arising out of excess fluoride in drinking water, Department of Drinking Water Supply has sanctioned seventy projects, prior to 1.4.1998, under the Sub-Mission on control of Fluoride in drinking water, for providing clean drinking water free of excess fluoride and other pollutants in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Orissa, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Tamilnadu. However, w.e.f. 1.4.1998, power to sanction such projects under Sub-Mission programme have been delegated to States. The cost of the projects is being shared by Central Government and respective State Governments on 75:25 basis.

*[English]***Appointment of SC/ST**

1485. SHRI K.A. SANGTAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 526 on November 22, 2000 and state:

(a) whether the information has since been collected;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which the same is likely to be collected and laid on the Table of the House?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (d) No, Sir. The information is still awaited from one more Institute and shall be laid on the Table of the House as soon as it becomes available.

*[Translation]***Action Plan for Development of S.C.**

1486. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any special action plan for the welfare of the people belonging to the Scheduled Castes of the newly constituted State of Chhattisgarh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal to give any special economic package to the State Government; and

(d) if so, the time by which this special economic package is likely to be given to the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) to (d) As per the strategy adopted for Welfare of Scheduled Castes, each State Government/ Union Territory Administration, having sizeable population of SCs is required to prepare Special Component Plan (SCP) for Welfare of the SCs. Formulation and implementation of SCP during 2000-01 in States of Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh was reviewed on 11th December, 2000. Government of Chhattisgarh has been requested for preparing SCP as per guidelines. Special Central Assistance (SCA) is being provided as an additive to the SCP of the State Governments by the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment. Government of Chhattisgarh has requested for providing Rs. 571.69 lakhs as SCA. However, no project proposal has been submitted for the amount. Release of Special Central Assistance to Chhattisgarh has been processed as per the guidelines.

**Production of Fruits and Vegetables**

1487. SHRI RAMSHAKAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantum of production of fruits, vegetables and floriculture commodities during each of the last three years;

(b) whether the Government are aware of difficulties being faced by the producers of these commodities;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether they have stopped production of these commodities; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) The available data on the quantity of production of fruits, vegetables and flowers are as under:

(Production in 000 tonnes)

Year	Fruits	Vegetables	Flowers
1996-97	40458	75074	366
1997-98	43263	72683	367
1998-99	44042	87536	459

(b) and (c) The Government is aware about the difficulties being faced by the farmers both with regard to production and disposal of the produce. Availability of quality planting material, technical know-how, post harvest management of produce and frequent fluctuation of price of produce are some of the serious problems being faced by the farmers.

(d) No, Sir. The area and production under these commodities is showing an increasing trend.

(e) The Union Government has been implementing the following schemes to address the production related difficulties of the farmers;

- (i) Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Integrated Development of Fruits
- (ii) Central Sector Scheme on Integrated Development of Vegetables including Root & Tuber Crops
- (iii) Development of Commercial Floriculture
- (iv) Development of Horticulture through Plasticulture Interventions.

With effect from the year 2000-01, the above Schemes have been amalgamated under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Macro Management in Agriculture — Supplementation / Complementation of State's Efforts through Work Plans.

Besides, the following Schemes are being implemented & address the post harvest management issues;

- (i) Development of Commercial Horticulture through Production and Post-harvest Management
- (ii) Capital Investment subsidy for Construction/ Modernization/Expansion of Cold Storages and Storages for Horticultural Produce.
- (iii) Market Information service for Horticulture crops.

In order to protect the interest of the growers, Market Intervention Scheme is also being implemented wherein purchase operations are done on the request of the State Governments.

#### **Private Sector Investment in Infrastructure Sector**

1488. SHRI JAIBHAN SINGH PAWAIYA:  
SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL:  
SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government are contemplating to encourage private sector for making investment in the infrastructural, consumer and social sectors;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government have taken any policy decision in this regard;

(d) if so, the sectors in which the said investment is proposed; and

(e) if not, the time by which the Government are likely to take a decision in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The

Government is encouraging private sector investment in various infrastructural, consumer and social sectors. The details are as follows:

**Power Sector.** The Government of India has enunciated the power policy in 1991 aimed at encouraging the flow of private capital to the power sector. The policy is still operative and applies equally to all the States. Many domestic and foreign parties have expressed interest in setting up of generation capacity.

**Telecom Sector.** The New Telecom Policy (1999) has laid out the basic framework for the future development and growth of the sector. Consequent upon this policy, the entire sector has been deregulated and opened for private sector participation. Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) upto 49% is permitted in the telecom sector. As per the guidelines for the National Long Distance Services, 100% FDI is permitted in the case of Infrastructure Providers Category-I (IP-I) i.e. those Infrastructure Providers who provide assets such as dark (optical) fibers, Right of Way, duct space & tower. No licence is required under this category and the Infrastructure Provider has to be an Indian company and only need to register.

**Transport Sector.** In order to promote private sector participation in infrastructure sector including Transport sector, fiscal incentives are provided. Tax concessions have been given for development of projects relating to Railways, Roads, Ports and Airports.

**Railways:** The scope for private sector participation in providing rail infrastructure is limited. Attempts have been made to involve the private sector in augmenting the capacity of the railway system through the "Own Your Wagon Scheme" and undertake some of the projects under "Build-Own-Lease-Transfer (BOLT)" scheme. It is proposed to offer projects like gauge conversion, supply of rolling stock, electrification, doubling of existing single lines, telecom projects, etc. under this scheme.

**Roads:** Projects relating to bye-passes, bridges and 4-laning of existing sections of National Highways, which on the basis of traffic density are financially viable and bankable would be taken up through private sector participation.

**Ports:** The areas viz. leasing out assets of the ports, construction and operation of container terminals, multipurpose cargo berths and specialized cargo berths, warehousing, storage facilities, tank farms, container freight stations, setting up of captive power plants, leasing of equipment for cargo handling and leasing of floating rafts have been identified for private sector participation.

**Airports:** A new airport at Nedumbassery near Cochin has been constructed and commissioned in May, 1999 by Cochin International Airport Ltd. (CIAL), a company promoted by Kerala State Government with equity participation from a large number of non-resident Indians and financial institutions. The Government has also approved in principle setting up of new airports at Bangalore, Hyderabad and Goa with private sector participation.

**Industrial and Consumer Sector.** Since the announcement of New Industrial Policy, 1991, the Government of India has been encouraging private sector in promoting industrial investments in all the sectors including industry infrastructure, consumer sector etc. There was no proposal in the Ninth Five-Year Plan to set up Public Sector Enterprises under the Government of India and it was left for the private sector for investment. Even the existing Public Sector Enterprises are being disinvested/privatized during the Ninth Plan period.

**Health, Family Welfare Sector - Ninth Plan envisaged:** Increasing the involvement of voluntary private organizations and self-held groups in the provision of health care, implementation of health programmes and health-related activities;

Enhancing the quality and coverage of family welfare services through increasing participation of general medical practitioners working in voluntary, private, joint sectors and the active cooperation of practitioners of Indian System of Medicine and Homeopathy (ISM&H).

About 75% of the curative care services are provided by the private sector. In addition private sector also caters to about 25% of the family welfare services.

**Education:** The National Policy on Education (NPE), 1986 as updated in 1992, states that non-governmental and voluntary efforts, including social activist groups in the field of education will be encouraged, subject to proper management, and financial assistance will also be provided. However, at the same time, steps will be taken to prevent the establishment of institutions set up to commercialize education.

(e) Does not arise.

#### **Assessment of Cattle Fodder**

1489. DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:  
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:



(a) whether the Government have made an assessment of the country's requirement of cattle fodder; and

(b) if so, the quantum of demand and supply of cattle fodder in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The quantum of demand and supply of Cattle Fodder as projected for 2002 are as under:-

(In million tones)

Demand		Supply	
Dry	Green	Dry	Green
632.61	830.12	523.61	573.50

[English]

#### Launching of Satellite for Telecom

1490. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ:  
SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA:  
SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:  
SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have sanctioned launching of two more satellites to boost telecommunications, TV broadcasting and VSAT services network of the country;

(b) if so, whether any programme has been prepared in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which such satellites are likely to be launched?

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

Sir. The Union Government has approved launching of two more satellites to boost the telecommunications, TV Broadcasting and Very Small Aperture Terminal (VSAT) services network of the country.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) This is a part of the on-going need to build enough C, Ext-C & Ku-band capacity in the INSAT system as per the approved 9th Plan Programme.

(d) These satellites are expected to be launched in the year 2001-2002.

#### Irregularities in Kendriya Bhandar

1491. SHRI RAMSAGAR RAWAT:  
SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH:  
SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH:  
SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA:  
SHRI C.N. SINGH:  
SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI:  
SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI:  
DR. (SHRIMATI) SUDHA YADAV:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have issued instructions to Kendriya Bhandar to comply with the norms/guide-lines, strictly set for the sale and purchase of consumer goods/items in the Bhandar;

(b) if so, whether the Government are aware that these norms/guide-lines are being violated by some concerned officials of Kendriya Bhandar with the nexus of some manufacturers, suppliers and middlemen of several items i.e. Xerox Machines, Photocopier papers, pulses, rice, bulbs/Tubelights;

(c) whether any inquiry has been conducted by the Government in this regard;

(d) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken against such erring officials; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) Kendriya Bhandar has its own Board of Directors to decide about their policies in regard to sale and purchase. However, Government had requested Kendriya Bhandar to consider purchasing items in bulk, of high quality, directly from the manufacturers, where not already being procured from them. Keeping this in view, the following remedial measures have been taken by the Kendriya Bhandar:

- (i) multiple quotations are being called from various registered suppliers so as to have competitive rates and also choice to the consumers, wherever possible; and
- (ii) price guarantee undertaking is being obtained from the suppliers to the effect that the item will not be supplied at a price lower than the quoted price.

(c) to (e) Any complaint, when received, is looked into by the Chief Vigilance Officer, Kendriya Bhandar and departmental inquiry initiated, if necessary. Action is taken by the Management against the officials found guilty.

#### **Damage Due to Earthquake**

1492. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH:  
SHRI P.C. THOMAS:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of deaths and damage to property in the recent earthquake in the country, State-wise particularly in Kerala;

(b) the estimated amount of loss as a result thereof, State-wise; and

(c) the measures being taken by the Government to rehabilitate the victims and to compensate the losses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) and (b) As reported by the Government of Gujarat, the killer earthquake of January 26, 2001 caused colossal damage to life and property resulting in death of over 19,800 people. About 13.40 lakh houses/huts have been destroyed/damaged. The total loss is estimated at about Rs. 21,000 crore. There are no reports of loss of life or property from any other State.

(c) Immediate assistance of Rs. 500 crore was released to the State. The State Government has

announced rehabilitation and reconstruction package. The Central Government is facilitating mobilisation of resources, besides financial assistance.

[*Translation*]

#### **Farmers Self Dependent**

1493. SHRI RAMANAND SINGH:  
SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have formulated any scheme/programme to make the farmers self-dependent;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, whether all aspects relating to it are being examined; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) to (d) Government is implementing various Central Sector and Centrally Sponsored Schemes for enhancement of production and productivity in agriculture and allied activities with the objective to enhance the income of farmers and making them self-reliant. Government is also implementing schemes for crop insurance, for risk management and for facilitating easy credit to the farmers for investment.

[*English*]

#### **Working of Krishi Vigyan Kendras**

1494. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to review the working of the Krishi Vigyan Kendras throughout the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There is a regular mechanism to review the working of the Krishi Vigyan Kendras by constituting

Quinquennial Review Teams (QRT). Such teams have also been constituted recently.

### **Export of Information Technology**

1495. SHRI GUTHA SUKENDER REDDY:  
SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR:  
DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:  
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:  
SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any assessment has been made of the export potential of the Information Technology from India;

(b) if so, the details of the broad pattern emerging for the different regions of the world for the next ten years;

(c) the steps being taken to identify and encourage export of Indian software and other services alongwith the names of the countries to which it is likely to be exported;

(d) targets set for the year 2008 and foreign exchange likely to be earned; and

(e) efforts being made to tap manpower to achieve the targets?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The National Task Force on Information Technology and Software Development has set an export target of US \$ 50 billion for IT software and services and an export target of US\$ 10 billion for the IT hardware industry, by the year 2008. The major destinations of export from India of IT software & services are USA, EU, ASEAN regions, Japan and Latin America and with maximum share to the tune of 55% to USA. The trend is likely to continue.

(c) The details of various steps taken to encourage export of Indian Software & other services are given in the statement. The trend in exports as given at (b) is likely to continue.

(d) An export target of US \$ 50 billion has been set for IT software and services, by the year 2008. The target is likely to be met leading for Foreign exchange earning of US \$ 50 billion.

(e) A Task Force on Human Resource Development has been set up by the Ministry of Human Resource Development to tap the manpower to achieve the targets. The Task Force has already submitted its report to the Government.

### **Statement**

#### *Incentives for Information Technology Sector*

1. Export Promotion Capital Goods scheme (EPCG) has been rationalised and extended uniformly to all sectors without any threshold limit on payment of 5% duty.
2. Approvals for all foreign direct investment proposal relating to the Information Technology sector, with the exception of Business-to-consumer (B2C) e-commerce are under the automatic route.
3. Powers of approval of the Designated Officers of MIT for implementation of STP and EHTP schemes have been further enhanced upto US\$ 20 million.
4. Accelerated depreciation norms for computers and computer peripherals for units under Export Oriented schemes (EOU/EPZ/STP/EHTP) have been enhanced. These shall stand depreciated to overall limit of 90% over a period of 3 years instead of around 5 years earlier.
5. DTA acces upto 50% of the FOB value of export is permitted for export oriented units under EOU/EPZ/STP schemes. Broadbanding is permitted in the DTA sales of Hardware units for items covered in the Letter of Permission.
6. EOU/EPZ/EHTP/STP units are exempted from payment of Income Tax on export profits, upto 2010, in terms of Section 10A and 10B of the Income Tax Act.
7. Special Economic Zones are being set up to enable hassle free manufacturing and trading for export purposes.
8. Value addition norms for Rupee exports to Russia reduced from 100% to 33% under Advance Licensing Scheme.
9. The Depreciation on Computers has been allowed @ 60%.
10. In the 2000-01 Budget, Customs duty on Computers and Peripherals has been reduced from 20% to 15%. The Customs duty on all storage devices, integrated circuits,

microprocessors, Data display tubes and Deflection components of colour monitors has been reduced to NIL rate.

11. Definition of Computer Software, as in Section 80 HHE of the Income Tax Act has been widened to include transmission of data.
12. Benefit of Section 80 HHE is available to supporting software developers.
13. Exemption of withholding tax on interest on External Commercial Borrowings (ECBs) has been extended to the IT sector.
14. A National Venture Fund for Software and IT Industry (NFSIT) has been set up with a corpus of Rs. 100 crores, out of which MIT shall contribute Rs. 30 crores.
15. Income by way of dividends or long-term capital gains of a Venture Capital Fund or Venture Capital company from investment made by way of equity shares in a Venture Capital Undertaking, which has been expanded to include the Software and IT sectors, will henceforth not be included in computing the total income.
16. To give thrust to Venture Capital finance, SEBI has been made the single point nodal agency for registration and regulation of both domestic and overseas venture capital funds.
17. There will be no tax on distributed or undistributed income of Venture Capital Funds. The income distributed by the VCFs will only be taxed in the hands of the investors at the rates applicable to the nature of the income.
18. Under policy on portfolio investment, Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) are permitted to invest in a company upto an aggregate of 24% of equity shares, extendable upto 30% subject to approvals. This limit has been raised from 30% to 40% in the Budget 2000-01.
19. Under the Employee Stock Option Scheme, income tax payable on income from GDRs purchased in foreign currency by a resident employee of IT software and service companies, shall be at a concessional rate of 10%.
20. To induce more investment for R&D activities, a weighted deduction of 125% on the sums paid to any university, college or an institution or a

Scientific research association for the purposes of scientific, social or statistical research has been provided.

21. Information Technology Act 2000 has been enacted. This act deals with Cyber Security, Cyber Crime and other information security related legal aspects. This will encourage expansion of e-commerce through internet.
22. STPI has set up a business support centre in the USA, which is operational since November, 1999, to promote business for STP units and provide marketing support to SMEs.

#### **Voluntary/Non Government Organisations**

1496. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Voluntary Organisations and Non-Government Organisations engaged in the implementation of Health Programmes in the country particularly in Orissa; and

(b) the funds provided by the Central Government to each Organisation during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

#### **Reduction In Number of Posts**

1497. SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to reduce the existing number of posts in the cadre of I.A.S. and I.P.S. in order to bring down the establishment expenses at the national level;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the norms laid down for determining the required strength and utility of the selected candidates in the administrative cadres like the I.A.S., I.P.S., I.F.S. and other cadres;

(d) whether the number of the administrative officers have been determined on the basis of population or from the administrative point of view; and

(e) whether any code of conduct has been evolved specifying circumstances under which cadre may be withdrawn from the officers of such administrative cadres?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) The All India Services like the IAS and the IPS comprise individual state cadres and officers are taken to serve the Central Government on deputation only. Government has no proposal to reduce the IAS and IPS cadre posts presently borne on the State cadres.

(c) and (d) The State-wise strength of the All India Service cadres is determined by the Central Government in consultation with the State Governments concerned, on the basis of their administrative needs and the functional justification of posts. A mechanism exists under the rules for regular review of the strength of each cadre.

(e) No Sir.

#### **Declaration of National Calamity**

1498. SHRI TARACHAND BHAGORA:  
SHRI RAMANAND SINGH:  
DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV:  
SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH:  
SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the devastation caused by earthquake in Gujarat is a national calamity;

(b) the criteria fixed for declaring a calamity as National Calamity;

(c) the number of States affected by devastating earthquake of January 26, 2001;

(d) the amount of funds demanded by State Governments of Gujarat and Rajasthan from Union Government;

(e) the details of assistance provided to these States;

(f) whether the Government have declared recent Gujarat earthquake calamity as National Calamity; and

(g) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) to (g) There is no executive or legal provision at present for declaring a natural calamity as a national calamity. One of the terms of the National Committee on Disaster Management which has been set up under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister is to look into the parameters that define a National Calamity. The earthquake in Gujarat has been treated as a calamity of extraordinarily severe intensity and Central Government has assisted the State Government accordingly with whatever help was necessary.

Colossal damage to life and property has been reported by the Government of Gujarat. There are no reports of damage to life and property from any other State.

The Government of Gujarat has demanded immediate Central assistance of Rs. 8318.79 crore in the wake of earthquake. Assistance of Rs. 500 crore has been released. No Central assistance has been demanded by the Government of Rajasthan in this regard.

[English]

#### **Sub-Standard Medicines/Drugs**

1499. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH:  
SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN:

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

(a) whether the Government are aware that the sub-standard medicines/drugs and equipments are being supplied in Government hospitals and dispensaries;

(b) if so, the number of cases came to the notice so far and the action taken thereon; and

(c) the measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to nab the culprits and to stop the circulation of spurious drugs in the country?

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

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

#### **Fish Workers**

1500. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH:  
SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether fish workers in the coastal States are on warpath and on hunger strike;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action taken by the Government on their demands to stop import of fish and issue subsidised fuel to fishermen?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) Protest demonstrations have been held by fishermen and the National Fishworkers Forum (NFF) proposed a national strike on 18.1.2001 for pressing some of their demands. Subsequent to their meeting with the Agriculture Minister and the Minister for Petroleum & Natural Gas, the proposed national strike and indefinite fast was withdrawn.

(c) The Agriculture Minister decided that the present diesel subsidy would be maintained. NFF was asked to give detailed proposals to ensure effective fuel distribution.

The Government is keeping a close watch on all imports of fish and fishery products and whatever small quantities of imports (0.09 to 0.21% of annual fish production) are taking place, are for value addition and re-export and not meant for domestic markets. Moreover, though quantitative restrictions on several items of fish and fishery products have been removed in accordance with commitments made to WTO, the basic customs duty on all such items at present is 35%.

#### **Chinese Military Assistance to Pak**

1501. SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI:  
SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has expressed concern over reports of China's continued military support to Pakistan and its technical assistance for Pakistan's ballistic missile

programme as reported in the *Hindustan Times* dated February 9, 2001;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether our Foreign Secretary held a meeting recently with Chinese Assistant Foreign Minister; and

(d) if so, the issues discussed and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. During the Second Round of the India-China Security Dialogue held in New Delhi on 8th February 2001, India conveyed its concerns to China over the latter's assistance to Pakistan, including in its missile development programme. Chinese side reiterated that its military cooperation with Pakistan conformed to existing international regime on non-proliferation.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. During Foreign Secretary's meeting with the Chinese Assistant Foreign Minister, both sides expressed satisfaction at the results of the Security Dialogue. They agreed that the aim of the dialogue is to enhance mutual understanding, expand common ground in their approach to international and regional security affairs, and narrow down differences Foreign Secretary conveyed India's concerns over China's continued military assistance to Pakistan. It was agreed that both sides had a mutuality of interest in carrying forward the dialogue as an important instrument for building trust and confidence.

#### **Diversion of Calamity Relief Funds**

1502. MOHAMMAD ANWARUL HAQUE:  
DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH:  
SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI:  
SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:  
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether several State Governments have diverted the calamity relief funds to other projects as reported in the 'Indian Express' dated February 17, 2001;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the funds misused by them;

(c) whether any High Power Committee has been set up to enquire into the matter;

(d) if so, the findings thereof;

(e) the action taken by the Government against such erring State Governments; and

(f) the concrete measures taken/proposed to be taken to keep a check on proper utilization of calamity relief fund?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) The Comptroller and Auditor General of India (C&AG) in its Report No.3 of 1999 (for the year ended March, 1998) has pointed out that some State Governments have diverted funds from the Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) for activities not connected with relief measures.

(b) The C&AG's Report indicates diversion of funds amounting to Rs. 519.54 crore out of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) by States of Himachal Pradesh, Tripura, Kerala, Haryana, Orissa, Manipur, Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan, Karnataka, West-Bengal, Sikkim, Meghalaya, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Assam, Madhya Pradesh etc.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The observations have been brought to the notice of the State Governments concerned and they have been requested to take corrective measures. Department of Agriculture & Cooperation has again emphasised the need for observing the scheme of CRF and guidelines issued thereunder for being following scrupulously by the State to avoid recurrence of such instances. The States have taken up necessary corrective action.

(f) In accordance with the recommendations of the Eleventh Finance Commission (EFC), a new scheme of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) has been constituted and circulated on 24.11.2000 by the Ministry of Finance to all the State Governments, Accountants General of the States, Comptroller and Auditor General of India (C&AG) etc., and the release of funds from the CRF has been made conditional to the constitution of a Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) by the State Government in the prescribed manner duly certified by the Accountant General of the State; furnishing of a certificate indicating that the amount received earlier has been credited to the fund alongwith the State share of contribution, accompanied by a statement giving the up-to-date expenditure and the balance amount available in the CRF, the statement itself

shall be treated as utilisation certificate; States are also required to submit an annual report on natural calamities every year.

#### **Establishment of Nuclear Power Plant in Punjab**

1503. SHRI SIMRANJIT SINGH MANN:  
SHRI SUBODH MOHITE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Nuclear Power Corporation's selection panel has selected any site in Punjab for setting up of nuclear power plant;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether villagers are agitating against the site selection;

(d) if so, the demands of the villagers; and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, in the context of the on-going process of evaluation of the sites in Northern Electricity Region, by the Site Selection Committee constituted by Department of Atomic Energy, a nodal agency has been nominated by the Punjab Government for collecting and updating of the site data at Darouli Village near Patran in Samana Tehsil of Patiala District from that state. Setting up of a Nuclear Power Plant in any region will however depend upon the energy alternatives available to a region, availability of funds to set up the plant, techno-economic considerations and availability of suitable sites.

(c) to (e) The concern of the villagers appear to be on the land acquisition and rehabilitation package if a decision is taken to set up a plant. It is premature at this stage, to give the Government's reaction on this subject until site investigations are completed and a decision is taken for setting up a project.

*[Translation]***Blood Banks**

1504. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether transfusion of H.I.V. infected blood is the main cause of spreading AIDS in the country;

(b) if so, whether all the Blood Banks in Public/Private Sector have sufficient equipments and means to check the samples of H.I.V. infected blood;

(c) if so, the number of such blood banks in the country; and

(d) the number of such blood banks where the test facility is not available and the steps being taken by the Government to ensure carrying out of such blood tests, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The main mode of HIV transmission in the country is through the Sexual Route and not through blood transfusion. All the licensed blood banks in the country have the facilities for H.I.V. screening or are linked to Zonal Blood Testing Centres (ZBTCs) for this purpose.

(c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

(d) Does not arise.

**Statement**

*Statewise list of approved Blood Banks in the country*

*(as on 25.11.2000)*

Sr. No.	States	No. of Approved Blood Banks
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	137
2.	A&N Island	2
3.	Assam	33
4.	Arunachal Pradesh	3
5.	Bihar	50
6.	Chandigarh	3

1	2	3
7.	Delhi	38
8.	Goa	7
9.	Gujarat	152
10.	Haryana	27
11.	Himachal Pradesh	12
12.	Jammu & Kashmir	14
13.	Karnataka	109
14.	Kerala	107
15.	Madhya Pradesh	78
16.	Maharashtra	234
17.	Meghalaya	3
18.	Manipur	3
19.	Mizoram	5
20.	Nagaland	2
21.	Orissa	57
22.	Pondicherry	7
23.	Punjab	53
24.	Rajasthan	50
25.	Sikkim	2
26.	Tamilnadu	175
27.	Tripura	5
28.	U.P.	133
29.	W. Bengal	84
Total		1585

**Implementation of IID Scheme**

1505. SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Integrated Infrastructure Development scheme was implemented in rural and backward areas to develop small scale industries development centre during Ninth Five Year Plan;



(b) whether the proposals under the scheme have been forwarded to SIDBI;

(c) whether any proposal has been forwarded regarding Jabalpur and Katri districts of Madhya Pradesh;

(d) whether any proposal regarding investment of Rs. 500 lakhs in 84.35 hectares of land for Katri district of Madhya Pradesh is under consideration; and

(e) the time by which the proposal is likely to be cleared and will it also take into account the cost escalation?

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

(b) Under the Integrated Infrastructural Development (IID) Scheme, all the proposals for setting up IID Centres are required to be submitted to Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) for appraisal/techno-economic feasibility.

(c) A proposal for setting up IID Centre at Lamtara, District Katni (not Katri), Madhya Pradesh has been received. No proposal for Jabalpur has been received.

(d) and (e) The proposal in respect of Katni district is being examined with reference to the parameters of the IID Scheme. As per the project cost envisaged in the proposal, the Government of India grant will be Rs. 200.00 lakhs i.e. the maximum admissible for IID project. The escalation cost, if any, is to be borne by the concerned implementing agency.

[English]

#### **Decline in Milk Production**

1506. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:  
DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR:  
MOHD. SHAHABUDDIN:  
SHRI CHADA SURESH REDDY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether milk production in the country is declining continuously since the last two decades;

(b) if so, the percentage of decline in the milk production during 1980-90 and 1990-2000;

(c) whether the Government have undertaken any review of the demand and supply position of milk in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government are aware that in the year 2005, the country is likely to face a situation of severe milk shortage; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) Production of milk during the period 1980 to 2000 is given in statement-I. It can be seen that the production is steadily increasing over the last two decades.

(b) No decline in production of milk in the country is observed during 1980 to 2000.

(c) to (e) The per capita availability of milk also increased steadily over years as shown in statement-I. The relative price of milk has behaved in an orderly way in the last two decades. Statement-II gives the projected figures of production along with basic requirement for milk up to 2005. It can be seen that there will be no shortage of milk production up to 2005.

(f) For maintaining the tempo of milk production in the country, the Government of India has been implementing the following schemes;

- a. National Project for Cattle and Buffalo Breeding.
- b. Assistance to States for Fodder Development
- c. Assistance to States for Control of Animal Diseases
- d. National project on rinderpest eradication.
- e. Integrated Dairy Development Project (IDDP) in non-operation flood, hilly and backward areas.

In addition to the above, the co-operative milk unions/federations in various States have drawn long term plans with the assistance of National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) for promoting the activities in processing and

manufacturing facilities, quality assurance, productivity enhancement, etc.

**Statement-I**

Year	Production of Milk (Million Tonnes)	Per capita availability of milk (grms/day)
1980-81	31.6	128
1981-82	34.3	136
1982-83	35.8	139
1983-84	38.8	147
1984-85	41.5	154
1985-86	44.0	160
1986-87	46.1	164
1987-88	46.7	163
1988-89	48.4	166
1989-90	51.4	173
1990-91	53.9	176
1991-92	55.7	178
1992-93	58.0	182
1993-94	60.6	187
1994-95	63.8	194
1995-96	66.2	197
1996-97	69.1	202
1997-98	70.8	204
1998-99	74.7	210
1999-2000	78.1	217

**Statement II**

Year	Milk Production ② (Million Tonnes)	Requirement of milk \$ (Million Tonnes)
1	2	3
1998-99	74.7	79.2
1999-2000	78.1	80.5
2000-01	81.1	81.7

1	2	3
2001-02	84.5	83.0
2002-03	88.1	84.2
2003-04	91.9	85.6
2004-05	95.8	86.9

② The projected production of milk for 2001 onwards is based on the growth of 4.25% p.a.

\$ The requirement of milk is estimated on the basis of I.C.M.R. norm of 220 gm per day per person from 1998-99 to 2004-05.

[Translation]

**Lack of Marketing Institutions**

1507. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the farmers of various States, particularly of Bihar are compelled to sell their products to merchants at low price, due to lack of Marketing Institutions;

(b) if so, the corrective steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to provide remunerative prices to these farmers for their products and also to strengthen Rural Agricultural Market System in the States; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) to (c) Under the present policy, Government procures foodgrains conforming to Fair Average Quality (FAQ) specifications through Food Corporation of India (FCI) and State Government Agencies under price support operations. The farmers have the option to sell their produce to FCI/State Agencies at support prices, or in the open market, as is advantageous to them. All complaints relating to distress sale are taken up immediately with FCI and State Governments.

In order to avoid distress sale by the farmers below support price FCI/State Agencies have opened the following purchase centres during the last two years:-

Year	Rabi Season	Kharif Season
1999-2000	8276	5937
2000-2001	8110	6599

In regard to Bihar, the procurement of paddy is being done by FCI and Primary Agricultural Marketing Societies of the State (PACS) which are around 512 in number. Initially there were 16 purchase centers operated by FCI, which were subsequently increased to 40 with effect from 27-12-2000 on the request of State Government. These centers have procured 6725 MTs as on 28-2-2001 as compared to 3720 MTs as procured during the corresponding period last year.

The primary responsibility for strengthening, upgrading and expanding agricultural marketing facilities in the States and UTs vests with the State Governments and UT Administration and the Agricultural Produce Market Committees, which have been established under the respective State Agricultural Marketing Regulation Acts. However, the Directorate of Marketing and Inspection (DMI), an attached office of this Ministry, has been taking various steps for bringing about an integrated development of marketing of agricultural produce in the country. The main activities of DMI relates to promotion of standardization and grading of agricultural produce, marketing research, survey and planning, and provision of training facilities for employees of State Governments and UT Administrations on regulation and management of Agricultural Produce Markets. Recently, a Central Sector Scheme for Agricultural Marketing Information Network has been approved for establishing a nation-wide network for speedy collection and dissemination of market information/data for their efficient and timely utilization. Under this scheme, the important Agricultural Produce Markets and State Agricultural Marketing Boards/Departments in the country will be linked up through a computer network. The scheme would inter alia, help the farmers to realize better prices for their produce.

[English]

#### **WTO Regulations on Agriculture Sector**

1508. SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH:  
SHRI P.S. GADHAVI:  
SHRI KAMAL NATH:  
DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the plight of Indian farmers was discussed at Indian Science Congress held in January, 2001 and there was demand for "White Paper" on Agriculture Sector in the context of the WTO regulations which has affected the Indian farmers as a result of WTO agreement of 1994;

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

(c) whether it is proposed to bring out a 'White Paper' on Agriculture Sector as such; and

(d) if so, when it is proposed to be laid on the Table of the House?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) A public Forum was organized on WTO and Indian agriculture, where eminent scientists discussed various issues affecting Indian agriculture in general.

(b) The recommendations emerged out of the discussion in the Forum are being finalized by the Indian Science Congress Association for submission to the Department of Science and Technology.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

#### **Cybercity in Mauritius**

1509. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA:  
SHRI R.S. PATIL:  
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:  
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:  
SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Island Republic of Mauritius is planning to set up a cybercity with the support of Indian Government; and

(b) if so, the response of the centre in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government of India has agreed to extend a US\$ 100 million line of credit to Mauritius for this purpose.

#### **"Indian Students Missing in Ukraine"**

1510. SHRI BABUBHAI K. KATARA:  
SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some Indian students in Ukraine are missing since July 9, 2000;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some representations from the parents of the missing students have been received by the Union Government and Embassy of Ukraine in India;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon; and

(e) the efforts being made to hunt them out?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Shri Chirdeep Ghai, a fourth year Indian student of Lugansk State Medical University in Ukraine, has been missing since July 9, 2000.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The parents of the missing Indian student have sought the assistance of the Government in tracing the whereabouts of Shri Chirdeep Ghai.

(e) The Government is in constant touch with all the concerned Ukrainian authorities and have requested them to take all necessary measures in tracing the whereabouts of Shri Chirdeep Ghai.

#### **Release of Indians Languishing in Foreign Jails**

1511. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indians in foreign jails awaiting their release after their completion of period of imprisonment, country-wise; and

(b) the action taken by the Government to get them released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) As per information available with the Government, the number of Indians in foreign jails awaiting their release after completion of the period of their imprisonment, is as under:

1. Bangladesh	-	132	
2. Jordan	-	1	
3. Kuwait	-	1	
4. Thailand	-	24	
5. U.A.E.	-	120	
6. Malaysia	-	1800	(in immigration detention camps)

(b) In such cases, the Consular Officer of the concerned Mission/Post visits the detained persons, ascertains the reasons of non-release and renders appropriate assistance such as providing travel documents, arranging air-tickets through family/relatives/friends etc.

#### **Rehabilitation of Handicaps and Issue Identity Cards**

1512. SHRI RAJESH VERMA:  
SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO:  
SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI:

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

(a) whether the Government are considering to formulate a uniform identity card for the disabled persons;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time-frame worked out therefor;

(c) names of the districts and corresponding Block and Gram Panchayats where the National Programme for Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities has been taken up by the Government as a State Sector Scheme, State-wise;

(d) the steps taken by the Government to implement the above scheme in the remaining districts of the country; and

(e) the institutions established by the Government to provide adequate training employment and guidance to disables to enable them to compete for Government jobs in various categories?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) and (b) In order to have uniformity in the identity cards for persons with disabilities so as to ensure that various legitimate concessions/benefits are available to persons with disabilities, the Ministry, in August, 2000, has circulated uniform guidelines in this regard to all States/Union territories with a request to adopt the same for the purpose.

(c) and (d) A Statement-I is attached

(e) A Statement-II is attached.

**Statement-I**

Under National Programme for Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities (NPRPD), funding has been provided to States for setting up of 74 districts during the year 2000-2001.

An NPRPD is a State scheme, the States have the flexibility to choose districts and its corresponding blocks and gram panchayats. Funds have been provided for covering on an average 10 blocks per district and 400 gram panchayats within the district. Number of districts to be covered depends on the budgetary allocation made for the scheme. The break-up of the number of the 74 districts, State-wise, to be covered during 2000-01 under the scheme is as follows:

S. No.	State/UT	No. of Districts	Districts to be Covered 2000-01
1	2	3	4
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	13	3
2.	Assam	23	4
3.	Andhra Pradesh	23	2
4.	Orissa	30	3
5.	Uttar Pradesh	83	7
6.	Karnataka	27	3
7.	Kerala	14	2
8.	Gujarat	25	3
9.	Goa	2	1
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	14	2
11.	Tamil Nadu	29	3
12.	Tripura	4	1
13.	Nagaland	8	2
14.	Punjab	17	2
15.	West Bengal	18	2
16.	Bihar	55	5
17.	Manipur	8	2
18.	Madhya Pradesh	61	6
19.	Maharashtra	33	3
20.	Meghalaya	7	2

1	2	3	4
21.	Mizoram	3	1
22.	Rajasthan	32	3
23.	Sikkim	4	1
24.	Haryana	19	2
25.	Himachal Pradesh	12	2
26.	Andaman Nicobar	2	1
27.	Chandigarh	1	1
28.	Daman & Diu	2	1
29.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1	1
30.	Delhi	1	1
31.	Pondicherry	4	1
32.	Lakshdweep	1	1
Total			74

**Statement-II**

The Government of India is already implementing a number of programmes for socio-economic progress of persons with disabilities all over the country. The details of schemes are as follows:-

- (i) There are 17 vocational rehabilitation centers for persons with disabilities controlled and administered by Ministry of Labour located in all over India.
- (ii) In order to effectively deal with multi-dimensional problem of the handicapped population, the Ministry has set up Four National Institutes and two Apex level organizations which undertakes various activities including training, vocational guidance, rehabilitation etc.
- (iii) The National Handicapped Finance Development Corporation (NHFDC) set up in 1997 provides opportunities for skill development and loan assistance on soft terms to the persons with disabilities to set up Self-Employment ventures.
- (iv) The Ministry is implementing a Scheme to promote Voluntary Action for persons with disabilities under which Voluntary Organisations are being assisted for providing, inter-alia, education and vocational training to persons with disabilities.

- (v) District Rehabilitation Centre scheme was started during 1985 to provide comprehensive rehabilitation services to rural disabled right at their doorsteps.
- (vi) Under Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Employment of Handicapped, financial assistance to tune of 80% is being given to State Government for setting up of Special Employment Exchanges and upgradation of Special Cells to Special Employment Exchanges.

[*Translation*]

### **Krishi Vigyan Kendras**

1513. DR. BALIRAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is essential to get the schemes approved by the EFC and to have the budget provision prior to sanctioning the funds to the newly established Krishi Vigyan Kendras;

(b) if so, whether new Krishi Vigyan Kendras have been established during the Ninth Five Year Plan period without getting the EFC clearance;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any action has been taken against the erring officials, if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) By the end of the VIIIth Plan 261 KVKs had been established, with due approval. During the IXth Plan Period the total number has remained the same including the replacement. This replacement also been approved by the EFC.

(c) to (e) Question does not arise.

### **Demand and Supply of Pulses and Oilseeds**

1514. MOHD. SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the difference between the total demand and supply of pulses and oilseeds in the country;

(b) whether the Government have to import these commodities every year;

(c) if so, whether the Government have taken any decision to give minimum support prices to the farmers producing these two commodities to encourage them in accordance to the experience of providing minimum support prices for the production of wheat, paddy and other coarse grains in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which the Government propose to implement this policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) The Working Group of Demand & Supply projections for IX Plan constituted by the Planning Commission has estimated the requirement of Pulses and Oilseeds for the year 1996-97 and for terminal year of IX Plan i.e. 2001-2002. Based on the report of the working group the difference between the total estimated demand and estimated supply of pulses and oilseeds during 1996-97 was as under:

(In million tonnes)			
Item	Demand	Supply	Difference
Normatic Requirement For Pulses	15.30	14.25	-1.05
Normatic Requirement For Oilseeds	19.40	24.38	+4.98
Behaviourstic Requirement For Pulses	15.50	14.25	-1.35
Behaviourstic Requirement For Oilseeds	20.00	24.38	+4.38

The working group has also given the estimated demand of these commodities during 2001-2002 as given below:

**Demand Projections (Million tonnes) for IX Plan  
(2001-2002)**

Normatic Requirement For Pulses	17.20	
Normatic Requirement For Oilseeds	21.20	
Behaviourstic Requirement For Pulses	19.50	Based on GDP growth rate of 6%
Behaviourstic Requirement For Oilseeds	25.00	

The supply projections are not yet available.

(b) The production of pulses & oilseeds is fluctuating year to year and depends upon vagaries of whether and the import of these commodities are made on the basis of gap between demand and supply and to make available these commodities to the consumers at a reasonable price.

(c) to (e) Like wheat, paddy and other coarse grains, pulses & oilseeds are also covered under the Minimum Support Prices operation. NAFED is the central nodal agency to carry out the purchase operation of pulses & oilseeds on minimum support prices in case the market prices of these commodities fall below the minimum support prices in order to protect the interest of the growers.

[English]

**INA Memorial**

1515. DR. NITISH SENGUPTA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the INA Memorial erected in Singapore by the Singapore and Malaysian authorities in 1944 was destroyed by the invading British Army in 1945;

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal to erect an appropriate Memorial at that site where Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose had proclaimed the formation of the Indian National Government and the INA in 1943;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons thereof?

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

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Singapore Government has already marked the site with a commemorative stone on which the picture and a brief description of the old memorial is engraved.

[Translation]

**National Agricultural Insurance Scheme**

1516. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR CHOUDHARY:  
SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of farmers benefited so far from National Agricultural Insurance Scheme in each State; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to popularise the said scheme in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) A Statement comprising State-wise farmers covered and benefited, during the two crop seasons (Rabi 1999-2000 and Kharif 2000) of implementation of National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) is enclosed.

(b) To popularize the NAIS, adequate publicity through Central/State Government extension agencies; General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC) have been arranged. Some of the publicity measures undertaken are:-

- (i) Distribution of Posters and Handbills printed in vernacular language.
- (ii) Participation in Krishi Melas (GIC put up stall in Agri-Expo and Krishi Expo at Pragati Maidan).
- (iii) Jingles on All India Radio.
- (iv) Newspaper advertisements in vernacular language.
- (v) Organisation of workshops and district/block level awareness cum training programmes.

**Statement**

Sl. No.	States/UTs	Rabi 1999-2000		Kharif 2000	
		Farmers Covered	Farmers Benefited	Farmers Covered	Farmers Benefited
1.	Andhra Pradesh	NP	NA	1585758	**
2.	Assam	1401	34	1000	**
3.	Bihar	NP	NA	166356	**
4.	Goa	79	33	953	**
5.	Gujarat	14832	7915	1113435	**
6.	Himachal Pradesh	217	2	266	**
7.	Karnataka	NP	NA	313340	**
8.	Kerala	22786	2753	15573	**
9.	Madhya Pradesh	186910	4891	1531590	**
10.	Maharashtra	114796*	12391	2025563	**
11.	Meghalaya	NP	NA	675	**
12.	Orissa	232836*	15	627465	**
13.	Pondicherry	336	172	373	**
14.	Tamil Nadu	NP	NA	16071	**
15.	Uttar Pradesh	NP	NA	469430	**
16.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	NP	NA	193	**
Total		574193*	28206	7868041	**

\* Total coverage of 574193 includes 86972 farmers who were covered for sugarcane for which the yield data will be received during later part of 2001 and to the extent the figure of farmers benefited shall go up depending upon extent of claims payable.

\*\* Figures of farmers benefited will be known after settlement of claims by the implementing Agency based on the yield data furnished by the State/UT Governments.

[English]

(c) if not, steps the Government propose to take in this regard?

**National Sample Survey Organisation**

1517. SHRI S.P. LEPCHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any review has been undertaken of National Sample Survey Organisation;

(b) if so, details of the improvement suggested in the functioning of NSSO; and

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) Yes, Sir.



(b) The Government had set up an Expert Committee on 12th September 1998 comprising Professor J. Roy, Professor Emeritus Calcutta and Shri Ramanatha Iyer, Retired Director, Field Operations Division of National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) to review the functioning of NSSO. The Committee has submitted its report by the end of March 1999. The main recommendations include;

Undertaking methodological studies, improvement of sampling design, choice of reference period, expanded use of information technology and recommendations of administrative nature for improving the functioning of NSSO.

On the basis of above recommendations, NSSO has undertaken two methodological studies namely;

- (1) The Pilot survey on suitability of different reference periods for consumption data (January 2000 to June 2000).
- (2) Pilot Survey on Non-Agricultural Enterprises in the Informal Sectors: Manufacturing and Trading (March 2000 to June 2000).

(c) The report of the expert committee is on input for National Statistical Commission set up by the Government in January, 2000 for critically examining the deficiencies of the present statistical system with a view to recommending measures for a systematic revamping of the system.

[Translation]

#### **Re-Registration for Doctors**

1518. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to make it mandatory for the doctors to get re-registration after every five years;

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

(c) the expected effects of this proposal on the health services in the country; and

(d) the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (d) The Government have received a proposal from

the Medical Council of India for renewal of registration of doctors after every five year linked with attending compulsory Continuing Medical Education. This proposal has been made for enabling the Medical Council of India to plan proper medical manpower programme in the country. Such a renewal of registration after attending compulsory continuing medical education programmes would equip the doctors with the latest knowledge of the subjects in their respective fields to tackle newer problems faced by them in day to day practice.

[English]

#### **Price Rise in Blood Sugar Testing Devices**

1519. SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the rising prices of the various blood sugar testing devices like strips, glucometre besides the cost of insulin and syringes etc. making it unaffordable for the insulin dependent patients in the country particularly belonging to the middle and lower middle classes; and

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

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

[Translation]

#### **Import of Fodder Machines**

1520. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL: SHRI JAIBHAN SINGH PAWAIYA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of fodder machines imported so far in the country;

(b) the amount of foreign currency spent on their import;

(c) whether all these machines are in working condition; and

(d) if so, the benefits accrued from them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (d) Information is being collected.

[English]

#### **Upgrading of Research Centres**

1521. SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to upgrade all research centres to institute status working under ICAR;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have formulated a strategy to open research institutions dealing with specialisation of specific crops;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the number of such institutions proposed to be set up in Maharashtra, location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No Sir, there are Central Institutes, National Research Centres, Project Directorates and All India Coordinated Research Projects already conducting research on specific crops in different parts of the country.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Does not arise.

#### **Fiji Issue**

1522. SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India have taken any steps for the restoration of democratically elected Government in Fiji; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Government of India repeatedly urged action at multilateral fora like Commonwealth and United Nations and bilaterally with the Governments of Great Britain, Australia and New Zealand. Timely issue of Statements by us for restoration of constitutional and democratically elected Government in Fiji kept the issue in focus of the international community. Two official delegations were sent to Fiji for an on-the-spot assessment of the situation. PM and EAM received Shri Mahendra Pal Chaudhry twice in India (in August 2000 and February-March, 2001) and had detailed discussions with him while conveying India's support and solidarity with Fiji's struggle for constitutionalism and democracy.

[Translation]

#### **Outstanding Amount of Kendriya Bhandar**

1523. KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a huge amount pertaining to Kendriya Bhandar is outstanding against various Ministries;

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

(c) whether due to this outstanding amount the Kendriya Bhandar is running in huge loss and several schemes of the Bhandar are being affected owing to lack of funds;

(d) whether the Government propose to pay the amount, outstanding against the various Ministries for revamping the financial position of Kendriya Bhandar; and

(e) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) As on 31.1.2001, a total amount of Rs. 549.75 lakh is outstanding against various Ministries/Departments of the Central Government. A list of Ministries/Offices having dues of Rs. 5 lakh and above is shown in the statement annexed.

(c) No Sir. The volume of outstanding for more than Rs. 5 lakh works out to 1.37% of sales which is not

considered to be substantial and has not adversely affected the viability of Kendriya Bhandar finances.

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

### **Statement**

List of Outstanding payment (Exceeding Rs. 5.00 lakhs) on various Government Departments As on 31st January, 2001.

S. No.	Name of Department	Amount in Lakhs
1.	M/o Home Affairs	42.88
2.	M/o Defence	20.57
3.	Ministry of External Affairs	19.01
4.	Indira Gandhi National Open University	11.26
5.	L.H.M.C. & Hospital	8.83
6.	M/o Communication	8.16
7.	Railway Board, M/o Railways	7.50
8.	Director, West Block	7.25
9.	DTE General Border Roads	6.99
10.	National Institute of Communicable Diseases	6.36
11.	Indian Council of Agriculture Research	6.22
12.	Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd.	6.17
13.	National Physical Lab	6.17
14.	National Informatic Centre, Planning Commission	5.72
15.	Planning Commission	5.65
16.	M/o Finance, D/o Revenue	5.29
17.	DG of Signal of Intelligence,	5.17
18.	Cibher Bureau, Ministry of Defence	5.13
<b>Total</b>		<b>184.33</b>

[English]

### **Payment of Crop Insurance**

1524. SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received demands for payments of crop Insurance during the current financial year 2000-2001;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the decision taken on the main demands; and

(d) the time by which the payment is likely to be made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. State Government of Gujarat and Hon'ble Member of Parliament have requested for early payment of insurance claims for Kharif 2000 season. The implementing Agency has already been instructed to settle the admissible claims.

Union Minister for Agriculture in a meeting held on 19.2.2001 pressed the Implementing Agency for early settlement of insurance claims for Kharif 2000 season.

[Translation]

### **MPLADS**

1525. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL:  
SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA:  
SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ:  
SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI:  
SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any amendments have been made in the guidelines of MPLADS enabling the Members of Parliament to donate Rs. 10 lakhs for reconstruction and rehabilitation in the quake affected State of Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount provided by each Member of Parliament and others out of the funds of the MPLADS and the amount spent thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) and (b) The Guidelines on

MPLADS provided that a Member of Parliament can allocate Rs. 10 lakhs for each "natural calamity of rare severity" outside their constituencies/states for construction of assets that are permissible in the Guidelines for rehabilitation measures. This has been further relaxed allowing MPs to contribute any portion of their unspent balance in a year from their MPLADS funds for developmental works that are permissible in the Guidelines for rehabilitation in the earthquake affected areas of Gujarat. The ceiling of Rs. 10 lakhs accordingly has been waived and MPs may assign any portion from their balance up to the Rs. 2 crore accruing to them in the year.

(c) In accordance with the information available with the Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation, as on 5.3.2001, 72 Lok Sabha MPs and 136 Rajya Sabha MPs have indicated their consent for contributing an amount of Rs. 33.66 crores towards Gujarat rehabilitation.

#### **Ayurvedic Cure for AIDS**

1526. SHRI B. VANKATESWARLU:  
SHRI RAJAI AH MALYALA:  
SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV:  
SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI:

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

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn towards the news-item captioned "Ayurvedic cure for AIDS" appearing in the *Hindu* dated January 25, 2001;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the action proposed to encourage Indian system of medicines for treatment of AIDS and Cancer?

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

(b) It has been claimed that some AIDS patients have been cured by Ayurvedic treatment. The Central Council of Research in Ayurveda and Siddha, New Delhi has advised the claimant to provide details of studies, achievements, number of patients treated, laboratory investigations carried out, medicines used and their composition to ascertain whether the claims have some basis.

(c) Central Council for Research in Ayurveda and Siddha (CCRAS) has a proposal to carry out clinical

studies on AIDS with Ayurvedic and Siddha drugs. Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy (CCRH) has already under taken a pilot study to ascertain the effect of homoeopathic medicines in the clinical management of HIV AIDS. There is a scheme for providing assistance for conducting extra-mural research by institutions including the area of HIV/AIDS and Cancer. Central Council for Research in Ayurveda and Siddha has extended financial support to see the "Effect of Metal based Ayurvedic Formulations on Acute Pro-myelocytic Leukaemia (APML)". The Council is further processing another project to develop and standardize the same drug. Assistance had also been provided for conducting "Primary Study of Cancer in Ayurvedic Perspective" to a medical college in Pune. All India Institute of Medical Sciences has also been provided assistance for studying "Effect of Breathing techniques and Meditation on normal individual and those with cancer in remission".

#### **Illegal Emigration**

1527. DR. (SHRIMATI) SUDHA YADAV: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Eastern Europe and Gulf countries are the golden routes for illegal emigration of persons from India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action the Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) Some illegal migrants travel through East European countries with the aim to illegally enter a West European country. The cases of illegal migration in the Gulf countries are mostly due to overstay after expiry of visa.

(c) Sections 24 & 25 of the Emigration Act, 1983 provide for imposition of penalties for violation of the provisions of the said Act. During the year 2000, the Central Government has sanctioned prosecution of 10 (ten) persons under the Emigration Act, 1983.

[Translation]

#### **Homoeopathy Department**

1528. SHRI SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to open homoeopathy department at Hindu University complex in Varanasi in the line of homoeopathy department is being run in Sir Sunderlal Hospital;

(b) if so, the time by when the department is likely to be opened; and

(c) the details of functioning thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) Banaras Hindu University is the appropriate authority to open a new department in their University.

However, Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy, an autonomous organization under this department has a Clinical Research Unit located in the Centre of Experimental Medicine & Surgery, Institute of Medical Sciences, Benaras Hindu University, Varanasi.

#### **Inclusion of 'Bhar' Caste in SC List**

1529. SHRI BABBAN RAJBHAR: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Uttar Pradesh had submitted a proposal to the Union Government to include the 'Bhar' caste in the list of the scheduled castes on May 26, 1982;

(b) if so, the present status thereof;

(c) whether a fresh report has been called from the Government of Uttar Pradesh in this regard;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the time by which the final decision is likely to be taken by the Government thereon?

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

(b) to (d) The Government has decided modalities for inclusion in, exclusion from and other modifications in the list of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes on 15.06.1999. As per these modalities, such claims are decided in consultation with the concerned State

Government, Registrar General of India and National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The Registrar General of India, in the context of inclusion of "Bhar" in the Scheduled Caste list of Uttar Pradesh, has observed that the available ethnographic information on this community is not adequate to show beyond doubt that this community suffers from social disabilities arising out from the practice of untouchability.

In view of observations of the Registrar General of India, the Uttar Pradesh Government has been requested on 8.11.2000, 12.12.2000 and 19.1.2001 to furnish detailed information in respect of their justification for inclusion of "Bhar" community in the Scheduled Caste list of Uttar Pradesh. This is awaited from two State Government.

(e) No time frame can be assigned, as it requires consultation with various agencies.

*[English]*

#### **Increasing Generation of Nuclear Power**

1530. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA:  
SHRI B.K. PARTHASARATHI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total power generated through nuclear energy, State-wise;

(b) whether any plan has been prepared to increase the generation of nuclear power in the next 20 years;

(c) if so, the details thereof including the sites identified for setting up of nuclear power plants State-wise; and

(d) the manner in which the Government propose to compensate the population to be affected by the setting up of the plants?

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

details of total nuclear power generation in the country, Statewise are given below:

Units	(Rating)	Total Capacity	Location, State
TAPS-1&2	(2x160 MWe)	320 MWe	Tarapur, Maharashtra
RAPS-1	(1x100 MWe)	100 MWe	Rawatbhata, Rajasthan
RAPS-2	(1x200 MWe)	200 MWe	-do-
RAPS-3&4	(2x220 Mwe)	440 Mwe	-do-
MAPS-1&2	(2x170 Mwe)	340 Mwe	Kalpakkam, Tamil Nadu
NAPS-1&2	(2x220 Mwe)	440 Mwe	Narora, U.P.
KAPS-1&2	(2x220 Mwe)	440 Mwe	Kakrapar, Gujarat
Kaiga-1&2	(2x220 Mwe)	440 Mwe	Kaiga, Karnataka
Total		2720 Mwe	

(b) and (c) Vision 2020 of Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) aims at setting up of about 2000 Mwe of nuclear power capacity by the year 2020 AD. The present nuclear power capacity in the country is 2720 Mwe. Proposal for nuclear power development in the Ninth Five Year Plan include commencement of 2x500 Mwe plant at Tarapur (TAPP-3&4) and additional 2x220 Mwe Unit at Kaiga (Kaiga-3&4), besides commissioning of the Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the 2x1000 Mwe Nuclear Power Station at Kudankulam in Tamil Nadu with Russian Assistance and the commencement of work on the Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR) of 1x500 Mwe towards the end of the 9th Plan. Further, as per the present plans, two projects viz. Kaiga-5&6 (2x220 Mwe) and RAPP-5&6 (2x500 Mwe) are planned to be commenced during 10th Plan period subject to availability of financial resources.

(d) In order to compensate the population that is affected by the setting up of the plants, the present policy of the Government is that the concerned State Government would propose the compensation package alongwith its plan of implementation to the Central Government. The required funds would be provided by the Central Government and the concerned State Government would implement the plan of compensation.

[Translation]

#### Import of Edible Oils/Pulses

1531. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:  
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are importing edible oils and pulses to meet the requirement;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time stipulated by the Government to make the country self-reliant in production of the above items;

(d) whether any scheme has been prepared by the Government in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) and (b) There is a gap between demand and supply of Edible Oils & Pulses to meet the requirement of the country. The gap is met through imports of both the commodities. The import of Edible Oils & Pulses during the year 1999-2000 is as under:

Item	Quantity (Lakh tonnes)
Edible Oils	41.96
Pulses	2.04

(c) to (e) A Technology Mission on Oilseeds was set-up in 1986 in order to make the country self-sufficient in the production of Oilseeds/Edible Oils. Subsequently, in 1990 Pulses were also brought and added to the Mission. The Mission has already achieved the short-term goal of increasing production of oilseeds in 1989-90 upto the level of 16.92 million tonnes as against the target of 16.50 million tonnes. Production of 16.50 million tonnes of pulses and 30.00 million tonnes of Oilseeds has been fixed by the Planning Commission for terminal year of IX Plan i.e. 2001-2002 to attain self reliance in these sectors. The Mission has launched two Centrally Sponsored\* Schemes namely Oilseeds Production Programme (OPP) & National Pulses Development Project (NPDP) for increasing the production of Oilseeds/Edible Oils & Pulses in the country. Both these schemes are under implementation in various States/UTs in the country. Financial Assistance under these schemes is provided

on various critical inputs like production and distribution of seed, distribution of seed minikits, distribution of improved farm implements, sprinkler sets, rhizobium culture and PSB/micro nutrients etc. In order to disseminate the production technology amongst farmers, frontline demonstrations are organized by the I.C.A.R. Besides, block and integrated pest management demonstrations are organized through State Department of Agriculture. A new component of crash programme for quality seed production of groundnut and soybean has also been introduced during Ninth Plan. In order to meet the demand of seed during natural calamities, a seed bank programme has also been introduced during the Ninth Plan.

### **Increasing Per Hectare Yield**

1532. SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHRI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating any steps for increasing the per hectare yield of agriculture produce;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The main thrust of agricultural research and development programme of government is to increase the per hectare yield through use of high yielding seeds and adoption of farmworthy agro-production and protection technologies befitting different regions, growing situations and systems. The National Agricultural Research System has already developed over 2500 improved varieties of different crops for their commercial exploitation. Demonstrations of different technologies in the farmers field are taken up in crops like wheat, rice, maize, oilseeds, pulses etc. Effective efforts are on to introduce new varieties and technologies in different production systems.

High priority research programmes have been taken up in the area of biotechnology for efficient gene transfer from wild and unrelated species to bring much needed resistance to various biotic and abiotic stresses. Development and adoption of Integrated Pest Management and Integrated Nutrient Management modules are other areas of high priority. The strategy to increase particularly the crop productivity also includes bringing more and more

area under irrigation, increase and efficient use of fertilizers and pesticides. Greater emphasis is also laid on production, availability and quality control of seeds which in basic to realise enhanced agricultural productivity.

(c) Question does not arise.

[English]

### **Sanctions Against Taliban**

1533. SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the U.N. has adopted a resolution seeking imposition of sanctions against Taliban-Controlled Afghanistan; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) The UN Security Council had adopted Resolution 1267 on October 15, 1999 imposing sanctions against the Taliban which provided that the Taliban cease the provision of sanctuary and training for international terrorists and their organisations, and to ensure that the territory under its control is not used for terrorist installations and camps, and that the Taliban turn over Usama bin Laden without further delay. The Resolution required all other States to deny permission for any aircraft to take off from or land in their territory if it is owned, leased or operated by or on behalf of the Taliban, freeze funds and other financial resources owned or controlled by the Taliban. The Security Council adopted another Resolution 1333 on December 19, 2000, inter alia, demanding that the Taliban comply with resolution 1267 and (i) close all camps where terrorists are trained; (ii) halt all illegal drugs activities and eliminate the illicit cultivation of opium poppy, the proceeds of which finance Taliban terrorist activities. The Resolution further required all other States to: (i) prevent the direct or indirect supply to the Taliban of arms, ammunition, etc.; (ii) withdraw officials and military personnel who advise the Taliban on military or related security matters; (iii) reduce the strength of diplomatic staff; (iv) close all Taliban offices in their territories, including offices of Ariana Afghan Airlines; (v) freeze funds and other financial assets of Usama bin Laden and individuals and entities associated with him; and (vii) restrict the entry into or transit through their territory of all senior Taliban officials.

### Technology Exchanges

1534. SHRI M. CHINNASAMY: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal for Technology Exchanges for village and small scale industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which it is proposed to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

### NRI in Agricultural Sector

1535. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal to invite Non-Resident Indians (NRIs)/Multinational Companies (MNCs) to participate in the agricultural sector is under consideration of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether many NRIs and MNCs have expressed their desire to invest in the agricultural sector; and

(d) if so, the details thereof together with the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on Table of the House.

### Software Piracy

1536. SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chairman, Microsoft, USA during his visit to India on 23rd and 24th September 2000, expressed concern over the problem of Piracy faced by the Software industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of cases of piracy detected by the Government so far and the action taken against them; and

(d) the manner in which the Government propose to deal with this menace?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) As per National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM) and a press report in the 'Hindu' dated 15.9.2000 such a concern was expressed by Mr. Bill Gates during his visit.

(c) NASSCOM is maintaining an anti-piracy hot line. They have reported that since 1996 more than 70 police raids in various cities and towns have been conducted against people selling pirated software and using pirated software.

(d) The Government has taken following measures to curtail software piracy;

(i) In India, Intellectual Property Right (IPR) of Software is covered under the Copyright law, violation of which attracts both fine and imprisonment.

(ii) Information Technology Act 2000 has been notified w.e.f. 17th Oct., 2000. This act is expected to help in dealing with software piracy and containing the problem.

(iii) Government has also set up a Copyright Enforcement Advisory Council, which reviews the progress of the Enforcement of Copyright Act and also advises on measure for better enforcement.

(iv) Police and custom officers are being sensitized on software piracy issues.

(v) Government has been supporting the Anti-piracy campaign of NASSCOM and instructions have also been issued to various Government Departments to only use legal copy of the software.

(vi) Custom duty on Software has been made zero.



### **Relaxation of Visa Curbs**

1537. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some countries relaxed visa curbs for IT software professionals; and

(b) if so, the details thereof including when these were relaxed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) As per the information available with the Government the following countries have relaxed grant of visa for foreign IT software professionals:-

- (i) **Australia** has been gradually relaxing its visa policy since 1996 mainly to attract IT professionals. New initiatives to attract IT professionals were announced on 29 January, 2001.
- (ii) **Germany** has been issuing special Work Permits since 1 August, 2000 subject to certain conditions which allow entry of skilled IT professionals under the "Green Card" scheme.
- (iii) **Ireland** has recently introduced a Work Visa scheme in addition to the existing Work Permit scheme as a fast track for IT professionals which allows entry for two year period whereas Work Permit is issued only for one year.
- (iv) **Malaysia** relaxed visa policy in mid 1998 for IT software professionals who are sponsored by the companies which come under the purview of a "Multimedia Super Corridor".
- (v) **Republic of Korea** relaxed its visa policy for IT software professionals in November 2000 which introduced a "Gold Card System" which is applicable to professionals with experience of 5 years or more.
- (vi) **USA** has increased the quota for temporary workers (H1B Visa) from 115000 to 195000 from 1 October, 2000. This increase in quota is neither country specific nor job specific but a major portion of such visas are utilized by IT software professionals.

### **Funds for the Development of SC and ST**

1538. SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Forum of SC/ST Parliamentarians' in the representations submitted to the Prime Minister on 17.12.1996, 01.09.1997 & 23.07.1998 have demanded allocation of funds for the development of SCs/STs proportion to the population of this community from Ninth Five Year Plan onwards;

(b) if so, the details of the funds demanded, allocated and released by the Union Government for the procurement and distribution of land for SCs and STs families in the First (1997-98) Second (1998-99) and Third Annual Plans (1999-2000) of the Ninth Five Year Plan; and

(c) the reasons for not meeting the demands?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir. In the Memoranda submitted by the Forum to the Prime Minister on 17.12.1996, 1.9.97 and 23.7.98, demand was made for the allocation of funds for the development of SCs and STs in proportion to their population.

(b) and (c) Department of Agriculture and Cooperation is primarily responsible for increasing production and productivity of agricultural output through implementation of various agriculture development schemes. The schemes are production oriented and area specific in nature which therefore benefit farmers of all categories including farmers of SC/ST communities. In view of the above, there is little scope to demand funds in proportion to the population of a certain community or region, etc. However, wherever possible Special Component Plan (SCP) for SCs and Tribal Sub Plan (TSP) for STs are carved out of the Annual Plans.

### **Launching of Satellites**

1539. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Government towards achieving self-reliance in placing IRS and INSAT classes of satellites in the required orbits;

(b) the present status regarding development of Geo-synchronous satellite launch vehicle;

(c) whether the Government will be able to launch the IRS-P5 and IRS-P6 indigenously during 2001-2002; and

(d) if so, the present status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) With the successful development and operationalisation of the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV), self-reliance has been achieved in launching all our remote sensing satellites (IRS). Geo-synchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV), which is under development, will cater to INSAT class of satellite launches from India.

(b) The first developmental flight of Geo-synchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV) is planned during the last week of March 2001. The launch vehicle is being integrated at Sriharikota (SHAR) launch complex. The satellite, GSAT-1, is already at SHAR. The first developmental flight will be followed by two more developmental flights during 2002-2003. With the successful completion of these flights, indigenous capability to launch 1800-2000kg. class satellites would be established.

(c) and (d) The development activities related to IRS-P5 (Cartosat-1) and IRS-P6 (Resourcesat-1) satellites have progressed satisfactorily at ISRO Centres. Various sub-systems of these spacecrafts are currently under fabrication and testing. It is expected that IRS-P6 satellite will be launched into orbit by early 2002 and IRS-P5 by end 2002.

[*Translation*]

#### **National Watershed Development Scheme**

1540. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the work has been started under National Watershed Development Scheme in the rainfed areas of Jammu and Kashmir during Eighth Five Year Plan;

(b) whether desired target has not been achieved under the said Scheme in Jammu and Kashmir particularly Baramulla; and

(c) if so, the details of targets fixed and achievements made during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A target of 12050 ha. was fixed to develop under the scheme during VIII Plan in Jammu & Kashmir State. Against this target an area of 14044 ha. has been developed during this period. However, in Baramulla, an area of 1365 ha. has been developed against the target of 2000 ha.

#### **Shortage of Cold Storage**

1541. PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated cost of vegetables and fruits perish for want of food processing industries and cold storage; and

(b) the remedial measures taken by the Government in this regard during last three years and the achievements thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TH. CHAOBA SINGH): (a) In 1995, Government of India constituted a Working Group on Post Harvest Management, Marketing & Exports. This Group estimated that post-harvest losses in different crops range from 8 to 37%. These losses occur during different stages after harvest.

(b) In order to facilitate overall growth of food processing industries and thereby reduce the wastage of vegetables and fruits, the Department of Food Processing Industries, under its plan schemes, have provided financial assistance of Rs. 26.59 crores during the last three years for setting up, expansion and modernization of food processing industries including cold storages. Besides, other agencies like National Horticulture Board, Agricultural and Processed Food Export Development Authority, National Co-operative Development Corporation also provide assistance under their respective schemes.

[*English*]

#### **Dhaka-Kolkata Bus Service**

1542. SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a bus service has been running from Dhaka to Kolkata;

(b) if so, the progress report of this service;

(c) whether this service is proposed to be extended up to Ajmer;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any draft Motor Vehicles Agreement has been handed over to Bangladesh; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The bus service between Kolkata and Dhaka, which was inaugurated in June 1999, continues to be in operation twice daily from either side except on Sundays.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. The draft Agreement proposes the facilitation of movement of passengers and goods between the two countries.

#### **Patent Protection**

1543. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any efforts have been made to introduce utility patent protection for small innovations;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (c) No, Sir. The Patents Act, 1970 already protects all inventions and does not discriminate between small innovations and inventions which can be termed as break through technology. Section 2(1) (j) of the Act defines the 'invention' which can be protected under the Act. All such inventions, whether small or major, which fulfill the criteria of patentability as per the said Act are patentable.

#### **Indian Council of Agricultural Research**

1544. SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the role of Indian Council of Agricultural Research in the North Eastern Region; and

(b) the details of the activities subject-wise and the expenditure incurred by the ICAR in the NER and Sikkim during the Ninth Five Year Plan, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) Under National Agricultural Research System, the ICAR is conducting research through its Institutes, National Research Centres (NRC), and other Plan Projects in North Eastern States including Sikkim. In this endeavour, ICAR is allocating 10% of its annual budget through Non-Lapseable Central Pool of Resources for conducting research in NER including Sikkim. Besides major institutions mentioned below, the ICAR is also operating 10 centres of different ICAR institutes, 43 centres of All India Coordinated Research Projects, 13 Krishi Vigyan Kendras, one Trainer's Training Centre, one Zonal Coordinating Unit and also providing Developmental Grant to Assam Agricultural University.

Name of the Institute	Exp. for 4 years of Ninth Plan (Rs. in lakhs)
(i) ICAR Research Complex for NEH Region, Shillong, Meghalaya	1290.33
(ii) Central, Agricultural University, Imphal, Manipur	2950.00
(iii) NRC - Yak, Dirang, Arunachal Pradesh	483.30
(iv) NRC - Mithun, Jhamapani, Nagaland	514.71
(v) NRC - Orchids, Sikkim	272.36

#### **Development of North Bengal**

1545. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission have received several representations from the M.Ps regarding development of North Bengal;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Planning Commission in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, the Planning Commission has received representations from the Hon'ble Member of the House regarding lack of infrastructure and development facilities and the problem of recurring flood in the districts of the North Bengal. The economic activities relating to Industry and Agriculture are also said to be lagging behind compared to the rest of the State. Some of these issues had also been raised by him earlier under special mention in the House.

(c) Balanced economic growth of all areas of the State is the responsibility of the State Government. Therefore, steps for reduction of regional economic imbalances by implementing appropriate development Programmes have to be taken by the State Government only. Accordingly, letters have been addressed in the past to the Chief Minister of West Bengal regarding the points raised by the Hon'ble Member. The Government of West Bengal has been requested to intimate steps initiated to accelerate development of the region. In this context, the State Government has recently constituted North Bengal Development Council for integrated and coordinated development of the region with the Chief Minister as its Chairman. The Council is in the process of preparing a long term perspective plan.

[Translation]

#### **Achievement of Growth Rate Targets**

1546. DR. M.P. JAISWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have achieved the growth rate target set during the last year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the efforts made by the Government to achieve the growth rate target set during the current year;

(e) the details of the efforts made by the Government to avoid the recurrence of the shortcomings observed during the last year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) and (b) The Planning Commission does not fix annual growth target. However, the annual average growth rate of Gross Domestic Product for the Ninth Five Year Plan period has been fixed at 6.5 per cent. The growth rate of the economy, measured by the growth rate of GDP, has been estimated at 6.4 per cent in real terms during the year 1999-2000, as indicated in the Press Note on Quick Estimates of National Income. Consumption Expenditure, Saving and Capital Formation 1999-2000 brought out by the Central Statistical Organisation.

(c) The main reasons for a relatively lower growth achieved during the year 1999-2000 as against a 6.6 per cent growth rate in the previous year (i) growth in agriculture of 0.7% and (ii) lower growth in electricity, gas and water supply.

(d) and (e) Bringing down the fiscal deficit and rate of inflation, augmenting the public investment and public savings, appropriate pricing of services, competition policy, effective targeting of subsidy etc. are some of the measures suggested in the Mid-Term Appraisal of Ninth Five Year Plan.

[English]

#### **Disparity in Birth Rate and Death Rate**

1547. COL. (RETD.) DR. DHANI RAM SHANDIL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether disparities have been found in the birth-rate and death-rate of male and female child in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of male and female children in the country as on January, 2001 separately; and

(d) steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to check the rise in death-rate of female child?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) As per information brought out by the office of Registrar General of India for the year 1998, the Child Mortality Rate (0-4) years for female child is higher than that of male child (mortality of female child is 25.6 against male child mortality of 22.2).

(b) According to the report of National Family Health Survey (1998-99), the mortality rate among female child is higher due to relative medical and nutritional negligence.

(c) The projected numbers of male and female children (0-4 years) as on 1st March, 2001 are 5.57 crores and 5.28 crores respectively.

(d) Under Reproductive and Child Health Programme, a number of interventions are being implemented to prevent the mortality of female child which include immunization against the vaccine preventable diseases, control of Vit. 'A' deficiency, essential newborn care, prevention of Iron Deficiency Anaemia. Control of Diarrhoea Diseases and Promotion of Breast Feeding and proper nutrition. Equipments for essential newborn care are being provided to selected PHCs, CHCs/FRUs and District hospitals. These interventions are provided irrespective of the gender of child.

#### **Death of Animals in Orissa Due to Cyclone**

1548. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether over two lakh animals are feared to have died in the Orissa Cyclone and animal carcasses piled up;

(b) whether the traumatized animals refused food in Bhubaneswar Zoo; and

(c) if so, the measures taken to provide relief to animals in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) According to the information furnished by Government of Orissa, 6,21,377 animals died during the super cyclone that occurred on 29.10.99 and carcasses were disposed off immediately after the cyclone.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The relief measures proposed for future by the State Government of Orissa are as follow:

- (i) The Veterinary Institutions have been supplied with life saving drugs and medicines for treatment of ailing animals.
- (ii) Fodder Farms of the State have been instructed to maintain a reserve quantity of fodder for utilisation in case of natural calamity.
- (iii) Preventive vaccination against common contagious diseases are being taken up regularly to combat spreading of disease.
- (iv) Action is being taken to provide rescue shelters at vulnerable points of different districts.
- (v) It is also proposed to maintain fodder Banks at district headquarters to provide fodder to animals in distress.

#### **HIV/AIDS in Children**

1549. SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that reports have appeared in the Press that a number of run-away homeless children have been living at New Delhi Railway Station;

(b) about 20% of these children are afflicted with STD/HIV susceptible to AIDS;

(c) whether it is fact that a number of them are also addicted to drugs and other kinds of social abuses; and

(d) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to save them from the pangs of social abuses and impending deaths?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Yes, Sir. An NGO, Save the Children (UK) has published a report "Vulnerability and Impact of HIV/AIDS on children in selected areas of Delhi, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra" conducted by Shri Vijay Rajkumar.

(b) The report has highlighted the risk behaviour of street children and their vulnerability to STD/HIV/AIDS. However, the exact prevalence of STD/HIV/AIDS has not been indicated in the report.

(c) The report states that about 40-50% of the children smoke and about 10% of them take charas, ganja or the smack. About 15% of the smack addicts injects pharmaceuticals drugs.

(d) The National AIDS Programme Phase-II has given priority to targeted interventions among vulnerable populations such as street children. It envisages a comprehensive and integrated approach to marginalized and vulnerable populations through multi-pronged strategies beginning from behaviour change communication, counselling, providing health care support, treatment of STD and creating an enabling environment that will facilitate behaviour change. The targeted interventions are being implemented by NGOs all over the country.

#### **T.A. and Pension Facilities to Ex-MPs.**

1550. SHRI P. MOHAN: Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of former Members of Parliament, party-wise, group-wise individuals enjoying pension and the amount spent for the purpose during the last three years;

(b) the travelling expenses borne by the Government for the former Members of Parliament during each year; and

(c) the number of former Members of Parliament who are enjoying pension and free rail travelling, party-wise/group-wise/individuals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) Payment of pension to former Members of Parliament granted in accordance with the provisions contained in the Section 8A of the Salary, Allowances and Pension of Members of Parliament Act, 1954 is made on the basis of sanction letters issued to the individual Ex-MPs by the concerned Secretariats of Parliament. Similarly payment of Travel Expenses for the rail journey in AC-II tier allowed to them alongwith a companion under Section 8AA of the said Act, is also undertaken on the basis of a authorization issued to them for this purpose by the Secretariats of either House of Parliament as the case may be. Therefore, the information regarding number of former Members of Parliament enjoying pension and travelling facilities under the said Act is available with the

two Secretariats of Parliament. Similar information on expenditure incurred on the pension to former Members of Parliament and on their travelling expenses is also available with the two Secretariats of Parliament.

#### **Assessment of U.S. Director of Central Intelligence**

1551. SHRI SUBODH ROY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the U.S. Director of Central Intelligence has made any assessment of the situation in South Asia, particularly the competition between India and Pakistan; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) The Director of the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency had made a presentation on the subject of global security environment before a Committee of the U.S. Senate on 7 February 2001 as part of its regular parliamentary process. In that context, he had also, *inter alia*, presented his assessment of the situation in South Asia.

(b) Government regards it as an internal assessment of an agency of the U.S. Government and rejects the views on India contained therein. Government has stated on a number of occasions that India is guided solely by its own perceptions in defining its security requirements and that India does not wish to enter into an arms race with any country.

#### **Entry of Multinational Company In Food Processing Industry**

1552. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU:  
SHRI RAMANAIDU DAGGUBATI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to prevent the entry of multi-National Companies and big industrial houses in the field of food processing industries based on agricultural produces; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TH. CHAOBA SINGH): (a) and (b) No such proposal is under consideration of the Government.

### **National Trust for Welfare of Disables**

1553. SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Trust for Welfare of persons autism, cerebral, mental retardation and multiple disabilities has been formed;

(b) if so, the States which have implemented the same including the NGO's involved in the KBK districts of Orissa to implement the same;

(c) if so, whether the DAY-CARE Centres for needy persons belonging to the targeted groups be established in the district of Kalahandi and other KBK district of Orissa; and

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

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

(b) and (c) States including Orissa have been asked to form the Local Level Committee which includes an NGO at the district level in the first stage, to implement the various provisions of the National Trust Act, 1999. So far, five States namely, Goa, Madhya Pradesh, Assam, West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh and one Union Territory i.e. Dadra and Nagar Haveli have submitted the proposal for constitution of the Local Level Committees responsible for monitoring of National Trust schemes in some of their districts. Till date, no Local Level Committee has been constituted in any of the districts in Orissa including KBK districts.

(d) Does not arise.

### **Eriophyidmite Disease**

1554. SHRI A.P. ABDULLAKUTTY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government are aware that Eriophyidmite disease has damaged the entire coconut palms in Kerala;

(b) if so, whether out of the total financial commitment of Rs. 195.00 crores, only Rs. 100.00 crores was anticipated as Central share and Rs. 95.00 lakhs originally released by CDB have not reached so far for the spraying activities;

(c) if so, whether the Union Government propose to release the balance amount immediately to carry on the spraying activities to save the entire coconut palms of Kerala; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) In Kerala, 589 lakh coconut palms were reported to have been affected by eriophyid mite of coconut.

(b) to (d) Government of India released an amount of Rs. 96.00 lakhs in 1998-99 and Rs. 488.00 lakhs in 1999-2000 to Government of Kerala through Coconut Development Board, exclusively for control of eriophyid mite of coconut under the ongoing programmes of the Board. The State Government has reported that the funds released were fully utilised for the purpose.

Government of Kerala submitted a proposal for Central assistance of Rs. 100 crore for control of eriophyid mite of coconut in the State. The proposal was examined in consultation with Planning Commission and Ministry of Finance. Recently, the eligible assistance of Rs. 24.25 crore has been sanctioned for control of coconut mite in Kerala.

### **National Policy on Disaster Management**

1555. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering formulating a National Policy on Disaster Management;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) when such a National Policy on Disaster Management is likely to be formulated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) to (c) Institutional arrangements exist for natural disaster management at the National, State and District levels. The mechanism for financing the relief is also laid down in accordance with the recommendations of the Finance Commissions appointed from time to time. Although it is primarily the responsibility of the States to provide relief to the affected people in the wake of natural calamities, the Central Government also supplements the efforts of the States by way of financial and logistic support. Disaster mitigation measures are reviewed from time to time keeping in view the nature, intensity and impact of

the natural disaster. In the wake of the earthquake in Gujarat, a National Committee on Disaster Management has been set up under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister having representation of the Presidents of the National and State Level political parties inter-alia to suggest necessary institutional and legislative measures needed for an effective and long-term strategy to deal with major natural calamities in future. The first meeting of the National Committee was held on 18.2.2001.

[Translation]

### Setting up of Hospital

1556. SHRI UTTAMRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to set up big hospitals like the Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital in remote areas of Delhi such as Rohini;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) 'Health' is a State subject under the Constitution of India. The Government of NCT of Delhi as informed that following hospitals are being set up:-

1. 500 bedded Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Hospital at Rohini. This hospital will be fully commissioned during next financial year. Presently, OPD services are being provided in the Hospital.
2. 200 bedded hospital at Pitampura in the vicinity of Rohini. The work is in progress and this hospital is likely to be commissioned during the end of Ninth Five Year Plan i.e. 2001-2002.

In addition to the above, the following hospitals are proposed to be set up in remote areas during the next few years:-

- (i) 200 bedded Satyavadi Raja Harichandra Hospital at Narela.
- (ii) 500 bedded Super Speciality Hospital at Tahirpur.
- (iii) 200 bedded Hospital at Vasant Kunj.
- (iv) 500 bedded Hospital at Dwarka.
- (v) 100 bedded Hospital at Burari.
- (vi) 50 bedded Hospital at Nasirpur.

[English]

### Impact of MNC on SSI

1557. SHRI P. RAJENDRAN: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of units affected by the new import policy under globalization;

(b) whether the Government have any proposal to set up any Task Force to evaluate the situation and protect the interest of SSI sector; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) The Small Scale sector as a whole has been exposed to greater competition due to globalisation.

(b) and (c) Government is constantly monitoring the impact of the removal of Quantitative Restrictions (QRs) on the economy including the SSI Sector and an Inter-Ministerial Group has been set up under the Chairmanship of Commerce Secretary to continuously assess the impact of removal of quantitative restrictions and to suggest suitable corrective measures.

### Varieties of Cotton

1558. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have been urged to restrict the number of varieties of cotton according to the demands of the textile industry;

(b) whether any representation has been received by the Government for amendments to the crop insurance scheme so that all farmers who lost their crop due to natural calamities may be compensated; and

(c) if so, the decision of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) Yes,



Sir. Suggestion has been received from Ministry of Textiles for denotification of old and obsolete varieties of cotton. As on date 205 varieties of cotton have released/notified and 17 old and obsolete varieties have been denotified.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Representation for making certain changes in the National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) were received from various States i.e. West Bengal, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, etc. Some of the amendments suggested are given as under:

- Coverage of Perennial crops.
- Sharing of financial liabilities between Central and State Governments.
- Reducing the unit of insurance keeping in view the increased number of Crop Cutting Experiments.
- Working out of threshold yield based on past three years normal yield data.
- Cap on Sum Insured.
- Premium subsidy for small and marginal farmers to be continued.
- Flexibility in seasonality discipline.

As per the provisions in the scheme, and also keeping in view the suggestions made by the States, a process of review of the National Agricultural Insurance Scheme has been initiated.

#### **Central Assistance to Kaiga Project**

1559. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:  
SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA:  
SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Karnataka had forwarded a proposal for acquisition of land for Kaiga Nuclear Power Project and release of an amount of Rs. 2 crores for the rehabilitation of the persons affected by the project to the Centre on February 20, 1998;

(b) if so, whether this amount has not been released so far;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which the Centre is likely to release the amount?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (d) The land acquisition and rehabilitation plan for the Kaiga Atomic Power Project were completed in 1993-1994 by Government of Karnataka with funds provided by Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL).

However, in a meeting held on 11.1.97 under the Chairmanship of the then Chief Minister of Karnataka, NPCIL agreed to consider contributing Rs. 2 crore as financial assistance for rehabilitation of the persons of DEVKAR village, as a gesture of goodwill, even though the said village is no way affected by the establishment of Kaiga Atomic Power Project. As per the directives of the then Chief Minister, the rehabilitation package was to be implemented by Karnataka Power Corporation Limited, a Public Sector Undertaking of Government of Karnataka. This was with a clear understanding that since the village is no way affected by the establishment of Kaiga Atomic Power Project, this payment is as a gesture of goodwill and no further reference relating to the rehabilitation issue will be made to NPCIL. In a recent meeting with the Energy Department, Government of Karnataka, held on 23.12.2000, this issue was again discussed and a formal communication confirming the above understanding is yet to be received from Government of Karnataka. The release of Rs. 2 crore is, therefore, contingent on such confirmation from the Government of Karnataka.

#### **Production of Cashew**

1560. SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the name of the States growing Cashew;

(b) the production of cashew in those States during last three years;

(c) whether the cashew growers are being extended Central assistance; and

(d) if so, the amount of Central assistance extended to these States, particularly in Orissa for growing cashew in last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) and (b) The State-wise details of production of cashew during the last three years is given in the statement-I.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The State-wise details of funds released to the States during the last three years under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Integrated Development Programme of Cashew in India is given in the statement-II.

**Statement-I**

*Production of Cashewnut in India*

S. No.	State	Production (000 Tonnes)		
		1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
1.	Andhra Pradesh	50.0	80.0	100.0
2.	Goa	25.0	20.0	30.0
3.	Karnataka	35.0	40.0	60.0
4.	Kerala	100.0	130.0	100.0
5.	Maharashtra	60.0	85.0	125.0
6.	Orissa	45.0	50.0	40.0
7.	Tamil Nadu	30.0	35.0	45.0
8.	West Bengal	6.0	8.0	8.0
9.	Others	9.0	12.0	12.0
Total		360.0	460.0	520.0

**Statement-II**

*Release under Cashew Scheme During IX Plan*

S. No.	State	Releases made (Lakh Rs.)		
		1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	70.00	83.61	133.29
2.	Goa	38.00	170.52	123.78
3.	Karnataka	100.61	113.84	121.70
4.	Kerala	120.93	89.30	84.98

1	2	3	4	5
5.	Madhya Pradesh	23.50	48.90	7.00
6.	Maharashtra	544.38	690.20	541.36
7.	Manipur	16.60	19.75	0.00
8.	Meghalaya	4.60	14.30	6.28
9.	Nagaland	0.00	9.00	4.30
10.	Orissa	151.80	109.02	352.56
11.	Tamil Nadu	140.35	183.90	89.26
12.	Tripura	4.85	14.30	4.00
13.	West Bengal	0.00	0.00	2.00
14.	A & N Islands	1.17	0.00	0.00
15.	Pondicherry	3.00	14.45	0.00
Total		1219.79	1561.09	1470.51

**Community Health Guide**

1561. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the worst condition of thousands of Community Health Guide all over the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government have received any memorandum/proposal from any organization about the problems of Community Health Guide;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government have any proposal to utilize these workers meaningfully and improve their financial condition; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (e) Government have received some representations from different Village Health Guide's Associations. Their main demands are to increase the amount of honorarium paid to Village Health Guides and restoration of supply of medicine kits. The Scheme has been reviewed by a Committee which has submitted its report. The report is under active consideration of Government.

**Availability of Pulses**

1562. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV:  
SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the per capita availability of pulses has been reduced;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to boost the production of pulses in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) The per capita availability of Pulses during the last three years has been fluctuating as shown in the data given below:

Year	Per Capita Net Availability (Grams per Day)
1998	33.0
1999 (Provisional)	36.9
2000 (Provisional)	31.9

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

(c) To boost the production of pulses in the country, pulses have been brought under the ambit of Technology Mission on Oilseeds & Pulses. A centrally sponsored scheme of National Pulses Development Project (NPDP) is being implemented for this purpose. Under the scheme, assistance is being provided for inputs like production and distribution of certified seeds, seed minikits, improved farm implements, rhizobium culture, micro-nutrients, integrated pests management and distribution of sprinkler sets etc. In addition field demonstrations and farmers' training are also being organized for the transfer of improved protection & production technologies to the farmers' field for increasing the production of pulses in the country.

**Foreign Assistance for Increasing Nuclear Power**

1563. SHRI B.K. PARTHASARATHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether atomic energy is being produced on comparatively low rates in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the efforts being made for generating more power from the existing nuclear power plants;

(d) whether any foreign assistance has been sought for this purpose; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Yes, Sir. The cost of generation from nuclear power plants is competitive compared to contemporary coal thermal power plants located away from coal mines.

(b) The tariffs for generation of electricity from nuclear power plants in operation is in the range from about 84 paise/KWh to 295 paise/KWh with an average of all the operating stations at 226 paise/KWh. The difference in tariff is on account of different years of commencement of commercial operations.

(c) The capacity factors (C.Fs) of nuclear power stations in commercial operation have seen progressive improvement based on efforts at (i) strengthening of monitoring and preventive & predictive maintenance, (ii) improving outage management (iii) intensive training for maintenance and operating staff, and (iv) effective co-ordination with Regional Electricity Boards to improve frequency control for the grid. The overall capacity factors of nuclear power plants of NPCIL during the years 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 are 71%, 75% and 80% respectively. The overall capacity factor of Nuclear Power Plants in the country during 2000-2001 (upto October 2000) is 81%.

(d) No, Sir. However, in terms of the co-operation agreement signed between the Government of India and Russia for setting up 2x1000 MWe Russian VVERs at Kundakulam, Tamil Nadu, preparation of a Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the Project has been undertaken.

(e) Does not arise.

**Production of Milk and Dairy Products**

1564. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have achieved self-sufficient in milk and dairy products; and

(b) if so, the per capita production and actual consumption of milk and dairy products in the country, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) As per Economic Survey 2000-2001, the milk production during 1999-2000 is expected to be 78.1 Million M.T. and the estimated per capita availability 214 grams per day. The growth in milk production in the country during 1990-91 to 1999-2000 has been above 4% per annum, which is higher than the growth of population of around 2% per annum. As a result, per capita availability of milk has increased consistently during the last decade. Hence, the country is steadily progressing towards achieving self-sufficiency in milk and milk products.

(b) In Statement-I and Statement-II the per capita per day production of milk and per capita per day consumption of milk and dairy products are given respectively.

**Statement-I**

States/U.T.s	Milk Production ('000 MTs.) per annum. (1999-2000)	Per Capita per day Production (Gram)
1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh	4730	171
Arunachal Pradesh	51	116
Assam	822	86
Bihar	3740	102
Goa	43	73
Gujarat	5124	290
Haryana	4673	642
Himachal Pradesh	745	303
Jammu & Kashmir	1000	274
Karnataka	4925	258
Kerala	2673	226

1	2	3
Madhya Pradesh	5600	191
Maharashtra	5810	174
Manipur	67	72
Meghalaya	65	73
Mizoram	10	29
Nagaland	49.5	80
Orissa	795	61
Punjab	7700	893
Rajasthan	5820	296
Sikkim	42	205
Tamil Nadu	4256	188
Tripura	49	35
Uttar Pradesh	15176	242
West Bengal	3750	130
<b>U.Ts</b>		
Andaman	23	162
Chandigarh	42	129
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	10	143
Daman & Diu	1	19
Delhi	295	57
Lakshadweep	1	38
Pondicherry	35	86
All India	78122.5	214

**Statement-II**

*Average monthly expenditure per person on consumption of Milk & Milk Products for all States, UTs and all India.*

States	1999-2000			
	Expenditure in rupees		Per capita per day consumption in grams*	
	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
1	2	3	4	5
Andhra Pradesh	27.4	53.15	61	118
Arunachal Pradesh	16.3	39.31	36	87

1	2	3	4	5
Assam	15.05	43.07	33	96
Bihar	25.77	47.7	57	106
Goa	47.65	73.48	106	163
Gujarat	78.6	110.88	175	246
Haryana	164.46	147.09	365	327
Himachal Pradesh	95.29	151.21	212	336
Jammu & Kashmir	93.91	111.78	209	248
Karnataka	33.75	61.7	75	137
Kerala	37.88	49.27	84	109
Madhya Pradesh	31.97	63.08	71	140
Maharashtra	29.93	72.61	67	161
Manipur	5.46	13.98	12	31
Meghalaya	10.01	39.42	22	88
Mizoram	18.79	45.06	42	100
Nagaland	36.58	55.97	81	124
Orissa	7.81	29.23	17	65
Punjab	127.89	129.93	284	289
Rajasthan	109.86	125.16	244	278
Sikkim	45.62	61.68	101	137
Tamil Nadu	25.22	57.95	56	129
Tripura	19.92	46.41	44	103
Uttar Pradesh	46.67	72.09	104	160
West Bengal	14.65	40.31	33	90
A & N Islands	38.6	62.57	86	139
Chandigarh	144.96	172.96	322	384
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	21.53	101.48	48	226
Daman & Diu	55.15	98.69	123	219
Delhi	133.02	154.18	296	343
Lakshadweep	29.3	28.35	65	63
Pondicherry	29.62	52.47	66	117
All India	42.56	74.18	95	165

\* Rupees 15 per litre of milk is assumed.

### US Computers

1565. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether United States of America has decided to export high power computers to India again;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time when the export of these computers was stopped alongwith reasons therefor; and

(d) the extent to which the India is likely to be benefited by these computers?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) to (c) The United States has a policy of controls on exports of high powered computers of certain specifications through a system of licences, administered by Bureau of Export Control, US Department of Commerce. India is placed in "TIER 3 Countries". Under this regime India was eligible to import computers with a Composite Theoretical Performance (CTP) between 6500 MTOPS to 28000 MTOPS (Million Theoretical Operations per Second) from January 2000 to February 2001. With effect from March 20, 2001 this lower threshold has been raised to 85000 MTOPS. However, Indian organisations on the so called entity list continue to face restrictions on the import of high power computers from the United States of America.

(d) Only for very specialized applications like weather forecasting India needs to import high power computers/super computers.

[Translation]

### Haj Subsidy

1566. SHRIMATI SUSHILA SAROJ: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state the total subsidy provided to the Haj Pilgrims during 1999-2000 and 2000-2001?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): The Government provides subsidy to Haj pilgrims for air travel in respect of pilgrims going through Haj Committee, Mumbai. The total subsidy provisionally provided during 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 is as under:-

1999-2000	Rs. 119.09 crores
2000-2001	Rs. 148.36 crores

**Satellite Images of Gujarat**

1567. SHRI JAI PRAKASH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the satellite images of Rann of Kutch area of Gujarat sent by the Remote sensing satellite through I.R.S. 1-D after the devastating earthquake have indicated major geographical changes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Indian scientists have studied these changes; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the likely impact thereof in that area?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (d) No, Sir. The images of Rann of Kutch area of Gujarat, from the Indian Remote Sensing Satellites, IRS-1C and IRS-1D, studied by Scientists of Department of Space and Gujarat State Remote Sensing & Communications Centre, Gandhinagar, subsequent to the devastating earthquake, have not shown any major geographical changes therein. However, the satellite image acquired on January 29, 2001 had shown some minor geographical changes, specifically, a few water channels in the Rann area. These channels formed by surging of the underground water, possibly due to compression of sediments during the earthquake, had also persisted for a few days, as monitored by using successive images from IRS satellites. However, the satellite images acquired after February 1, 2001 have shown that these water channels have subsequently dried up.

[English]

**Development of Animal Husbandry**

1568. SHRI S.P. LEPCHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the population of cattle in the country, State-wise;

(b) the per capita fodder available for the cattle, State-wise;

(c) the details of the steps taken for the development of animal husbandry; and

(d) the estimated loss of cattle due to the flood ravages during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) The information is given in Statement 'A'.

(c) The Department is implementing various programmes for the genetic improvement of Livestock and birds, prevention of diseases and health care and also development of feed and fodder resources to provide nutrition to the domestic animals and birds.

(d) The information is given in the statement 'B'.

**Statement 'A'***Cattle Population and availability of fodder per head*

States	Cattle Population (Thousand Nos.)	Per capita availability of fodder (Kg per annum)
1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh	10946	3768
Arunachal Pradesh	324	43154
Assam	10118	704
Bihar	22154	1051
Goa	98	3350
Gujarat	6804	9302
Haryana	2136	18601
Himachal Pradesh	2165	2432
Jammu & Kashmir	3055	2006
Karnataka	13173	2608
Kerala	3524	726
Madhya Pradesh	28688	3094
Maharashtra	17446	4520

1	2	3
Manipur	719	2173
Meghalaya	635	3825
Mizoram	59	70206
Nagaland	332	6738
Orissa	13841	1191
Punjab	2909	19807
Rajasthan	11699	12498
Sikkim	198	3818
Tamil Nadu	9278	2845
Tripura	949	1655
Uttar Pradesh	25635	4024
West Bengal	17453	1094
A & N Islands	50	36134
Chandigarh	5	27649
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	49	2504
Daman & Diu	8	NA
Delhi	41	63
Lakshadweep	2	NA
Pondicherry	90	NA
All India	204584	3865

**Statement 'B'**

(d) Loss of cattle due to the flood ravages during the last three years is as under:

1998	1999	2000
105828	8753	102121
(Nos)	(Nos)	(Nos)

**Foreign Tours by Ministers**

1569. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be please to refer to reply given to USQ No. 470 on November 22, 2000 and state:

(a) whether the information in this regard has since been collected;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) to (d) Sir, as the USQ No. 470 answered on 22.11.2000 involved collecting information from all Ministries/ Departments of the Government of India, it was circulated to them. Information is awaited from many of them. As soon as the information is received from them, it will be placed on the Table of the House.

**Growth Rate of Agriculture Sector**

1570. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that growth of agriculture sector has been fluctuating in the recent past;

(b) if so, the growth rate of agriculture in the country during each of the last three years;

(c) the steps being taken presently relating to crop specific development programme for increasing growth rate in agriculture;

(d) the steps taken so far and achievement made in regard to programme of the Government for doubling the agricultural production in the next 10 years; and

(e) the total amount of gross national income being spent in agricultural sector at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) According to the latest estimates of National Income released by the Central Statistical Organisation (CSO), the growth rates of the Agriculture & Allied Sector consisting of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Forestry and Fishing sectors, measured in terms of gross value addition

in the sector at 1993-94 prices for the last three years are as under:

Year	Percent growth of Gross Value Addition in Agriculture & Allied Sector at 1993-94 prices
1997-98	-2.4
1998-99	7.1
1999-2000	0.7

(c) and (d) The Government is implementing crop specific centrally sponsored schemes such as Integrated Development Programmes in Rice/Wheat/Coarse cereals Based Cropping System, National Pulse Development Project, Oilseeds Production Programme, and Technology Mission on Cotton etc. for increasing production and productivity of various crops. Under these programmes/projects, incentives are provided to farmers for use of high yielding varieties of seeds, application of Integrated Pest Management, propagation of scientific water management including micro irrigation and use of improved farm implements. In addition, field demonstrations on farmers' holdings including training of farmers and farm labourers are organised for effective transfer of technology. Further, a central sector scheme on development of fruits and vegetables is being implemented. Under fruit scheme, assistance is being provided for establishment of nurseries and tissue culture units for distribution of quality planting material, area expansion, frontline demonstration, rejuvenation of senile orchards, training of farmers, disease forecasting units and horticulture mechanization. Under the scheme of Integrated Development of Vegetables, the emphasis is laid on production of planting material especially onion and potato, improvement of production and productivity, technology transfer, on-farm post-harvest handling and development of information system. These programmes implemented in conjunction with the regionally differentiated growth strategy based on different agro-climatic zones, are expected to bring about the required growth rate on the average to achieve the target of doubling the food production in the next 10 years.

(e) The amount spent out of the Gross National Income in the Agriculture & Allied Sector in the form of Gross Capital Formation at 1993-94 prices for the year 1999-2000 as compiled by CSO is Rs. 21.388 crores.

#### **Funds for NER**

1571. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the Central aid so far provided to the State of Assam, and North Eastern States for providing self-employment and generating employment opportunities under the special Prime Minister's Plan for accelerated development of the North-East;

(b) by the targets fixed for generating self-employment and other employment opportunities fixed for 2000-2001, year end, State-wise; and

(c) special Central aid sought by each State under the plan for 2001-2002 and the steps taken to ensure that these funds are not diverted to other use and are properly utilized?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

#### **Foodgrain Production**

1572. SHRI GUNIPATI RAMAIAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any target has been fixed for foodgrains production during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the production of food-grains during eighties was more as compared to that in nineties;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps being taken to boost the production of foodgrains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Planning Commission has fixed a target of 234 million tonnes for foodgrains production for the terminal year of Ninth Five Year Plan comprising Rice 99.0, Wheat 83.00, Coarse Cereals 35.5 and Pulses 16.5 million tonnes.

(c) No, Sir.



(d) Question does not arise.

(e) Integrated cereals development programme on rice, wheat and coarse cereals based cropping system areas are under implementation since 1994-95. Incentive to the farmers are being provided on certified seeds, implements use and upgradation of technical skill through training and organising production technology demonstrations. Besides this, seed minikit programme on rice, wheat and coarse cereals and propagation of new technology is under implementation with a view to popularize newly evolved varieties/hybrids. Technology Mission on oilseeds, Pulses and Maize is under implementation to provide thrust for increasing production of oilseeds, Pulses and Maize.

[Translation]

### **Training to Midwives**

1573. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have framed any scheme to impart training to midwives in 15 States in order to provide the facility of handling delivery cases in rural and remote areas of the country;

(b) if so, the details of States where this scheme is being implemented;

(c) whether Uttar Pradesh has also been covered under this scheme; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) In order to improve safe delivery practices, Government of India during 2000-2001 launched a scheme for training of Traditional Birth Attendants/Dais. In the first phase, the scheme is being implemented in 142 districts in 15 States, where the safe delivery rate has been found to be less than 30%. The scheme is being implemented in the States of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, J & K, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Orissa, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

(c) and (d) Thirty three Districts in Uttar Pradesh are covered under this scheme. In each district about 1800 practicing dais will be trained over a period of two years. The districts in UP in which the scheme is to be implemented are Hardoi, Partapgarh, Rai Bareilly,

Faizabad, Sitapur, Son Bhadra, Mahoba, Mirzapur, Deoria, Fatehpur, Gorakhpur, Bhadothi, Firozabad, Basti, Banda, Lalitpur, Farukhabad, Hathras, Unnao, Ambedkar Nagar, Pilibhit, Badaun, Hamirpur, Barabanki, Kanpur (dehat), Ettawah, Shahjehanpur, Menpuri, Gonda, Saddhrthnagar, Kheri, Maharajganj & Baharaich.

### **Polyclinic/Health Centres in Bihar**

1574. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of polyclinics and health centers functioning in Bihar as on date; and

(b) the expenditure incurred thereon during the last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

### **World Bank Assistance to Agriculture Sector**

1575. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank is providing or proposed to provide any assistance to the State Governments for the development of agricultural sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of the programmes being implemented with the help of the said aid in the country specially in Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh;

(d) the extent of increase in agricultural production registered in various States of the country; and

(e) the position of agricultural production in Rajasthan in proportion thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. At present, 7 World Bank-assisted, agriculture sector related projects are being implemented in certain selected States of the country under the administrative control of this Ministry, viz. Ministry of Agriculture, as per details given in the statement attached. In addition, 3 such agriculture sector-based projects have also been completed during the previous calendar year 2000, as per details given in the statement.

At present, none of the above mentioned World Bank-assisted, agriculture sector based projects are operational in the States of Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh. However, the World Bank-assisted, agriculture development project was operational in the State of Rajasthan till 30th September, 2000.

(d) and (e) It is not possible to quantify the precise extent of increase in agricultural production registered in various States of the country as a direct result of the implementation of various World Bank assisted, agriculture

sector related projects. However, various World Bank assisted projects, on the whole, have impact in terms of increase in cropping intensity and the productivity of various crops grown therein and augmentation of the income of the local population, from various agriculture based activities, such as, Crop Husbandry, Agro-forestry, Sodic Land Reclamation, Fish Culture, Watershed Development, Agriculture Extension, Dryland farming, Horticulture, Livestock development, varietal development of seeds and minor irrigation related facilities, infrastructural buildup of the rural roads, marketing structure etc.

### **Statement**

*Projectwise details of recently completed/on-going agriculture sector related World Bank assisted Projects in Indian Agriculture Sector*

(in million dollars)

S. No.	Name of the Project	Credit effective date	Closing date	States in which project is in operation	Project cost	World Bank Loan/ Credit
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<b>I-Projects Completed during previous calendar year, 2000.</b>						
1.	Bihar Plateau Development Project	07.12.1992	30.06.2000	Bihar (undivided)	132.20	117.00
2.	Agricultural Development project (Rajasthan)	17.12.1992	30.09.2000	Rajasthan	130.30	106.00
3.	Shrimp and Fish Culture Project	29.01.1992	31.12.2000	1. Andhra Pradesh; 2. Bihar; 3. Orissa; 4. Uttar Pradesh and 5. West Bengal	40.00	36.487
<b>II-On-going Projects</b>						
4.	U.P. Sodic Land Reclamation Project-Phase I.	24.06.1993	31.03.2001	Uttar Pradesh & Uttaranchal	82.00	54.700
5.	U.P. Diversified Agricultural Support Project	30.07.1998	31.03.2004	Uttar Pradesh	160.50	129.900
6.	U.P. Sodic Land Reclamation Project, Phase-II	04.02.1999	30.09.2005	Uttar Pradesh	286.60	194.100

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
7.	Integrated Watershed Development Project (Hills); Phase-II.	14.07.1999	31.03.2005	1. Haryana; 2. H.P.; 3. J & K 4. Punjab and 5. Uttaranchal	193.00	135.184
8.	Assam Rural Infrastructural and Agricultural Services Project	06.06.1995	31.12.2003	Assam	146.60	126.00
9.	Agricultural Human Resource Development Project	11.04.1995	Extended upto 31.12.2001	1. Andhra Pradesh 2. Haryana and 3. Tamil Nadu.	74.2	59.500
10.	National Agricultural Technology Project	22.06.1998	31.12.2003	1. Andhra Pradesh; 2. Himachal Pradesh; 3. Maharashtra 4. Bihar & Jharkhand 5. Punjab; and 6. Orissa.	239.70	196.800

[English]

#### **Reimbursement of CGHS Beneficiaries**

1576. SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that in private hospitals recognised for CGHS beneficiaries charge Rs. 1650/- for dialysis whereas Rs. 400/- are given as reimbursement for the same;

(b) if so, the reasons for which full reimbursement is not given for the amount CGHS beneficiaries pay in such hospitals; and

(c) the steps, the Government propose to take to remedy the situation and make full payment of the expenses incurred by CGHS beneficiaries in private hospitals recognised for them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) The various private hospitals recognised under CGHS charge different rates for dialysis. The approved rates for dialysis under CGHS is as follows:-

1. Rs. 400/- as procedural charges.
2. Actual cost of medicines.
3. Actual cost of artificial Kidney.
4. Actual cost of disposable surgical sundries.

Therefore, as per the above calculation, the admissibility for reimbursement of dialysis charges to CGHS beneficiaries varies from case to case.

(b) The reimbursement of the treatment taken by CGHS beneficiaries in private hospitals recognised under CGHS is restricted to the package deal rates/ceiling rates approved by the Govt.

(c) The Government would henceforth be entering into a Memorandum of Undertaking (MOU) with the private hospitals which get recognised under CGHS and this would restrict such private hospitals to charge CGHS beneficiaries as per the approved rates fixed by the Govt.

#### **Recognised Hospitals**

1577. DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to refer to Unstarred Question No. 3705 dated 13.12.2000 and state:

(a) whether any decision has since been taken to revise rate of CGHS recognised hospital for CGHS beneficiaries at Delhi and if so, the details thereof;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether in the absence of any decision, the CGHS beneficiaries are suffering a lot as they get a very little amount of expensed they incur in private hospitals recognised for CGHS beneficiaries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) The revision of rates of private hospital and diagnostic centre under CGHS Delhi is under active process.

(c) The reimbursement of the treatment taken in the private recognised hospital is restricted to package deal rates/rates approved by the Govt. The expenditure in excess of the approved rates/package deal rates have to be borne by the beneficiaries themselves as per rules.

#### **Micro-Financial Institutions**

1578. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to float micro-financial institutions to help the tiny sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of micro-financial institution proposed to be launched;

(d) the pattern of organisation and the pattern for granting assistance;

(e) whether collateral would be demanded from the tiny sector; and

(f) if so, details of the proposed partnership?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (f) Does not arise.

#### **Soil Conservation**

1579. SHRI DAHYABHAI VALLABHBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the soil conservation schemes launched in Union Territory of Daman and Diu during the last three years;

(b) the results achieved therefrom; and

(c) the amount of funds allocated and released for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) to (c) A Soil and Water Conservation scheme is being implemented in Union Territory of Daman & Diu. Under the scheme about 76 hectare area has been developed, utilizing Rs. 2.57 lakhs during last three years.

#### **Production of Medicinal Plants**

1580. SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to provide assistance to Maharashtra for development and cultivation of Medicinal Plants; and

(b) if so, the details therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Institutions in Maharashtra have already been provided assistance for developing agro-technique under "Central Scheme for Development of Agro-Techniques and Cultivation of Medicinal Plants" being implemented by this

Ministry. The Scheme will be implemented during 2001-2002 also and requests for assistance will be examined on merits.

Ministry of Agriculture has already assisted Maharashtra under the Scheme for Development of Medicinal & Aromatic Plants. In the remaining period of 9th Plan, the programme component approved under the Scheme would be taken up by the State Governments in their work plan. Government of Maharashtra has earmarked funds for assistance.

#### **Governing Council of NIOH**

1581. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Governing Council of National Institute for the Orthopaedically Handicapped, Kolkata has been recently formed;

(b) if so, the names of the members of new Governing Council and their background;

(c) whether any social activist has been included;

(d) if so, details thereof; and

(e) if not, the time by which the new Governing Council of NIOH, Kolkata is due to be formed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

(e) No time limit can be fixed as the process for formation of General Council of NIOH is yet to be initiated.

#### **Indo-Japan Meet**

1582. SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether during the last six months in the wake of the dialogue between the Prime Ministers of India and Japan held in Delhi, any tangible steps have been taken towards resolving differences which surfaced since 1998; and

(b) if so, the details thereof with special reference to the sanctions imposed by Japan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) Since the visit of the Japanese Prime Minister Mr. Yoshiro Mori to India in August 2000, substantial bilateral activities have taken place which include the following:

- (i) A high powered Economic Mission sponsored by Japan's Ministry of International Trade and Industry visited India on 29 October—3 November 2000.
- (ii) Secretary, Ministry of Information Technology participated in the deliberations of "DOT Force" (Digital Opportunity Task Force) which was held at Tokyo on November 27—28, 2000.
- (iii) The second India-Japan Investment Dialogue was held in Tokyo on 7 December 2000.
- (iv) Two Missions sponsored by Japan External Trade Organisation visited India in December 2000 and January 2001 to explore ways of promoting bilateral investment and economic cooperation.
- (v) The first meeting of the India-Japan Eminent Persons' Group (EPG) was held in New Delhi on 29—30 January 2001.
- (vi) From 5 February 2001, the Government of Japan has decided to start issuing a multiple entry visa for short stay on business purposes (but not for remuneration or business operations) for Indian IT professionals.
- (vii) On 9 February 2001, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between DOEACC, the Indian Information Technology Engineers Examination, and the Japanese Information Technology Engineers Examination, for the mutual certification of computer software skill examinations.
- (viii) Government of Japan has provided emergency assistance amounting to Rs. 17 crores following the Gujarat earthquake.

#### **"Strategic Partnership with Russia"**

1583. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state the steps since taken in pursuance of the strategic partnership between India and Russia signed during the recent visit of the Russian President in different fields?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): During the State Visit to India by the President of the

Russian Federation in October 2000, a Declaration on Strategic Partnership between India and the Russian Federation was signed. The document defines the broad contours of Indo-Russian bilateral relations in the 21st century.

Pursuant to the visit of the President of the Russian Federation, discussions have commenced between the two sides on a visit to the Russian Federation by the Prime Minister of India. Ministerial exchanges covering various sectors have taken place and are planned to take place in the coming months. Foreign Office Consultations on a wide range of subjects, including strategic stability, have been initiated. The First Session of the Indo-Russian Joint Working Group on Afghanistan was held on November 20-21, 2000 in New Delhi. The 7th Session of the Indo-Russian Inter Governmental Commission for Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological and Cultural Cooperation was held in Moscow on January 15, 2001, which is expected to help in the further intensification of trade and economic cooperation between the two countries. An Agreement between ONGC-Videsh Limited of India and M/s Rosneft of the Russian Federation relating to ONGC-VL's participation in the Sakhalin-I oilfields has been signed.

#### **Agricultural Land for Non-Farming Use**

1584. DR. V. SAROJA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that conversion of agricultural and for non farm use has increased in recent years;

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

(c) the details of guidelines issued by the Union Government to State Governments to protect the agricultural land being diverted to non-farm use; and

(d) if so, the steps the Government are taking to encourage the interest of Indian farmers to grow foodgrains in their fields?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, the Government are aware of the conversion of agricultural land for non-farm use. So far as net sown area is concerned the landuse classification data indicate that it has increased from 140.27 million hectare in 1970-71 to 142.82 million hectare in 1996-97. Therefore, the net sown area has increased by 2.55 million hectare in last three decades, the barren & unculturable land and

culturable wastelands have declined. It implies, therefore, that even if some agricultural land has been diverted into non-agricultural uses, a larger area has been brought under cultivation through reclamation of wastelands and other degraded land, thereby, increasing net sown area.

(c) Land is State subject and, therefore, a 19-Point National Landuse Policy Outline (NLPO) has been circulated to all State Governments for implementation. One of the points in NLPO stresses on the need to control the diversion of agricultural land for non-agricultural purposes.

(d) Government of India have taken steps to supplement the efforts of the State Governments to develop the degraded lands to put them into productive use through Centrally Sponsored Schemes, namely, National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPRA), Soil Conservation in the catchments of River Valley Projects (RVP) and Flood Prone Rivers (FPR); Watershed Development Project in Shifting Cultivation Areas (WDPSCA), Reclamation of Alkali Soil (Usar land) and Externally Aided Projects.

[Translation]

#### **Theft of Files**

1585. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:  
COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY:  
SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some files were stolen from his office in January 2001;

(b) if so, the number thereof and the subjects to which these related to;

(c) whether the persons involved in the theft of files have been identified;

(d) if so, the action taken against them; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken to prevent the recurrence of such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

(e) The security environment in all the premises of the Ministry of External Affairs is constantly monitored. Improving security measures is a continuous process.

[English]

#### **National Disaster Management Authority**

1586. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI:  
 SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY:  
 SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY:  
 SHRI C. KUPPUSAMI:  
 SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:  
 SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH:  
 SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:  
 SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY:  
 SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR:  
 SHRI V.M. SUDHEERAN:  
 SHRI RAMSHAKAL:  
 SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN:  
 SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU:  
 SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH:  
 DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA:  
 SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY:  
 SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA:  
 SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA:  
 SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ:  
 SHRI SAIDUZZAMA:  
 SHRI P.R. KHUNTE:  
 SHRI SHIVAJI MANE:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have a proposal to set up a National Disaster Management Authority;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the composition, objectives and terms of reference on the above mentioned body;
- (d) the time by which it is likely to start functioning;
- (e) whether some guidelines have also been issued to the State Governments in this regard;
- (f) if so, the details thereof;
- (g) whether the Government have also asked all States to set up Disaster Management Centres in their State; and
- (h) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) to (d) In the wake of recent severe earthquake in Gujarat, a National Committee on Disaster Management has been set up under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister having representation of the National and State Level political parties to inter-alia suggest necessary institutional and legislative measures needed for an effective and long-term strategy to deal with major natural calamities in the future. The first meeting of the National Committee was held on 18th February, 2001.

(e) to (h) Institutional arrangements exist at the National, State and District levels for management of natural disasters. The primary responsibility for undertaking rescue, relief and rehabilitation measures as well as disaster preparedness and mitigation programmes, in the event of natural disasters is that of the State Government concerned. The Central Government supplements the efforts of the State Government. Disaster mitigation measures are reviewed from time to time keeping in view the nature, intensity and impact of the natural disasters. In the wake of recent earthquake in Gujarat, States coming in seismic Zones IV and V have been requested to update their Contingency Action Plan with emphasis on preparedness and public awareness.

#### **Harassment of Indian Workers**

1587. SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of complaints received regarding harassment of Indian Workers abroad during the last three years;
- (b) the action taken by the Government thereon; and
- (c) the number of Indian Workers repatriated to India during the above mentioned period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) The number of complaints regarding harassment of Indian Workers abroad received during the last three years, as per information available with the Government, are as follows:

1998	:	8870
1999		6583
2000	:	6891

(b) As a standard procedure, as soon as such complaints are received, the concerned Indian diplomatic Missions/Posts abroad take up the matter with the foreign employers/sponsors or their Indian agents. Generally, the grievances are redressed with the cooperation of the employers and concerned foreign government/agencies. In cases of dispute, the matter is sought to be resolved through the labour courts in the foreign country concerned.

(c) The number of Indian workers repatriated to India during the last three years, as per available information, is as follows:

1998	17062
1999	11152
2000	19862

#### **Creation of Relief Fund**

1588. SHRI SHRINIWAS PATIL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to create a Relief Fund to effectively meet natural disaster; and

(b) if so, the details of amount in the initial stage including the contribution of each State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) and (b) The Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) scheme has been continued on the recommendations of the Eleventh Finance Commission. The total allocation under CRF for the period 2000-2005 is Rs. 11007.59 crore to be shared in the ratio of 3:1 by the Central and the States, respectively. In addition, a National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) with an initial corpus of Rs. 500 crore has been set up for assistance to the States for calamities of severe nature. There is no contribution of the States to this NCCF, which will be recouped by levy of special surcharge on Central taxes.

#### **Indo-Nepal Ties**

1589. SHRI RAMSHEETH THAKUR:  
SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI:  
SHRI SHIVAJI MANE:  
SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:  
SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:  
SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:  
SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA:  
SHRI RAJESH RANJAN *alias*  
PAPPU YADAV:  
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:  
SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY:  
SHRI ANANT GUDHE:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any meeting between the Foreign Secretaries of India and Nepal took place recently;

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

(c) the details of anti-India riots which Nepal witnessed recently;

(d) the reasons therefor; and

(e) the efforts made/being made to improve Indo-Nepal relations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) to (e) India-Nepal Foreign Secretary Level Talks were held on January 30 and 31, 2001 in New Delhi.

- The two sides reviewed the progress in implementing the understanding reached during the visit of the Prime Minister of Nepal to India in July/August, 2000 and agreed to expedite pending issues. In this context, it was reiterated that existing institutional mechanisms-for dialogue and interaction between the two countries would be utilised fully in order to achieve quicker progress on issues under discussion.
- The two sides reiterated their determination to expand and diversify their bilateral trade, economic co-operation and investment ties. It was agreed that operational difficulties in the implementation of the existing Agreements would be reviewed and addressed in a prompt and constructive manner. The two sides agreed to intensify their co-operation to control unauthorised trade.
- The two sides also reiterated their determination to work closely and fight the scourge of terrorism. They renewed their commitment not to allow their respective territories to be used for activities directed against or prejudicial to the security of the other.
- The two sides had a useful exchange of views on issues relating to the India-Nepal Treaty of Peace and Friendship as directed by the two Prime Ministers. They discussed various aspects of the Treaty in a candid and open manner and agreed to continue their discussions keeping in mind the perceptions, concerns and interests of both sides and their close and friendly relations.
- Other aspects of bilateral relations were also discussed, including, demarcation of the boundary, motor vehicular transportation and water resources.



7. In the last week of December, 2001, demonstrations were held in Kathmandu and other places of Nepal protesting against a rumour concerning anti-Nepal remarks purported to have been made by Indian film star Hrithik Roshan. The rumour was without any foundation whatsoever and was denied by Mr. Roshan. The demonstrations took on an anti-India colour and resulted in damage to the property of people of Indian origin in Nepal. The manner in which these incidents were engineered gives rise to the suspicion that vested interested working against friendly India-Nepal relations were involved. A Commission of Inquiry has been set up by His Majesty's Government of Nepal for investigating these incidents.
8. Four persons participating in the demonstrations and one by-stander are reported to have died in police firing in Kathmandu on December 26. Another two persons died in Rajbiraj, in Saptari district of Nepal, in police firing on December 28. Assessment of loss of property has not been made by His Majesty's Government of Nepal.
9. India has long standing ties of friendship and cooperation with Nepal reflected in our shared cultural and social values, extensive people to people contacts and wide ranging economic linkages. Steps have been taken to further strengthen our understanding and cooperation through regular dialogue both at the official and political level, promotion of trade and investments which have grown substantially, provision of development assistance for infrastructure and human resource development and fostering cultural exchanges including through the provisions of scholarships for Nepalese students. Meetings of Foreign Secretaries, Home Secretaries and Water Resources Secretaries of the two countries were held last year. The Indian Minister for Health and Ministers of State for Railways and Commerce also visited Nepal. The Foreign Minister of Nepal visited India followed by the official visit of the Prime Minister from July 31 to August 6, 2000. His detailed discussions with our Prime Minister during the visit provided a renewed impetus to bilateral relations.

*[Translation]*

#### **Assistance to Residents Affected by Nuclear Test**

1590. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any assistance was given to residents of Pokharan and its surrounding areas on account of the nuclear test conducted in Jaisalmer district of Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) Based on the major damages found in some of the structures in Pokharan and its surrounding areas during the survey conducted by a team of Revenue officials of the Government of Rajasthan after the Pokharan nuclear tests an amount of Rs. 3.62 lakhs as estimated by them was offered to the villagers of village Khetolai, towards payment of compensation/relief which was not accepted on the grounds that the relief amount was low. The relief offered was much higher than the relief provided under the norms of the Government for natural calamities.

(c) Does not arise.

*[English]*

#### **Employment for Poor Agriculturists**

1591. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to create income/generate employment for the livelihood of the poor agriculturists of our country, whenever the monsoon fails, in order to save them from starvation; and

(b) if so, the details of the proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) and (b) The Government in order to protect the interests of farmers from vagaries of nature and reduce the risk in agriculture and to impart greater resilience against droughts, is making all efforts for drought of rainfed areas. Government is also promoting diversified agricultural activities to supplement the income of farmers. Department of Rural Development is implementing employment generation schemes for the benefit of rural poor.

### **Decline in Prices of Agricultural Products**

1592. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have come to the conclusion that the farmers' woes are attributable mainly to transport constraints, restrictions and imports;

(b) if so, extent to which prices of agricultural products have fallen under these constraints; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to help the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) The recent declining trend in the prices of certain agricultural commodities may be attributed mainly to increased availability by way of higher production and imports and fall in international prices for major agricultural commodities like, wheat, rice, edible oils, etc.

(b) The wholesale price index (WPI) number for the week ending 17.02.2001 shows an annual fall in rice (1.3 per cent), wheat (2.0 per cent), jowar (16.4 per cent), bajra (23.2 per cent), maize (9.4 per cent), barley (27.3 per cent), ragi (13.0 per cent), arhar (8.5 per cent), rapeseed/mustard seed (12.4 per cent), copra (23.2 per cent), etc.

(c) Steps taken to protect the interests of the farmers include fixation of minimum support prices of major agricultural commodities and procurement thereof through public and cooperative agencies, implementation of the Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) covering horticultural and minor items of produce at the request of the State Governments and using instruments of trade to discourage imports and encourage exports.

### **Health Programme**

1593. SHRI ARUN KUMAR:  
SHRI RAJO SINGH:

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

(a) whether the Union Government have chalked out a special programme to provide proper health care services in the rural areas of Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) Health Care Services in the rural areas of Bihar are being improved/strengthened through World Bank assisted Reproductive Child Health Programme under which the following interventions and the programmes under them are implemented nationwide:-

(a) Child survival interventions:-

- Immunization
- Vitamin-A
- Oral Rehydration therapy
- Acute Respiratory Infection
- Nutritional Anaemia
- Essential New Born Care

(b) Safe Motherhood Interventions

- Ante-natal care
- Safe Delivery
- Emergency Obstetric Care

(c) Other Intervention:

- Integrated training for service providers and programme managers
- Strengthening of Information Education and Communication
- Urban RCH
- Tribal RCH
- Adolescence Health
- Referral Transport
- Rental to Contractual PHN/Staff Nurse
- Civil Works
- NGO participation
- Operationalisation of Community Needs Assessment.

Under the recently launched Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana the primary health care infrastructure will be strengthened through the provision of procurement of drugs, essential consumables including disposable delivery kits, reagents, X-ray films etc. for diagnostic and

theatropic uses and contingencies for travel cost for ANMs, repair of essential equipments and repair/ replacement of furniture. Priority will also be given to ensure potable water supply, adequate toilet facilities and waste management. A sum of Rs. 2154.37 lakhs is released to Bihar for this purpose.

#### **National Agricultural Insurance Scheme**

1594. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether State Government of Maharashtra has sought clarification from Union Government for implementation of National Agricultural Insurance Scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government propose to take an early action in the matter; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

#### **Threat by Lashker-E-Toiba**

1595. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the U.S. has taken up with Pakistan the reported threat by the Lashker-e-Toiba against our Prime Minister;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the nature of threat held out and the Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) to (c) the international community, including the United States, has taken note of threats made publicly by terrorist groups from their bases in Pakistan, including against the Prime Minister. The U.S. side has publicly stated on a number of occasions that it has taken up with the Government in Pakistan its concerns on terrorism and terrorist threats originating from groups based in Pakistan and that it has asked Pakistan to crack down on these terrorist groups. Government supports all international initiatives to combat international terrorism.

[Translation]

#### **Special Package to Gujarat**

1596. KUMARI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI: SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to sanction any special package to the next of the kin of those killed in the recent earthquake in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to reconstruct all the buildings and houses crumbled in the State due to earthquake; and

(d) if so, the funds allocated and released for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) and (b) The Government of Gujarat have announced an ex-gratia relief of Rs. One lakh comprising of Rs. 25,000/- from the Government of Gujarat, Rs. 25,000/- from State Chief Minister's Relief Fund and Rs. 50,000/- from Prime Minister's Relief Fund to next of kin of those killed in recent earthquake in Gujarat.

(c) and (d) The Government of Gujarat have proposed to assist in reconstruction of all the buildings/houses damaged due to earthquake by way of assistance, grants and loans. A detailed rehabilitation/reconstruction package has been announced.

[English]

#### **Minimum Support Price of Copra**

1597. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH:  
SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA:  
SHRI P.C. THOMAS:  
SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN:  
SHRI A.P. ABDULLAKUTTY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that copra cultivation/price is falling regularly and the cultivators are not getting remunerative price;

(b) if so, the cost of production and the price structure for the past two years;

(c) whether the Government propose to declare Minimum Support Price of copra during the season;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor and the measures being taken to protect the interest to copra cultivators?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) Area under coconut has continuously increased from 1.53 million hectares in 1991-92 to 1.91 million hectares in 1998-99. The market prices of Copra have been showing a subdued trend since February 2000. To ensure payment of remunerative prices to the growers, National Agricultural Co-operative Marketing Federation of India Ltd (NAFED), has been undertaking procurement of Copra under Price Support Scheme (PSS). Till February 2001 a quantity of 213849 tonnes of Milling Copra and 3011 tonnes of Ball Copra has been procured.

(b) Based on modal/prospective yields and real rates of interest, the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) estimated the cost per nut as Rs. 3.50 and Rs. 2.39 for the States of Kerala and Karnataka respectively and accordingly recommended the Minimum Support Price of milling copra at Rs. 3250/- per quintal and of Ball Copra at Rs. 3500/- per quintal for the year 2000 season. The average annual wholesale price of milling Copra in Kozhikode was Rs. 2525 per quintal in 2000 and Rs. 3833 per quintal in 1999. In Alleppey it was Rs. 2528 per quintal in 2000 and Rs. 3960 per quintal in 1999 respectively.

(c) to (e) The Price Policy for Copra for 2001 season is under active consideration of the Government and is expected to be announced shortly.

#### **Cashew Plantations in Kerala**

1598. SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Kerala Government has requested for extensive cashew Plantation in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) and (b) Government of Kerala submitted a project proposal for the replanting and productivity improvement of Cashew in Kerala during 1997 at a total cost of Rs. 107.105 crores.

(c) The State Government was informed that the project proposal involved components which were similar to the ongoing Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Integrated Development Programme of Cashew in India. Moreover, since the Cashew Scheme was merged under Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Macro Management in Agriculture -- Supplementation/Complementation of States' Efforts through Work Plans with effect from 2000-01 they were requested to incorporate the programme in their Work Plan. Accordingly, the State Government has proposed an outlay of Rs. 3.53 crores during 2000-01 in their Work Plan for the development of Cashew in Kerala.

#### **Production of Cotton**

1599. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated production of cotton in the country during the current year, State-wise;

(b) the comparative figure of the production for the previous two years, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government have launched a Cotton Technology Mission to increase production, productivity and improved variety of cotton in the cotton belt and assessment of the impact of the programme so far and action plan proposed for the next three years; and

(d) if so, the details of exports of cotton bales, yarn and textile over each of last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) and (b) The State-wise and all-India estimated production of cotton for the years 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 is given in the statement. As per advance estimate, the production for the year 2000-01, is expected to be 13.2 million bales, representing an increase of 14% over the production of 1999-2000.

(c) Yes, Sir. The Mission was launched only in the year 2000 and it is too early to make any assessment of its impact, though the advance estimates of production

of cotton indicate an increase of 14% in the year 2000-01 over the production in the previous year. The Mission is being implemented through the State Governments who have drawn up Action Plans.

For the year 2000-2001 Rs. 6499.84 lakh has been allocated as Govt. of India share for implementing the scheme.

(d) Value of export of raw cotton, yarn and textile during 1997-98 to 1999-2000 are given below:

(Rupees in Crores)

	Raw Cotton	Yarn	Textile
1997-98	316.85	5865.60	12871.92
1998-99	86.71	5967.24	14507.37
1999-2000	83.60	6687.11	15743.03

#### **Statement**

*Estimates of Production of Cotton For 1997-98 to 1999-2000*

Production ('000 bales of 170 kgs. each)

States/UT	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	1320.4	1522.0	1595.0
Assam	0.8	0.8	0.7
Bihar	0.2	0.1	0.0
Gujarat	3180.0	3903.0	2085.6
Haryana	1129.0	873.0	1309.0
Himachal Pradesh	0.2	0.0	0.0
Jammu & Kashmir	0.0	0.0	0.0
Karnataka	721.0	976.9	760.0
Kerala	20.0	24.2	23.0
Madhya Pradesh	508.9	429.5	456.5
Maharashtra	1753.1	2618.9	3099.2
Manipur	0.2	0.0	0.0
Meghalaya	5.6	5.6	5.5
Mizoram	2.5	2.5	2.1

1	2	3	4
Nagaland	0.3	0.4	0.4
Orissa	36.0	53.0	79.0
Punjab	937.0	595.0	950.0
Rajasthan	867.5	872.0	984.2
Tamil Nadu	358.0	406.3	288.0
Tripura	1.2	0.9	0.9
Uttar Pradesh	8.3	0.8	0.8
West Bengal	0.5	0.1	2.0
Pondicherry	0.7	2.1	1.8
All India	10851.4	12287.1	11643.7

#### **New Schemes for Health Care**

1600. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have started new schemes for providing health facilities by holding camps through Primary Health Care Centres with the help of World Bank;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the States selected for holding such camps at the first phase; and

(d) the funds allocated/proposed to be allocated for this purpose, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) In order to provide Reproductive and Child Health services in remote and backward areas of the country, Government of India have launched a scheme for holding camps at Primary Health Centres in 102 districts in 17 States from this year. The camps will provide comprehensive Reproductive and Child Health services. For this purpose, Specialists from Government and Private Sectors will visit Primary Health Centres, as per a predetermined calendar, for providing the services. The camps will be conducted once every two months in the same PHC.

(c) and (d) The names of the States and funds allocated during 2000-2001 are given in the statement.

**Statement**

*Funds allocated to the States during 2000-2001 for conducting RCH Camps*

(Rs. in Lakhs)

State	No. of Districts	Funds released
1. Arunachal Pradesh	2	10.00
2. Assam	5	25.00
3. Bihar	16	80.00
4. Chhattisgarh	4	20.00
5. Haryana	4	20.00
6. Jharkhand	6	30.00
7. Madhya Pradesh	5	25.00
8. Meghalaya	2	10.00
9. Manipur	2	10.00
10. Mizoram	1	5.00
11. Nagaland	1	5.00
12. Orissa	7	35.00
13. Rajasthan	11	55.00
14. Sikkim	1	5.00
15. Uttar Pradesh	32	160.00
16. Uttranchal	2	10.00
17. Tripura	1	5.00

**Funds Under NCCF**

1601. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:  
SHRI TARACHAND BHAGORA:  
SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI:  
SHRI R.L. JALAPPA:  
SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO:  
SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE:  
SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH:  
SHRI GUNIPATI RAMAIAH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the States affected by natural calamity like drought, flood and earthquake during the 2000-2001, State-wise;

(b) the details of estimated loss of property, crops and life due to natural calamity, State-wise;

(c) details of financial assistance sought by the States and provided by the Central Government under the National Calamity Contingency Fund during 2000-2001 to each affected States;

(d) the criteria followed by the Government in this regard;

(e) whether the Government have ensured that the assistance provided for the purpose is distributed among the really affected persons; and

(f) the preventive measure taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in the event of Natural calamity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) During 2000-01, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan and Uttaranchal are facing drought like situation/water scarcity of varying magnitude, Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Sikkim, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal were affected by rains/floods and many parts of Gujarat were hit by the killer earthquake on 26.01.2001.

(b) A statement-I indicating State-wise details, as reported by the respective State Governments, is attached.

(c) Details of requirement projected and assistance approved from the National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) in the wake of natural calamities are given in Statement-II.

(d) The assistance from the NCCF is considered for natural calamities of severe nature where resources of the State Government including funds availability under Calamity Relief Fund are not considered to be adequate.

(e) Distribution of relief at the ground level is the responsibility of the State Government concerned.

(f) The primary responsibility for undertaking rescue, relief and rehabilitation measures as well as disaster preparedness and mitigation programmes, in the event of natural disasters is that of the State Government concerned. The Central Government supplements the efforts of the State Government. Funds are also released under a number of related schemes implemented by various Central Ministries/Departments which have components of disaster mitigation.

**Statement***State-wise details of damage in the wake of natural calamities during 2000-01.*

Sl. No.	State	Calamity	Loss of		House damaged (Nos.)	Cropped area damaged (in lakh ha.)
			Human lives (Nos.)	Animals (Nos.)		
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Rains/floods	257	5368	104374	4.22
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	Flash floods	26	9131	17	0.04
3.	Assam	Rains/floods	32	NR	NR	2.24
4.	Bihar	Rains/floods	274	1861	312076	3.92
5.	Chhattisgarh	Drought	NR	NR	NR	11.37
6.	Gujarat	Rains/floods	116	406	23844	NR
		Drought	NR	NR	NR	13.50
		Earthquake	19939	20712	1224089	NR
7.	Himachal Pradesh	Flash floods	149	NR	NR	NR
		Drought	NR	NR	NR	0.88
8.	Karnataka	Rains/floods	152	690	54591	0.57
9.	Kerala	Rains/floods	75	NR	9474	NR
10.	Madhya Pradesh	Rains/floods	13	147	3297	Neg.
		Drought	NR	NR	NR	33.48
11.	Orissa	Drought	NR	NR	NR	9.03
12.	Punjab	Rains/floods	7	NR	35	0.25
13.	Rajasthan	Drought	NR	NR	NR	89.47
14.	Sikkim	Rains/floods	11	NR	140	NR
15.	Uttar Pradesh	Rains/floods	462	888	33649	4.35
16.	West Bengal	Rains/floods	1320	83630	2194858	19.20

NR - Not reported

Neg. - Negligible

**Statement-II***State-wise details of assistance demanded and approved from the National Calamity Contingency Fund during 2000-01*

(Rs. in crore)

S. No.	Name of State	Calamity	National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCC)	
			Assistance demanded	Assistance approved
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Rains/floods	777.71	10.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	Flash floods	139.10	2.00

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Bihar	Rains/floods	975.87	29.67
4.	Chhattisgarh	Drought	495.64	40.00
5.	Gujarat	Drought	1974.23	85.00
		Earthquake	8318.79	500.00
6.	Himachal Pradesh	Flash floods	1730.89	8.29
		Drought	80.25	@
7.	Karnataka	Rains/floods	435.83	Nil
8.	Madhya Pradesh	Drought	795.42*	35.00
9.	Meghalaya	Cyclonic winds	22.13	1.00
10.	Orissa	Drought	443.95	35.00
11.	Rajasthan	Drought	2367.80	85.00
12.	West Bengal	Rains/floods	1486.70	103.25

\* Requirement for Madhya Pradesh & Chhattisgarh

@ decided to depute Central team of assessment of the situation.

#### **Effect of Economic Reforms on Poverty Alleviation**

1602. SHRI GUTHA SUKENDER REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have made any survey to assess the effect of economic reforms on poverty alleviation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures proposed by the Government to ensure benefits of reforms reaches the poorest of the poor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) No specific survey has been done for the purpose. But the estimates worked out by Planning Commission on the basis of 55th Round of the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) shows that

poverty ratio for 1999-2000 was 26.10 percent (based on a 30-day recall period) and 23.33 percent (based on a 7-day recall period) for the country as a whole. Earlier poverty ratio estimated in 1993-94 was 35.97 (based on 30-day recall period) for the country as a whole.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) A combination of high growth and pro-poor policies has been adopted in the Ninth Plan in order to ensure that the benefit of reforms reaches the poorest of the poor. The specific objectives of the Ninth Plan *inter-alia* area:

- (i) Priority to agriculture and rural development with a view to generating adequate productive employment and eradication of poverty;
- (ii) Accelerating the growth rate of the economy with stable prices;
- (iii) Ensuring food and nutritional security for all, particularly the vulnerable sections of society;
- (iv) Providing the basic minimum services of safe drinking water, primary health care facilities universal education, shelter and connectivity to all in a time bound manner.



[Translation]

### CMC Institutions

1603. SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the diploma-courses being conducted by CMC Ltd. in Delhi alongwith fee being charged therefor;

(b) whether regular faculty teachers have been appointed to impart proper education to students at these centres of CMC Ltd.;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) CMC conducts Diploma courses in Delhi through two of its own Centres and twenty Authorised Training Centres. The details of courses and the fee charged are as under:

#### I. Own Centres

S. No.	Name of the Diploma Course	Amount of fee
i.	Post Graduate Diploma in Computer Applications (PGDCA)	Rs. 42000/-
ii.	Post Graduate Diploma in Internet & Web Technologies (PGDIWT)	Rs. 40000/-

#### II. Authorised Training Centres

S. No.	Name of the Diploma Course	Amount of fee
i.	Diploma in Software Technology (DST)	Rs. 18000/-
ii.	Diploma in Advanced Software Technology (DAST)	Rs. 35,500/-

(b) CMC's own centres employ faculty teachers on regular as well as on contractual assignment basis whereas faculty teachers on full-time and part-time basis are hired by CMC's Authorised Centres.

(c) and (d) There are ten faculty teachers working on regular basis and seven on contractual assignment

basis for CMC's own Centres and ninety six full time and nineteen part-time faculty teachers for its Authorised Training Centres.

[English]

### Tuberculosis

1604. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated number of tuberculosis patients in the country and the number of deaths due to this disease every year;

(b) whether vital drugs for its cure are provided free to poor patients; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) The estimated number of TB patients in the country is about 14 million. Deaths are not reported under the National TB Control Programme. However, it is estimated that 5 lakhs people die of TB every year in the country.

(b) Yes Sir. Under the National TB Control Programme, anti-TB drugs are provided free of cost to all TB patients, irrespective of their status, through the Primary Health Care System.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

### Development of Newly Formed States

1605. SHRI P.R. KHUNTE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to provide any special aid for development of newly formed States, especially Chhattisgarh;

(b) whether any proposal has been forwarded by the State Government of Chhattisgarh to the Union Government in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE

IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) There is no proposal as yet.

(b) and (c) The State Government of Chhattisgarh has requested an Additional Central Assistance of Rs. 197.12 crore, Rs. 98.25 crore for drinking water and Rs. 98.87 crore for infrastructure.

[English]

#### **Review of Disaster Management Programme**

1606. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY:  
SHRI RAMCHANDRA PASWAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that various Committees have been set up by the Government to deal with the national calamities and the disaster management programme;

(b) if so, whether in the light of the experience gained during the calamities caused by the cyclones & earthquakes in the country any review of functioning of these committees has been made by the Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the measures contemplated by the Government for effective management in such a situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) to (d) Institutional arrangements at the National, State and District levels exist for management of natural disasters. The primary responsibility for undertaking rescue, relief and rehabilitation measures as well as disaster preparedness and mitigation programmes, in the event of natural disasters is that of the State Government concerned. The Central Government supplements the efforts of the State Government. Disaster mitigation measures are reviewed from time to time keeping in view the nature, intensity and impact of the natural disasters. In the wake of recent earthquake in Gujarat, a National Committee on Disaster Management has been set up under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister having representation of the Presidents of the National and State Level political parties to inter-alia suggest necessary

institutional and legislative measures needed for an effective and long-term strategy to deal with major natural calamities in the future.

#### **New National Agriculture Policy**

1607. SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI:  
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have started working out strategies for different crops and geographical regions on the basis of newly framed National Agriculture Policy;

(b) if so, whether the main thrust of New Agriculture Policy is to provide management of land and water preservation of genetic resources;

(c) if so, whether the Government are favouring leasing of land for farming on viable and larger scale; and

(d) if so, the extent to which the Government have started working on this policy and the States expected to render the policy a success?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) In order to operationalise the National Agriculture Policy, a comprehensive Action Plan is under preparation in consultation with concerned Ministries/Departments of Government of India, State Governments and other concerned agencies. An Inter-Departmental Committee has been constituted for preparation of the Action Plan. As stated in the National Agriculture Policy, a regionally differentiated strategy is under preparation, taking into action the agronomic, climatic and environmental conditions to realize the full growth potential of every region.

(b) In order to promote sustainable development of agriculture, the Government, under the National Agriculture Policy, will endeavour to promote preservation of natural resources including land, water and genetic endowment with economically viable and environmentally conducive techniques.

(c) Under the new Agriculture Policy, the Government intends to encourage private sector participation through contract farming and land leasing arrangements to allow accelerated technology transfer, capital inflow and assured markets, for crop production.

(d) Agriculture being a State subject, the State Governments are actively involved in formulation and

implementation of the Action Plan for operationalization of the National Agriculture Policy. Government is already implementing many Central and Centrally Sponsored Schemes for enhancement of production and productivity of agriculture and allied sectors.

[Translation]

#### **Projects Run by Jawahar Lal Nehru University**

1608. SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any projects are being run by Jawahar Lal Nehru Agriculture University, Jabalpur in Madhya Pradesh for central arid agriculture research;

(b) if so, the number of such projects being run by the University;

(c) the amount allocated for above mentioned projects;

(d) whether any review, progress and evaluation of these projects are undertaken;

(e) whether the desired results have been achieved from these projects; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (f) The Information is being collected from all the Divisions and will be placed on the Table of the House in due course.

[English]

#### **Damage Due to Earthquake in Gujarat and Rajasthan**

1609. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ:  
SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV:  
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:  
DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV:

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

(a) whether a large number of SSI units have been closed down in the quake hit areas of Gujarat and Rajasthan;

(b) whether such SSI units have accumulated huge losses apart from rendering many jobless;

(c) if so, the steps being taken by the Union Government to revive such units;

(d) whether any action plan has been worked out; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) The Government of Gujarat has informed that 3,221 SSI units suffered damages in the quake hit areas of Gujarat. The total damage to these SSI units is estimated to be Rs. 39,067.39 lakhs. Government of Rajasthan has informed that no SSI units has closed down due to the recent earthquake in Rajasthan.

(c) to (e) A special relief package of measures for persons/business affected by the earthquake in Gujarat has been announced by the Reserve Bank of India on 12th February, 2001. This includes freezing of recoveries and extension of new loans on liberal terms for SSIs in the affected areas.

#### **Review of Retirement Scheme**

1610. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA:  
SHRI R.S. PATIL:  
SHRI UTTAMRAO PATIL:  
SHRI DINSHA PATEL:  
SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to review the retirement Scheme of its employees to down size the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof, alongwith the criteria fixed for the purpose;

(c) the time by which the scheme is likely to be implemented;

(d) the names of State Governments which have enhanced the retirement age from 58 to 60 years, following Central Governments decision;

(e) whether some of the State Governments have reverted back to 58 years; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (c) According to the Finance Minister's Budget speech in Parliament on 28th February, 2001, the Expenditure Reforms Commission, which was set up last year, has so far presented reports concerning downsizing in Six Ministries and Departments. These recommendations of the Commission will be implemented by July 31, 2001 and identified surplus staff transferred to the existing Surplus Pool, which will be streamlined and equipped to redeploy and retrain staff and employees in the Surplus Pool will also be offered an attractive Voluntary Retirement Scheme package.

(d) to (f) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[*Translation*]

#### **Overseas Tours**

1611. SHRI BABUBHAI K. KATARA:  
SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL:  
SHRI RAMSHAKAL:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of foreign visits undertaken by him as well as other Ministers during 2000 till date alongwith the reasons for undertaking the visits;

(b) the details of the talks held and agreements signed during these visits; and

(c) the benefits to accrue to the country on account of the talks and agreements?

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

#### **Cardiac and Diabetic Patients**

1612. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA:  
SHRI P. MOHAN:

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

(a) whether the number of cardiac and diabetic patients are continuously increasing in the country;

(b) if so, the number of such patients as on March 31, 2000;

(c) whether the Government propose to take steps to eradicate these diseases;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (e) No nation wide data regarding the number of cardiac and diabetic patients is being maintained. Since the causes of these diseases are attributed among others to individual life style and food habits, the doctors are creating awareness among the people for adopting proper life style and food habits to control these diseases.

[*English*]

#### **Irregularities in Medical Store Organisation**

1613. DR. BALIRAM:  
SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI:  
SHRI C.N. SINGH:  
SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:

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

(a) whether the Medical Store Organisation has paid Rs. 18 crore for the medicines which have not been received so far as per the news item appearing in 'Rashtriya Sahara' dated January 13, 2001;

(b) if so, the facts thereof alongwith the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the medicines have not been entered in the record books during 1997-98 and 1999-2000;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

[illegible]

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
5.	Goa	7583	11175	10265	2	32	30	267	259	64
6.	Gujarat	212230	207027	209868	13	18	3	1822	788	405
7.	Haryana	315853	375113	200384	53	127	0	72	93	103
8.	Himachal Pradesh	430636	433182	498785	26	12	0	802	650	451
9.	Jammu & Kashmir \$\$	137168	137653	409192	1082	213	320	3145	11142	1381
10.	Karnataka	600889	674805	895619	1389	2169	3790	2086	5296	4904
11.	Kerala	563885	550768	596241	447	343	705	6312	5135	6693
12.	Madhya Pradesh	449265	479073	193344	13674	11269	2717	7121	1054	2002
13.	Maharashtra	802093	1098750	708933	19	19	38	4525	3899	3401
14.	Manipur	24884	31531	26142	639	256	91	1216	287	158
15.	Meghalaya	143476	152285	110349	944	1051	425	2435	1313	1537
16.	Mizoram	12318	8925	14053	60	10	92	347	301	603
17.	Nagaland	15437	4428	2655	1310	4124	2521	741	1320	496
18.	Orissa	747321	793442	762668	2266	2874	3597	2473	1592	3106
19.	Punjab	—	196398	164778	—	260	0	—	29	67
20.	Rajasthan	179974	211710	163214	288	524	435	1775	453	6728
21.	Sikkim	43764	40539	28344	5	0	39	421	44	262
22.	Tamilnadu	70612	57207	96069	0	1	88	426	33	115
23.	Tripura	112636	108492	87494	238	194	116	3621	387	239
24.	Uttar Pradesh	258136	564587	464254	1455	5515	3144	2105	1473	459
25.	West Bengal	540176	720352	758183	630	1133	3324	12674	7414	12197
26.	A & N Island	22984	22963	29464	37	20	21	48	91	160
27.	Chandigarh	4782	—	—	0	—	—	45	—	—
28.	D & N Haveli	50843	43544	4148	70	260	0	267	83	3
29.	Daman & Diu	3297	3503	3668	0	0	0	27	100	93
30.	Delhi	176275	133089	62290	318	116	15	3961	796	481
31.	Lakshdweep	8106	5124	6969	0	0	0	95	0	0
32.	Pondicherry	106389	120304	114439	0	0	1	0	0	0
Total		8065688	9634787	8053896	37725	44914	32577	63508	47522	50102

Ⓒ data not available.

\$ upto January 1997

\$\$ only Kashmir Div.

.. data not received

Data is provisional and not comparable due to ill-defined coverage source:

Monthly Health condition report of States/UTs

Directorate of Health Services

*Annexure Referred to in Part (a) of the reply to Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1614 for 7-3-2001.  
Statement Showing Notified Cases in State/UT's*

Sl. No.	States	Acute Resp. Inf.			Pneumonia			Tuberculosis		
		1997	1998	1999	1997	1998	1999	1997	1998	1999
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1872414	2159175	2242282	33434	30974	34501	84495	104896	115088
2.	Arunachal Pradesh \$	925			9		—	26		—
3.	Assam	495555	478519	—	12779	14537	—	12937	13478	—
4.	Bihar			—			—			—
5.	Goa	33030	41503	45950	428	560	302	5190	8919	7588
6.	Gujarat	483022	438975	333634	6932	3377	2522	18290	14119	36101
7.	Haryana	676305	695108	505560	8895	7321	4548	37728	107749	29461
8.	Himachal Pradesh	1319037	1365944	1468391	45270	35532	36587	25004	17559	12732
9.	Jammu & Kashmir \$\$	256197	328353	340043	4581	4246	6354	@	@	2899
10.	Karnataka	1124800	1332409	1994864	21356	24365	48716	63646	66786	63495
11.	Kerala	3865747	4495495	5235720	20989	23458	25515	37061	39771	35987
12.	Madhya Pradesh	571358	576137	290237	48021	44245	25023	60528	53357	25631
13.	Maharashtra	473977	354157	385003	23311	25110	27922	67633	78772	84215
14.	Manipur	18269	21778	26909	4594	5228	3196	642	923	2399
15.	Meghalaya	213101	218063	180237	3283	2822	6678	1601	1940	2204
16.	Mizoram	20276	14654	24982	1299	2275	2427	445	482	1000
17.	Nagaland	1572	1877	3026	263	644	221	861	1919	872
18.	Orissa	1104557	1150737	1276497	29620	36400	37091	26452	32567	39190
19.	Punjab		278845	283268		3374	3891		134794	14912
20.	Rajasthan	410609	433669	361950	44796	49941	40050	30652	20610	54776
21.	Sikkim	25946	26593	24121	0	0	355	1202	870	2100
22.	Tamilnadu	108804	113045	226975	1702	4150	3846	15679	19251	60569
23.	Tripura	179725	118889	101183	571	422	1544	0	25	0
24.	Uttar Pradesh	277408	547133	536054	32951	47081	56927	291095	63853	58518
25.	West Bengal	35190	206988	218953	24320	40837	19896	32945	35470	37546
26.	A & N Island	48172	55538	58082	0	69	110	1187	657	879

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
27. Chandigarh		2621		—	1509		—	1166	..	—
28. D & N Haveli		50583	42528	2827	179	591	7	1432	723	79
29. Daman & Diu		12633	7325	4077	234	74	11	1976	1493	1328
30. Delhi		58974	53464	165592	20454	13177	13345	36783	28086	19680
31. Lakshdweep		10458	12213	14936	58	15	80	54	23	84
32. Pondicherry		76397	73852	45462	1825	5527	8359	20246	19138	18588
Total		13827662	15642966	16396815	393663	426352	410024	876956	868230	727921

@ data not available.

\$ upto January 1997

\$\$ only Kashmir Div.

.. data not received

Data is provisional and not comparable due to ill-defined coverage source:

Monthly Health condition report of States/UTs

Directorate of Health Services

Annexure Referred to in Part (a) of the reply to Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1614 for 7-3-2001  
Statement Showing Notified Cases in State/UT's

Sl. No.	States	Meningoccal Meningitis		
		1997	1998	1999
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1859	2737	1162
2.	Arunachal Pradesh \$	0	—	—
3.	Assam	103	44	—
4.	Bihar	—	—	—
5.	Goa	2	0	3
6.	Gujarat	9	0	0
7.	Haryana	103	101	51
8.	Himachal Pradesh	0	3	0
9.	Jammu & Kashmir \$\$	10	176	34
10.	Karnataka	263	248	546
11.	Kerala	27	30	252
12.	Madhya Pradesh	496	304	204
13.	Maharashtra	324	337	310
14.	Manipur	0	0	67
15.	Meghalaya	301	0	1
16.	Mizoram	0	36	16



1	2	3	4	5
17. Nagaland		4	0	0
18. Orissa		379	285	241
19. Punjab		—	35	133
20. Rajasthan		154	132	148
21. Sikkim		0	6	0
22. Tamilnadu		101	46	470
23. Tripura		7	11	27
24. Uttar Pradesh		66	505	622
25. West Bengal		1586	1507	2719
26. A & N Island		3	3	1
27. Chandigarh		43	—	—
28. D & N Haveli		5	3	0
29. Daman & Diu		1	—	0
30. Delhi		523	306	367
31. Lakshdweep		0	0	0
32. Pondicherry		0	0	8
Total		6369	6855	7382

⊙ data not available.

\$ upto January 1997

\$\$ only Kashmir Div.

— data not received

Data is provisional and not comparable due to ill-defined coverage source:

Monthly Health condition report of States/UTs

Directorate of Health Services

### Statement-II

#### Nutritional status by States

Among Children under four years of age, the percentage, classified as undernourished according to three anthropometric indices of nutritional status, by State, India, 1992-93

States	Weight-for-age		Height-for-age		Weight-for-height	
	Percentage below -3 SD	Percentage below -2 SD <sup>1</sup>	Percentage below -3 SD	Percentage below -2 SD	Percentage below -2 SD	Percentage below -2 SD <sup>1</sup>
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
India	20.6	53.4	28.9	52.0	3.2	17.5
NORTH						
Delhi	12.0	41.6	19.3	43.2	2.7	11.9

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Haryana	9.0	37.9	19.3	46.7	0.6	5.9
Himachal Pradesh	12.9	47.0	U	U	U	U
Jammu Region of J&K	13.8	44.5	18.6	40.8	3.4	14.8
Punjab	14.2	45.9	15.7	40.0	2.8	19.9
Rajasthan	19.2	41.6	26.6	43.1	5.2	19.5
CENTRAL						
Madhya Pradesh	22.3	57.4	U	U	U	U
Uttar Pradesh	24.6	59.0	35.6	59.5	2.7	16.1
EAST						
Bihar	31.1	62.6	39.5	60.9	4.1	21.8
Orissa	22.7	53.3	25.2	48.2	3.6	21.3
West Bengal	18.4	56.8	U	U	U	U
NORTHEAST						
Arunachal Pradesh	14.5	39.7	27.9	53.9	3.6	11.2
Assam	18.7	50.4	26.3	52.2	1.7	10.8
Manipur	7.2	30.1	16.0	33.6	1.2	8.8
Meghalaya	17.2	45.5	38.4	50.8	4.8	18.9
Mizoram	5.3	28.1	16.0	41.3	0.6	2.2
Nagaland	7.6	28.7	13.2	32.4	2.3	12.7
Tripura	18.6	48.8	21.3	46.0	0.7	17.5
WEST						
Goa	8.9	35.0	11.0	32.5	2.4	15.3
Gujarat	17.6	50.1	25.3	48.2	3.7	18.9
Maharashtra	21.3	54.2	23.5	48.5	4.2	20.2
SOUTH						
Andhra Pradesh	15.6	49.1	U	U	U	U
Karnataka	19.4	54.3	22.7	47.6	2.6	17.4
Kerala	6.1	28.5	9.0	27.4	1.3	11.6
Tamil Nadu	13.3	48.2	U	U	U	U

Note: Figures are for children born 1-47 months prior to the survey. Each of the indices is expressed in standard deviation units (SD) from the median of the International Reference Population. The percentages of children who are more than three and more than two standard deviation units below the median of the International Reference Population (-3 SD and -2 SD) are shown according to selected characteristics.

U: Not available because children's height/length was not measured.

1 Also includes the children who are below -3 standard deviations from the International Reference Population median

Source: National Family Health Survey (1992-93)

**Statement-III****Nutritional status by States**

Percentage of children under age 3 years classified as undernourished on three antropometric indices of nutrional status, according to State, India 1998-99

States	Weight-for-age		Height-for-age		Weight-for-height	
	Percentage below -3 SD	Percentage below -2 SD <sup>1</sup>	Percentage below - 3 SD	Percentage below -2 SD <sup>1</sup>	Percentage below -3 SD	Percentage below-2 SD <sup>1</sup>
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<b>India</b>	18.0	47.0	23.0	45.5	2.8	15.5
<b>NORTH</b>						
Delhi	10.1	34.7	18.0	36.8	4.1	12.5
Haryana	10.1	34.6	24.3	50.0	0.8	5.3
Himachal Pradesh	12.1	43.6	18.1	41.3	3.3	16.9
Jammu & Kashmir	8.3	34.5	17.3	38.8	1.2	11.8
Punjab	8.8	28.7	17.2	39.2	0.8	7.1
Rajasthan	20.8	50.6	29.0	52.0	1.9	11.7
<b>CENTRAL</b>						
Madhya Pradesh	24.3	55.1	28.3	51.0	4.3	19.8
Uttar Pradesh	21.9	51.7	31.0	55.5	2.1	11.1
<b>EAST</b>						
Bihar	25.5	54.4	33.6	53.7	5.5	21.0
Orissa	20.7	54.4	17.6	44.0	3.9	24.3
West Bengal	16.3	48.7	19.2	41.5	1.6	13.6
<b>NORTHEAST</b>						
Arunachal Pradesh	7.8	24.3	11.9	26.5	2.0	7.9
Assam	13.3	36.0	33.7	50.2	3.3	13.3
Manipur	5.3	27.5	11.2	31.3	1.8	8.2
Meghalaya	11.3	37.9	24.5	44.9	1.0	13.3
Mizoram	5.0	27.7	13.9	34.6	2.8	10.2
Nagaland	7.4	24.1	11.7	33.0	2.4	10.4
Sikkim	4.2	20.6	9.7	31.7	0.8	4.8
<b>WEST</b>						
Goa	4.7	28.6	4.8	18.1	0.7	13.1
Gujarat	16.2	45.1	23.3	43.6	2.4	16.2
Maharashtra	17.6	49.6	14.1	39.9	2.5	21.2

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
SOUTH						
Andhra Pradesh	10.3	37.7	14.2	38.6	1.6	9.1
Karnataka	16.5	43.9	15.9	36.6	3.9	20.0
Kerala	4.7	26.9	7.3	21.9	0.7	11.1
Tamil Nadu	10.6	36.7	12.0	29.4	3.8	19.9

Note: Each Index is expressed in standard deviation Units (SD) from the median of the international Reference Population.

<sup>1</sup>Includes children who are below -3 SD from the international Reference Population median.

#### **Statement-IV**

#### *Special programmes receiving UNICEF support*

Sr.	Programme description	States where implemented
1.	Measles elimination campaigns	Maharashtra (Small towns in the district of Akola, Malegaon, New Mumbai, Nanded, Latur, Osmanabad) Karnataka (Mysore)  M.P. (Burhanpur, Ratlam, Dewas, Guna, Shivpuri, Morena, Sheopur Kalan, Tikamgarh, Sagar, Jabalpur, Rewa, Raipur, Bhilai, Bhopal, Indore, Gwalior)  Punjab (Amritsar, Gurdaspur, Hoshiarpur, Ludhiana, (Mohali)  Gujarat (Ahmedabad, Bhavnagar, Jamnagar, Rajkot, Valsad City Vapi, City, Surat, Baroda)  Andhra Pradesh (Hyderabad)  Bihar (Ranchi)
2.	Tetanus Toxide Vaccination	M.P. (Guna, Bhind, Morena, Shivpuri, Panna, Rewa, Sidhi, Badwani, Vidisha, Khargone)  W. Bengal (Bankura)  Assam (Goalpara, Dhubri)
3.	Routine Immunization	All States and UTs except small UTs.
4.	Vitamin A supplementation	Chandigarh, Orissa, Assam and U.P.

#### **Use of Homoeopathic/Ayurvedic In Veterinary**

1615. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Homoeopathic/Ayurvedic medicines are also proving effective in veterinary;

(b) if so, whether any efforts are being made/proposed to be made by the Government to encourage the use of these medicines; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) and (c) Ayurvedic and Homoeopathic medicines are available for the treatment of animals. However, these can be prescribed by the registered physicians qualified in Ayurveda and Homoeopathy. Several drugs under the nomenclature of 'indigenous drugs' are being used by veterinary doctors as these are referred to in veterinary curriculum.

[English]

### ISM & Allopathic Medicine

1616. VAIDYA VISHNU DATT SHARMA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of people getting treatment of Indian System of Medicine (ISM) and from Modern Medicine (Allopathic) in India;

(b) the total medical budget of Centre for ISM and for Modern Medicine;

(c) the expenditure for importing of modern medicines;

(d) the income from export of medicines of Indian System of Medicines (ISM);

(e) whether the Union Government have taken any step for popularizing the Indian Medicines in foreign countries;

(f) if so, the details thereof and action taken in the matter so far; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

[Translation]

### Financial Assistance for Development of Seeds

1617. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have provided financial assistance to States for development of seeds during the last two years upto February 28, 2001;

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

(c) the number of Government agricultural farms running in losses during above mentioned period, State-wise; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The details of financial assistance provided to States by the Union Government for development of seeds during the last two years upto February 28, 2001 is enclosed in the statement attached.

(c) and (d) The number of Central Government agricultural farms running in loss is as follows:-

**National Seeds Corporation:-** 3 farms, once each in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Himachal Pradesh, are running in loss.

**State Farms Corporation of India Ltd.:** 10 farms, as per details given below are running in loss.

Rajasthan	3
Uttar Pradesh	2
Assam	2
Punjab	1
Karnataka	1
Tamil Nadu	1

The remedial steps taken/proposed to be taken for overcoming the losses are as under:-

- Irrigation and other infrastructure facilities for the development of farms to be improved.
- Intensive cropping by adopting standard package of practices and technical knowhow cropwise in consultation with Indian Council of Agricultural Research scientists and State Agriculture Universities to be followed.
- Production of breeder, foundation & certified seeds of high value crops like oilseeds, pulses and vegetables, and test-stock seed multiplication of newly released varieties is being undertaken.
- Taking up of seed production of green manure seeds (Dhaincha) in wasteland.

- Creation of own Research and Development facilities for bringing improvement in quality production and multiplication of seeds.
- Implementation of Voluntary Retirement Scheme/ Voluntary Separation Scheme to reduce the disproportionate wage bill of the farms in the coming years.
- Intensive marketing of seeds.

#### **Statement**

*The Details of Financial Assistance provided to States by Union Government of development of seeds under various Crop Development Programmes/Schemes during the last two years upto February 28, 2001.*

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Sl. No.	States	1999-2000	2000-2001
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2121.58	1277.55
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	202.96	166.15
3.	Assam	279.98	227.94
4.	Bihar	132.83	213.50
5.	Goa	19.08	27.85
6.	Gujarat	1371.86	1010.07
7.	Haryana	797.71	432.40
8.	Himachal Pradesh	140.60	110.76
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	148.98	59.70
10.	Karnataka	977.44	727.47
11.	Kerala	149.64	122.05
12.	Madhya Pradesh	1653.59	1418.26
13.	Maharashtra	1549.95	1222.30
14.	Manipur	354.61	407.45
15.	Meghalaya	174.27	102.19
16.	Mizoram	180.22	203.48
17.	Nagaland	281.13	289.26
18.	Orissa	1431.24	438.55
19.	Punjab	728.78	457.74

1	2	3	4
20.	Rajasthan	1792.32	1319.59
21.	Sikkim	103.40	68.55
22.	Tamilnadu	1095.53	906.96
23.	Tripura	269.95	303.47
24.	Uttar Pradesh	2617.93	1674.91
25.	West Bengal	421.51	291.52
26.	Pondicherry	7.40	20.30
27.	Delhi	10.30	0.18
28.	Chandigarh	4.00	—
29.	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	4.00	—
30.	Daman & Diu	3.00	—
	Total	19025.79	13500.15
31.	Other National level organisations*	1669.51	2176.61

\* National Seeds Corporation Limited, State Farms Corporation of India Limited, Krishak Bharati Co-operative Limited, National Horticulture Research Development Foundation and Agri Finance Corporation.

[English]

#### **Health Care Programmes**

1618. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to launch several programmes to improve the health infrastructure in the country in pursuance of findings of recent national family health survey;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which these programmes are likely to be launched; and

(d) the fresh steps taken/proposed to upgrade facilities for the urban poor by establishing more health care centers/posts in slum areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) To strengthen the Primary Health care infrastructure

and service delivery in the country, the Government, in the wake of the recent findings of National Family Health Survey and other major surveys being conducted under the RCH programme, have recently launched a number of new initiatives with a view to improving the quality and the range of such services in under served States and districts. Some of these recently launched schemes are (i) Reproductive and Child Health Camps in 102 backward districts of the country (ii) A scheme for training and equipping Traditional Birth Attendants in 142 districts of the country and (iii) a nation wide programme for strengthening routine immunization with special focus on eight States of Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Bihar, West Bengal, Assam, Orissa and Gujarat.

The Prime Minister's Gramodya Yojna is another new initiatives to accelerate performance in providing basic minimum services at primary health care level. An allocation of Rs. 375 crore has been made during this year as Additional Central Assistance for Primary Health Care.

(d) A World Bank assisted India Population project VIII is presently under implementation in the urban slum areas of Kolkata, Bangalore, Delhi and Hyderabad and 94 additional cities and towns in the States of West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka with the objective to provide integrated Health and Family Welfare services.

A pilot project on urban Reproductive and Child Health programme is also under implementation in Lucknow city with assistance from European Commission.

#### **Burglary at the Residence of Indian Diplomat**

1619. SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH:  
SHRI RAMCHANDRA PASWAN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the residence of the Indian diplomat in Islamabad was recently burgled allegedly by Pak intelligence agencies;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

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

(b) The residence of a diplomat at the High Commission of India, Islamabad was broken into on

23.1.2001. The intruders removed the lock of main door to gain entry into the house. They rummaged through the entire house and took away valuables and cash. The circumstances of the incident clearly indicated the involvement of local intelligence agencies.

(c) The High Commission of India filed an FIR with the police. Strong protests were also lodged with the Pakistan Foreign Office and the Pakistan High Commission in New Delhi. It was demanded that offenders be brought to book and the stolen items recovered.

The safety and security of the High Commission and its personnel is the responsibility of the Government of Pakistan in accordance with the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, 1961 and the bilateral Code of Conduct for Treatment of Diplomatic/Consular Personnel in India and Pakistan. India has, time and again, reminded Pakistan of its obligations under the Vienna Convention as well as the bilateral Code of Conduct.

#### **Indo-U.S. Ties**

1620. SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL:  
SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any change has been observed by the Indian Government in the U.S. policy towards Kashmir, trans-border terrorism and sanctions after the Bush Administration came to power; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) The U.S. State Department spokesman stated on 24th January, in response to a question relating to Government's initiative with regard to Jammu and Kashmir, that "we welcome the announcement by the Indian Cabinet...we believe that the peace process will be greatly enhanced if the Kashmiri militant groups responded positively to India's announcement by taking steps to halt the violence". In this context he also stated that the Government of Pakistan "should use its influence with the militant groups, to urge them to halt the violence".

The U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell told the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee on 17th February 2001 that he will "review all of the sanctions, and especially with respect to India, to see whether this is the time to move forward and to remove the remaining sanctions that are in place".

President Bush has conveyed to the Prime Minister his belief that India and the U.S. have great potential for increased cooperation and his desire to foster a mutually beneficial relationship between the two countries.

### **Nuclear Thermal Rockets**

1621. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Scientists have worked on Nuclear Thermal Rockets;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to launch their own space satellite in this field like INSAT-2D; and

(d) if so, the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir. Three experimental launches of geo-stationary satellites by Geo-Synchronous Launch Vehicles (GSLVs) have been planned. After successful demonstration, it will be possible to launch INSAT satellite by our own launch vehicles.

(d) Likely expenditure on the three developmental flights of GSLV is Rs. 1405.19 Crores.

[Translation]

### **Children Languishing in Pak Jails**

1622. KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indian children languishing in jails in Pakistan alongwith the date from which they have been jailed and also the crime for which they have been jailed; and

(b) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to get them released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) As per available information, following seven Indian children have been detained in Pakistani jails:

S. No	Name	Age	Date since when jailed	Alleged Offence
1.	Bhavyesh Kanji	16	23.10.1999	Illegal fishing in Pakistani waters
2.	Devshi Kara	17	18.11.1999	-do-
3.	Kanji Pancha	15	24.11.1999	-do-
4.	Dhiru Bachu	17	24.11.1999	-do-
5.	Sanjay Varjang	16	30.01.2000	-do-
6.	Ranjit Kumar	14	Dec. 1999	Espionage
7.	Awais Abbas Naqvi	14	April 2000	Illegal stay

(b) The issue of early release and repatriation of Indian children under detention in Pakistan jails has been taken up repeatedly with the Government of Pakistan. On February 16, 2001, Government of Pakistan conveyed its decision to release 84 Indian fishermen, including the four children whose names appear at Sl. Nos. 1-4 above. Government are in the process of finalising arrangements in consultation with the Government of Pakistan for their early repatriation. The Government of Pakistan has also offered consular access in respect of 28 other fishermen prisoners, including Sanjay Varjang, whose name appears of Sl. No.5 above. The date for consular access has yet to be conveyed by the Government of Pakistan. Government will continue their efforts for the early release and repatriation of all Indian prisoners, especially of children, in Pakistani custody.

### **Promotion of SSI in Chhattisgarh**

1623. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE:  
SHRI A. NARENDRA:

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

(a) whether the Government have formulated or propose to formulate any special scheme to promote Small Scale Industries in Chhattisgarh State;



(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (c) The Schemes/Programmes formulated to promote Small Scale Industries are uniformly implemented throughout the country and there is no Scheme specific to any State.

[English]

#### **Eradication of Tuberculosis**

1624. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering to modify the guidelines for NGO participation in fighting tuberculosis;

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

(c) the deliberations made in the first National Conference of Non-Governmental Organisations battling tuberculosis; and

(d) whether the Non-Governmental Organisations participated in the said conference had demanded for more support from the Government for eradicating tuberculosis and remove the prejudices attached to it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) NGO guidelines were framed only about a year ago and are still at initial stage of implementation. At present there is no proposal for modifying guidelines for NGO participation in fighting tuberculosis.

(c) and (d) The National Conference of Non Governmental Organisations for participation in National Tuberculosis Control Programme, was held on 13.01.2001 in Delhi. The highlights of deliberations made therein are as under:

1. Bond between Government and NGOs should be strengthened.
2. Interested NGOs can submit proposal for development of IEC modules and proposals can be financed according to merit.
3. IEC activities should be more in slum areas and NGOs wanting to adopt slums should be given preference.
4. Efforts should be undertaken by NGOs particularly women's groups, to work for women's empowerment and these groups should be encouraged.
5. NGOs working for RNTCP schemes can suggest measures for the improvement of schemes based on their operational experiences.
6. To avoid duplication, NGOs should concentrate their activities in areas where Government facilities are less.

#### **Violence in Kashmir**

1625. DR. (SHRIMATI) SUDHA YADAV: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether U.S. has urged Pakistan to use its good offices for halting violence in Kashmir; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of Pakistan Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The U.S. State Department spokesman stated on 24th January, in response to a question relating to Government's initiative with regard to Jammu and Kashmir, that "we welcome the announcement by the Indian Cabinet...we believe that the peace process will be greatly enhanced if the Kashmiri militant groups responded positively to India's announcement by taking steps to halt the violence". In this context, he also stated that the Government of Pakistan "should use its influence with the militant groups, to urge them to halt the violence".

Pakistan's sponsorship of cross-border terrorism in India, which is widely recognised by the international community, has continued unabated. Groups based in Pakistan and with close links to Pakistan's intelligence agencies have escalated the level of violence in the recent past. Pakistan has not publicly condemned any of these acts.

*[Translation]***Setting up of Ayurvedic College in Varanasi**

1626. SHRI SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up an Ayurvedic College by the Government of India in Varanasi district of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) The opening of Ayurvedic colleges in the States is the responsibility of State Governments which take decisions depending upon the felt needs of people of the area and the availability of resources.

*[English]***Setting up of Nuclear Power Plant**

1627. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up a nuclear power plant in the Eastern Region, particularly in West Bengal;

(b) if so, whether any Site Selection Committee has been formed;

(c) if so, whether the report has been submitted to the Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) No, Sir. The priority for setting up of nuclear power plants in the Eastern Electricity Region is relatively low because this region is endowed with significant coal resources.

(b) In spite of the above position, in order to meet the long term needs of sites for setting up of Nuclear Power Plants in the country, the Site Selection Committee (SSC) constituted by the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) is exploring sites in different electricity regions of the country including Eastern Electricity Region (West Bengal included).

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

*[Translation]***Decline in FPI**

1628. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:  
DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:  
SHRI GUNIPATI RAMAIAH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the annual growth rate of food processing industry has fallen;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor along with the rate of annual growth of food processing industries during the initial two years of the nineties and the last two years i.e. 1998-99 and 1999-2000 separately;

(c) the efforts being made by the Government to remove problems faced by the Food Processing Industries to increase the growth rate; and

(d) the number of sick industries among these being run in public and private sectors separately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TH. CHAOBA SINGH): (a) and (b) Food Processing sector covers different segments of the industry and a negative trend/development for the whole sector is not reported. However, in the fruit and vegetable processing segment during the year 1997 — 98, the growth showed a negative trend. Though detailed reasons for this trend have not been reported, one of the apparently discernible factors to which the negative growth could be attributed is levying of Excise Duty on these products as against the zero duty in the preceding years.

(c) The Government has taken a number of policy initiatives to promote the growth of Processed Food Sector

in the Country, which include inter alia provision of financial assistance in the form of soft loan and grant to private industries, public sector undertakings, non-governmental organization, cooperatives etc.

(d) Food Processing Industries are both in the organized and unorganized sectors and hence information on the sick industries is not centrally maintained.

[English]

#### **Guidelines for Hospitals**

1629. SHRI C.N. SINGH:  
PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT:  
SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI:

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

(a) whether Government are aware of the problem of over crowding of central hospitals;

(b) if so, the number of Government hospitals in the States/Union Territories in 1951 and at present;

(c) whether some State Governments have started major programme for strengthening a sub-district level hospitals with the help of World Bank assistance;

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

(e) whether Government propose to encourage private sector for establishment of hospitals to cope with the over crowding in Central Government hospitals by giving more incentives such as land, tax rebate etc.; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and time by which these guidelines are likely to be issued to the State Governments?

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

(b) 'Health' being a State subject under the Constitution of India, the information called for is not maintained in this Ministry.

(c) and (d) For Upgrading secondary health care systems, the following seven States have been provided with World Bank Assistance under the State Health Systems Projects:-

State	Project Outlay (Rs. in crores)
1. Andhra Pradesh	698.00
2. West Bengal	698.00
3. Karnataka	546.00
4. Punjab	425.00
5. Orissa	415.57
6. Maharashtra	727.00
7. Uttar Pradesh	US\$ 110.00 million

The Government of NCT of Delhi has also informed that strengthening of peripheral Hospitals is a continuing Scheme under the IX-th Five Year Plan of the State.

(e) and (f) There are three Central Government Hospitals namely, Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, Safdarjung Hospital and LHMC & Associated Hospitals which are located in Delhi. The Government of NCT of Delhi has informed that in principle, they have decided to encourage greater Private Sector participation for augmenting Hospital services. The detailed package of incentives is yet to be formulated.

[Translation]

#### **NCAER**

1630. SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHRI:  
DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:  
SHRI ZORA SINGH MANN:

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

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn towards the report published by the National Council for Applied Economic Research which says that lifting of ban on the import would add to the difficulties of the small scale industries related to production processing and sale;

(b) if so, the details of the difficulties being faced by the small scale industries as contained in the report;

(c) whether the Government have made any study of these difficulties;

(d) if so, the action taken in the matter so far; and

(e) the outcome thereof?

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

(b) It has been argued by the author of the paper entitled "Small Scale Industry Policy in India: A Critical Evaluation" that in the changed economic scenario, in order to be sustainable, small scale industries (SSI) have to be globally competitive thereby requiring appropriate investments for technology upgradation and exports.

(c) to (e) the Government has put in place several measures to help small enterprises become globally competitive. A new SSI policy was announced during the National Conference on SSI held at New Delhi during 30-31 August, 2000. Some of the major measures include raising the excise exemption limit from Rs. 50 lakhs to Rs. 1 crore, a scheme of Capital Subsidy of 12% for investment in technology upgradation in select sectors, raising the eligibility limit for coverage under the Credit Guarantee Scheme from Rs. 10 lakhs to 25 lakhs, continuation of financial support to SSI units for obtaining ISO 9000 certification, etc.

[English]

#### Data on NRIs

1631. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the exercise relating to building a data bank on NRIs has been completed; and

(b) if so, their population thereof, country-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) Ministry of External Affairs is in the process of building a detailed Databank on NRIs and Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs).

(b) Preliminary estimates of NRIs and PIOs in various countries have been collected through Indian Missions abroad, a list of which is given in the statement attached.

#### Statement

##### Size of Overseas Indian Community Country-wise

Country	Total Size of Indian community	PIOs	Indian citizens	Stateless
1	2	3	4	5
Algeria	26	5	21	—
Angola	295	45	250	—
Argentina	1000	700	300	—
Armenia	200	—	200	—
Australia	91105	61807	29298	—
Azerbaijan	300	—	—	—
Austria	12342	3504	8838	—
Bahrain	130000	—	130000	—
Bangladesh	1000	—	—	—
Belarus	100	—	—	—
Benin	500	—	—	—
Belgium	7000	—	—	—
Bhutan	1500	—	1500	—
Botswana	9000	3000	6000	—
Brazil	1600	—	—	—
Brunei	7600	500	7000	100
Bulgaria	220	—	—	—
Burkina Faso	—	—	—	—
Burundi	300	—	—	—
Cambodia	155	—	—	—
Cameroon	300	—	—	—
Canada	700000	—	150000	—
Cape Verde	1	—	—	—
Chad	30	—	—	—
Chile	650	39	—	—
China (Hong Kong)	28500	6500	22000	—

1	2	3	4	5
China	305	5	300	—
Colombia	20	1	19	—
Comores	50	—	—	—
Costa Rica	16	1	15	—
Cote d'Ivoire	250	—	—	—
Croatia	10	10	—	—
Cuba	Nil	—	—	—
Cyprus	300	—	—	—
Czech Republic	420	20	400	—
Denmark	2252	1000	1252	—
Ecuador	5	—	5	—
Egypt	1390	40	1350	—
Ethiopia	125	—	—	—
Fiji	336830	336579	250	—
Finland	1170	410	750	10
France	40000	—	—	—
Gambia	80	—	—	—
Germany	40000	—	—	—
Greece	7000	—	—	—
Guyana	400000	—	—	—
Hungary	—	—	—	—
Indonesia	55000	50000	5000	—
Iran	800	—	800	—
Iraq	80	—	—	—
Ireland	100	—	—	—
Israel	45500	—	—	—
Italy	38000	—	—	—
Jamaica	61500	60000	1500	—
Japan	2500	—	—	—
Jordan	930	30	900	—
Kazakhstan	1127	—	1127	—

1	2	3	4	5
Kenya	102500	85000	15000	2500
Korea (DPRK)	5	—	5	—
Korea (ROK)	1881	950	931	—
Kuwait	288589	1000	287589	—
Kyrgyzstan	122	100	—	—
Lao People's Democratic Republic				
Lebanon	11025	25	11000	—
Libya	12000	—	—	—
Lithuania	5	—	—	—
Madagascar	29000	25000	3000	1000
Malaysia	1665000	1600000	15000	50000
Maldives	9000	—	—	—
Mauritius	715756	704640	11116	—
Mexico	150	—	—	—
Morocco	375	25	350	—
Mongolia	35	—	35	—
Morocco	375	25	350	—
Mozambique	20000	—	870	—
Myanmar	2902000	2500000	2000	400000
Namibia	150	—	—	—
Nepal	—	—	—	—
Netherlands	18500#	1500	15000	2000
New Zealand	55000	50000	5000	—
Nigeria	30000	—	—	—
Norway	5630	—	—	—
Oman	312205	1000	311205	—
Panama	10164	211	1953	8000
Papua New Guinea				
Guinea	800	—	—	—
Peru	155	5	150	—
Philippines	38500	24000	2000	12500

1	2	3	4	5
Poland	600	—	—	—
Portugal	70000	—	4500	—
Qatar	125000	—	125000	—
Romania	491	2	489	—
Rwanda	500	—	—	—
Russia	16000	—	16000	—
Reunion	220055	220000	55	—
Islands	—	—	—	—
Saudi Arabia	1500000	—	1500000	—
Senegal	50	13	—	—
Seychelles	7500	5000	2500	—
Singapore	217000	—	90000	—
Slovakia	100	—	100	—
South Africa	1092300	2000	—	—
Spain	30000②	16000	14000	—
Sri Lanka	338051	337620	431	—
Sudan	1560	1200	360	—
Surinam	160208	160000	208	—
Sweden	10842	9244	1598	—
Switzerland	13500	8400	4800	300
Syria	500	—	—	—
Tajikistan	450	—	450	—
Tanzania	95000	90000	5000	—
Thailand	60000	40000	10000	10000
Trinidad & Tobago	520000	—	—	—
Tunisia	24	—	24	—
Turkey	300	—	—	—
Uganda	15000	—	—	—
Ukraine	4000	—	—	—
UAE	1200000	—	1200000	—

1	2	3	4	5
UK	1000000	—	—	—
USA	1500000	—	—	—
Uzbekistan	650	—	—	—
Venezuela	3400	—	—	—
Vietnam	330	—	320	10
Yemen	109000	100000	9000	—
Zambia	15000	—	8900	—
Zimbabwe	16700	15500	1200	—

(#) 200000 Indo Surianamese who have migrated from India to Surinam and are now in the Netherlands.

② Andorra-about 150 NRIs are in this Principality  
In addition to the figures included in this statement, an estimated one million people of Indian origin holding foreign nationality have reportedly migrated to third countries.

#### **Indo-U.K. Joint Working Group on Terrorism & Drug Trafficking**

1632. SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether U.K. and India have set up a Joint Working Group on International terrorism and drug trafficking; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In accordance with a decision taken by the Home Ministers of India and the UK, a Joint Working Group (JWG) has been set up to address our shared concerns on international terrorism and its inter-linkages with drug trafficking. The JWG provides an institutional framework for ongoing bilateral cooperation on these issues.

Extensive discussions between Indian and British Officials during the first meeting of the JWG on 22 January 2001 in New Delhi revealed a growing convergence of our views on these issues, including on the activities of organisations which have indulged in terrorism in India and have some form of representation in the U.K. It has been decided that the Working Group would be meeting at regular intervals.

*[Translation]*

### **Implementation of National Agricultural Insurance Scheme**

1633. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether crop insurance scheme has not been implemented entirely in State of Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan;

(b) whether it has resulted in delay in the implementation of the decision of the Union Government the farmers could get the remunerative prices of their crop and also get the benefit of insurance at the time of natural calamity any other loss; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government for this proper implementation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) has been introduced from Rabi 1999-2000 after replacing Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme (CCIS) in the country. The scheme is optional for the States. Madhya Pradesh State is implementing the NAIS since Rabi 1999-2000. The State Government of Rajasthan has not opted so far, in favour of implementation of NAIS.

(b) To provide remunerative prices to the farmers for their crops, Minimum Support Prices (MSP) for the major crops are announced by the Government of India in each season. The Food Corporation of India and the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation (NAFED) undertake procurement operations to provide reasonable prices for their produce, if prevailing prices fall below the MSP level.

Admissible insurance claims are worked out and settled by the Implementing Agency (IA) immediately after the yield data is made available by the concerned State/UT. During Rabi 1999-2000 insurance claims amounting to Rs. 11.33 lakh paid to the farmers of Madhya Pradesh.

(c) NAIS, at present, implemented by an specialized agency called General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC). To implement the scheme effectively adequate training and publicity through various agencies such as, Central/State Governments, GIC have been undertaken. Appraisal reports from time to time are prepared. Besides this, there is a provision to make annual review and modifications in the scheme as per requirements.

*[English]*

### **Cultivation of Fodder Trees**

1634. SHRI M. CHINNASAMY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state the steps being taken to encourage cultivation fodder crops and fodder trees to meet the feed and fodder requirements of animals and catties?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): The following schemes are being implemented by the Government of India to encourage cultivation of fodder, fodder crops and fodder trees:

- (i) Central Fodder Development Organization:- under this seven Regional Stations for Forage Production and Demonstration and Central Fodder Seed Production Farm are operating in different agroclimatic zones to produce and supply quality seeds of high yielding varieties of fodder crops, grasses and fodder trees, besides conducting farmers fair, training and demonstration on fodder production technology.
- (ii) Under Central Minikit testing programme minikits of fodder seeds are provided to farmers through the State Governments to generate awareness for the production of high yielding fodder and fodder seeds.
- (iii) Centrally Sponsored Schemes on Assistance to States for feed and fodder Development. The Scheme has seven components with matching funding pattern (Central: State);
  - (1) Strengthening of Fodder Seeds Production Farm (75:25), (2) Establishment of fodder Bank (75:25), (3) Fodder Seed Production through registered seed growers (25:75), (4) Enrichment of straw/cellulosic waste (100.00), (5) Establishment of Silvopasture System (100.00) (6) Development of grassland including grass reserves (100.00) and (7) Sample Survey for area, production and requirement of fodder (100.00).

The scheme provides for strengthening feed and fodder resources and increasing nutritional value of roughages.

Besides, Ministry of Environment and Forest, Ministry of Rural Development, Department of Wasteland Development and ICAR are also encouraging the cultivation of fodders and fodder trees.

### National Programme

1635. SHIR KALAVA SRINIVASULU: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether in order to promote rural industrialisation, the target of establishing 100 rural groups each year has been laid down in the declared National Programme; and

(b) if so, the details of the achievements of the said programme so far?

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

(b) The programme has started in 51 rural clusters. Of these, the Khadi & Village Industries Commission (KVIC) is developing 21 clusters, the National Bank for Agriculture & Rural Development (NABARD) 19, and the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) 11 rural clusters.

### Indo-French Ties

1636. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to establish better bilateral relations with France;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Indo-France joint agreements have been concluded for the purpose; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) Bilateral relations between India and France are already intense and diversified. Several exchanges of high-level visits have taken place. Cooperation in strengthening economic and commercial relations and building closer

defence ties is continuing. Some of the institutional mechanisms for moving these relations forward include the Indo-French Forum, the Indo-French Strategic Dialogue, Indo-French High Committee on Defence, Indo-French Joint Commission for Economic and Commercial Co-operation and the annual Foreign Secretary level consultations.

(c) and (d) India and France have adopted several initiatives to further strengthen bilateral relations including co-operation agreements in various sectors such as the Indo-French Cultural Exchange Programme agreement and the instruments of ratification of Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement. Other agreements signed between the two countries include agreements on mutual legal assistance in civil and criminal matters.

[Translation]

### Recognised Colleges/Institutions of ISM Unani and Siddha

1637. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of recognized Colleges/Institutions of Indian System of Medicine including Unani and Siddha in the country State-wise;

(b) the criterion adopted for admission in these colleges and Government colleges;

(c) whether the Government propose to start combined entrance examination to improve their standard; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) The details of State-wise recognized Colleges of Ayurved/Unani/Siddha are given in the statement below.

(b) The Central Council of Indian Medicine have prescribed minimum standards of education for admission to Ayurveda/Unani/Siddha degree courses.

(c) and (d) It is for the State Governments to conduct combined entrance examination for admission to Ayurveda/Unani/Siddha courses.



**Statement***State-wise list of Medical Colleges of Indian System of Medicine*

State	Ayurved	College Unani	Siddha
Andhra Pradesh	4	2	—
Assam	1	—	—
Bihar	12	4	—
Delhi	1	2	—
Goa	1	—	—
Gujarat	10	—	—
Haryana	5	—	—
Himachal Pradesh	1	—	—
Jammu & Kashmir	1	2	—
Karnataka	47	3	—
Kerala	5	—	—
Madhya Pradesh	9	3	—
Maharashtra	57	6	—
Orissa	6	—	—
Punjab	11	—	—
Rajasthan	4	3	—
Tamil Nadu	4	1	5
Uttar Pradesh	15	10	—
West Bengal	2	1	—
Total	196	37	5

Note: 27 colleges of Ayurveda and 4 colleges of Unani have not been permitted to admit students.

[English]

**New Schemes/Programmes for Health Infrastructure**

1638. SHRI. T.M. SELVAGANPATHI:  
SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN:  
DR. V. SAROJA:

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

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce new schemes/programmes to improve the health infrastructure in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have received proposals from the State Governments financial assistance for the above schemes/programmes;

(d) whether State Governments have also demanded funds for strengthening of medical colleges and for the establishment of at least one center of excellence like the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in every State; and

(e) if so, the decision of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) Introduction of Schemes and programmes to improve the Health infrastructure in the country is an ongoing process within which financial assistance is given to the State Governments as per the guidelines formulated under various schemes and programmes.

(d) and (e) The Central Government has no scheme to provide assistance for strengthening the medical colleges in the States or for establishing centres of excellence like AIIMS in various States. Health being a State subject, the States have to approach the Planning Commission for such additional assistance under the State Health Sector.

[Translation]

**Shortage of Working Capital**

1639. DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:  
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:

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

(a) whether the production in the small scale industries sector is being affected due to shortage of working capital;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have taken any steps to solve the situation; and

(d) if so, whether the Government have not been able to find out a solution to this problem of the small

scale industries sector despite recommendations made by various committees in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) The production of Small Scale Industries (SSI) sector has increased from Rs. 2,98,885 crores in 1994-95 to Rs. 5,72,887 crores in 1999-2000 at current prices. The outstanding credit to SSI sector to Public Sector Banks, Private Sector Banks and Foreign Banks has increased considerably from Rs. 29,152 crores at the end of March 1995 to Rs. 55,973 crores at the end of March 2000.

(c) and (d) Government has taken a number of steps to improve the credit flow to SSI sector with a view to strengthen the SSI sector which inter-alia include simplified procedure for sanction of working capital loan upto Rs. 5 crores based on normative requirement of 20% of the annual projected turnover of the units, dispensing with collateral for loans upto Rs. 5 lakhs, formulation of Credit Guarantee Scheme, enhancement of Composite Loan limit to Rs. 25 lakhs, enhancement of limit of project cost upto Rs. 50 lakhs under the National Equity Fund Scheme.

[*English*]

#### **In-Situ Promotion**

1640. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have appointed any committee to look into the structure of CSS and make recommendations for re-structuring it keeping in view of upgradation of equal number of posts of Assistants to that of Section Officers as has been done for the grade of Under Secretaries/Deputy Secretaries on in-situ basis and remedial measures to remove stagnation among Upper Division Clerks;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the recommendations of the committee are likely to be implemented?

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

INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government have set up a Committee of senior officers to look into the cadre structure of CSS as well as the problem of stagnation in various grades of the service including Assistants. However, there is no proposal to upgrade equal number of posts of Assistants to the level of Section Officer on in-situ basis as they are not similarly placed and the Assured Career Progression (ACP) Scheme has already been introduced in August, 1999.

As regards Upper Division Clerks, it may be stated that they are not part of CSS, rather they belong to Central Secretariat Clerical Service (CSCS) and they are also eligible for benefits under the provisions of ACP Scheme.

(c) No time frame can be stipulated at this stage.

[*Translation*]

#### **Fisheries in Jammu and Kashmir**

1641. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal relating to fisheries in Jammu and Kashmir is pending with Union Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the efforts being made by the Government to accord expeditious approval to the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (c) An outline project proposal for trout farming received from Jammu & Kashmir seeking French assistance through supply of equipments technology transfer and training of official etc. submitted by the Government of Jammu & Kashmir has been posed to the French side for their consideration. The matter is pending with French side.

#### **PM Overseas Visits**

1642. SHRI RAMSHAKAL:  
SHRI T. GOVINDAN:  
SHRI JAI PRAKASH:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the bilateral and multilateral issues discussed by our Prime Minister during his recent overseas tours; and

(b) the agreement signed on the occasion including the terms of agreements?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) Sir, the Prime Minister visited Vietnam from January 7-10, 2001 and Indonesia from January 10-13, 2001.

In Vietnam, among bilateral issues, PM discussed (i) Trade and Investment (ii) Peaceful uses of nuclear energy, (iii) Defence and (iv) Culture & Education, while under Multilateral issues these included: (i) UNSC membership, (ii) Indo-ASEAN summit (iii) Mekong-Ganga Cooperation and (iv) WTO.

In Indonesia, cooperation in (a) Agriculture, (b) Science & Technology, (c) Information Technology (d) Space, (e) Oil and Natural Gas, (f) Infrastructure, (g) Joint hydrographic survey at the Bengala Strait, (h) Fishing and (i) Oceanography was discussed. PM briefed the Indonesian President on our initiatives in Jammu & Kashmir. Both leaders condemned fundamentalism and terrorism.

(b) The Agreements signed with Vietnam are (i) Agreement on Tourism Cooperation (ii) Protocol extending the Cultural Exchange Programme for 2001, 2002 and 2003, (iii) MoU on Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy for the period 2001-2002.

The Agreements signed with Indonesia are (i) Agreement on Cooperative Activities in the field of Defence, (ii) MoU on the establishment of a Joint Commission on Economic, Trade and Technical Cooperation, (iii) MoU in the Fields of Science & Technology for the period 2001-2003, (iv) Work Plan under MoU for Cooperation in the field of Agriculture, (v) Cultural Exchange Programme for the years 2001, 2002 and 2003.

In addition, some business-to-business agreement (three in Vietnam and five in Indonesia) were also signed.

#### **Funds for Promoting Dairying**

1643. SHRI BHAL CHANDRA YADAV: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise details of the total allocation made by the Government to promote dairying at the rural level; and

(b) the State-wise details of the total funds proposed to be provided by the Union Government in the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) The Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Integrated Dairy Development Project (IDDP) in Non-Operation Flood, Hilly and Backward Areas" for the promotion of dairying in the rural areas is demand driven, therefore, there is no allocation of funds State-wise. A statement indicating State-wise details of projects, so far, approved and funds released during the current financial year, up to 28.2.2001 is given in the statement attached.

#### **Statement**

*Integrated Dairy Development Projects approved in different States/UTs along with Year of approval, approved outlays and funds released during 2000-2001.*

All Amounts in Rs. Lakh				
Sl. No.	State	Year of the sanction	Approved Outlays Amount	Amount released 2000-01 upto 28.02.2001
1	2	3	4	5
1.	A&N Islands	1995-96	239.41	45.90
2.	Andhra-I	1995-96	447.32	
	Andhra-II	15.11.2000	934.28	191.49
3.	Arunachal	1993-94	458.50	
4.	Assam	1994-95	1260.76	
5.	Bihar-I	1994-95	158.61	
	Bihar-II	1995-96	729.00	
	Bihar-III (Kaimur)	1997-98	67.25	
	Bihar-IV			
	(Madhuban)	1997-98	66.30	
	Bihar-V			
	(Nalanda)	15.11.2000	447.73	82.89
6.	Gujarat	1993-94	679.95	
7.	Haryana	1995-96	203.75	
8.	Himachal Pradesh	1997-98	805.95	100.00
9.	J&K-Jammu	1995-96	635.12	
	J&K-Kashmir	1995-96	608.17	

1	2	3	4	5
10.	M.P. I,II&III	1993-94	781.06	200.00
	M.P. IV	1995-96	599.85	
11.	Maharashtra-I	1995-96	1985.24	
	Maharashtra-II	1997-98	1941.55	645.49
12.	Manipur	1993-94	224.10	
13.	Meghalaya-I	1994-95	141.29	
	Meghalaya-II	15.11.2000	472.52	143.92
14.	Mizoram-I	1993-94	367.99	
	Mizoram-II	1995-96	349.19	
15.	Nagaland-I	1993-94	668.22	
	Nagaland-II	1998-99	347.49	62.27
16.	Orissa-I	1993-94	631.00	
	Orissa-II	1994-95	443.21	
	Orissa-III	1998-99	621.84	143.83
17.	Sikkim-I&II	1993-94	678.47	
18.	Tamilnadu	1995-96	336.63	
19.	Tripura-I	1993-94	304.90	
	Tripura-II	1994-95	319.51	
20.	U.P.-I,II&III	1993-94	1242.89	
	U.P.-IV	15.11.2000	758.44	186.30
21.	West Bengal-I	1994-95	498.88	
	West Bengal-II	1998-99	140.83	
Total			21597.20	1802.09

[English]

**Indigenous Breeds**

1644. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain indigenous breeds are facing extinction;

(b) if so, details thereof; and

(c) the measures taken/proposed to be taken to conserve these breeds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) Breed census is not conducted under quinquennial Livestock Census. Therefore, it is not possible to make any statement on the breeds facing extinction. However, reported decline in number of a few indigenous breeds has been mentioned by various agencies from time to time.

It is to be appreciated that extinction of breeds is a global phenomenon because of rapid changes in conditions across the world. Rising demand for Livestock Products in the fast growing human population in the country cannot be met by exclusively following selective breeding of indigenous breeds. Except in case of poultry, the population of indigenous animals outnumber the cross breed stock among all livestock species. The policy of the Government has been to insist on having a balanced approach with adequate attention to conservation of useful breeds.

(c) A National Bureau of Animal Genetic Resources is functioning under ICAR. A National Project for Cattle and Buffalo Breeding has recently been approved by the Government which has focus on indigenous breeds of cattle. The scheme will insist on formulation of a breeding policy by the States which will pay due consideration to conservation of indigenous cattle and buffalo breeds. There are a number of centrally sponsored schemes to support efforts of the State Government towards conservation of other livestock species and breeds. Action towards formulation of a National Livestock Policy in line with the recently announced National Agricultural Policy has also been initiated.

**Computer Information Centres**

1645. SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH:  
SHRI M.K. SUBBA:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have prepared a scheme for setting up of computer information centres in all the 447 blocks in the seven North Eastern States and 40 blocks in Sikkim;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the timeframe for its implementation; and

(c) the present status thereof and steps taken in pursuance thereof so far?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Information Technology is implementing a scheme for setting up Community information Centres (CICs) at all the block headquarters in the North East States & Sikkim. The Scheme envisages providing Internet Connectivity through a Very Small Aperture Terminal (VSAT) link with, one server with five clients printer, at each CIC.

The Central Government is meeting the expenditure on this project including expenditure on operations and manpower for the first five years. The Project is to be implemented by March 2002.

A pilot project for setting up 30 such centres has been implemented through National Informatics Centre Services Incorporated (NICS).

The funds earmarked for improvement of IT network in NER are to be utilised for completing the project.

#### **Super Cyclone in Orissa**

1646. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO:  
DR. PRASANNA KUMAR PATASANI:  
SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of loss of lives due to the Super Cyclone that hit Orissa in October, 1999;

(b) the estimated loss of property in respect to Houses, standing crops, live stocks, road communication and other types of losses;

(c) the requirement of funds asked for by the State Government for rehabilitation and reconstruction in the cyclone affected areas;

(d) the amount of assistance provided by the Central Government so far under different Heads other than normal grant;

(e) the extent of expenditure incurred by the Government of Orissa so far out of the total Central assistance provided for the State Government for the purpose;

(f) the other proposals submitted by the State Government to the Centre for reconstruction and rehabilitation in the cyclone hit area including that of waiving/deferment of loans by the Union Government; and

(g) the response of the Union Government to the request of State Government so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) and (b) As per reports received from the Government of Orissa, about 9900 human lives were lost and 4.5 lakh livestock perished. Also damage was caused to about 18.28 lakh houses and cropped area in 18.86 lakh ha.

(c) and (d) The State Government had demanded additional Central assistance of Rs. 6227.59 crore in the wake of the Super cyclone Assistance of Rs. 828.15 crore was released from the National Fund for Calamity Relief (NFCR) in the wake of floods and the cyclones.

(e) The State Government has not reported details of expenditure incurred.

(f) and (g) It is primarily the responsibility of the State Government to provide relief to the affected people in the wake of natural calamities. The Central Government also supplements the efforts of the State by way of logistic and financial support. In the wake of super cyclone, the relief material was exempted from excise duty and Banks were advised for rescheduling of loans, additional loans including consumption loan etc.

#### **Untouchability**

1647. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether representations have been received during 2000 by the Government from All India Dr. Ambedkar SCs/STs Welfare Association/Federation stating that a sample survey on untouchability (SC-ST people) was conducted in 1155 villages throughout India in which it was observed that in 613 villages these people are denied access to public well and in 821 villages they are denied access to public temples; and

(b) if so, the other points raised by the Federation and action taken by the Government on each of them, till date?

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

(b) (i) A copy of the representation has been forwarded to the States/UTs and Central Ministries concerned for appropriate action.

So far as abolition of Untouchability is concerned, under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme implemented by the Ministry Central assistance is provided to the State Governments on 50:50 basis and to Union Territory Administrations on 100% basis for implementation of the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 and Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 for taking measures which include provision of legal aid appointment of officers for initiating or exercising supervision over prosecution setting up of Committees and Special Courts, conducting periodic surveys and identification of untouchability prone areas and relief and rehabilitation measures for the victims and/or their dependents.

The State Governments where pendency of cases is high, have been requested to establish exclusive Special Courts for expeditious disposal of cases registered.

The implementation of these Acts is being reviewed in meeting of the State Secretaries of Scheduled Castes Development and Social Welfare Department and the State Secretaries have been requested to take necessary action for implementation of the Acts. Further the Chief Secretaries of States/UTs have been requested by the Secretary, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment for ensuring effective implementation of provisions of these Acts and policies as also the delivery of services and justice to the victims and target group. The matter has also been taken up by the Minister of State for Social Justice & Empowerment with the Chief Ministers of all States/UTs.

- (ii) As regards other issues concerning Ministries of Social Justice & Empowerment, revision of rates of Post Matric Scholarship for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes students has been processed. In order to effectively implement the scheme of Liberation and Rehabilitation of Scavengers, the Ministry has taken up setting up of Sanitary Marts with the concerned State Governments which would be operated by Groups of scavengers. Dr. Ambedkar Foundation, is taking steps to acquire land for the construction of Dr. Ambedkar Memorial.

### Loss Due to Natural Calamities

1648. COL. (RETD.) DR. DHANI RAM SHANDIL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have made an assessment of damage/loss caused in each of the districts of Himachal Pradesh due to natural calamities, heavy rains, landslide and floods during the current financial year;

(b) if so, the details of estimated loss of crops, human lives, houses and cattle in that State, district-wise;

(c) the details of the financial assistance sought by the State and provided by the Government, so far, to provide relief to the affected families; and

(d) the details of short and long term measures being implemented/proposed to be formulated to deal with such situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) and (b) The State Government of Himachal Pradesh had sent a memorandum seeking financial assistance in the wake of flash floods which occurred in the State between the night of July 31st, 2000 and August 1st, 2000. As per the details furnished by the State Government, the estimated loss in 12 districts of the State due to loss of crops was Rs. 55.34 crores, loss of human lives was 177, cattles lost were 1673 and the value of damage to houses was Rs. 15.81 crores approximately. A Central Team visited the affected areas to make an assessment of the situation during August 7-9, 2000.

(c) The State Government sought an assistance of Rs. 500.00 crores from the Central Government. The memorandum submitted by the Government of Himachal Pradesh was considered in accordance with the established procedure and an assistance of Rs. 8.29 crores was approved and released from National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) in February, 2001. This assistance was in addition to the release of Centre's share of CRF amounting to Rs. 32.61 crores to the State for the year 2000-2001.

(d) Under the existing system of financing relief expenditure, the State Governments are primarily concerned with relief and rehabilitation measures in the wake of natural calamities including floods. The Central Government supplements the efforts of the State Governments by providing financial assistance from Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) and National Calamity

Contingency Fund (NCCF) in accordance with the recommendations of the Finance Commissions appointed from time to time, the latest being Eleventh Finance Commission (EFC). In addition, Plan Schemes of various Central Ministries/Departments of the Government of India and the State itself are operated. Government of India has constituted a High Powered Committee to inter-alia review existing arrangements for preparedness and mitigation of natural and man-made disasters and recommend measures for strengthening organisational structures and also recommend a comprehensive model plan for management of these disasters at the National, States and Districts level. Besides, a 37 member National Committee on disaster management has been constituted under the chairmanship of Prime Minister to look into various aspects of natural disasters.

#### **Project Directorate on Biological Control**

1649. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Project Directorate on Biological Control for pests and insects has been set up, as reported in 'Economic Times' of August 28, 1999;

(b) if so, the allocation funds made and targets fixed for the next three years for each crop, oil seeds, cotton, fodder;

(c) the details of incentives given to farmers during the last two years;

(d) whether the use of cow urine with Nee, Karanj, Custard apple etc. is being promoted in association with NGOs;

(e) if so the details thereof;

(f) whether organic farming also reduce drastically incidence of pest/disease; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) Yes, Sir. The Project Directorate of Biological Control was established on 19.10.1993 at Bangalore.

(b) The allocation of funds to PDBC made during IX Plan are Rs. 582.88 Lakhs. An area of 5 to 40 hectare has been earmarked in a number of States to demonstrate the use of biocontrol agents in the Integrated Pest Management Technology for cotton, sugarcane, rice,

tobacco, pulses, coconut fruits, vegetables, potato etc. (Statement)

(c) Several large scale field demonstration have been carried out in farmers' fields to promote the use of bio-control agents where the biological agents are provided free of cost.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. Use of cow urine as pesticide has shown some promise against few insect pests. However, there is no report where cow urine has been used with Neem, Karanj, Custard apple etc. Pesticidal property of Neem, Karanj and Custard Apple has been explored. Of these, Neem has shown promise against a number of insects, nematodes and fungi. The use of neem is being promoted as alternative to synthetic pesticides and the findings are given to NGOs for large scale use against crop pests.

(f) and (g) Organic farming in which farm yard manure, organic waste, sewage sludge, press mud and fungal or bacterial bio-control agents are used has the potential to reduce the incidence of nematode pests. However, these techniques often do not give drastic reduction in case of very high nematode population densities.

#### **Statement**

##### *Targeted ongoing demonstrations in the farmer's field.*

Year	Crop	State	Area covered (ha)
1998-1999	Cotton	Gujarat	5
		Tamilnadu	5
1999-2000 &	Sugarcane	Punjab	20
		Maharashtra	40
2000-2001	Rice	Punjab	5
		Maharashtra	5
		Tamilnadu	5
	Tobacco	Andhra Pradesh	5
	Pulses	Uttar Pradesh	10
	Coconut	Kerala	5

#### **Family Welfare Programme**

1650. MOHD. ANWARUL HAQUE:  
SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH:

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

(a) whether the scheme under the Family Welfare linked Health Insurance Plan has been finalized;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the time by which it is likely to be finalized; and

(d) the amount proposed to be set up for this scheme for the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) The details of Family Welfare linked Health Insurance Plan, as envisaged in National Population Policy, as one of the promotional and motivational measures are being worked out. It is likely to be finalised in the next financial year.

(d) Necessary funds will be allocated once the scheme is finalised.

#### **Use of Animals In Experimentation**

1651. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether institutes manufacturing Anti-Snake Venom Serum (ASVS) are flouting basic ethics in animal experimentation and number of horses are being brutally killed by them for the manufacture of ASVS for the last two years;

(b) if so, the details of guidelines/rules fixed by WHO for the manufacture of ASVS;

(c) the details of action taken against institutions for not following the guidelines/rules fixed by WHO for the manufacture of ASVS;

(d) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Hafkine 'bled 84 horses to death' for serum" appearing in the 'Indian Express' dated December 14, 2000; and

(e) if so, action taken to check brutality on animals?

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

(b) The WHO guidelines for the production of ASVS state that only health equines in the age group of 5-8

years can be used. Healthy horses should have a haemoglobin content of 14-18% and horses (average weight of 450-500 kg) can be bled 5-8 litres every month when the Packed Cell volume is 35-40%. Sterile conditions are mandatory for both blood collection and storage.

(c) The CPCSEA has been viewing both the non adherence of a production of ASVS seriously. The institutes have been instructed to rigidly comply to all legal and scientific norms. Old, blind, sick and lame animals have been asked to be given veterinary assistance and possibly rehabilitated in coordination with the CPCSEA. The status of animal houses have been asked to be improved for better hygiene and animals to be given better nutrition.

In the case of King Institute of Preventive Medicine, Chennai the State Govt. has suspended the ASVS production at KIPM since November, 2000. Govt. of Maharashtra, has also sanctioned Rs. 58 lakhs to renovate the stables at HBPCCL Pune.

CPCSEA sub-committees are examining the application of registration of these two institutes. Other institutes are also being examined by CPCSEA.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The Government has initiated necessary action.

The CPCSEA has been playing a constructive role in not only providing these institutes with the necessary scientific information including the introduction of plasmapheresis in the production of ASVS, it has also helped in the veterinary care of these animals by providing but veterinary personnel and medicines and also in the rehabilitation of the old and dying horses.

#### **Medical Services by AIIMS/Safdarjung Hospital**

1652. SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that there is a decline in the medical services rendered by AIIMS and this premier Institute is sending their patients to the nearby Safdarjung hospital;

(b) whether Safdarjung hospital are not fully equipped to accommodate all the indoor patients and they are forced to accommodate 2-3 patients on a single bed, while others are settled down on the floor;



(c) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to equip the Sardarjung Hospital to deal with the situation; and

(d) the action taken/proposed to be taken against the officials of AIIMS for refusal to render medical assistance to all the indoor patients who report to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) The medical services being rendered by All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi, is comparable to international standards of medical services. The Out Patient and Casualty attendance of patients in AIIMS has more than doubled in the last ten years with physical facilities having remained the same. In case of non-availability of beds, the patients arriving in the Casualty OPD of AIIMS are referred to the nearby Safdarjung Hospital after stabilisation of their condition.

(b) and (c) The Safdarjung Hospital attends to all patients who come for treatment. However, due to heavy rush in some departments it becomes necessary some times to accommodate two patients in single bed and occasionally on the floor. The Government has been equipping the hospital to the best possible within the constraints of space and finance to see that all patients coming to the hospital are provided treatment.

(d) Adequate attention is given to all patients admitted in various wards in AIIMS and patients reporting to the General OPD including the Casualty Out Patient Department.

#### **Implementation of Anti Poverty Programme**

1653. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that effectiveness of anti-poverty programmes/schemes have not been upto the mark;

(b) if so, whether these schemes are being implemented needs to be reviewed;

(c) whether it is a view expressed in certain quarters that M.Ps should be involved in implementation of these programmes; and

(d) the Government response on these points and demands thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE

IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) and (b) The Mid Term Appraisal of the Ninth Five Year Plan has reviewed the major anti-poverty programmes and has drawn attention to the steps that need to be taken to improve the schemes. To improve the efficacy/impact of the programmes on the poor the major rural poverty alleviation programmes have been recently restructured w.e.f. 1999-2000 and a new rationalized urban poverty alleviation programme was also launched in December, 1997. A review of these restructured programmes would form part of the Tenth Plan exercise.

(c) and (d) In the case of poverty alleviation programmes being implemented in rural areas, the Members of Parliament (MPs) are the Members of District Rural Development Agency (DRDA)'s governing body which provides guidance and direction to DRDAs in the implementation of the Rural Development Programmes. The MPs are also ex-officio Members of the Zilla Parishads. The MPs in their capacity as Members of Zilla Parishads are closely involved in the task of monitoring the implementation of poverty alleviation programmes being implemented in their districts. Further, the role of MPs has been specifically outlined in the guidelines of the Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) - The scheme will be implemented through the Zilla Parishads and selection of works is decided after due consultation with the MP of that area. However, in the absence of Zilla Parishad, a committee comprising of MLAs, MPs and other public representatives would be constituted for the selection of works. All States have been advised to set up Vigilance and Monitoring Committees at State/District and Block levels with representation from MPs/MLAs etc. The Hon'ble Prime Minister met the leaders of the Parties in Parliament to discuss the issue of management of anti-poverty programmes and the involvement of MPs in the implementation of these programmes on 8th December, 2000. In this context it was agreed that Minister of Rural Development would continue the dialogue with MPs, if necessary.

#### **Liberalisation of Visa Norms Between India and Bangladesh**

1654. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Visa norms between India and Bangladesh have been liberalised; and

(b) if so, the salient features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) A comprehensive review of the visa arrangements between India and Bangladesh is underway with a view to further facilitating travel between the two countries.

#### **Establishment of RPO in Nagaland**

1655. SHRI K.A. SANGTAM: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to open a Regional Passport Office in Dimapur (Nagaland);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) As per the recommendations of the Standing Committee of Parliament, a new Passport Office should be centrally located, should consider the existing nearby offices and should get an average of 50,000 applications per annum over a period of 3 years. The number of passport applications received from Nagaland is about 800 per annum which does not meet the criterion for opening of Passport Office in the State.

#### **Gram Crop Destroyed Due to Scarcity of Water**

1656. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the standing crop of Gram has been destroyed in Rajasthan due to scarcity of water;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether the Government are considering to provide compensation and financial assistance to the affected farmers;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) and (b) The Government of Rajasthan has informed that 89.47 lakh ha. cropped area in the State has been affected due to the prevailing drought conditions, including area under Gram.

(c) to (e) Entire Central share of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) for 2000-01 and 25% advance of Central share of CRF for 2001-02 have been released to Rajasthan. In addition, Rs. 85 crore has been provided from the National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) in the wake of drought. 1 lakh MT foodgrains have been allotted for Food for Work Programme, free of cost, besides feed-grade foodgrains as cattle feed. The National Agricultural Insurance Scheme provides insurance coverage and financial support to the farmers in the event of failure of any of the notified crop as a result of natural calamities. Distribution of relief at the ground level is the responsibility of the State Government.

#### **Cooperative Banks**

1657. SHRI B.K. PARTHASARATHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any steps to ensure that the Cooperative Banks are given preference in Financing National Consortiums such as food credit consortiums etc.; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) and (b) No such steps are required to be taken by the Government for ensuring that the Cooperative Banks are given preference in financing National Consortiums such as food credit consortiums etc. as the Cooperative Banks are already members of various Credit Consortiums including National Consortiums, for financing food procurement operations which are finalized each year by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). Based on the surplus funds available with Cooperative Banks, NABARD makes recommendations for their participation in the Credit Consortium to RBI.

#### **Drip Irrigation System**

1658. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any target has been fixed and financial assistance provided to Maharashtra for setting up of drip irrigation system during 2000-2001;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the State Government has sent any proposal to the Union Government to provide additional assistance for the purpose in the State; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) and (b) A target of 1400 ha has been fixed for drip irrigation during the year 2000-01 under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme in Development of Horticulture through Plasticulture interventions. The outlay provided for Maharashtra under the Scheme is Rs. 309.03 lakhs. The scheme was amalgamated during 2000-01 under the Central Sponsored Scheme on Macro Management in Agriculture - Supplementation/Complementation of States' Efforts through Work Plans. A target of 4104 ha has been fixed for drip irrigation in the Work Plan of Maharashtra during 2000-01.

(c) and (d) The State Government requested to provide at least Rs. 100 crore per year for drip irrigation. However based on the budgetary allocations under the Scheme and their performance, the State Government of Maharashtra was provided an assistance of Rs. 8655.11 lakhs during the first four years of the Ninth Plan under the Plasticulture Scheme as per the following details:

Year	Amount Released (Lakh Rs.)
1997-98	2447.00
1998-99	3194.13
1999-2000	2704.75
2000-01	309.23

Since the Scheme got amalgamated under the Macro Management Scheme, the State Government was informed to provide adequate funds for drip irrigation in their Work Plan.

#### **Encouragement to Organic Farming**

1659. SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government intend to encourage organic farming in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons for the failure in organic farming methods in the country;

(c) the steps the Government propose to take to popularise this type of farming; and

(d) the manner in which the Government intend to encourage the private entrepreneurs in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) With the introduction of high yielding varieties of crops requiring high amounts of nutrients, use of chemical fertilizers has been increasing in the country with resultant increase in the crop production. The use of organic source of plant nutrients such as those through compost, manures, green manures, etc have been proportionately reducing but there has not been failure of organic farming methods as such.

To ensure the supply of required amounts of plant nutrients, Government encouraged the integrated nutrient and pest management system which envisages optimum use of chemical forms of plant nutrients and pest control measures coupled with the use of organic source of nutrients and biological and mechanical pest control measures.

As per the National Agriculture Policy, Government proposes to encourage balanced and optimum use of fertilizers together with the use of organic manures and biofertilizers to optimise the efficiency of nutrient use.

Government has also set up a Task Force on Organic Farming which will collect information on organic farming practices, make an assessment about propagation of appropriate technology of organic farming, suggest short term, mid-term and long term measures for development and propagation of organic farming including measures required for marketing of organic farming produce and standards about organic farming.

(d) Government is encouraging production of Biofertiliser, an Organic source of nutrient through private entrepreneurs also. Promotion of Vermi-Compost/Compost from urban biodegradable waste is being encouraged through State action plan under macro management mode of implementing schemes.

#### **Annual Plan Outlay**

1660. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the Annual Plan outlay sanctioned for Assam and other North-Eastern States for 1998-99, 1999-2000 and the current year;

(b) the plan-expenditure incurred in Assam and other respective States each year;

(c) the annual growth rates contemplated under the plans and actually achieved each year; and

(d) the Annual Plan out-lay proposed and sanctioned for 2000-2001, if any?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE

IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a), (b) and (d) Annual Plan Agreed Outlay and Expenditure for Assam and other North-Eastern States for 1998-99, 1999-2000 and the current year is given in the following table:-

(Rs. crore)

Annual Plan (1998-2001) Agreed Outlay - N.E. Region

Sl. No.	State	Annual Plan Agreed Outlay and Expenditure				
		1998-99		1999-00		2000-01
		Outlay	Exp.	Outlay	Exp.	Outlay
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	625.00	483.02	665.00	468.00	640.00
		1650.00	1293.6	1750.00	1404.60	1520.00
2.	Assam	425.00	7	475.00	452.61	451.00
3.	Manipur	400.00	388.55	465.00	343.28	480.00*
4.	Meghalaya	333.00	299.38	360.00	378.02	401.26
5.	Mizoram	300.00	275.66	315.00	306.16	326.00
6.	Nagaland	440.00	245.97	475.00	452.50	485.00
7.	Tripura	237.00	392.24	250.00	193.25	250.00
8.	Sikkim		216.85			

\* Core Annual Plan for 2000-01. The size of the Plan being Rs. 517.00 crore. Difference in Core and the size of the Plan to be met by the State Government through additional resource mobilization.

(c) Annual growth rates in respect of States are not normally contemplated. However, the annual growth rates in terms of the Net State Domestic Product at current prices (new series) as shown in the Economic Survey, 2000-2001 are as follows:-

Name of State	1998-99 (Q)	1999-2000 (A)
1	2	3
1. Arunachal Pradesh	10.15	N.A.
2. Assam	8.40	N.A.
3. Manipur	8.23	N.A.

	1	2	3
4. Meghalaya		10.89	10.10
5. Mizoram		N.A.	N.A.
6. Nagaland		N.A.	N.A.
7. Sikkim		N.A.	N.A.
8. Tripura		6.24	6.32

Q - Quick Estimates

A - Advanced Estimates

N.A. - Not made available by the concerned State Government.

**Agitation by CSS**

1661. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Secretariat staff are agitating for long for proper status in service;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have received memorandum from the associations and letters from the MP's in this regard;

(d) if so, details thereof; and

(e) the measures being taken/proposed to be taken to redress their grievances?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. This Department has received large number of references from Hon'ble Members of Parliament and a large number of memoranda from CSS Forum and other associations (s) broadly raising major demands as given in the annexed statement.

(e) All these issues have been considered by the Government. Some of the demands were also considered by the Fifth Central Pay Commission and were not recommended in the report. Further, Government has decided to set up a Committee of Senior officers to look into the cadre structure of Central Secretariat Service.

**Statement****List of Demands**

(i) Upgradation of pay scales of Section Officers and Assistants to Rs. 8000-13500 and Rs. 6500-10500 respectively;

(ii) In-situ promotion to all eligible Assistants, Section Officers, Under Secretaries and Deputy Secretaries while restoring Assistants' eligibility to three years as stipulated

in the general instructions of Establishment Wing of DOP&T;

(iii) In order to regularise the in-situ Under Secretaries/Deputy Secretaries all the General Central Services (GCS) posts equivalent to the Under Secretary/Deputy Secretary grade in different Ministries be encadred with CSS.

(iv) 320 posts [@ 40 per year] which were filled by other services for want of regular panel in Deputy Secretary grade should be given to CSS at the rate of 80 posts per year instead of 40 for outstanding panels from 1993-2000;

(v) The cadre review of CSS, which has not been done for the last 40 years, be done immediately and for this purpose a CSS officer of the rank of Additional Secretary be posted;

(vi) The Open Pass facility be restored to the Assistants immediately;

(vii) The posts of Deputy Secretary/Director should be filled up only by CSS officers;

(viii) Specific number of posts in the grade of Joint Secretary and above should be earmarked for proper representation of CSS in this cadre. In this regard, the three years eligibility for promotion for the CSS officers be restored;

(ix) Time bound issue of panel/time bound holding of DPC be ensured in different grades;

(x) A non-functional selection grade on the pattern of Group 'A' services be introduced in CSS;

(xi) Section Officers and Assistants be redesigned as Assistant Secretary and Examining Officer/Processing Officer respectively.

**Rural Below Poverty Line**

1662. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of rural population living below poverty line at present in Gujarat;

(b) the comparative figure of such population to other States as well as nation as a whole; and

(c) the steps being taken or proposed to be taken to reduce the percentage of poverty in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) The Planning Commission estimates percentage of persons living below the poverty line at national and state level from the large sample surveys on consumer expenditure conducted by the National Sample Survey (NSS) Organisation. The last such survey was conducted in the 55th Round of the NSS covering the period July 1999 to June 2000. On the basis of the 30-day recall tabulation in the Key Results of the 55th Round large sample survey of Household Consumer Expenditure in India carried out by the National Sample Survey Organisation, the percentage of rural population living below the poverty line in Gujarat in 1999-2000 is estimated as 13.17%.

(b) The comparative estimates of poverty for other States and at national level are given in the Statement.

(c) There is a three-pronged action to alleviate and reduce the poverty in the country. These are: (1) acceleration of economic growth, (ii) human, and social development through literacy, education, health, nutrition, meeting of the minimum needs, elevation of social and economic status of the weaker sections of the society, etc., and (iii) direct attack on poverty through employment and income generating programmes and assets-building for the poor.

The increase in income of the people living below the poverty line occur from the joint impact of general growth process and direct income generation of the poor arising from various anti-poverty programmes introduced from time to time by the Government for their upliftment. Since the Sixth Five Year Plan (1980-85), the Government has been implementing employment and asset generation schemes for the upliftment of the people living below the poverty line. These schemes are mainly of two types, self-employment and wage employment. Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) has been the major self-employment programme and it has been in operation in all the blocks of the country since 1980. The wage

employment programme initially was National Rural Employment Programme (NREP) during the Sixth Plan period. In the Seventh Plan, another wage employment programme under the name Rural Labour Employment Guarantee Programme (RLEGP) was introduced. Then in 1989, Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY) was launched by merging the National Rural Employment Programme and the Rural Labour Employment Guarantee Programme, and it became the main wage-employment programme. In addition, several programmes to help the poor were also in operation until March, 1999. These programmes are: Million Wells Scheme (MWS), Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS), Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA), Training of Rural Youth for Self-Employment (TRYSEM), Supply of Improved Toolkits to Rural Artisans (SITRA).

From 1st April, 1999, these programmes, excepting EAS and JRY have been restructured into single self-employment programme called the Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) with the primary objectives of focussed approach to poverty alleviation, capitalising advantages of group lending, and overcoming the problems associated with multiplicity of programmes. Also, from 1st April, 1999, Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY) has been restructured as Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana (JGSY) with the primary objective of creation of demand driven community village infrastructure including durable assets at the village level and assets to enable the rural poor to increase the opportunities for sustained employment. Its secondary objective is generation of supplementary employment for the unemployed poor in the rural areas. The wage employment under the programme is given to Below Poverty Lines (BPL) families.

From 1.12.1997, Swarna Jayanti Sahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) is the main poverty alleviation programme in the urban areas. The SJSRY, which has subsumed all the earlier three urban poverty alleviation programmes, viz., Nehru Rozgar Yojana (NRY), Urban Basic Services for the Poor (UBSP), Prime Minister's Integrated Urban Poverty Eradication Programme (PMIUPEP), seeks to provide gainful employment to unemployed or underemployed urban and educated up to IX standard for setting up self employment ventures or provision of wage employment. This implementation of SJSRY is relying on suitable community structures on the UBSP pattern and delivery of inputs under this programme is through the medium of Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) and such community structure.

**Statement***Number and Percentage of Population Below Poverty Line*

S. No.	States/U.T.'s	By States-1999-2000		(30-day Recall period)			
		Rural No. of Persons (Lakhs)	% of Persons	Urban No. of Persons (Lakhs)	% of No. of Persons	Combined Persons (Lakhs)	% of No. of Persons
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	58.13	11.05	60.88	26.63	119.01	15.77
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	3.80	40.04	0.18	7.47	3.98	33.47
3.	Assam	92.17	40.04	2.38	7.47	94.55	36.09
4.	Bihar	376.51	44.30	49.13	32.91	425.64	42.60
5.	Goa	0.11	1.35	0.59	7.52	0.70	4.40
6.	Gujarat	39.80	13.17	28.09	15.59	67.89	14.07
7.	Haryana	11.94	8.27	5.39	9.99	17.34	8.74
8.	Himachal Pradesh	4.84	7.94	0.29	4.63	5.12	7.63
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	2.97	3.97	0.49	1.98	3.46	3.48
10.	Karnataka	59.91	17.38	44.49	25.25	104.40	20.04
11.	Kerala	20.97	9.38	20.07	20.27	41.04	12.72
12.	Madhya Pradesh	217.32	37.06	81.22	38.44	298.54	37.43
13.	Maharashtra	125.12	23.72	102.87	26.81	227.99	25.02
14.	Manipur	6.53	40.04	0.66	7.47	7.19	28.54
15.	Meghalaya	7.89	40.04	0.34	7.47	8.23	33.87
16.	Mizoram	1.40	40.04	0.45	7.47	1.85	19.47
17.	Nagaland	5.21	40.04	0.28	7.47	5.49	32.67
18.	Orissa	143.69	48.01	25.40	42.83	169.09	47.15
19.	Punjab	10.20	6.35	4.29	5.75	14.49	6.16
20.	Rajasthan	55.06	13.74	26.78	19.85	81.83	15.28
21.	Sikkim	2.00	40.04	0.04	7.47	2.05	36.55
22.	Tamilnadu	80.51	20.55	49.97	22.11	130.48	21.12
23.	Tripura	12.53	40.04	0.49	7.47	13.02	34.44
24.	Uttar Pradesh	412.01	31.22	117.88	30.89	529.89	31.15
25.	West Bengal	180.11	31.85	33.38	14.86	213.49	27.02
26.	A & N Island	0.58	20.55	0.24	22.11	0.82	20.99

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
27. Chandigarh		0.06	5.75	0.45	5.75	0.51	5.75
28. Dadra & Nagar Haveli		0.30	17.57	0.03	13.52	0.33	17.14
29. Daman & Diu		0.01	1.35	0.05	7.52	0.06	4.44
30. Delhi		0.07	0.40	11.42	9.42	11.49	8.23
31. Lakshadweep		0.03	9.38	0.08	20.27	0.11	15.60
32. Pondicherry		0.64	20.55	1.77	22.11	2.41	21.67
All India		1932.43	27.09	670.07	23.62	2602.50	26.10

**Notes:**

1. Poverty Ratio of Assam is used for Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Manipur, Nagaland, and Tripura.
2. Poverty Line of Maharashtra and expenditure distribution of Goa is used to estimate poverty ratio of Goa.
3. Poverty Line of Himachal Pradesh and expenditure distribution of Jammu & Kashmir is used to estimate poverty ratio of Jammu & Kashmir.
4. Poverty Ratio of Tamil Nadu is used for Pondicherry and A & N Island.
5. Urban Poverty Ratio of Punjab used for both rural and urban poverty of Chandigarh.
6. Poverty Line of Maharashtra and expenditure distribution of Dadra & Nagar Haveli is used to estimate poverty ratio of Dadra & Nagar Haveli.
7. Poverty Ratio of Goa is used for Daman & Diu.
8. Poverty Ratio of Kerala is used for Lakshadweep.
9. Urban Poverty Ratio of Rajasthan may be treated as tentative.

**Escalation of Projects**

1663. SHRI ANANT GUDHE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of ongoing major projects under construction at present in Maharashtra;

(b) the number of these projects out of those lagging behind the original/revised schedule and extent of time and cost escalation project wise as a result of non-completion of these projects within the stipulated time;

(c) the details of proposals received from the State Government and action taken thereon; and

(d) the details of action plan proposed to provide accelerated funding by the Union Government to check further escalation in cost of these ongoing major project and ensure their completion on priority basis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME

IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) and (b) As on 31.12.2000, 75 Central Sector major projects costing Rs. 100 crores and above are under implementation in the State of Maharashtra. Of these, 32 projects are lagging behind with respect to their Original Date of Commissioning. The details of the number of projects lagging behind and the cost overrun incurred are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) All Central Sector Projects approved by the Government are under implementation.

(d) The details of action plan proposed to check time & cost overruns in projects are as follows:

- (i) review of projects on monthly as well as quarterly basis by the Government.
- (ii) indept critical review of the progress by the Project Authorities and the administrative Ministries and follow up with the State Governments (for acquisition of land and provision of infrastructure facilities like water and



power, ensuring law & order at project sites, etc.), consultants and other concerned agencies to minimise delays;

(iii) setting up of an Empowered Committee in each administrative Ministry for resolution of problems;

(iv) bringing modifications in the Land Acquisition Act and Rehabilitation Packages;

(v) inter-ministerial coordination for resolving problems of inter-ministerial nature;

(vi) making available matching funds to complete the projects in the advanced stages of implementation along with the revised completion schedule; and

(vii) reviews by the Minister-in-charge, the Prime Minister's Office and the Cabinet Secretariat.

### Statement

Unit (Cost/Expenditure : Rs. in crores)

Sl.	Project (District) (State)	Capacity	Date of Govt. appro. Original (Rvsd)	Date of Commissioning		Time over over run Months Total (% on original)	Cost		% Cost over Run on original (Revised)	Expen- diture Till 3/00	2000-01 B.E. R.E.	Annual Expen- diture till Quarter	Cumulative Expen- diture
				Original (Revised)	Antici- pated (L.Rep.)		Approved Original (Revised)	Anticipated					
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13

#### Sector: ATOMIC ENERGY

##### NPCIL

1.	Tarapur ATO- MIC Power Tarapur Maharashtra	MW 2x500	1990/01 1997/12	2006/07	2006/07	0 0	3447.06 6421.00	8949.00	160 39	1390.00	455.00	148.00	1538.00
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##### BARC

2.	Waste Immo- bilisation Plant Trombay Maharashtra		1985/12 1996/01	2001/03	N.A.	N.A. N.A.	37.66	49.95	33 33	49.70	0.20	—	49.70
3.	Revamping of Prefre-1 Mumbai Maharashtra		1993/12	2000/03	2004/03	48 64	46.30	46.30	0 0	11.42	5.0	0.14	11.56
4.	ADDI Upgrad. Facility-NP Mumbai Maharashtra	1996/01	1997/03	2001/12	57 407	35.00	35.00	0 0	8.92	11.00	5.08	14.00	
5.	Addl WTF. at Prefre Tarapur Maharashtra		1997/04	2001/03	2001/03	0 0	32.13	32.13	0 0	9.26	1.50	0.40	9.66
6.	Nuclear Fuel Dev. Prog. Mumbai Maharashtra		1997/11	2003/03	N.A.	N.A. N.A.	45.75	45.75	0 0	21.51	10.00	5.60	27.11

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
7.	Enhance Com- puting Facil Mumbai Maharashtra		1997/11	2002/03	N.A.	N.A. N.A.	33.64	33.64	0 0	11.06	5.06	2.17	13.23
8.	6300 M3/Day N.D.D. Proj. Mumbai Maharashtra		1997/11	2000/07	N.A.	N.A. N.A.	30.97	30.97	0 0	5.55	4.40	0.53	6.08
9.	Aug. Facility - P. Based fuel Mumbai Maharashtra		1997/11	2002/03	N.A.	N.A. N.A.	32.00	32.00	0 0	5.87	4.50	0.85	6.72
10.	Advanced Rea- ctor Dev. Mumbai Maharashtra		1997/12	2002/03	N.A.	N.A. N.A.	33.55	33.55	0 0	5.74	5.00	5.59	11.33
11.	Advised Pre- cision Fac. Mumbai Maharashtra		1997/12	2003/03	N.A.	N.A. N.A.	26.35	26.35	0 0	5.68	5.00	1.22	6.90
12.	Advanced Rea- ctor Exper. Mumbai Maharashtra		1997/12	2002/03	N.A.	N.A. N.A.	40.58	40.58	0 0	2.71	7.00	1.91	4.62
13.	Hot Cell Faci- lity-Pie Mumbai Maharashtra		1998/02	2002/03	N.A.	N.A. N.A.	24.50	24.50	0 0	5.14	5.00	0.59	5.73
14.	Aug. & Invoati- on Wastempt Mumbai Maharashtra		1999/01	2005/03	N.A.	N.A. N.A.	30.00	30.00	0 0	2.26	3.15	0.87	3.13
<b>Sector: CIVIL AVIATION</b>													
<i>AAI</i>													
15.	Aerobridges Bay 17, 18, 19 Mumbai Maharashtra		1997/11	1999/08	2001/07 23 2000/06 110		27.25	27.25	0 0	7.66	7.80 6.40	4.66	12.32
<b>Sector: COAL</b>													
<i>WCL</i>													
16.	SASTI R/o UG Maharashtra	0.36 MTY	1993/04	1998/03	2001/03 36 61		38.25	38.25	0 0	21.24	4.80	2.55	23.79

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
17.	Nirguda OC	0.75 MTY	1999/05	2004/03	2004/03	0 0	95.03	95.03	0 0	1.46	20.54	1.34	2.80
	Yeotmal Maharashtra												
18.	Kumbharhkani UG	0.36 MTY	1998/12	2004/03	2004/03	0 0	56.90	56.90	0 0	0.49	5.71	0.92	1.41
	Yeotmal Maharashtra												
19.	Conv. Kamptee UG to OCP Nagpur Maharashtra		2000/05	2007/03	2007/03	0 0	88.39	88.39	0 0	—	12.49	0.23	0.23
<b>Sector: FINANCE</b>													
<i>IGM</i>													
20.	MODR, Mints Mum, Cal, MDRs	Million Coins 4700	1989/03 1994/06	1992/03 1996/11	2001/03	108 300	118.28 348.80	348.80	195 0	208.69	19.59	3.36	212.05
<b>Sector: FERTILISERS</b>													
<i>RCF</i>													
21.	Modn Suphala Bagging Pit Trombay Maharashtra		1998/10	2000/01	2001/01	12 80	28.00 38.50	28.00	0 -27	11.42	12.50 —	12.38	23.80
22.	NFSS for Am- monia-Plant Thal Maharashtra	NM3 89272 NM3 C02 PHR HR	1999/08	2001/01	2001/2	0 0	83.35	83.35	0 0	7.54	64.00	30.47	38.01
23.	Thal Urea Optimisation Raigad Maharashtra	TPD 1.50 Urea 1.17	2000/05	2002/06	2002/03	-3 -12	40.00	40.00	0 0	—	25.00	1.61	1.61
<b>Sector: PETROLEUM</b>													
<i>BPCL</i>													
24.	Pol Jetty at JL Port Maharashtra		1999/05	2001/12	2001/12	0 0	198.02	198.02	0 0	5.27	40.00	—	5.27
<i>ONGC</i>													
25.	Insitu comb- ustion, Balol Maharashtra	MMT 5.57	1995/10	1997/07	2001/03	44 210	133.64 118.49	118.49	-11 0	93.33	15.00 13.65	3.03	96.36

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
26.	Addnl cogeneration Plant Uran Maharashtra	MW 19.5	1998/07	2000/12	2000/12	0 0	116.95	116.95	0 0	63.65	40.91	12.53	76.18
27.	BHN Revamping		1999/01	2000/05	2000/12	7 44	263.53	263.53	0 0	128.67	65.23	50.81	179.48
28.	GB-15/23 Development Offshore	MMS CMD 0.3	1998/06	2000/04	2001/02	10 45	58.00	58.00	0 0	17.98	25.33	1.20	19.18
29.	Addnl. Compressor (offshore) Heera	1.2 MM SCMD	1999/12	2002/04	2000/04	0 0	177.64	177.64	0 0	—	10.00 22.00	—	—
30.	ZA Well Platform Offshore Western	2.58 MMT Oil/ 15 Year	1999/12	2001/12	2001/12	0 0	302.24	302.24	0 0	-	30.00 34.80	—	—

**Sector: RAILWAYS***Doubl.*

31.	Daund-Bhigwan, CR  Maharashtra	KMS 27.68	1995/04	1998/06	2000/12	30 79	38.78	32.42	-16 -16	11.63	5.00	2.79	14.42
32.	Mumbai-Borivili 5th & 6th Line, WR Maharashtra	KMS 13.81	1995/04	1999/03 1999/03	N.A. N.A.	N.A. N.A.	39.80	64.17	61 61	22.49	— —	—	22.49
33.	Diva-Vasai Road CR Mumbai Maharashtra	KMS 41.65	1995/04	1998/03	2001/06	39 111	90.00	112.00	24 24	106.36	20.00	6.20	112.56

*GC*

34.	Gondia-CHA  NDA Fort, SER  Maharashtra	KMS 258.50	1992/12 1994/04	1996/12 1997/03	N.A. 1999/06	N.A. N.A.	158.83 215.14 232.52	236.27	49 2	175.80	— —	60.47	236.27 (completed)
35.	Miraj-Latur Road, CR Maharashtra	KMS 359	1993/04	2001/03	2000/12 2000/03	-3 -3	225.00	310.38	38 38	54.47	12.79 —	4.13	58.60

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
36.	Solapur-	KMS	1996/06	1997/06	N.A.	N.A.	24.40	41.35	69	8.36	—	0.06	8.42 (Comple- ted)
	Hotgi, CR Maharashtra	15.70			1999/03	N.A.			69		—		
37.	Parbhani-Purna	KMS	1985/04	1995/03	2000/12	69	181.19	221.97	23	103.30	—	7.24	110.54
	Mudkhed- Adilabad, SC AP/MH	244				58			23		—		
38.	Hotgi-	KMS	1995/06	1999/03	2002/03	36	180.00	282.94	57	130.55	10.00	3.66	134.21
	Gadag, SCR KR/MA	300				80			57		14.50		
39.	Gondia-Jaba-	KMS	1997/02	1998/03	2003/03	60	356.00	386.03	8	7.92	—	0.97	8.89
	Ipur, SER	265.45				462			8				
	MP, MAH												
<i>MTP</i>													
40.	Belapur-	10.90	1995/02	2000/03	2002/03	24	279.83	279.83	0	134.67	31.43	2.41	137.08
	Panvel Mumbai Maharashtra	KMS				39			0				
41.	Thane-Turbhe	22.60	1992/05	2000/03	2002/03	24	403.39	403.39	0	163.91	82.11	12.84	176.75
	-Nerul-Vashi Mumbai Maharashtra	KMS				26			0		—		
42.	B'Pur-S' Wood	KMS	1996/03	N.A.	2003/03	N.A.	401.81	495.44	23	18.05	51.73	4.30	22.35
	-Uran Elec. Mumbai Maharashtra	27	1997/07						23	53.50			
43.	Kurla-Bhandup	KMS	1995/04	2000/03	2002/03	24	49.84	95.00	91	49.90	14.00	3.23	53.13
	5&6th P.I Mumbai Maharashtra	10				41			91				
44.	Virar Dahanu	KMS	1997/04	N.A.	2001/03	N.A.	25.44	27.19	7	8.36	6.99	8.93	17.29
	RD Auto BLK Maharashtra	65				N.A.			7				
45.	Bbhandu-Thane	KMS	1997/04	N.A.	2002/03	N.A.	46.69	56.79	22	9.81	10.00	2.14	11.95
	5&6th Lin 11 Mumbai Maharashtra	8				N.A.			22				
46.	Santacruz-	KMS	1995/04	2000/12	2001/06	6	64.17	82.42	28	75.19	12.00	4.96	80.15
	Borivli 5th Mumbai Maharashtra	16.37				9			28				

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
47.	Borivili Virar, WR Mumbai Maharashtra	KMS 25.84	1995/04	2001/03 2000/06	2003/03	24 34	131.34	401.66	206 206	33.26	30.00	15.56	48.82
NL													
48.	Amravati Narkher, CR Maharashtra	KMS 138	1994/06	1999/06	2003/12	54 90	120.90	175.30	45 45	25.88	6.00 —	2.12	28.00
49.	Panvel- Karjat, CR Mumbai Maharashtra	KMS 28.05	1996/02	1997/03	2002/12	69 531	89.00	106.90	20 20	20.24	14.00 —	3.74	23.98
50.	Ahmedngr-Pa- rli Vajinath CR Maharashtra	KMS 250	1997/02	N.A.	N.A.	N.A. N.A.	353.08	353.08	0 0	0.40	0.50	—	0.40
51.	Addl Loops-8 Stn. Vir-Surt WR Maharashtra		1998/02	N.A.	N.A.	N.A. N.A.	20.19	20.19	0 0	15.47	—	0.53	16.00
RE													
52.	Conv. Exist in G1500V DC Mumbai Maharashtra		1996/07	N.A.	2005/03	N.A. N.A.	273.67	273.67	0 0	7.55	15.14	8.79	16.34
T.F.													
53.	Mumbai CST Remod; Ph- CR Maharashtra		1995/04	1998/12	2002/03	39 89	19.72	62.39	216 216	7.86	2.72 —	0.60	8.46
54.	Kurla PSR- TRM. FAC. Ph2S CR Maharashtra		1996/04	1999/12	2000/12	12 27	34.94	39.44	13 13	11.69	15.00 11.97	0.59	12.28
S&T													
55.	Repl. MW Link Mumbai-Bhawal CR Maharashtra	GHZ 7 MB 34	1992/04	1997/12	N.A.	N.A. 1999/10 N.A.	20.53	20.53	0 0	17.75	0.50	0.91	18.66

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
56.	Mumbai-Kalyan Train Des Sys, CR Maharashtra		1996/04	1999/03	2001/12	33 94	25.89	35.79	38 38	0.52	1.00	0.02	0.54
57.	Lonavala-Pune Auto BL Signal, CR Maharashtra	KMS 64	1996/04	1999/03	N.A. 1999/03	N.A. N.A.	25.00	34.33	37 37	—	—	—	—
58.	CCG-VR Train Descriptor Mumbai Maharashtra		1995/04	2000/09	2001/03 2000/03	6 9	33.57	33.37	-1 -1	7.85	9.64 —	3.09	10.94
59.	Repl. of Mumbai-Ahmd. Link, WR MA/GU	GHZ 7 MB 34	1992/04	1997/03	N.A. 1998/06	N.A. N.A.	22.00	22.00	0 0	16.46	— —	—	16.46
<b>Sector: SURFACE TRANSPORT</b>													
<i>Ports</i>													
60.	Repl. of ELL Portal Whar Mumbai Maharashtra	Tonnes 10	1996/12	2000/01	2000/12	11 30	49.61	22.11	-55 -55	8.00	15.40 —	10.80	18.80
61.	Renewal of P. Way Wadia Mumbai Maharashtra		1997/02	1999/03	2000/08	17 68	30.06	30.06	0 0	28.13	0.50	1.05	29.18
62.	Modern of MOT Jetties Mumbai Maharashtra		1997/08	2002/03	2003/02	11 20	167.99	215.34	28 28	3.41	50.00	7.90	11.31
63.	Replacement of RTGS Mumbai Maharashtra	Nos 3	1996/12	1999/08	N.A. 2000/02	N.A. N.A.	28.66	28.66	0 0	—	— —	—	—
64.	Repl. H'Tugs Atul & Ankus Mumbai Maharashtra		1997/09	2000/01	2000/11	10 36	46.08	26.82	-42 -42	20.12	7.46 —	5.09	25.21 (Completed)
65.	Repl. of Crane Sharvan Mumbai Maharashtra		1998/06	N.A.	2000/12	N.A. N.A.	16.00	31.18	95 95	—	10.50 —	—	—

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
66.	Addl. port Crafts (Ph-1) JNPT, Mumbai Maharashtra	TE 45	1997/02	1999/03	N.A. 2000/03	N.A. N.A.	31.00	21.00	-32 -32	6.34	13.75	11.81	18.15
67.	Const. Shallow Waterbert JNPT, Mumbai Maharashtra	MTPA 1.2	1998/10	2002/04	2002/04	0 0	35.00	35.00	0 0	4.89	10.00	4.42	9.31
68.	Procure RMQC Cranes Mumbai Maharashtra	TPA 1 Lakh	1998/10	2001/01	2001/05	4 15	35.00	30.02	-14 -14	-	35.00	4.13	4.13
69.	Repl. Amol & Arvind Tugs Mumbai Maharashtra	TE 45	2000/06	2002/06	2002/06	0 0	34.60	34.60	0 0	—	0.10 3.00	—	—
70.	NH17:4 Lane- Verna-M. Gao MH/Goa		1998/03	1998/06	N.A. 2000/06	N.A. N.A.	32.00	80.00	150 150	14.62	10.00	0.05	14.67

*RD&BR*

71.	NH8:4 Laning (KM 439-497) PWD Maharashtra	KMS 58.00	1993/04	1997/05	2001/04	47 96	117.73	195.15	66 66	175.10	72.50	45.40	220.50
72.	ACQ. of 2 Firm +OP. Hyuandi Mumbai Maharashtra	110000*4 DWT Crude Oil Carriers	2000/05	2003/08	2003/08	0 0	672.28 629.38	629.38	-6 0	—	188.80	157.34	157.34
73.	ACQ. 3RP Tugs ABG Shipyard Mumbai Maharashtra	50 TE Each	2000/05	2002/03	2002/03	0 0	49.68	49.68	0 0	—	9.90	4.97	4.97

**Sector: TELECOMMUNICATIONS***VSNL*

74.	Inmarsat-P Mumbai Maharashtra		1995/11	2000/09 2000/12	2003/06	33 57	546.00	546.00	0 0	550.44	— —	—	550.44
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0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
<b>Sector: OTHERS</b>													
<i>UD</i>													
75.	General Pool Residence QR Mumbai Maharashtra	No. 1016	1985/09 1995/05	1989/09	N.A.	N.A. N.A.	29.50 62.75	62.75	113 0	1.95	— —	— —	1.95

**LEGENDS**

NPCIL	-	Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd.,
RCF	-	Rashtriya Chemicals & Fertilisers
ONGC	-	Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Ltd.,
MTP	-	Metropolitan Transport Project
S&T	-	Signal & Telecommunications
VSNL	-	Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited
BARC	-	Bhabha Atomic Research Centre
BPCL	-	Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd.,
DOUBL	-	Doubling of Lines
RE	-	Railway Electrification
RD & BR	-	Roads and Bridges
WCL	-	Western Coalfields Ltd.,
NL	-	New Lines
GC	-	Gauge Conversion
TF	-	Traffic Facilities
UD	-	Urban Development

*Extent of time/Cost overrun in projects with respect to original schedule*

*(As on 31-12-2000)*

S. No.	Sector	No. of Proj- ects	Total Cost of (Rs. CRS)			Proj. with cost over run				Proj. with time over run			
			Ori- ginal	Anti- cipat- ed cost	Cost over Run(%)	No.	Orig. Cost	Anti- cipat- ed cost	% INCR Base	No.	Orgi. Cost	Anti- cipat- ed cost	Range (no.)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1.	Atomic Energy	14	3895.5	9409.7	141.6	2	3484.7	8999.0	158.2	2	81.3	81.3	48- 57
2.	Civil Aviation	1	27.3	27.3	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1	27.3	27.3	23- 23
3.	Coal	4	278.6	278.6	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1	38.3	38.3	36- 36
4.	Finance	1	118.3	348.8	194.9	1	118.3	348.8	194.9	1	118.3	348.8	108- 108
5.	Fertilisers	3	151.4	151.4	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1	28.0	28.0	12- 12
6.	Petroleum	7	1250.0	1234.9	-1.2	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3	455.2	440.0	7- 44
7.	Railways	29	3735.0	4706.2	26.0	20	2290.0	3267.8	42.7	16	2098.6	2750.9	6- 69
8.	Surface Transport	14	1345.7	1429.0	6.2	4	333.7	521.7	56.3	6	446.5	519.5	4- 47

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
9.	Telecommuni- cation	1	546.0	546.0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1	546.0	546.0	33- 33
10.	Others	1	29.5	62.8	112.7	1	29.5	62.8	112.7	0	0.0	0.0	0- 0
Total		75	11377.2	18194.5	59.9	28	6256.2	13199.9	111.0	32	3839.3	4780.0	

### Special Financial Package to Bihar

1664. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to give Bihar special financial package for its development and to waive the loans given to it on its division;

(b) whether MPs from that State have submitted a memorandum to the Prime Minister for overall development of Bihar; and

(c) if so, the plans that are likely to be formulated for the development of Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) References have been received regarding grant of special financial package for its development and to waive the loans given to the State in the wake of bifurcation of the erstwhile State of Bihar into Bihar and Jharkhand.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No decisions have been taken so far either on the Bihar package or the memorandum to the Prime Minister.

### Integrated Dairy Development Projects

1665. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have sanctioned Integrated Dairy Development projects under Central Sponsored Scheme operation Flood in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, details of the funds allocated to each project;

(c) the details of other projects submitted to the Union Government by Government of Maharashtra; and

(d) action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government of India has approved two Integrated Dairy Development Projects (IDDP) in the State of Maharashtra during the year 1995-96 and 1997-98. Funds allocated for IDDP-I & II projects are as under:-

(Amount Rs. in lakh)

Project	Year of Approval	Approved Outlay
IDDP-I	1995-96	1985.23
IDDP-II	1997-98	1941.55

(c) and (d) A project proposal for IDDP-III was received from the State Government in December, 98. The proposal was, however, found to be incomplete and not prepared according to guidelines. The State Government has been requested to send a revised proposal. The revised proposal is still awaited.

### Release of Funds to Orissa

1666. SHRI ANADI SAHU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the funds released by the Government for the development of Kalahandi-Bolangir and Koraput (KBK) in Orissa under the Long Term Action Plan, (LTAP) till date;

(b) whether the State Government has submitted the progress reports on the works undertaken with these funds;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether in addition to the LTAP funds the Union Government sanctioned funds to the KBK project and Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the works undertaken under the projects so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) The State Government has reported that an amount of Rs. 20.49 crore was received from the Government of India from 1995-96 to 1997-98 for the Long Term Action Plan. The Revised Long Term Action Plan (1998-99 to 2006-07) has been drawn up by the Government of Orissa for the KBK districts consisting of flow of funds from Central Plan and Centrally Sponsored Schemes. To supplement the efforts of the State Government in certain critical sectors, Additional Central Assistance is being allocated for these districts. In 1998-99, an additionality of Rs. 46 crore was released, in 1999-2000 an additional amount of Rs. 57.60 crore was released while in the current year Rs. 40.35 crore has been allocated.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Against the amount of Rs. 20.49 crore released for the Long Term Action Plan from 1995-96 to 1997-98, the State Government has reported an expenditure of Rs. 20.04 crore. Against the amount of Rs. 103.60 crore released so far as Additional Central Assistance for the Revised Long Term Action Plan, the State Government have reported an expenditure of Rs. 116.90 crore. Further, the State Government have informed that an amount of Rs. 5.77 crore has been released to the implementing departments.

(d) Yes Sir.

(e) The Union Government has released Rs. 130.1 crore under the Accelerated Irrigation Benefits (AIBP) for the expeditious completion of major and medium on-going irrigation projects in the KBK districts. In addition, an amount of Rs. 18.22 crore has been released for the implementation of minor irrigation schemes.

(f) The major & medium on-going irrigation projects which are being undertaken in the KBK districts include Upper Indravati, Upper Kolab, Titlagarh St.II, Lower Indra and Lower Suktel. In addition, 16 minor irrigation schemes are being undertaken with AIBP funding.

[Translation]

#### **Beneficiaries Under PMRY**

1667. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a provision has been made to sanction the maximum amount to the tune of Rs. 2 lakhs under the Pradhan Mantri Rojgar Yojana;

(b) if so, the number of persons benefited under the scheme alongwith the amount provided so far in the year 1999-2000 and 2000-2001; and

(c) the details thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Yes, Sir. The project cost for industry and service sector activities has been enhanced upto Rs. 2 lakhs since 1.4.1999 under the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana.

(b) and (c) The statement showing State-wise number of persons sanctioned loans along with the amount for the years 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 (upto 31.12.2000) under the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana based on the reports received from the Reserve Bank of India is given in the statement.

**Statement**

*State-wise Number of Persons Sanctioned Loans along with the Amount under the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana for the years 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 (upto 31-12-2000).*

*(As reported by the Reserve Bank of India)*

(Amount Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	State/UT	1999-2000			2000-2001 (Upto 31.12.2000)		
		Plan	Sanctions by Banks		Plan	Sanctions by Banks	
		Target (Nos.)	(Nos.)	Amount	Target (Nos.)	(Nos.)	Amount
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
<b>NORTHERN REGION</b>							
1.	Haryana	4150	7123	4428.39	4300	3721	2268.79
2.	Himachal Pradesh	2450	2144	1428.20	2650	1198	784.27
3.	Jammu & Kashmir	1300	1157	1021.09	1300	565	502.91
4.	Punjab	4250	9547	6600.35	4200	5065	3323.74
5.	Rajasthan	8050	14867	8364.60	8300	9135	5289.91
6.	Chandigarh	500	69	52.92	400	46	35.51
7.	Delhi	4850	899	604.21	5000	543	364.11
<b>NORTH EASTERN REGION</b>							
8.	Assam	6400	7826	5569.93	6600	824	572.91
9.	Manipur	1000	881	689.62	1000	31	28.80
10.	Meghalaya	300	524	516.89	300	22	12.40
11.	Nagaland	200	66	72.16	200	17	19.20
12.	Tripura	560	1029	632.85	650	44	26.63
13.	Arunachal Pradesh	100	410	324.13	125	234	126.60
14.	Mizoram	200	220	198.00	200	NR	NR
15.	Sikkim	100	58	27.74	50	27	15.59
<b>EASTERN REGION</b>							
16.	Bihar	21800	10254	9116.54	21900	4138	3494.48
17.	Orissa	7100	7965	6427.96	7100	607	479.65
18.	West Bengal	22800	3314	2177.77	22500	1443	918.94
19.	Andaman & Nicobar	75	125	102.74	100	83	69.33

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
<b>CENTRAL REGION</b>							
20. Madhya Pradesh		15800	29209	21953.39	16200	9006	6596.23
21. Uttar Pradesh		26000	43769	29229.84	26100	17135	11638.82
<b>WESTERN REGION</b>							
22. Gujarat		8300	10654	5018.78	8400	5713	2927.90
23. Maharashtra		21800	34207	19731.98	22500	10323	6209.53
24. Daman & Diu		25	17	8.67	50	14	9.09
25. Goa		500	481	452.64	500	208	176.08
26. Dadra & Nagar Haveli		50	36	20.62	50	19	13.60
<b>SOUTHERN REGION</b>							
27. Andhra Pradesh		16800	20721	12422.89	16900	8224	4767.56
28. Karnataka		11100	16652	10498.57	11000	5180	3145.51
29. Kerala		16000	16325	9182.18	13500	6789	3971.00
30. Tamilnadu		17000	13426	7580.80	17400	6720	3359.11
31. Lakshadweep		20	31	27.06	50	5	3.92
32. Pondicherry		500	402	186.85	500	119	45.06
ALL INDIA		220080	254408	164670.36	220025	97198	61197.18

NR: Not reported

*[English]***Spending of Money During the Plan**

1668. SHRI SUNIL KHAN:  
PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some States have not spent the funds allocated during 8th Five Year Plan period;

(b) if so, the names of States which have not spent the allocated funds;

(c) the States which have spent the amounts earmarked during the said Plan Period; and

(d) the manner in which the Government propose to encourage such States which fulfilled their targets set by the Planning Commission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) Yes, Sir. As compared to the originally approved outlay most of the States did not spend the funds allocated to them during the 8th Five Year Plan period. Only States of Andhra Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Mizoram and Tamilnadu could spend the amount allocated to them during the period. However, based on the revised approved outlay all the States excluding Meghalaya could spend over 90% of the allocation. Meghalaya could spend only 83.5% of their revised outlay approved by the Planning Commission. Statement-I giving State-wise details of actual expenditure vis-a-vis approved plan outlay and revised plan outlay during the Eighth Plan period is given below.

(b) and (c) Names of States which have not spent and of those which have spent the originally approved outlay are at statement-II.

(d) Inability to fulfil the Plan targets usually arises out of the failure on the part of the States to mobilize the requisite amount of resources required for financing the Plan, and the condition of general governance in the State. Planning Commission have been impressing upon the States to generate higher level of own resources inter-alia by improving the performance of State level enterprises, increasing tax and non tax revenue and also by curtailing their non plan expenditure so that sufficient funds are available to fulfill their targets set by the

Planning Commission. In addition joint efforts by the Centre and the States were initiated during 1999-2000 to evolve a strategy to address the fiscal issues confronting the States in the form of a package of financial assistance to be provided by the Centre along with an appropriate time bound programme of medium term fiscal reform to be undertaken by the States. This initiative was designed to encourage States choosing to undertake the reforms necessary to enable them to raise sufficient resources and meet the plan targets. Accordingly, thirteen States have so far entered into an agreement (Memorandum of Understanding) with the Centre with a view to implement fiscal reforms aiming at progressively improving the finances of the State and to fulfill their plan targets.

**Statement-I**

**Total Eighth Plan Performance-State-wise**

(Rs. Crore)

Sl. No.	States/UTs	Total Eighth Plan (Annual Plans 1992-93 to 1996-97)			Col. 5 as % age of Col.3	Col. 5 as % age of Col. 4
		Originally Approved Outlay	Revised Outlay	Actual Expenditure		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	11789.00	10756.64	13433.26	113.95	124.88
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1861.00	1728.70	1712.96	92.05	99.09
3.	Assam	5890.32	4987.45	4980.68	84.56	99.86
4.	Bihar	11546.64	5371.00	5507.92	47.70	102.55
5.	Goa	964.50	852.13	843.42	87.45	98.98
6.	Gujarat	12240.00	12003.83	11550.73	94.37	96.23
7.	Haryana	5458.65	5257.72	4889.89	89.58	93.00
8.	Himachal Pradesh	3346.50	3470.00	3497.70	104.52	100.80
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	4950.00	4482.25	4403.60	88.96	98.25
10.	Karnataka	16150.00	14540.00	15135.90	93.72	104.10
11.	Kerala	6930.27	6800.64	6952.03	100.31	102.23
12.	Madhya Pradesh	13594.80	11506.28	12217.94	89.87	106.18
13.	Maharashtra	25590.67	25858.50	25336.10	99.01	97.98

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
14. Manipur	1330.00	1206.50	1207.75	90.81	100.10	
15. Meghalaya	1479.52	1281.19	1069.78	72.31	83.50	
16. Mizoram	1060.66	1059.63	1061.81	100.11	100.21	
17. Nagaland	1138.50	799.22	825.85	72.54	103.33	
18. Orissa	8661.50	7290.61	6998.03	80.79	95.99	
19. Punjab	7732.05	6122.79	6830.83	88.34	111.56	
20. Rajasthan	12060.49	12075.25	11859.57	98.33	98.21	
21. Sikkim	749.00	719.94	707.65	94.48	98.29	
22. Tamil Nadu	13521.05	13538.76	14023.23	103.71	103.58	
23. Tripura	1622.00	1349.90	1376.82	84.88	101.99	
24. Uttar Pradesh	24491.53	18898.97	20394.04	83.27	107.91	
25. West Bengal	9980.63	7589.75	8241.98	82.58	108.59	
Total (States)	204139.28	179547.65	185059.47	90.65	103.07	

**Statement-II**

A. States which have not spent the originally approved outlays during the 8th Five Year Plan Period.

1. Arunachal Pradesh
2. Assam
3. Bihar
4. Goa
5. Gujarat
6. Haryana
7. Jammu & Kashmir
8. Karnataka
9. Madhya Pradesh
10. Maharashtra
11. Manipur
12. Meghalaya
13. Nagaland
14. Orissa
15. Punjab

16. Rajasthan

17. Sikkim

18. Tripura

19. Uttar Pradesh

20. West Bengal

B. States which have spent the originally approved outlays during the 8th Five Year Plan period.

1. Andhra Pradesh

2. Himachal Pradesh

3. Kerala

4. Mizoram

5. Tamil Nadu

**Representation to Prime Minister**

1669. SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the SC/ST Parliamentarians in the representations submitted to the Government on 17.12.1996, 1.9.1997 and 23.7.1998 have demanded

posting/appointment of adequate number of persons from SC and ST community as Heads/CMD and Official/Non-Official Members of Board of Management/Governing Councils of the Public Sector Undertakings, Autonomous, Statutory, sub-ordinate and Attached Offices of various Ministries and Departments;

(b) if so, action taken thereon; and

(c) the total number of posts in the rank of Head/CMD, Official/non-Official Members of Board of Management/Governing Council of the Small Scale Industries Board under his Ministry and number of persons from SC/ST community working against such posts as 1.1.1996 and 1.1.2000 and their percentage as compared to the total posts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) The Memoranda submitted by the Parliamentary Forum for SCs and STs urged the Government of India for taking comprehensive measures for development of persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes, inter-alia, requesting for posting of suitable persons belonging to the SCs/STs for posts of importance like Governors, Ambassadors, Members of Planning Commission, Secretaries to the Government of India, Members of the UPSC, PESB, Directors of PSUs etc.

The policy as enunciated in the resolution No. 27(21) EO/86 (ACC) dated 3.3.1987 constituting the Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB) (the body which makes recommendation for appointment to board level posts in PSUs) is to appoint through a fair and objective selection procedure, outstanding professional managers to Level-I (Chief Executives) and Level-II (Directors) posts and posts at any other level as may be decided by the Government from time to time. Caste is not one of the criteria for selecting persons for appointments to the board level posts of PSUs.

(c) Information on the number of persons belonging to the SC/STs among those appointed to board level posts in PSUs under Ministry/Departments is neither available nor maintained. It may also be mentioned that the Small Scale Industries Board is a non-statutory Advisory body, constituted every two years under the

Chairmanship of Minister In-charge of SSI. It consists of representatives from Central Ministries, State Industry Ministers, Financial Institutions, National and State level industrial associations, trade specific associations, persons of repute in the field, etc. The Members of the Board are generally appointed on the basis of the office held by them. The persons appointed by name are those who have been associated with the development and promotion of the small scale sector either at Government or at Non-Government level. There are no posts under the Small Scale Industries Board against which employment is provided.

12.01 hrs.

## PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table-

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute for the Orthopaedically Handicapped, Calcutta, for the year 1998-99, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute for the Orthopaedically Handicapped, Calcutta, for the year 1998-99.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3321/2001]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Ali Yavar Jung National Institute for the Hearing Handicapped, Mumbai, for the year 1998-99, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Ali Yavar Jung National Institute for the Hearing Handicapped, Mumbai for the year 1998-99.
- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3322/2001]



THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of section 3 of the All India Services Act, 1951:—

- (i) The Indian Forest Service (Pay) Fifth Amendment Rules, 2000 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 448 in Gazette of India dated the 18th November, 2000.
- (ii) The Indian Police Service (Fixation of Cadre Strength) Sixth Amendment Regulations, 2000 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 508 in Gazette of India dated the 23rd December, 2000.
- (iii) The Indian Police Service (Pay Seventh Amendment Rules, 2000 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 509 in Gazette of India dated the 23rd December 2000.
- (iv) The Indian Administrative Service (Fixation of Cadre Strength) Amendment Regulations, 2001 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 45 in Gazette of India dated the 27th January, 2001.
- (v) The Indian Administrative Service (Pay) Amendment Rules, 2001 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 46 in Gazette of India dated the 27th January, 2001.
- (vi) The Indian Police Service (Fixation of Cadre Strength) First Amendment Regulations, 2001 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 47 in Gazette of India dated the 27th January, 2001.
- (vii) The Indian Police Service (Pay) First Amendment Rules, 2001 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 48 in Gazette of India dated the 27th January, 2001

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3323/2001]

(2) A copy of the Karnataka Administrative Tribunal (Salaries and Allowances and Conditions of Service of Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Members) Amendment Rules, 2001 (Hindi and English versions) published in

Notification No. G.S.R. 78 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 8th February, 2001 under sub-section (1) of section 37 of the Administrative Tribunals Act, 1985.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3324/2001]

(3) 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 Omnibus Industrial Development Corporation of Daman and Diu and Dadra and Nagar Haveli Limited, Moti Daman, for the year 1999-2000.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Omnibus Industrial Development Corporation of Daman and Diu and Dadra and Nagar Haveli Limited, Moti Daman, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3325/2001]

(5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Coir Board, Kochi, for the year 1999-2000, under section 19 of the Coir Industry Act, 1953.

(ii) Statement regarding review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Coir Board, Kochi, for the year 1999-2000.

(6) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (5) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3326/2001]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): Sir I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 23 of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954:—

- (i) The Prevention of Food Adulteration (First Amendment) Rules, 2001 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 7(E) in Gazette of India dated the 4th January, 2001.

- (ii) The Prevention of Food Adulteration (Second Amendment) Rules, 2001 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 67(E) in Gazette of India dated the 5th February, 2001.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3327/2001]

- (2) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 38 of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940:—

- (i) The Drugs and Cosmetics (5th Amendment) Rules, 2000 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 904(E) in Gazette of India dated the 1st December, 2000.
- (ii) The Drugs and Cosmetics (First Amendment) Rules, 2001 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 6(E) in Gazette of India dated the 4th January, 2001.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3328/2001]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Cooperative Union of India, New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Cooperative Union of India, for the year 1999-2000, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Cooperative Union of India, New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3329/2001]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Coconut Development Board, Kochi, for the year 1999-2000.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Coconut Development Board, Kochi, for the year 1999-2000, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Coconut Development Board, Kochi, for the year 1999-2000.

- (iv) A copy of the Comments (Hindi and English versions) of the Coconut Development Board, Kochi, on the Audit Report on the Accounts for the year 1999-2000.

- (v) Statement (Hindi and English versions) of the progress of work of the Annual Report and Audit Report of the Coconut Development Board, Kochi for the year 1999-2000.

- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3330/2001]

12.01 1/2 hrs.

[Translation]

## COMMITTEE ON RURAL AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

### Sixteenth Report

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (Ratnagiri): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to present the Sixteenth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Rural and Urban Development on Action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in their Tenth Report (13th Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2000-2001) of the Department of Urban Development (Ministry of Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation).

12.02 hrs.

[English]

## BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

### Nineteenth Report

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): Sir, I beg to present the Nineteenth Report of the Business Advisory Committee.

12.02 1/2 hrs.

[English]

## ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER: SITTING OF THE HOUSE

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, there is an observation from the Chair.

Hon. Members, I have to inform the House that as decided in the meeting of Business Advisory Committee held on Friday, the 2nd March, 2001, the sitting fixed for Friday, the 9th March, 2001 may be cancelled on account of *Holika Dahan*. I hope the House agrees.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

[English]

12.03 hrs.

RE: SUDDEN FALL IN SENSEX OF  
BOMBAY STOCK EXCHANGE

MR. SPEAKER: Now, the House will take up 'Zero Hour'.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (Miryalguda): Mr. Speaker Sir....

MR. SPEAKER: Before you there is one name.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Sir, the issue is important.... (Interruptions) It is a matter of overriding importance. You kindly let me speak.

MR. SPEAKER: Your name in the list is second. The first one is Shri Suresh Ramrao Jadhav.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Sir, I am only taking one jump.

MR. SPEAKER: All right.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish to draw the attention of the Government and the House, through you, to the on-going melt down in the stock market. Ordinarily, we would not be concerned with what happens in the stock market, but Sir, after Shri Yashwant Sinha presented his capital market-friendly Budget, the stock market rose to dizzy heights. Well, of course, everybody enjoyed it, but within 24 hours, it began to fall and fall. It seems to be heading towards fathomless depths.

Sir, we have reasons to believe that a big bull operator of Shri Harshad Mehta variety, style and scale is responsible for this kind of all in the stock market. Sir, there are reports that he has taken huge stock exposure by borrowing heavily from banks in total contravention of RBI guidelines. Sir, on 27th February, one day before the Budget was presented, he availed of loan from a

European bank, possibly ABN Amro Bank, of Rs. 50 crore through the good offices of our industry.

Sir, this is not a party matter; I am sure, my other friends will support me. Shri Ketan Parekh has become so important that in addition to Bombay Sensex, we have Ketan Parekh Index (K.P. Index). This K.P. Index has now touched 52-week low, and it is causing turmoil. We are concerned because our banks are in jeopardy; we are concerned because our depositors in the banks are in jeopardy; we are concerned because the small investors are in jeopardy.

Sir, Shri Ketan Parekh was a close associate of Shri Harshad Mehta. He was an accused in Canbank Mutual Fund Case. I am sorry, Sir, I said, "He was", but actually he continues to be an accused; he is currently an accused. In spite of that, he has been able to get away with many things. He has got into many business alliances, one of which includes a \$ 250 million investment by an Australian Press Tycoon, Mr. Kerry Packer; and that investment includes one company called Himachal Futuristic Company of Sukh Ram fame, in whose honour a statue needs to be erected in this House.

MR. SPEAKER: There are other Members who want to speak on the same subject.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: I would like to know as to what the SEBI has been doing, as to what the RBI has been doing, and why should the Finance Ministry get excited when the Sensex goes up and bother again when it goes down. That is the point.

Now, let me also refer to the ineffectiveness of SEBI as an institution. Harshad Mehta came back in 1988, even while he is facing a flurry of cases. He was responsible for the meteoric rise in the stock market in regard to BPL and Videocon.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Jaipal Reddy, 20 Members have given their notices.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Sir, let me come to punch line.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Sir, it is a big scam.

MR. SPEAKER: What about the other Members? We have to give a chance to other Members also.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Sir, besides BPL, Videocon, I want the Prime Minister to note, there is also Sterlite. Has SEBI initiated any action? So far, no action has been taken. The person responsible for this scandal, at

that time, was Rajendra Bhatia, who continues to adorn the Bombay Stock Exchange as its Vice-President. So, at this rate, where are we going? We want the Finance Minister to come with a full statement on this question. I want all the sections of the House to react in a proper, non-partisan manner....(Interruptions)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hoogly): This is a very urgent matter....(Interruptions)

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN (Tirunelveli): Sir, I associate myself with what Shri Jaipal Reddy has said....(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Will the Finance Minister make a statement in the House?...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have allowed Shri Jaipal Reddy to raise this matter. Now, you are not allowing others to speak. What kind of technique is this? Shri Kirit Somaiya has given a notice to raise this matter during 'Zero Hour'.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record, except the submission by Shri Kirit Somaiya.

...(Interruptions)\*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Rupchand Pal, they have given notices, and they have to be given priority. I will allow you after him.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: If you want to say anything, you can speak only after him because he has given a notice.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: You will also be allowed to speak. He will speak now as he has given notice.

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA (Mumbai North East): Hon'ble Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to speak on the subject raised by Shri Jaipal Reddy. It is true and the hon'ble Member has accepted it that the whole country has responded to this budget in a very good and positive manner. You have also admitted that the index of Mumbai Stock Exchange has gone up. It is true that rumours are rife in the market that someone is being arrested, bank has indulged in over lending, SEBI is taking action, FI

is playing major role. This is an attempt to sabotage the budget. The hon. Minister should tell the House as to what action is being taken by the Finance Ministry in this regard. What is the purpose of the enquiry committee constituted by SEBI; what report is being prepared and for whom it is being prepared. Whether the Government would take action against rumour mongers? The budget is very good. The Public Sector banks are implementing the instructions of RBI regarding lending rates and the norms about the extent of loan to be given by banks to the share market. Will the Private sector Banks and the foreign banks follow these norms? It will be very good if the Government does something for the benefit of small investors.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Rudy, you can also associate yourself with Shri Kirit Somaiya and Shri Jaipal Reddy.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY (Chhapra): Sir, I would associate with Shri Kirit Somaiya but I would dissociate with Shri Jaipal Reddy....(Interruptions)

Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the annals of history, this is the most outstanding Budget that has ever been given to this House and to the country....(Interruptions)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: This has been happening for a fortnight before the Budget was presented....(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Sir, the moment I start speaking, they start reacting. What would happen if I start reacting?...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: The Budget will not be discussed now, but afterwards.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: The fall in sensex after presentation of this unique and balanced budget certainly shows that there are some forces which want to discredit the Government. They are laying traps in the market. While agreeing with the views of Kirit Somaiya, I would like to draw the attention of the House to the fact that the Government is taking right steps. It is not proper to criticize when such a balanced budget has been presented. Certainly the Government is concerned about the fall in stock exchange. But, the way in which Shri S. Jaipal Reddy is trying to distract the discussion is not proper. Mr. Parikh, who has been referred to, is under the ambit of investigation....(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): Sir, what is this? Is he replying to it?...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Rudy, Ministers are there to reply to it.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Sir, I am not replying. I am just saying that it is a matter of concern but it is not such a bad concern as it has been out to be by the Opposition. We would like to request the Government to look into the matter and take appropriate action....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Would the Government respond to it?

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, where is the Finance Minister?...*(Interruptions)* Let the Finance Minister come to the House and make a statement....*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): We may also be heard.

MR. SPEAKER: This is not a discussion....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This would not go on record....*(Interruptions)\**

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Aiyar, he is giving reply.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): Mr. Speaker Sir, only those should speak, who have given notices. Please do not allow those who have not given notices....*(Interruptions)* ...

[English]

Otherwise, every Member would like to speak.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR (Mayiladuturai): Sir, I wish to remind the Government that in December, 1993,

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\* Not recorded.

the Joint Parliamentary Committee on Securities and Banking Irregularities present its report to this Parliament. The present Minister of Finance, the present Minister of External Affairs, the present Minister of Defence, the present Minister of Commerce and Industry and the present Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, in addition to Shri Jaipal Reddy, myself and some others, were members of that Committee. We wish to know whether the Government is satisfied that the recommendations of that JPC have not been violated in connection with the scandalous behaviour of the Bombay Stock Exchange caused by the people who are involved as much in that scandal as they appear to be involved in this scandal.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, the Finance Minister has arrived. Let him respond to the questions.

MR. SPEAKER: He is not aware of what has been discussed so far.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: He can be informed about it.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Sir, the Minister would like to reply.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, this is with regard to the sudden crash in BSE Index.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): Yes, Sir.

Sir, first of all, I must apologise for not being present in the House when this issue was being raised. I did not, unfortunately, have any notice of it. Otherwise, I would have been present even during 'zero hour' to be able to reply to the concerns of the hon. Members.

Sir there are some dates which are etched in our memories and we sort of keep going back to them every now and then. For instance, if the foreign exchange reserves of the country go down by 100 million US dollars, we immediately think of 1991 type of crisis. Similarly, if anything happens in the Bombay Stock Exchange, we immediately think of 1992.

Let me make it clear that as Government, one is not concerned with the ups and downs of the stock market....*(Interruptions)* The stock markets all over the world have a habit of going up and going down. There are various factors which operate in this and this happens the world over. As Government what is our concern? Our concern certainly is the integrity of the market. The integrity of the market is very important. There are two

things in the integrity of the market about which I would like to assure the House. One is to ensure that the markets are not manipulated and that nobody belonging to one cartel or the other is allowed to fix the market or to manipulate the market. The other is to ensure that the payment system is safe, that no payment crisis takes place. This the duty of the market regulator.

We are all aware of the fact that after the 1992 events - there are many Members sitting here on both sides who were members of the JPC then - we had all deliberated upon this in the Joint Parliamentary Committee and we had made certain recommendations. The recommendations were implemented by the then Government and by the subsequent Governments. We have a strong regulator in the SEBI today. Therefore, I can stand here and tell the hon. House that there is no possibility of any payment crisis in the market. The margin requirement has been so prepared that there is no question of any payment crisis in the Indian stock market. This I am saying on the fullest assurance of the Securities and Exchange Board of India.

As far as manipulating the markets is concerned, it is now well known that the market regulator, namely SEBI, has launched an inquiry to find out if at all there was something on that 'Block Friday' and subsequently on the part of anyone to manipulate the market. That inquiry is going on.

I will be prepared to share the findings of that inquiry with the House as soon as that inquiry is over. But let me assure the House, Sir, that just as in the foreign exchange market, similarly, in the stock market those who know about it, tell me that these markets operate on the basis of sentiments.

I will only appeal to the Members to make sure that we, in this House, do not do anything which will unnecessarily impact upon the sentiments of the market.

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Shri Suresh Ramrao Jadhav.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Mr. Speaker, Sir...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri S. Jaipal Reddy, please understand that there are other Members also who have to speak about their anxieties.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Sir, it is a matter of supreme importance.

MR. SPEAKER: I have received 18 notices from various hon. Members but you are not allowing others to speak. Everyday, senior Members are taking the time of the House like this. Let others also be allowed to raise their issues.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Sir, I have not spoken earlier.

MR. SPEAKER: Please understand their anxieties also.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Shri Yashwant Sinha was not present when I began to make opening remarks. I referred to K.P. index with which he, as Finance Minister, would be familiar. ...*(Interruptions)*... He was not familiar.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri S. Jaipal Reddy, please.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Sir, the point is that he could not respond to some of the observations and some of the concerns we expressed because he was not present.

I, therefore, suggest that he should make a more complete official statement on the entire question. We are concerned about the operations of bear cartel. We are concerned about the foreign institution investors who are taking full advantage of the market panic.

But why did market panic come into operations in the first place? It was because of the rumour or reports — we do not know the truth — that Ketan Parekh had got into a payment problem and also because of the reports that certain banks had got exposed to the share problem of Ketan Parekh. And, the hon. Minister has not addressed himself to this problem. I refer to the crisis created by Harshad Mehta. Even while he continues to be an accused since 1998. That case still remains unresolved. The people in that case have not been punished. They are still operating as bigwigs in the Bombay Stock Market.

I did not expect Shri Yashwant Sinha to reply to all the observations because he was not a privy to the concerns we expressed earlier. But I want him to come out with a more well-considered statement in the House....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: It should be including all possible violations of the JPC....(Interruptions)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hoogly): Even in the case of Videocon, BPL, etc, the SEBI has not come out with its findings. It is the question of punishing the offenders....(Interruptions)

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Sir, many of the issues which have been raised by my colleague Shri S. Jaipal Reddy are the issues which are under inquiry today by the SEBI. So, it will not be possible on my part to jump the gun and talk about those issues here and now. I have already said that once the SEBI completes the inquiry, I shall be quite willing to come to the House and make a statement in that regard....(Interruptions)... The SEBI has been doing its job very well and when the Stock Market was subjected to volatility on Friday, the SEBI had come out with a set of measures including imposing volatility margins on a number of scrips.

So, I am quite satisfied with the action which the SEBI had taken. But as I said, we must learn to distinguish between the integrity of the market, *per se*, and the fluctuations in the Sensex. These are two different issues. So, I would like to assure the House that as far as the integrity of the market is concerned, that is not in danger at all.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Sir, will he say that he will come out with a statement?

MR. SPEAKER: He has already said. Please take your seat now.

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[Translation]

SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL (Balaghat): Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to draw the attention of the House towards a serious problem. A report has been published in the magazine "Shikharvarta" regarding soft-drink 'Coca-Cola' and the report relates to the capital of Madhya Pradesh, where the kidneys of a 15 year old girl, Hollycules, got damaged due to drinking of Coca-Cola and Sprite.

Another alarming fact in that report is that there is ban on Sprite in Belgium and France. The report also mentions about the objectionable material regarding these soft drinks appearing on many websites on internet. An Honourable Member who is present here, has brought two bottles from Bhopal, one bottle has stones and the other has fungus in it. Coca-Cola is such a drink which is taken even in rural areas. I had not heard of Sprite

earlier. Many countries have imposed ban on Sprite, on the basis of medical reports. What action is being taken by the Government regarding such a soft drink? My written queries regarding it remain unanswered? So, I seek your protection and would like to request the Government to take immediate action regarding this serious problem as soft drinks are being widely taken in the country including rural areas.

SHRI KISHAN SINGH SANGWAN (Sonepat): Sir, through you I want to draw the attention of the House to a very important subject. Many industries are shifting from Delhi as per Supreme Court's order. These industries are being installed in the adjoining areas of Delhi like Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan. It is a matter of regret that the State Governments are acquiring the land of farmers at throw away prices. They are being given compensations at the rate of Rupees one lakh or one and a half lakh, whereas the price of some land in the same market is Rs. 20 to 25 lakh. The farmer in Delhi, whose land is acquired, gets rupees 16 lakhs per acre, but in Haryana the farmer gets 1 to 2 lakh per acre for his land. The small farmers get little money for their lands. They are getting ruined. The farmers are being displaced for the sake of setting up industries. The State Governments have made it into a business. They are acquiring land at cheap rates and selling it to industries at very high rates. They are earning crores of rupees and the farmers are being ruined.

[Translation]

Therefore, I request the Government through you to make land Acquisition Act uniform all over the country and those farmers whose land is acquired should be paid money at the market rate, otherwise lakhs of farmers will suffer. Thank you....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ramji Lal Suman, Shri Suman, the situation of law and order is a State subject. How can you raise it here?

[Translation]

How can you raise State matter here?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Ferozabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, there have been communal riots....(Interruptions) In Sambhal on the occasion of Id....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You have raised it during Question Hour also.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Sambhal): Sir, I would like to speak on this.

MR. SPEAKER: Would you speak on this?

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Yes Sir....(Interruptions) Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a serious issue....(Interruptions). A training camp for the workers of Samajwadi Party was organised from 1st to 4th March in Gunnaur town of Sambhal region. I also remained in the training camp continuously for four days. Some people are not interested in creating an atmosphere of brotherhood, therefore, communal forces got done the work of riots intentionally in Sambhal....(Interruptions). The truth is that a rioter killed two innocent Muslims deliberately.\* They said that they will not allow sacrifice in Sambhal. But the Muslims replied that the sacrifice will take place as it was customary. They had uttered just this and the rioter shot dead two Muslims. The most serious matter is that the rioters gheraoed the police station and officers to save that killer....(Interruptions) therefore, I urged upon the hon. Minister to stop atleast BJP from indulging in such activities. We don't want any kind of riot but this is a conspiracy. This Government is losing its popularity and it has been unsuccessful on all the fronts. They are left with no choice other than the riots and therefore, in that region, which is my constituency, a conspiracy was hatched to incite riots there.

Therefore, I urge you that an immediate relief of atleast Rs. 5 lakh be provided to the dependents of each of the deceased persons and directions be issued for strict action against those who are trying to save the killers. It is being said that red alert has been ordered in Moradabad, Meerut, Aligarh, Hathras and other places. Today, the people of the ruling party are hatching a conspiracy to incite riots in Uttar Pradesh. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, Sir, I appeal you to intervene in this matter and take this matter seriously so that there is no riot. I would like to inform the hon. Prime Minister that I was in my constituency for five days and an atmosphere of brotherhood prevails there and there is no mutual enmity amongst the people there. The action taken by the

administration is laudable but the Government is declaring that they have sounded alert in Meerut and Banaras, it is a conspiracy to incite riots.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): Any incident which will disturb the communal harmony is a matter of great concern. I am sure it would be looked into with all the seriousness, especially when a senior leader, like Shri Mulayam Singh, has referred to it. I feel that the Government must take all the necessary steps in this regard.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have also read about the riots in the newspapers. Whether it is a constituency of hon. Mulayam Singh Ji or of someone else, the riots either on the basis of caste or community are unjustified. It is the responsibility of the State Government there to see that such riots do not take place there. I will invite the attention of the hon'ble Home Minister to what hon. Mulayam Singh Ji has said....(Interruptions)

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL (Kanpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Uttar Pradesh Government is not discharging its duties. Tension has taken place many a times in Sambhal. The Uttar Pradesh Government did not take any precaution on the occasion of Bakrid. Only statements are being given that we have alerted the police, we have sounded red alert, but no step has been taken in this regard. Since elections are very near in the Uttar Pradesh, therefore, the Uttar Pradesh Government wants communal tension in the State so that the present Government can take the political mileage out of that....(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am speaking to stop the riots and he is speaking to fuel the riots....(Interruptions)

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: Their intention is to create a situation of communal tension in Uttar Pradesh until elections....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You sit down please.

...(Interruptions)

\* Expunged as ordered by the Chair.



[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record.

...(Interruptions)\*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This has already been replied to by the Minister.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record except what Shri Chandra Shekhar says.

...(Interruptions)\*

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR (Ballia, U.P.): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I urge upon that the atmosphere is getting vitiated. The atmosphere in our bordering countries is also getting vitiated. Tension is arising again there which can have bad consequences. I agree with Mulayam Singh Ji that we are not opposing properly the forces which are creating an atmosphere of tension. But, it is also true what Pramod Mahajan Ji has said that we should not create an atmosphere which will fuel that tension. It is not the time to blame each other but it is the time to work together. The Sambhal area, where Mulayam Singh Ji himself was present; he has raised a question on this issue. I will ask hon. Pramod Mahajan Ji not to raise this question in that manner. He should invite the attention of the Government of Uttar Pradesh and the Home Ministry towards this as it is not the matter of state only. It is a matter of communal harmony, integrity and the future of the country. I do not want to raise any other matter but the atmosphere that is building up all around our boundaries is very unpleasant. This will help in supporting such forces. Just now a gentleman gave a statement regarding Ayodhya. That statement is also very unfortunate. We can never bring harmony in the country like this by imposing conditions. Therefore, I urge that Mulayam Singh Ji has not blamed anybody, he has only urged that Pramod Mahajan Ji must change this atmosphere by using his personal influence if somebody is trying to protect the criminals.

\* Not recorded.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I had already said that whatever sentiments have been expressed by Mulayam Singh Ji and Chandrashekhar Ji in this debate....(Interruptions) You are speaking here like a State Congress President....(Interruptions)

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is a very sensitive issue....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This will not go on record.

...(Interruptions)\*

MR. SPEAKER: You have raised a matter to which the Government is now replying. You are not allowing the Minister to reply.

[Translation]

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to reiterate that there should be no communal riots and all of us should try to prevent it. Chandrashekhar Ji and Mulayam Singh Ji have also expressed the same view. I agree on this both personally and officially. Obviously as a representative of the Central Government, I can only convey the sentiments of the House to the Home Minister. However, law and order is under State Government. I would personally try to draw the attention of the Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Rajnath Singh Ji to whatever Chandrashekhar Ji and Mulayam Singh Ji have said. I can not speak on behalf of a party but the Central Government will try to maintain peace and communal harmony before elections or whether there are elections or not. We are trying this and will keep on doing this.

VAIDYA VISHNU DATT SHARMA (Jammu): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the bridge on Chenab river had collapsed due to floods in the 70's. It had collapsed earlier also and was reconstructed. Now lakhs of tonnes of iron is lying below this bridge but the Government did not take its care. This iron is the property of the State. It is a loss to the Nation. This iron should be taken care of by issuing orders to the concerned persons. A number of bridges can be constructed from that. Therefore, I urge upon the Government to pay attention to this and give this lakhs of tonnes of iron to somebody after extracting it.

SHRI VIJAY GOEL (Chandni Chowk): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw your attention towards an important issue. This House will not agree to the open

\* Not recorded.

statement by the Shahi Imam of Jama Masjid. Chandni Chowk is my Constituency and this statement has been issued from there. It is not correct to relate the breaking of Buddha idols by Taliban regime to a ten year old Babri Masjid-Ayodhya Temple incident. Everybody has said that Shahi Imam is not the only Muslim representative. All the Muslims of my area condemn this and they say that whatever the Taliban Government is doing is wrong. The Government must take some steps against this. I would like to request the Government that making such provoking statements from Jama Masjid or any other religious place should not be allowed and the House should condemn it.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am raising another issue regarding manufacturers of readymade garments. They are sitting on Dharna in Chandni Chowk over extra excise duty being levied on readymade garments. Will the hon. Finance Minister pay attention to this on behalf of the Government or not?

Mr. Speaker, Sir, people engaged in readymade garments business have installed machines for the last four months and they will now be taxed....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Goel, which issue are you raising? Is it regarding duty on readymade garments?

SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Sir, I have raised two issues....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: How can you raise two issues during 'Zero Hour'?

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, they all are sitting on Dharna....

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This is not proper.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (Mumbai South Central): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Shahi Imam's statement can lead to riots in the whole country. Action should be taken on this.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Rawale, he has given notice. I have called his name. How can you speak without giving any notice? How is it possible? You are associating yourself with other hon. Members without giving any notice?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI M. CHINNASAMY (Karur): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the recent announcement made by the Prime Minister in the Chief Ministers and Power Ministers Conference last Saturday to withdraw the provision of free electricity to the farmers and charge 50 paise per unit. The Minister of Finance has also announced in the Budget that all farm pump sets would be fitted with meters. It has caused concern and has created tension and apprehension among the farming community. The farmers are naturally aggrieved and agitated.

Sir, Tamil Nadu, Punjab, and Andhra Pradesh are among the very few States in the country at present which supply free electricity to the farmers. The statement of the Prime Minister is very painful and regrettable. The entire farming community in the country is upset by the announcement. All kisan leaders and political leaders have condemned this move. The All India Anna DMK Party, General Secretary, and former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Dr. J. Jayalalitha has also condemned this. She has also accused the Prime Minister of going back from his earlier commitment made in 1998 to let the State Governments decide about the continuation of free electricity to the farmers.

Sir, I demand that this benefit to farmers should continue. It has also been reported that a number of farmers have committed suicide in Andhra Pradesh and Bihar for want of remunerative prices for their crops.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Chinnasamy, we are going to discuss exclusively the farmers' issue on 13th and 14th. Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: How can you read during 'Zero Hour'?

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): I would like to raise a very important issue regarding the public distribution system in the State of Kerala. In Kerala State there is statutory rationing. This was introduced

four decades back and being continued till date. The Central Government has an obligation by a covenant to supply sufficient food-stocks for supply through ration shops. But, the present decision of the Central Government to do away with the supply of food-stocks will definitely adversely affect the public distribution system in our State.

Moreover the arrangement to be made with the Food Corporation of India which is procuring food-stocks for distribution through ration shops will be asked to discontinue the practice. So, the present position is that the public distribution system would be hampered and this will create a very difficult situation for the people of the State.

I would, therefore, request the Central Government to take adequate measures for continuing the public distribution system and also distribution of food-stocks through ration shops. This is a very important issue. This had been agreed to by the Government some forty years back and this agreement will have to continue to be implemented.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): I would like to bring a very important issue to the kind notice of the House because it involves the prestige and dignity of every Member of this House. It is with regard to the salary and allowances of the MPs. Some derogatory remarks have been passed in most of the newspapers and magazines with regard to the salary and allowances of MPs and MLAs. *The Hindustan* of 3rd March carries an article titled"

[Translation]

"After all how much the MPs need to deliver."

[English]

Now a book has been sent to every Member of Parliament and Member of Legislative Assemblies which says:

"MPs and MLAs, do you know what people think of our legislators and politicians? We are sending this compilation to all Members of Parliament and Members of Legislative Assemblies of the country. It is sent by Common Cause of Mr. H.D. Shourie."

One Shri Chandrashekhar Mahapatra has written:

"All our legislators of the State Assemblies and Members of Parliament both from the Upper and the Lower Houses are thugs and thieves. They can loot the country most by making laws for themselves. 1.5 lakh free telephone calls are given to them. If at a

minimum three minutes per call is taken, then a Member has to spend 20 hours 24 minutes per day for making telephone conversation. Where is the time for other works like attending to public works? MPs of the super-cyclone area in Orissa did not allow their MPLADS fund money to be used for relief and rehabilitation purpose. They are treating it as their personal property as if it is inherited by a son-in-law from his father-in-law."

MR. SPEAKER: A Committee has been constituted and it is examining all these points. You need not read out all these things.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: I will not read out everything. But I have a suggestion to make. Actually, this type of comments has been made by former Secretaries-General of Lok Sabha, Shri Subhash C. Kashyap and Shri C.K. Jain also. My point is that there should be a public debate on this issue, not inside this House because it is natural that MPs in the House will speak in favour of themselves. So, the debate should be held outside this House. Let the hon. Parliamentary Affairs Minister arrange it. Journalists, public personalities and MPs should participate in that debate, so that at least the derogatory remarks being passed on each and every MP by journalists and public servants can be arrested. If there is a public debate, we can also clarify our position.

[Translation]

SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN (Araria): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the survey for poverty line list carried out in the States of Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Orissa etc. has not been done properly and more than 40 per cent of poor people are not included in the poverty line list. I urge upon the Governments through you to issue instructions to all State Government to enlist those poor people who are not included in the poverty line list so that they can get the rice, wheat etc. at cheaper rates and the biggest proof of being poor is that a person's name should be in the poverty line list. Therefore, it is my request through you that instructions should be issued to all the State Governments to include all those people in the poverty line list who were left out earlier.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Hon. Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to draw the attention of the Central Government towards Rajasthan. Rajasthan has been reeling under a severe spell of famine and drought for the last three years and 30585 villages in 31 districts out of 32 districts are under the grip of

drought. Around one crore farmers and four crore animals are struggling with a severe calamity. Most of the districts had very low rainfall. All ponds and reservoirs have dried up and the under-ground water level has gone very low. This has caused drinking water problem. In many villages there is need to arrange water supply through tankers. There was very little crop left but there is shortage of electricity and the supply is hardly for two-three hours, when it is not needed. As a result a decline in the Rabi crop to the tune of Rs. 1847 crores is expected. Villages in Rajasthan have become empty due to lack of work. After the earthquake in Gujarat many villagers are migrating completely to Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh and other States. The Rajasthan Government has employed 30-40 people for famine relief work in a panchayat, while you are aware that there are 300-400 people below poverty line in a panchayat. Only 30-40 people are put to work and even that is being politicised. When questioned, the Government of Rajasthan says that the exchequer is empty and the Central Government is not providing any money. Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture and other Ministers of the Government of India are sitting here. I would like to request them that the Union Government should take immediate steps to provide work to crores of people of Rajasthan who are affected by the severe natural calamities like famine and drought and safeguard the livestock and arrange fodder for the animals and drinking water for the people not to leave us at the mercy of inefficient Rajasthan Government.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Dr. Jayant Rongpi, the issue which you want to raise is a State matter. In that case, how can you raise it?

DR. JAYANT RONGPI (Autonomous District-Assam): Sir, the issue of democracy cannot be a matter of State. What I want to raise is about the murder of democracy in the newly formed State of Jharkhand.

On 1st March, my Party, CPI-ML, was organising a peaceful and democratic demonstration in front of the Jharkhand Assembly demanding the scrapping of Koel Karo Project and protection of *dalits*, minorities and weaker sections.

MR. SPEAKER: Dr. Rongpi, law and order is a State subject.

DR. JAYANT RONGPI: Sir, in a span of two months of its formation, the Jharkhand Government have resorted

to firing thrice killing *dalits* and Muslims. Of course, there is a State Assembly there....(Interruptions) This was a peaceful demonstration led by our National General Secretary, Shri Deepankar Bhattacharya. The issue is that the Jharkhand Government had arrested him on 1st March and till today, he has been kept in illegal custody....(Interruptions) There is a total murder of democracy. He has been implicated in false charges and there is even a conspiracy to kill him in police custody.

Therefore, I demand that the Government should intervene in the matter and this murder of democracy should be stopped. I would like the entire House to support us on this issue. There may be political differences. But the basic right of a political party for peaceful and democratic opposition should always be upheld. I want the Central Government to intervene immediately and send a message to the Jharkhand Government in this regard. When the Jharkhand Government was formed, irrespective of political differences, all political parties supported it. And now, this Jharkhand Government have started curtailing the democratic rights....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Even though it is a State matter, I allowed him. What is this?

...(Interruptions)

DR. JAYANT RONGPI: It is not a State issue but it is an issue of democracy....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: If you go on doing like this, then everyone would want to raise the State matters only. Please wind up.

...(Interruptions)

DR. JAYANT RONGPI: Sir, the Central Government should respond to it. It is an issue of democracy. It cannot be termed as a State matter. It is a matter of basic democratic rights. So, I request that the Central Government should respond to it....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Next, Shri Ramdas Athawale. Yours is also a State matter.

Next, Shri Hannan Mollah. Yours is an individual matter. How can you raise it?

Next, Shri Suresh Ramrao Jadhav. I think you have to give a proper notice for raising the privilege issue, not like this.

12.56 hrs.

[English]

## INTER-STATE WATER DISPUTES (AMENDMENT) BILL\*

MR. SPEAKER: The House will now take up the Legislative Business. Shri Arjun Charan Sethi to move for leave to introduce a Bill.

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN SETHI): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Inter-State Water Disputes Act, 1956.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Inter-State Water Disputes Act, 1956."

*The motion was adopted.*

SHRI ARJUN SETHI: I introduce\*\* the Bill.

MR. SPEAKER: The House will now take up Matters Under Rule 377.

Shrimati Jayaben Thakkar.

12.58 hrs.

## MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

- (i) **Need to safeguard the interests of workers while implementing Voluntary Separation Scheme in Petrofils Cooperative Limited, Vadodara and Valla, Gujarat**

[English]

SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR (Vadodara): Sir, the Government of India had taken a decision to wind up Petrofils Cooperative Limited, Vadodara and Valia (Gujarat) and offered Voluntary Separation Scheme (VSS) to all the employees. In the event of permission for closure being granted, it must be done without jeopardising the

legitimate interests of the workers and without depriving them of their genuine dues. The two options of VSS (DHI and Gujarat pattern) as mentioned in the Government office order shall be kept open for all employees. The options have been approved by the Chemical and Fertilizers Ministry and it requires the approval from Finance Ministry.

I urge the Government to accord the necessary approval at the earliest.

- (ii) **Need to correct census undertaken in Jharkhand by including the devotees of Sarna religion**

SHRI SALKHAN MURMU (Mayurbhanj): I would like to draw the attention of Government of India towards the defective census undertaken in Jharkhand State with regard to Adivasis. The Census Commissioner was apprised of the defects on 17.1.2001 at Ranchi that most of the Adivasis (Scheduled Tribes) are devotees of Nature worship and is popularly known as Sarna. In the absence of Sarna religion column and code number in the census format, the identity and existence of Sarna devotees could greatly get endangered.

The poor Adivasis migrate to neighbouring States for livelihood for three to four months in February every year. They come back in May. Hence the census operation should have been taken place in June in Jharkhand. The migrants are in lakhs.

The Adivasis must be involved in the process of census from top to bottom to ensure the correct counting.

The Adivasis resisted the census in the absence of needful corrections. Hence, I urge upon the Union Government to take corrective measures to ensure factual data of Adivasis in Jharkhand. This is possible only by redoing the census in Jharkhand State.

[Translation]

13.00 hrs.

- (iii) **Need for proper maintenance of Pani-Koeli Rajamunda National Highway in Orissa.**

SHRI ANANTA NAYAK (Keonjhar): Mr. Speaker Sir, Pani-Koeli-Rajamunda National Highway which is three hundred and forty eight Km long is the main highway of Orissa. Keeping in view its economic importance it has been declared a national highway. But it is a matter of great regret that neither Central Road Deptt. nor State Road Deptt. or State Public Works Deptt. is taking any

\* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 7/3/2001.

\*\* Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

interest in the development and maintenance of this highway.

This newly constructed highway passes through main districts like Keonjhar and Sundergarh where minerals are in abundance and thousands of trucks run on this road to carry the iron ore, manganese and various other minerals to their destinations. Besides, buses and a large number of private vehicles run on this road to carry passengers. Thus this road is just like a life line for the people of Keonjhar and Sundergarh. This road is also a link road between commercial city Cuttak and steel city of Raurkela of Orissa. So it stands right by all means to take the development of this road. Now it is a national highway. Presently condition of this road is not well and it takes a lot of time to reach from one end to another because of dilapidated conditions of this road.

Keeping the above facts in view I earnestly request the Union Government to take the developments of this newly constructed Pani-Koeli-Rajamunda highway urgently.

[English]

**(iv) Need to revise the family pension to widows of the soldiers**

SHRI GEORGE EDEN (Emakulam): Sir, I would like to draw the kind attention of the hon. Defence Minister to the grave condition of the widows of the soldiers, who sacrificed their lives for the nation. The widows of the soldiers who died in the battle in war like situations, during their service are getting family pensions in different tariffs. In some categories the pension is decreased when their children are grown up. In every Central and State Government departments, pension is increased from time to time according to the standard of living. But in the case of these widows, once the pension is given, there is no enhancement from time to time.

Hence, I request hon. Defence Minister to revise the pension from time to time and give them sufficient pension for their livelihood.

**(v) Need to open border trade and commerce between India and Myanmar through Tizu River waterways in Nagaland**

SHRI K.A. SANGTAM (Nagaland): Sir, Nagaland is a hilly and remote State locked with bottle — necked outlet and economically backward with vast potentially untapped resources for export and marketing.

All along the acute mountainous Indo-Myanmar boundary-trading route exist in Arunachal Pradesh,

Manipur, Mizoram and Meghalaya via Dawki, excepting Nagaland sector which is inaccessible by road except via Tizu River waterways. The Tizu River is the only river of Nagaland, which flows into Myanmar. It joins Chindwin River near Tamanthi town, which in turn is a tributary of the great Irrawaddy River of Myanmar that discharges into the Indian Ocean.

This inland waterway route between India and Myanmar is very important for border trade and commerce. On the Indian side there is very heavy deposit of natural resources. On Myanmar side there is a good deposit of precious stone, gold and also the famous "Burma teak" is grown in plenty which can be brought into India through this inland waterway.

I request the Union Government to open border trade commerce between India and Myanmar through Tizu river waterways in Nagaland.

**(vi) Need to increase customs duty on Capro Lactum and import duty on edible oil to protect indigenous industry**

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Sir, the reduction of customs duty on Capro Lactum is highly detrimental to the interest of Fertilizers and Chemicals Limited, Allwaye. It is very likely that the biggest public sector undertaking in Kerala will have to be closed shortly. The Central Government should take immediate steps to increase the customs duty to protect this Indian Industry.

The proposed enhancement of import duty on edible oil is very unsatisfactory. It will not do any help to the coconut farmers in South India. It is therefore, strongly demanded that the import duty be raised to 100 per cent at the moment.

**(vii) Need to provide jobs to SC/ST whose lands have been acquired by NTPC Unit, Ramagundam, Andhra Pradesh**

DR. (SHRIMATI) C. SUGUNA KUMARI (Peddapalli): Sir, I draw the attention of this august House to the perpetuating problems of the SC and ST land oustees in the RSTPS, Ramagundam NTPC Unit. About 1,500 SC, ST families' houses and lands on which they eke out their lives were acquired to build RSTPS Ramagundam NTPC Unit. The NTPC management promised and agreed to offer and appoint these SC, ST land oustees on small and non-technical jobs around 1985. The NTPC failed in its agreement. There were many agitations to focus the failure of NTPC Ramagundam to fulfil the promise it gave to SC, ST land oustees.

[Dr. (Smt.) C. Suguna Kumari]

On 20th September, 1998, the management of RSTPS, NTPC Ramagundam entered into a written agreement to appoint 141 land oustees which includes 21 SCs and 10 STs. The RSTPS Ramagundam had gone back on this agreement and so far appointed only 9 SCs and no STs. I request, through you, Mr. Speaker, Sir, the RSYPS Ramagundam to abide by the written agreement and appoint the SCs and STs as agreed upon.

[English]

- (viii) **Need to convert meter gauge railway line between Indara Junction and Doharighat in Uttar Pradesh into broad gauge.**

[Translation]

SHRI BAL KRISHNA CHAUHAN (Ghosi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I want to draw the attention of this Government towards the railway line falling between Indara and Dohrighat railway stations of Eastern Railways in Ghosi constituency in Distt Mau, Uttar Pradesh. This meter gauge railway line was laid in 1902 and Dohrighat is the last station on this important commercial markets and industrial institutions like Kopaganj, Dohrighat and Ghosi Sugar mills are situated on this route. Most of the railway lines of North Eastern Railways have been converted into broad gauge whereas this railway line has not yet been converted into broad gauge inspite of being hundred years old. As a result of this smooth movement of the people of this area to the district head quarters of Mau district has been interrupted. Therefore, I urge upon the government to convert the meter gauge railway line into broad gauge and to introduce a new train from Mau to Dohrighat.

- (ix) **Need to declare Jahanabad in Bihar as a Disturbed Area and improve the communication system there.**

[English]

SHRI ARUN KUMAR (Jahanabad): Sir, Jahanabad is a very sensitive constituency of Lok Sabha. It is plagued by frequent clash of terrorist groups, resulting in mass murder, extortion kidnapping and harassment of innocent citizens. The lack of communication facility in this area is also a contributing factor. I therefore, appeal to the hon. Prime Minister and Home Minister to treat Jahanabad as a disturbed area and take proper action to improve the communication facility in the area, so that the movement of police and para-military forces are not hampered at the time of emergent situations.

For this, the roads of Jahanabad constituency should be improved to the standard of the National Highway. The Ministry of Home Affairs may provide Radio Link facility to the police stations of Jahanabad, so that effective action may be taken by them on the receipt of information from the turbulent area.

- (x) **Need to take necessary steps to tap solar energy for the production of Electricity in the Sunderbans, West Bengal.**

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL (Joynagar): Sir, Sunderban is known world over for its largest mangrove swamp and Royal Bengal Tiger. It has also the largest potential for generation of electricity from non-conventional energy sources like wind power, tidal waves, biomass and solar energy.

Two islands of the Sunderban, Sagar and Gosaba have been often described as the power islands of Sundarbans. The Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources has already conducted surveys for generation of electricity out of non-conventional energy sources. But this has remained on paper. No action has been taken so far. In Gosoba the largest Biomass Gassifier Power Plant is already in operations. But the solar energy has remained untapped.

There has been a long pending demand from the people of this region for setting up solar energy based power plants for producing electricity. Non-conventional energy sources are the only means for the people of Sundarbans to have access to electricity.

I urge upon the Government to take immediate steps for tapping the solar energy for the production of electricity in the Sundarbans.

- (xi) **Need to provide funds for early completion of gauge conversion work between Hassan and Mangalore, Karnataka.**

SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE (Udupi): Sir, since the metre-gauge rail line between Hassan and Mangalore was closed for gauge conversion work, the people of the area had been suffering a lot. Because of disruption of rail service on this route, about 6,000 daily passengers are forced to travel by more than 200 buses plying on the route. Because of this dislocation, the Railways have been deprived of passenger and freight traffic revenue, and the cargo container capacity of Mangalore Port has also been severely hit.

Surprisingly, no allocation has been made for this ongoing project although 60 per cent of the conversion

work is complete with 100 per cent completion of major bridges and tunnels *en route*. There is no other bottleneck like acquisition of land. The main problem is about funds.

I would, therefore, urge upon the Central Government to mop up funds through issue of bonds and teaming up with KRFL and HUDCO. An immense revenue potential has been blocked apart from stoppage of developmental work in the region. I urge upon the Central Government to give topmost priority for completion of this project in the interest of both the Railways and the public.

[*Translation*].

SHRI RAJO SINGH (Begusarai): Please give me one minute's time. I would like to submit that several hon'ble Members try to explain their problems under Rule 377 but only a few members are able to do so. My humble submission is that the issues to be raised under Rule 377 may be forwarded to the concerned departments so that they can be dealt with properly. This is the issue before you for consideration.

**(xii) Need to declare support price for Potato**

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, potato is an important crop of our country. Potato is used not only in the form of vegetable but it is also used as a meal by the poor people. That is why, Potato is cultivated in the entire country so that there is no scarcity of it. But the cost of production of this important produce is increasing day by day. Continuous increase in the prices of Fertilizer, water, diesel and seeds has made this crop unprofitable. Farmers in Uttar Pradesh and Punjab are compelled to sell their potato at very low rates today. You must have heard that in Punjab farmers had piled up their potatoes on the roads of Jalandhar. Similar situation is prevailing in potato producing areas of Uttar Pradesh. There is neither any procurement agency of the Government nor the Government have fixed any support price for this produce.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government to reduce the production cost of this crop and also to declare support price for potato as well as provide subsidy on it.

**(xiii) Need to develop 'Badi Ki Dhar' area near Shimla in Himachal Pradesh as a tourist resort.**

COL. (RETD.) DR. DHANI RAM SHANDIL (Shimla): Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is a most beautiful place named 'Badi Ki Dhar', approximately 80 kilometers away from Shimla and State highway passes nearby this place. In

the forest rich in flora here a variety of birds and animals like chitah, tiger, deer and monal peacocks are found in this natural beauty. It is believed that the 'Pandavas' had spent last year of their exile in the caves of the hills of this dense forest. Keeping this old faith in view a big fair is organised on this beautiful place in which, a 'Shobha Yatra' for Pandavas present a grand attraction for crowd gathered there. This place has enormous potential for development of tourism.

I urge upon the government to construct there a helipad as well as a small runway on priority basis in order to develop this as a tourist place. I request the hon'ble Minister of Tourism that a central survey team may be sent in order to complete this task.

13.14 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned for lunch till fourteen of the clock.*

14.06 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at six minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.*

(SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN in the Chair)

**BANKING COMPANIES (LEGAL PRACTITIONERS' CLIENTS' ACCOUNTS) REPEAL BILL**

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: We shall now take up item no. 9 — Banking Companies (Legal Practitioners' Clients Accounts) Repeal Bill.

Hon. Minister, Shri Balasaheb Vikhe Patil.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill to repeal the Banking Companies (Legal Practitioners' Clients' Accounts) Act, 1949, be taken into consideration."

MR. CHAIRMAN: Motion moved:

"That the Bill to repeal the Banking Companies (Legal Practitioners' Clients' Accounts) Act, 1949, be taken into consideration."



[Translation]

SHRI RAJO SINGH (Begusarai): Mr. Chairman, Sir, Banking Companies (Legal Practitioners' Clients Accounts) Repeal Bill, 2001 has been moved by the hon'ble Minister of State. The original Bill was passed in 1949 and the commission constituted in this regard in 1958 had recommended to repeal it. It is a matter of discussion as to what was the purpose of the Bill and the reasons for which the commission recommended to repeal it. Through you, I would like to tell the Government that Shri Jaswant Singh had signed this Bill. Though, the Minister of State is asked to give reply to the questions yet no mention is made about his name. There is no harm in mentioning his name, as is done in case of Shri Digvijay Singh. Even if reply is not given, we can read in the newspapers that Shri Gangwar ji has replied. We get surprise to know that there was mention about the name of Shri Digvijay Singh but in newspapers....(Interruptions).

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Position of the Ministers of State is very awkward. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAJO SINGH. It has been mentioned in the objects and reasons of the Bill that irregularities are there in the accounts of the account holders. Somebody withdraws money from the account of the account holder illegally therefore, they want to repeal this Bill. For this, I would like to thank the hon'ble Minister because he has accepted this fact before the House that money is withdrawn illegally from the bank account. In this connection, I would like to give an example. There is a rural bank in Monghyr where the Chairman lives. Somebody had taken away all the money from bank by forged signature. When people made complaints about it, the only punishment given to the manager of the bank was his suspension. After four months his suspension order was revoked but money has not been given to the depositor till now. This Bill is not comprehensive. Through you, I would like to submit that as per the directions of the President, Official Language rules should be followed. Hon'ble Pandey ji is present here and his State comes in the category of region 'A', Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh come in region 'A', and the language of these States is Hindi. All the registers available in the banks are printed in English language and all the entries regarding depositing money by the farmers are made in the ledger in English only. The innocent farmers of Bihar, Jharkhand and Uttar Pradesh are not able to read the entries about the money they deposit in their accounts. If the Government is not following the directions of the President then who else will follow them. This is the national problem and it is

unfortunate that our country has to constitute official language committee to adopt an official language. We have seen in the Central hall that Shri Clinton had delivered his speech in English and the President of Russia Shri Putin made his speech in Russian language. The Department of Official language comes under the Ministry of Home Affairs and Shri L.K. Advani is the Minister in-charge. One of the hon'ble members of your party had said to late Shri Indira ji that a separate Department for Official Language might be created. Indira ji said that the Ministry of Home Affairs is very strong and powerful and if the Department of Official Language is attached to it, it would have a good effect on the entire country. Unless entries in these accounts are made in Hindi, such incident will continue to take place. They had to take this decision only after the constitution of the commission in 1958. They did not want to take this decision. They are repealing this Bill on the basis of the recommendations of the commission.

Sir, I will not take much time of the House, as the bill is not comprehensive this Bill vindicate the saying, "Dekhan and Mein Chhote Lagain, ghao Karein Gambhir." Somebody has taken away money illegally from the account of another person. I want that the Government should conduct an inquiry into the matter. The District Magistrate of Monghyr is the chairman of the Board of Director of the Monghyr Gramin Bank. It is amazing that money has been withdrawn from the account of another person by defaulting the bank which has not been returned to the genuine account holders so far.

Sir, I would like to submit to the Government that my suggestions may be considered. All the ledgers in all the banks situated in the Hindi speaking areas may be printed in Hindi be it the Gramin bank, State Bank, Punjab National Bank, Canara Bank etc. because our official language is Hindi. An inquiry may be conducted into the matter and action be taken against the Gramin bank of Monghyr and payment be made to the persons from whose account money has been withdrawn fraudulently. With these few words, I support this Bill and I would like to say that you have done a good thing by bringing this Bill. Thanks for that....(Interruptions)

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (Mumbai South Central): In this regard I would like to say that there should be papers in all regional languages.

[English]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Sir, I support the Bill. I will complete my speech within two minutes.

The main intention of the Bill is that previously a lawyer was opening an account for his client in the bank while he was just dealing with the case and for that he was being given some protection. Now, as per the guidelines of the Reserve Bank of India, since no legal practitioner has been opening or operating any client's account with the banking companies, therefore, the protection given to the banking companies has become redundant.

Sir, during the last ten or fifteen days so many Bills, which were the legacy of the colonial rule and had been redundant. All those Bills have been repealed. This is one such Bill which has actually no justification of being continued now. So, I think, the Government has actually thought in terms of repealing this Bill.

Sir, since it is a small Bill, I do not want to continue my speech.

With these few words, I conclude.

DR. B.B. RAMAIAH (Eluru): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I also agree with my other colleagues. This Bill was enacted in 1949. At that time, probably, the clients might have to depend on various legal practitioners to utilise their services, protection, etc. That is why, this particular Bill must have been provided at that time. But when the review was made in the administrative laws in 1998, the recommendation, probably, was made that there is no necessity any more of this Act and it has to be repealed. Subsequently, the Reserve Bank of India have also examined this and they also felt that it is a genuine demand that this provision should not be there anymore.

But, in any case, as our hon. Members have said, farmers and various other people have to maintain their accounts through the banking system. Today, after computerisation and development of the latest technology, we should be able to give the numbers for each individual. On that basis, they should be able to issue identity cards to them so that they should be able to operate easily, without any difficulty. As such, the banking system should be widely publicised which should be in the interests of all others, as the practice of using banks has become more important.

Sir, in any case, I strongly support the Bill and I entirely agree with the hon. Minister.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Jain Commission, which was set up

in 1996 has found that out of 2500 central laws there are more than 1300 laws which are not in use. So they must be repealed. But the Government has not repealed these irrelevant laws. In the year 1998 the report of the Jain Commission was submitted and only some days back, the Law Minister brought out 17 legislation at a time but the Commission had said that all such irrelevant laws might be repealed by a single legislation. But this Government is bringing one legislation after the other. Can you tell us how many bills are there in the Finance Ministry about which the Jain Commissions had recommended that they may be repealed? Probably the Law Minister may not be knowing that. The 43 legislations which have been enforced are still redundant in various departments. We have still to repeal more than 1300 laws after which 1200 will be left. There are more than 25000 laws. In a State there are 700 laws and in some other States there are 800 laws. But the Government has sometimes brought forward one bill and sometimes two.

What are they doing about Banks? It was provided in that the advocate can open a bank account on behalf of his client. The Reserve Bank has said that no one is opening account, so this provision must be repealed. When in the year 1969 people felt that this provision must be there then what lacunae was there. There is no need to state it. The Commission and the Reserve Bank both said that this must be repealed. What is being done now in regard to the Banks in the country. They are out to sell out the banks and the bank employees are afraid of it and are resorting to taking out processions and demonstrations etc. against it. Why have you not bringing this repealing legislation. You may be knowing that 62 — crore of rupees are of N.P.A. Why is the Finance Minister taking no notice of that in this Budget. Only 800 crore of rupees have been recovered. It seems he is in pursuit of awards. Why don't you repeal all the laws in one go. He is ignoring the recommendations of the Jain Commission. Jain Commission has recommended to repeal all the laws at a time. He should take up the reform work to be done in respect of Banks. Our time is very precious and it has to be utilised for other purposes also. Our first priority is to save banks. Kindly desist from closing banks. In Bank V.R.S. is being implemented and the experienced people are quitting the banks. Mr. Nitish Sen ji is an experienced person. He should tell the Government. Government is taking retrogressive steps. Late Smt. Indira nationalised the banks. I was told that poor people will get loans from the banks money-lending system will be abolished; exploitation will end. But the Government is privatising them again. When the banks will be privatised, will they keep giving loans to the people? No. That is why the real work meant for the poor people must be continued.

[Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh]

Under the undue interest rates are charged and poor people are exploited. Banks were nationalised for doing away with that system.

They are taking everything in back-gear. Every thing is being privatised. How will they privatise the Government? There is no such system. The Prime Minister has taken the bigwigs and capitalists of multinational companies as his advisors. It is the same situation in the Education Department. There also the people are coming in without any hindrance. All those who are sitting on this side keep telling us that what is happening is not good and nothing is being done for the poor people. On the other hand, you are getting passed all that is brought forward here for that purpose. It is my request to agree to the recommendations of the commission and make the N.P.A. follow some principles. The experienced employees and officers are quitting the banks due to the wrong policies of the Government. If all the experienced persons would leave the banks what then will be the condition of the banks, is known to them very well. I urge you not to waste time on different laws which are redundant.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would thank all the Members who have agreed unanimously to repeal it and supported the Bill. Some Members have expressed their views regarding this. This law has not been implemented ever since it was enacted. Raghuvansh Prasad ji put fourth many points regarding Jain Commission. Everybody has experience regarding this. If all the Ministries recommend to repeal this and if it is felt necessary, the matter is placed before cabinet. The Cabinet considers it and then it takes a decision. If we do any thing in haste then it is said that we are trying to repeal them together in haste. Law has its process and we have to act accordingly. In my opinion whether it is Finance department or any other department, if a law is in order and even if no recommendation has been made for it. The department has to work according to the law only. This is why I feel that nothing wrong has been done in this matter.

One of our colleagues Mr. Rajo Singh ji said in the beginning that some one's money was withdrawn from his account by some other person. On receiving complaint the General Manager was suspended but no action was taken against any other person. The person to whom the money belonged, could not get back his money. Although an enquiry was conducted even then we are going to have a further enquiry. When an amount is deposited it is also got insured. Why such things are happening even after insurance? We will see this.

Secondly, Hindi is our official language and I agree to it. When recruitments are made for the banks it is ensured that the applicant should have the knowledge of local language. Such applicants are given preference. Whatever may be the Regional language, be it Hindi, Tamil, Kannada, Marathi or Gujarati, the Government endeavour is to see general public should have convenience of communication in their own language.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (Mumbai South Central): If you will make it compulsory then only people will follow it.

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: One has the right to have communications in the language he can speak and understand. This is taken into account while having communications. We cannot communicate to a person knowing Marathi in English or Kannada.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: All nationalised banks should have this facility.

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: You may tell us what kind of reforms are required in it....(Interruptions) People from all over India mostly come to Mumbai and it is his constituency.

Not, many other subjects are covered under this. So far as the subject of N.P.A. is concerned, Reserve Bank of India has made guidelines so that the clients may get some relief. I feel some thing is being done in this regard. When data will be released, the work will progress further.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the subject of voluntary retirement has been discussed many times in the House. It is not imposed on anyone and one should not be worried about it. Even if some individuals leave the bank the work of bank will go on. A person who wishes to leave can leave the bank. Let them enjoy the facility. If youngster are left, they can advance further and their future will become bright. It is just not true that the bank's work will suffer if some employees quit. The bank's contribution will always be there. We know that most of the employees have welcomed this scheme. That is why it is my request to the Members of this House to help in the passing of the Bill meant for repealing the Banking Companies (Legal Practitioner's Clients' Accounts) Repeal Act, 1949.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Mr. Chairman, Sir, regarding N.P.A. my suggestion is....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Rawale, you have not participated in the discussion. Only those Members who

have participated in the discussion are entitled to seek clarification and not others.

The question is:

"That the Bill to repeal the Banking Companies (Legal Practitioner's Clients' Accounts) Act, 1949, 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 1, the Enacting formula and the Long Title were added to the Bill.*

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

*The motion was adopted.*

14.33 hrs.

## NARCOTIC DRUGS AND PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES (AMENDMENT) BILL

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

Mr. Chairman, Sir, our experience of about a decade and half in implementing the provisions of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 has brought to the fore certain deficiencies in the Act which hamper

our action against drug-traffickers. The Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (Amendment) Bill, 2000 seeks to strengthen the Act by way of removing deficiencies noticed so far.

Most of the obligations arising out the UN Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, 1988 were taken care of by an amendment made to the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 in the year 1989. Some of the further obligations arising under the said convention, which could not be included in the amendment to the Act made in the year 1989, are covered by the present amendments.

The Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act prescribes for most of the offences a uniform sentence of minimum 10 years and imprisonment which may extend up to 20 years. There has been a criticism against the Act that the punishments prescribed under the Act are harsh and disproportionate, at times, to the gravity of offences involved. Recognising the need to rationalise the sentence structure, it is proposed to introduce the principle of graded punishment on the basis of the quantity of drugs involved in the offence. This would require, as in the laws of some other countries like Australia, categorising quantity of drugs into three grades — small quantity, commercial quantity and quantity between small quantity and commercial quantity — for the purpose of imposing sentence.

The Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (Amendment) Bill was first introduced in Rajya Sabha on 9th July, 1998, and it was referred to the Standing Committee on Finance on 22nd July, 1998. The Committee, after holding oral evidence of Government, Ministries, Departments, and officers, submitted its report to Rajya Sabha on 30th November, 1998, and to Lok Sabha on 2nd December, 1998. While agreeing to most of the proposed clauses in the Bill, the Committee made certain recommendations. On examination of the recommendations made by the Committee in consultation with the Ministry of Law and Ministry of External Affairs, major amendments suggested by the Committee in the original Bill have been accepted by the Ministry. The Bill was discussed in the Rajya Sabha on 27th November, 2000 and the same has been passed with the proposed amendments by that House.

I commend this Bill for the consideration of the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Motion moved:

"That the Bill further to amend the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

[Mr. Chairman]

Hon. Members, the time allotted for the discussion of this Bill is two hours. Now, I give the floor to Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Mr. Chairman, Sir, while supporting this Bill, I would like to express further apprehensions that we have on many provisions. It was in the Eighth Lok Sabha when the then Prime Minister late Shri Rajiv Gandhi came up with this concept; considering the fate of our future generation and our country as a whole, he felt that such a piece of legislation was required. During the discussion on the Bill, a very substantial contribution was made by Shri Amitabh Bachchan, who through very specific instances, talked about how the society was going to face a grievous state of abuse of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

Sir, the entire politics and economics of South America are now under threat because of gross abuse of these narcotic drugs. In the World Cup in Italy, while the Colombian Team went to take part, it was known then — I was there at that time — that the Colombians were under the threat and pressure of the 'Drug Lobby' to score or not to score the goals; such was the pressure outside. I had witnessed their match where the defender of the Colombian side made a goal; his name was Escobar. The 'Drug Lobby' lost a lot of money because of this. When he was having coffee in the restaurant, the 'Lobby Mafia' entered and shot him, and he died. This is what is happening in South America, and in the entire Latin America. Unfortunately, the entire Asia is now under this threat.

India, the land that never witnessed any kind of such a thing one-and-a-half decades before, is now equally under this threat. I feel pain and sorrow when I humbly inform the House about one State, which is represented by our distinguished Minister, Shri Choba Singh that is, Manipur. In the country, Manipur is now producing the bright talents, both boys and girls, in the field of sports. In that State, the rate of abuse has gone up during the last ten years, from 15 per cent to 58 per cent. The illegal use of drugs has gone up from 15 per cent to 58 per cent, and it is not a joke. The admission rate in the recovery centres was 20 to 25 young boys and girls one-and-a-half decades before, and now it is more than 150.

Sir, this is what is happening today. I would like to give some more figures here. If I am wrong, then the hon. Finance Minister may correct me.

Sir, in the city of Mumbai, the extent of detected cases of drug abuse was around 12 per cent seven

years ago. Now, the identified cases of drug abuse in that city have gone up to 32 per cent. In the city of Calcutta it was only two per cent and now it has gone up to 18 per cent. I used to see hardly two patients a few years back but now I see about 18 patients of drug abuse in the recovery centres. The city of Delhi is also under a severe threat from drug abuse. The management of the universities, colleges and schools are holding parents' meeting from time to time and are cautioning them about the menace of drug abuse and advising them to take care of their children. This is a serious matter. The rate of abuse in Delhi is more than 30 per cent today. It was only five per cent in the year 1988. Similar is the case in Chennai. I should say that amongst the four metropolitan cities, the percentage of drug abuse is least in the city of Chennai. I would like to thank the people of Tamil Nadu and also the Government of Tamil Nadu for having either an effective administrative measures or for having moral and social persuasion to encourage people to desist from drug abuse. The city of Mumbai is heading the list in this regard. I am not referring to the smaller towns or other metropolitan towns like Ahmedabad and Bangalore.

Sir, now for reasons of revenue and customs, this entire matter is under the administrative charge of the Ministry of Finance. But I do feel that a very strong Coordination Cell is essentially required to be constituted with the representatives from the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Ministry of Finance to combat the situation. This I say in spite of the fact that this statute has been wisely amended and passed by the Rajya Sabha after having taken into account the observations made by the Standing Committee.

Sir, if you go through the legislation, I have gone through it very carefully, you would find that it is not merely an amending piece of legislation but it is a comprehensive one. I would now like to point out a few areas that are proposed to be amended and bring this to the attention of the hon. Minister.

Sir, the first amendment has been proposed in regard to Section I. In section I, it has been stated that it would apply 'to all persons on ships and aircraft registered in India'. Now, for example, if an NRI is having a ship or an aircraft registered in Columbia or in U.K, then this law would not apply to him. The drug lobby is very powerful.

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA (Contai): This would not apply to NRIs in any case.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: I think, the hon. Finance Minister would reply to this.

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA: This is governed by the law of the country to which he belongs.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: I feel, Dr. Sengupta has still not been able to come out of the hang over of having been the Revenue Secretary!....(Interruptions) Please listen to me.

I am not talking against any individual or any party. The NRIs are all good people. I am not questioning their integrity and credentials. But money drives people crazy. Such a clause could give an impression to an NRI that the law of India would not prosecute him if he tries to make money by some contravention through a ship or aircraft that is registered in another country. NRIs may have a feeling that the law would not prosecute them. But I believe that the law can prosecute them. The police can go anywhere. The police can go to any ship or aircraft and find out whether they have brought any such thing or not. But I am talking of the enabling provision. This might open up the door in future.

Mr. Chairman, gathering of intelligence and information is the most vital thing in curbing this menace. I am not abusing any nation, I respect a nation's sovereignty, its people and its Government, but I would say that Thailand, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, and Bangladesh have become safe zones for this trade. I feel sorry to say that even the very beautiful friendly country Bhutan is falling victim to this menace. Indian security forces, with the help of intelligence received from Indian intelligence agencies do apprehend ISI agents involved in border transit from time to time. Financial support for the entire operations of ISI does not come from the taxpayers' money in Pakistan. We would be making a mistake if we think it to be so. A substantial part of their finances are coming from Afghanistan's Taliban regime. Those who proclaim their faith in the religion of Islam are doing all kinds of clandestine activities. There is a zone between Afghanistan and Pakistan which is called a free zone. No law exists there except the law of the drug mafia of Afghanistan. They are pumping in huge sums of money to destroy the freedom and integrity of this country.

I have my respect for the patriotic jawans of our armed and paramilitary forces. However, maybe there are a few black sheep in them who in lieu of huge sums of money sometimes spare certain people. During seizures, they may be leaving out certain issues. If only they investigate further to find out as to where bundles of Indian as well as foreign currency notes come from, they would find that they come from the drug lobby. I suggest that an integrated intelligence cell either in the Finance

Ministry or in the Home Ministry or in any other intelligence agency should be set up to understand the chain of operation of drug trafficking and to nip it in the bud.

I do not know as to who the harsh critics of the punishments are. I think harsh punishments clause should not have been amended at all. These are not tax proposals wherein the Minister announces reduction of slabs of excise duty from three to one, etc. It is vitally linked with the future of our nation. Creation of three categories — smaller quantity, commercial quantity and any quantity in between — sends a dubious message to the drug mafia. The Bill says that pending smaller quantities will attract six months' imprisonment and a fine of Rs. 10,000. Peddling commercial quantities would lead to imprisonment and a fine of Rs. 1 lakh which could be extended to Rs. 2 lakh.

What difference will this make to the drug mafia? Drug lords would spread 20 of their agents with commercial quantity drugs knowing full well that if a few of them are apprehended, the officials can be bribed — I do not doubt the integrity of our officers — and cases can be avoided in the first place. If one has to pay Rs. 1 lakh and go on a ten - year prison term, one would as well be ready to pay a bribe of Rs. 10 lakh in the first place and get the case struck. I do not say that all our officers do that but there is an allurements for them in this. I personally strongly feel that the time has come when drug peddlers dealing in commercial quantities of drugs in this country should be sentenced to death. India is a vast, democratic, multi-ethnic, multilingual and multicultural country. Given the way the drug lobby is penetrating into the country, we would not be able to deal with it successfully in future if we do not take such harsh steps now.

How many amendments have been brought about by the Government because of the deficiencies? I tell him that he will get more deficiencies.

Sir, the Central Government's proposal is a very useful proposal, there is no doubt at all. It is a very constructive proposal. I think the hon. Minister for having brought about this amendment.

Now, the point is how to monitor. I am not talking about Amendments A, B or C. I am talking about Amendment E, that is, educating the public against the drug abuse. They should utilize this fund properly. They should not distribute it to a society or a group or an NGO. They should choose universities, selected schools of India and give the fund at their disposal. A

[Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi]

comprehensive programme is required to be there that once a week or once a month, the students of the universities, colleges or maybe even big sports club, will get a proper lesson, audio visual about what the destruction in using the drugs are.

Sir, I want to give an example of two football players. I do not like to take their names because otherwise their families will be upset. They would have become the heroes of the country because at the age of just 17, their striking ability and defending ability were very high. But the sad part is that they started taking drugs. With the result, within nine months, they were not able to take sprinters of even 200 metres. They are from the North-East.

Similarly, Sir, I know of a player - and I can tell his name here because he is not an Indian citizen — who also fell a victim of drugs. He was the finest player of football for over 15 years. His name is Abdul Mazid Bashkar. He had visited Calcutta. What a fine player he was. But he started taking drugs. I feel pity for him because now, he is moving in Iran like a beggar limping in his hands.

Sir, about drugs, it is first attracting the cultural, social, potential, unemployed youth, the players and the teenagers of the colleges and schools. It is destroying them. It is available in abundance with the so-called *jhaalmoodi* which, Shri Yashwant Sinha may know. It is so-called *chats* which are waiting outside the schools from the *chatwalas*. It was detached that they mix something in the *chaats* and the children go to the particular *chaatwalas* to purchase it.

Sir, I have seen in front of South Point School in Calcutta as to how a mothers started crying how to take the child back home.

This is the kind of racket being run throughout the country, and behind it a big drug lobby is working.

Sir, they have said that any property or asset, which is built out of the drug money, will be taken over by them. It is fair enough. It is a good thing. But what about a man who has the property not out of the drug money, but who is encouraging the drug lobby to generate additional wealth? He is called as abettor. My point is that there should have been a provision that the property built by drug money should be confiscated and also the abettor of the whole arrangement — he may not have built the property out of the drug money — should also be taken into task in the similar fashion. Then, the law would have been comprehensive with strong teeth to combat and to fight the battle.

Sir, I do not like to give other names. Many names are being heard. For example, the Mumbai Film Lobby. Some says, it is *Dawood Ibrahim* whose money is being invested in the film industry. Some says, it is *Chhota Shakeel* whose money is being invested in the film industry. Now, a producer, who has a palatial house may not touch the drug money but he is now pouring the drug money in the industry and people are caught. Take for example, the case of a film star, who, having made four hit films, earned a lot of money equally against the drug money, builds a bungalow in Juhu.

Will you confiscate the property of the film star or the producer who establishes link with the drug money lobby to do that film? It is a very interesting question. It is a fact. This is how things are operating in the country. Therefore, I sincerely feel that a re-look is necessary on the provision regarding confiscation of property.

The Bill has another provision of imprisonment up to six months. It is really a joke, at least to me. A pickpocket in Delhi sometimes gets six months' imprisonment. Even a simple violation of law attracts six months imprisonment. If a person demolishes a house or destroys a house or puts fire to a property gets imprisonment of six months. If a person bring days in and out small quantity of drug to poison our children, he also gets only six months' imprisonment. With whatever wisdom the Finance Minister and other leaders did this, this categorisation is not fair. I think, the Finance Minister still would like to have a look at the matter for future. He should take a total look; he should examine what is the growth of drug victims, what is the growth of seizure of drug, what is the growth in regard to apprehending the real culprits, etc., Taking all these things into consideration, he may have to take a decision. He has to take into consideration the fact that three-fourths is not still detected or non-apprehended, and he could find as to how strong the law should be and what should be the mechanism that he should bring forward to adopt.

Now I will come to part of Delhi. Selectively I am taking the place of Chandni Chowk. I am not talking as a man of intelligence. But I take a lot of interest in this matter and whenever any article — whatever may be the language, I get it translated - on drug appears, I read it. It is because I have seen the sad state of affairs.

In Kolkata, a boy who stood first in secondary examination six years back is no more studying and he is a victim of drug. He is roaming in the compound nearby. So, I feel that it is not a party issue, but it is an issue of the country where a comprehensive legislation with more specific chapters and features is required. I

think that the Finance Minister will take it up at the appropriate time.

Regarding poppy cultivation and poppy culture who will deal with the matter? Should the State police do it? Unless the Narcotic authority and the State police do it together, it is difficult to handle the situation. I know that till today poppy cultivation is there without the knowledge of the Government and without the notice of the police. It is there substantially in the North-East and partly in the Eastern India. By paying little money to the local policemen, they get rid of it. Before they do the real raid, they take them out. He can take the records and see. If he has the information, then he could inform the House accordingly.

How many unlicensed operation of poppy cultivators is there in the North-East and in the East? I am told that it is also there in Uttar Pradesh, border of Nepal and also in Himachal Pradesh. How many have been apprehended? None. Therefore, the provisions in the Bill are okay. I have gone through them. But the implementation process or the machinery is not enough. Our police are busy with various other activities; they have to deal with the local laws of the land, regarding normal crimes or in dealing with normal criminals, apprehending them, etc.

So, the narcotic umbrella should have a professional, sophisticated, dedicated and a patriotic group of staff who has a vision for the country and a dream for the country. It is not ordinarily the job of a customs or police officer; it is not an ordinary job of, say, a collector, etc., it is something more than that which I cannot explain here.

It is the job of dedicated and professional group of people who are custodians of future generation, our own family and our own children. I would request the hon. Minister who himself comes from the field of sports, and whose concern for the youth I know and appreciate, to widely think about it further. Why do they not consult some sociologists and social thinkers and some other experts? Take their views. After passing the Bill, send them the copy of the Act for additional suggestions. If there are any deficiencies, you can again come to the House and rectify them.

With these words, I support this piece of legislation.

*[Translation]*

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA (Mandsaur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, this is very important Bill. This Act was enacted in 1985 and in between some amendments were

made in it, but those amendments were not found sufficient, so now this Bill has been presented with some more amendments.

Though some of the earlier discrepancies of the Bill have been set right, yet there are certain points which need to be clarified. In my opinion this bill is needed most because we have to take some steps without fail in the wake of drugs and narcotics being in vogue openly and the youths reeling under their complete influence. Some necessary steps are certain being taken in this direction. Smuggling of drugs and narcotics from other countries is creating problems for youths and they are sort of deviating from the right track. There is a nexus also been the terrorist and drug traffickers smuggling via Nepal, whether from Myanmar, China or Indonesia is causing all the more trouble. It is a welcome step that there should be some kind of control over it. Although heroin, morphine, hemp, smack and various other drugs have been included in this Bill but the main focus of this Bill is on opium.

I want to draw the attention of hon'ble Minister of Finance towards a trivial matter. I think hon'ble Minister has given his clarification regarding this poppy straw in the other House when this issue was being discussed there. In the Bill the term poppy straw means a substance cultivated at the time when processing of its "sandaran (pulverisation) was started and other poppy straw, but after the harvesting of crop all parts except the seeds of opium poppy—whether they are originally in pieces pulverised or powered, or they are extracted or to be extracted.

*[English]*

'All parts except the seeds'.

*[Translation]*

Except seeds would mean including leaves of the plant, its branches and roots also. For the rest if you include in the definition of poppy roots, stems and leaves of the plant — because what is written there is all parts except the seeds — then it will leave farmers with little choice. After extraction of opium straw — the part that remains as residue—which is also known as 'doda' is already in the list of excise, and we are not talking about that, but other parts of opium plants like stems etc. are used for making thatches or screens or other works. Leaves of opium plants are also stored in the cultivators house. Its leaves are kept in the cultivator's house. If those leaves are found in the house of cultivator even after July then he will be held culprit and he will have to suffer for no reason. As I have mentioned earlier these



[Dr. Laxminarayan Pandeya]

all aspects were discussed in other House and there he had made a clarification that it was not so and it includes only opium or poppy seeds i.e. Khaskhas, as commercial sanctions are imposed over the seeds also, which we shall discuss later on. Before discussing that issue I want to draw your attention towards this definition so that necessary amendments could be made in it otherwise this definition will create much problem to our farmers. Even Khaskhas (Poppy seeds) should be clearly defined. I know he has visited that area. In my own constituency near about 60,000 farmers are engaged in the farming of opium. Here is our hon'ble Minister Smt. Vasundhara Rajeji, Forty thousand farmers of her constituency are engaged in its farming. Here is another hon'ble Member in his constituency near about 20,000 to 30,000 farmers are growing opium. Thus, it is the largest major crop area whose farmers are going to be affected by it.

When this Bill was referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance, the committee made various recommendations in this regard. I would like to mention one of its recommendations. On 23rd November it was mentioned that 90 days time has been fixed for criminal procedure in court which is proposed to be extended by him upto 180 days as he has said. Committee have proposed 72 hour for it and has said that there is no need of mentioning reasonable time, as nothing would be clear by adding the words reasonable time. I want to read it for you:—

[English]

"The Committee are of the opinion that the words 'within a reasonable period' may give unnecessary liberty to an officer who may not exercise due diligence in sending the required information to his immediate official superior, with a sense of urgency, so, it is recommended that words 'within a reasonable time' be submitted by 'within 72 hours'".

[Translation]

This is the recommendations of that committee. I wish the Government should pay attention to the recommendation of the committee and the reasonable period which has been mentioned in their recommendation, should be amended.

I would like to draw your attention to an other recommendation of the committee. It is very clearly mentioned in the report who will have the right of seizure. This is not certain who is being given this right of seizure except peons and constables. These thing will create doubts in the minds of people and they will not get justice on time.

I would like to draw your attention to the main features of this Bill. It has been told that sections 15 to 18, 19, 20, 22, 26, 27, 30, 31, 37, 39, 41, 43 and 45 have been altered. In section 29, definition of a peasant is very clearly given. It is also mentioned there that license would be required for the farming of opium. But I would like to say that all those are peasants who go to the field in the morning and cut open the poppy and then collect its sapling in the evening. Those who cut open the poppy, those who sow it and those who collect it. All these persons are agricultural labours though they do not have any license. So they need to be categorised as such. Thousands of farmers are engaged in this work. So there is need to amend this definition. I want to mention one thing more. They talk about its embezzlement by peasants. Who are these peasants. And punishment for those peasants who indulge in embezzlement will be not less than 10 years and may go upto 20 years. They have slightly clarified it that the quantum of punishment will be fixed according as the quantity of embezzlement indulged in is economically small, large or commercial. It is true that if the quantity seized is of a commercial scale then it constitutes a big crime. But many times it is kept by peasants in small quantity say 5 to 10 grams in their houses. They use opium as medicine for their sick children. Even today this practice is in vogue in rural areas. Now according to this Act if anyone caught with 1 gram or 5 gram opium will be held a culprit. If it is found even in small quantity as residue in the pot in which peasant used to carry it, will be declared culprit. So these provisions need to be amended.

I also want to mention here how peasants are punished. When Government officials arrest anyone and note down his statement he asks him from where they got the opium and who are involved in it. Now, the person who has been arrested mentions a few names just out of fear. Then the named persons are arrested by these officials without investigation. Besides, peasant can not change his earlier statement in the court. This is a set norm that anyone can change his statement in the court from the one which was given before the police. One can tell in the court that his statement given before police was extracted under duress by the police. But in this Act there is no provision to change one's earlier statement given before government officials. Many times, departmental officers harass opium growers by registering false cases against them. Such type of many false cases have come to our notice. Peasants are forced to give false statements and they are also punished on the basis of those statements by considering them as final statements. I think that is a discrepancy in this bill. I want to bring this discrepancy to your knowledge. In reply to a question it has been told in Lok Sabha that smuggling of opium and drug-trafficking is going on

unchecked. Uttar Pradesh, Tamilnadu, Delhi, Maharashtra, Punjab and Meghalaya are the main States in which drug-trafficking is going on. Shri Priyaranjan Dasgupta was saying that drug trafficking is also going on in Manipur. Drugs are being smuggled into India from Myanmar. I want to quote here from *Rashtriya Sahara*, a Hindi Newspaper. This newspaper carried a Headline viz "Manipur Mai Yava Varga Shikar" and the Newspaper has clearly written that the smuggling of heroin through Manipur is having ill-effects on the youths of Manipur. Ten percent people in Manipur's total population have become heroin addicts. They consume 75 grams to 1 kg. of heroin daily. Aids is spreading fast in Manipur. Major General Khin Nunt who is a top ranking officer of the military Government of Myanmar also provided travel passes to drug mafias of China and activists of the extremist out fits of Myanmar to smuggle drugs safely into the Indian territory. Smuggling is also taking place through the borders of Rajasthan along Pakistan. I think this is a very serious matter and it needs the attention of the Government. Farmers are paid very low prices. Sir, I want to quote also from the Report of the Committee in this regard. In their Report the Committee have also recommended to increase the prices. The Report says—

[English]

"The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Government should fix adequate price after taking into account all the relevant factors so that the farmers are properly compensated and they are not lured to sell their produce through illegal channels."

[Translation]

It is clearly mentioned in the report if farmers get remunerative prices for their produce then certainly they will be not lured by anyone nor they will be pressurised by smugglers. So there is dire need of paying remunerative prices of the opium to the farmers. Everyone knows that heroin, smack and other substances are made out of opium. Hon'ble Minister himself is also aware of this fact and repeatedly demands have been made that farmers should be paid remunerative prices of their produce. Government should also increase the number of procurement centres while procuring opium.

Sir, Committee have made another recommendations. I quote it that too here—

[English]

"The Committee desire that sufficient centres equipped with scientifically-updated testing facilities should be expeditiously set up with a view to minimise the harassment of the cultivators."

[Translation]

The Committee have observed that the number of procurement centres is not sufficient to procure opium. Where there is need of twenty centres only 10 centres have been set up. Besides, farmers come from remote areas to sell their produce at these centres but they are looted on their way and also held responsible for the looting and Charge-sheets are filed against them and they are tried. Action is not taken against those who are indulged in looting of his produce. Besides, adequate testing facility is not available at that place. The farmers do not believe in testing by oven. They say that manual testing was a good method. Testing by oven gives cent percent results, but instead of giving exact result they just brand the tested opium as being not good. When the same opium is tested after churning it, it becomes hundred per cent pure. Because of churning, moisture gets mingled changing its shape. The results are different when the moisture is at the surface. In the latter case, they term it as water-mix and a case of water-mix is made out and the person is challenged straightaway. That is why I have drawn the attention of the concerned Minister as such cases have become a matter of daily occurrence. The weighting of opium is to commence within a month or so and the farmer will have to go from one place to another for getting his opium weighted. I have drawn attention to two-three points so that the farmer does not face any problem. Attention should be paid on my suggestions. Reasonable time needs to be corrected. His statement should not be considered as final. The farmer's statement should be corrected if he declares in court that his statement was taken under duress. My second point is that the officer should not be of a lower rank. At least, he should be of the rank of a Sub-Divisional Magistrate. ...*(Interruptions)* It would be neither beneficial nor proper to give these powers to tehsildars and naib-tehsildars and authorise them. I have mentioned the duration which is 90 days in Criminal Procedure Code. The Committee has recommended that the duration needs to be reduced to 72 hours. That is a must. I have drawn your attention towards some of the specific matters. I think you will consider and pay particular attention to these matters. I would like to quote from the Act regarding the appointment of the officer. It is as follows:

[English]

"Any such Officer (being an Officer superior in rank to a peon, sepoy or constable) of the departments of Central Excise, narcotics, customs, revenue intelligence or any other department of the Central

[Dr. Laxminarayan Pandeya]

Government including paramilitary forces or armed forces as is empowered in this behalf by general or special order...."

[Translation]

This is not proper....(Interruptions)

Sir, I would not take much time. My speech will have no purpose. If I do not voice the concerns of 60-70 thousand farmers.....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: There are two more Members from your Party.

[Translation]

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA (Mandsaur): Sir, I would like to highlight and illustrate the way in which farmers are harassed by the Department. If material is recovered by someone from another person's place, who in turn takes the name of someone else in his plaint, then the proceedings for attachment of his property are initiated. Attachment of property in such case is not justified. Many times the provisions of general law are violated. I would not like to make allegations, but many times it has come to the notice of the Government that large amounts of opium have disappeared from government factories. How can opium disappear from government factories? These things have happened in the past when he was not Finance Minister. There was another government when opium used to vanish from Government factories and from many weighing centres. If incidents like that happen, it shows that persons from narcotics department are involved in it in some way or the other.....(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJO SINGH: He was not the Finance Minister at that time, but that Officer was posted there. The Officer remains the same. The Minister changes but not the Officer.....(Interruptions)

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: It is because of this that I request you to review the Act and from my point of view the provision of penalty in the bill of 1985 are made without due consideration. The real culprits remain unpunished, while the innocent persons are punished. Even now, many farmers are in jails in petty cases. On the other hand those persons remain unpunished who are smugglers and who indulge other people into smuggling in exchange for hefty sums of money. The harassment of farmers should stop, attention

should be given to their condition. Again I repeat that in many instances officers of Narcotics Department themselves are involved in it. I had met the Minister in the past to discuss this very issue. I believe that he has paid much attention to this problem as a result great deal of improvement has taken places. But, a lot more needs to be done....(Interruptions) We are bound by U.S. convention. We have to export opium as well as provide it under agreement. We want to increase its production and we issue new licences in addition to increase its production. We are also bound by the U.S. Convention on Narcotics. Now licences are given to farmers for farming and old licences are also renewed. Increasing and decreasing area of cultivation takes places every year and it is done properly at some places not so properly at some other places. Some officers are fine and genuine, while there are some others whose misdeeds are too serious to be defended. I am not talking of the present government but the previous government. At some centres one Officer fixed magnet under one of the two weighting balances. It was bound to result in under weighing of goods. Such things are bound to generate discontent and anger in people. Much has been tried to be corrected but a lot more needs to be set right. I have to say something more. But due to paucity of time, I would submit it in writing to the Minister so that remaining amendments can be made. I hope that it will have a good impact.

The voice of the farmers has been heard since this government has come to power and this government has come as the benefactor of farmers and this government will ward off all the difficulties of the farmers and will not do anything which may lead to misery for them. With this, I conclude my speech.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (Amendment) Bill, 2000 brought forward by the Government is an act of 1985 which was amended in 1989. The U.N. General Assembly has repeatedly passed resolution expressing concern over increase in smuggling and sale of narcotics all over the world which is running the lives of the youth. They are consuming opium, heroin, marijuana, hashish, mandrax etc. There are harsh punishments against it in many countries of the world which include capital punishment. It is discussed in this House. But the first point in the bill is regarding restructuring the harsh and strict provisions for granting bail, why do they want it to be relaxed? In addition to it, the Government wants the provisions of punishment to be less stringent. Mr. Chairman, Sir, in our neighbouring countries like Myanmar, China, Pakistan, Nepal, Lanka and Bhutan, there has been a quantum jump in the transaction of

narcotics, and this business is not being checked. The total business in narcotics is of about 400 billion dollars. Shri Digvijay Singh is coming here and Shri George Fernandes from his party is a minister. I would like to quote a few lines from what he said:—

[English]

“Mr. Fernandes, in a note on the resolution on national security taken at the Samata Party's National Council Meeting on 29th May last has stated that “India's policy to constructively engage Burma by opening two overland routes for trade with that country has resulted in massive smuggling of Chinese goods into India from Moreh in Manipur.”

[Translation]

A great deal of transaction of goods and in narcotics takes place from Moreh in Manipur. A Minister from Samata Party had expressed concern about it. Many Members expressed their concern just now. India fails to check narcotic trafficking.

[English]

The International Narcotics Control Strategy Report said that underground 'hawala' system which is flourishing in India and throughout South West Asia for generations, continues to be a money laundering methods for drug traffickers wishing to return their proceeds to any part of the world. There have been a number of scandals involving political figures in India which focussed attention on this system.

[Translation]

They said that India had failed to act. The bill brought by you is not stringent. How can we support it? In the report, it has been mentioned that 'hawala' and important political persons are involved in it. The situation is really grim. I.S.I. is linked with it. Drug traffickers are linked with it. What a horrible situation? What will be its outcome? 45 thousand and 375 quintal goods were seized upto November 1999-2000. Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances were seized. Some persons were arrested for it and action was taken against them. Marijuana and heroin is being smuggled through Nepal border unabated. The opium farmers used to get prizes during the British regime. They used to carry it to their country for business purposes. The coming generation must be saved from its consequences. Using narcotics is

injurious to health. There is provision of capital punishment in Singapore for it. But, you are nationalizing it in India. It shows laxity on your part. Stringent provision must be made to prevent it. The Delhi High Court also has said that there were lacunae in this Bill. The Supreme Court also has pronounced that everything has been thrown overboard including the country's interest the future generation and their future. The Bill brought forward by you suffers from laxity and weak points. The business in narcotic in the world is to the tune of 400 billion dollars. this attitude of India was discussed even in the General Assembly of U.N.O. International organizations expressed their concern over it. Narcotic substances and drugs are injurious to over lives. Once addicted to it, it is impossible to get de-addicted. It causes total ruin. It led to revolution, in China. The Opium addicted China became free from its clutches. The use of narcotics is gradually increasing in our country and you are unable to stop it. So, this Bill which is full of infirmities and loop-holes, is not going to serve the purpose. So, there must be stringent law for it. A comprehensive and stringent law must be framed to prevent poor people of our country from getting addicted to narcotics and to thwart the ill designs of I.S.I. at international level. To check the Spread of narcotics in the country, a law should be made so that the safety and future of the country can be protected. Viewed properly, this Bill will be found quite lax. It should be brought forward in a new frame as it is not going to make things better. The Government should implement the U.N.O resolution, see the directions of the High Court and the ruling of the five-judge bench of Supreme Court. Whatever has been stated in the Objects and Reasons of the Bill, has nothing significant and it is hollow. It will not serve the purpose. Stringent law must be brought forward to safeguard the future generation and the welfare of the country so that this trafficking is prevented from growing further.

With this, I conclude.

[English]

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU (Tenali): Sir, I stand to support the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (Amendment) Bill, 2000 brought forward by this Government. The purpose of this Bill is to amend some Clauses of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985. This is really a very important Bill from the national point of view because there are several dimensions. I really congratulate the hon. Minister for having brought forward this Bill to give more teeth to the existing Act and also to implement the provisions in their true sense.

[Prof. Ummareddy Venkateswarlu]

I must also congratulate the Chairman and Members of the Standing Committee for having done a lot of exercise on various provisions.

The drug addiction, particularly, has been rampant. It was reached the dimensions of a big menace in the society where several evils are mostly connected with drugs and narcotics. There is a new type of culture, and Mafia gangs have emerged out of this trade right from its cultivation, production, processing, manufacturing, sale and purchase, import and export. There is smuggling activity from other countries and from across the border. It has reached disproportionate dimensions.

As our other hon. colleagues have pointed out, this drug activity is leading to moral, ethical and cultural deterioration in the society. Several evils like atrocities on women, murders, economic offences and other anti-social activities are taking place under the influence of these drugs and narcotics.

It is a hard fact that people are not finding it possible to go to certain areas beyond 7 o'clock in the night in this city. Even in the most popular places like Connaught Place, people are afraid of going to certain parts beyond 7 o'clock in the night. Robberies, eve-teasing, etc. are the situations that the people have been facing under the influence of these drugs and narcotics.

Sir, how is it possible that these things happen in such public places? There are offenders who are doing it and on several occasions, it has been discussed that people are being booked, but beyond the offenders there are abettors who are making this trade possible and flourishing. What to say about these abettors? I do not hesitate to say that they have been raining right from some of the employees even to the public persons. So, when it comes to the question of penalising these people, under several penal clauses, the penalty should be much more if he happens to be an employee or a public person as compared to an offender.

Deliberately these types of offences are being encouraged in certain cases. Our friends have just mentioned about several States where it is being deliberately cultivated and in most of the cases and even *ganja*, opium, etc. is up to the extent of 90 per cent unlicensed. On certain occasions, the raids are being conducted, the crop is being destroyed, but it is not a solution to this menace.

Sir, very good provisions are being brought about. Our experience in the past says that the country is not short of legislations, not short of hard provisions, but the

country is short of the will to implement these provisions. The society is short of awareness and short of confidence to implement some of these things. If the people who are handling these provisions have got a commitment to implement these provisions, it is not impossible to eradicate some of these activities.

At this particular point, I would like to mention a few things. I will not be going through several amendments that have been brought about, but I would like the hon. Minister to see one particular thing on page 3 while proposing several amendments to Sections 15 to 18. Under Section 15 (C), it has been sated:

"Where the contravention involves commercial quantity, with rigorous imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than ten years but which may extend to twenty years and shall also be liable to find which shall not be less than one lakh rupees but which may extend to two lakh rupees:"

This extension of 20 years, if it is not inconvenient, it may be termed as extension up to life term because anything beyond 14 years is called life term imprisonment.

So, instead of calling it as 20 years' imprisonment, it can be called as a life term imprisonment. I would request the hon. Minister to examine this particular case.

I may also, particularly, mention once again about the smuggling activity, which is rampant, which has grown disproportionately, and which is really spoiling the generation, particularly the youths. They are attracted this type of drugs and narcotics. After addiction, they are just trying to have their own injections, self-injections, and this is spoiling the entire race and the entire younger generation, which is the hope of this country. In that regard, this particular Amendment Bill would certainly take care of several evils. I once again congratulate the hon. Minister but as I have already mentioned, it requires a lot of will to implement these provisions.

15.41 hrs.

(DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH *in the Chair*)

Will these few words, I support this Amendment Bill and I congratulate the hon. Minister once again.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN (Tirunelveli): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Bill. This Bill was drafted with criminological and penalogical view of the theory that punishment should be proportionate to the offence committed. If the quantity is more, there has to be more

punishment and if the quantity is less, then, I think, the Finance Minister will say something about. So, depending upon the gravity of the offence, that is, if it is worth more than two lakh of rupees, the punishment will be enhanced to 10 years provided the reasons are recorded by the presiding Judge.

Sir, the scale of justice now has emanated from this House to the presiding Judge. India has been used as a transit place for illicitly transporting the drugs especially from Myanmar and other neighbouring countries. We are not producing synthetic drugs. These synthetic drugs have been illicitly transported via India to the bordering countries. Sir, this drug trafficking is a menace to our Indian modern society. The younger generation is being spoiled due to drug trafficking. It is high time that the Government has brought forward this piece of legislation to check the offenders.

Sir, there must be another provision to be incorporated in this penal section that if he commits the same offence once more, the punishment should be doubled. It is not there. Previously, the Supreme Court had declined to grant bail. Now, even for an offence under NDPS Act, the Supreme Court has said that he is entitled to bail. If that is the case, then that judgement will encourage the narcotic offenders. The residuaries will actually involve on so many occasions in the drug trafficking. So, I would say that still some more stringent legal measures should be taken by the Government to check this drug trafficking.

Sir, I do not want to repeat the points mentioned by Shri Priyaranjan Dasmuni and other hon. Members. I adopt the same but with the view that some more stringent measures have to be incorporated in the penal provision because 10 years is nothing. Even in a murder case, a convict is sentenced to life but he comes out within 10 years. If it is 10 years, then he is also entitled to remission and other usual concessions under the present rules.

So, there should be a deterrent punishment to these drug trafficking offenders. I support the Bill.

[Translation]

SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH (Mandi): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (Amendment) Bill, 2000 brought forward by the hon'ble Finance Minister in the House for consideration and passing.

Sir, while presenting this amendment Bill, hon'ble Minister has clarified in its statement of objects and

reasons that at present minimum 10 years rigorous imprisonment is given to the people who deal in drugs by one way or the other and it may extend upto 20 years. Besides, it takes many years for the people who get the punishment to get the bail. He has also said that it is considered necessary to rationalise the punishment and the commercial criminals and those who are engaged in the drug trade should be given more punishment what I mean to say is that committing minor crimes should be given less punishment and those committing major ones, should be given more punishment. I agree with what has been mentioned in its statements of objects and reasons.

Sir, though I support the object of this bill, I want to get a clarification from the Hon'ble Minister. At times, it is seen that for making the children addicted to drugs, especially to school-going children, some people fill a small quantity of 'Charas' in the cigarettes and make them smoke these cigarettes. Besides, smack is also given at many places and now sandwiches are being made of medicines like Iodex and they are given to school-going children and thus they are being used as drugs and in certain places crocin syrup is being given. The people who are engaged in such trades which involve making the school-going children drug addicts the people who are making the children to take to bad habits, would you consider that minor offence or major offence. If you consider it a minor offence and given them a punishment of six months, it would definitely encourage those people who are making the children of coming generations addicted to drugs, which is not proper. Therefore, a provision of harsh punishment should be made for such people also.

Sir, similarly, the hon'ble minister has not mentioned about the commercial quantity anywhere as to what would constitute the commercial quantity. Whether that quantity would be one kg., two kg., three kg. or four kg. What is the meaning of commercial quantity.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I hail from a hilly and such region whose name has just been mentioned in the House-Himachal Pradesh. It is true there was a time when farming of opium was in vogue there but the way in which licences were given to the farmers of Madhya Pradesh, the farmers of Himachal Pradesh were not given the licences in that way. As a result, that kind of farming no longer remained in vogue, but it is also true that the small farmers grow opium in a very small quantity say 10-15 gms. For their domestic use or for using it as a medicine. They are also harassed badly in the name of law. In Himachal Pradesh, 'Khas Khas' used for eating also. 'Khas Khas' is very widely used as an eating substance. Extracting opium by cutting open the 'doda'

[Shri Maheshwar Singh]

can be treated as offence but taking out the seeds of 'Khas-Khas' for domestic use or eating purposes is also treated as an offence, which is not proper. I request that taking out the seeds of 'Khas-Khas' should not be treated as an offence and there should be no punishment for taking out or keeping the seeds of 'Khas-Khas'. This encourages corruption because 'Khas-Khas' is available in the market. If somebody purchase 'Khas-Khas' from the market and it is found, in his possession, it would be treated as an offence and invite punishment, that is not proper. Extracting 'Khas-Khas' should not be made an offence.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, So far as 'Charas' is concerned, two types of 'charas' are found in our hills. One is that which grows as 'bhang' in the forests and people trade in that product by collecting 'bhang' after crushing its leaves. The other type of 'bhang' is that which is grown by the farmers in the form of a herb from whose fibres rope is prepared which is called 'pula' and tourists buy it and local poor farmers earn their livelihood from it. When this farming is done, the Girdavar while doing 'girdavari' is required to mention the area in the revenue record as having been used for cultivation of 'bhang'. On this ground, the officers harass the small farmers in the name of a legal ban on farming of 'bhang'. Whereas the truth is that he uses it to make ropes for his income and not for narcotic purposes. Under such circumstances, he flees on arrival of police in the village. If he does not flee, he is apprehended by the police and harassed. I urge upon the minister to clarify this and make such arrangement that these farmers are not harassed.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am not only mentioning this here but I have also mentioned this in the legislative assembly in 1977 when I was first elected a member of the Himachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly.

When I was elected a member to the ninth Lok Sabha, even then I had said that the people who sell 'Charas' are apprehended but no big buyer has ever been apprehended. That youth is compelled to sell 'Charas' because buyers are available for him. This business has increased in the hills after the arrival of 'hippies' there. Buyers were not there before that, so this business was also not there. "Athithee devo bhava" has been the culture of our hills. But the tourists who are coming there as visitors now-a-days, are not 'devo bhava' today, they have become a curse for us. They do the business here.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is a shortage of time but I want to bring to your notice one thing. One hippy came to our home town Kullu. He used to collect Charas and prepare pallets of it. He had a paper which could not dissolve even in the bailey of man. First he used to take laxative to clear his stomach and then gulp one kg. of

'Bhang' shaped into pallads, down his throat. Then he used to take a flight to Frankfurt and sell it there after taking it out from the stomach. Unless and until you ban the arrival of such persons, the innocent youths, of the villages will definitely involve themselves in this business. Therefore, if you want to stop the trafficking of 'charas' then you'll have to apprehend them also who are its buyers and not only those who are its sellers. Our farmers suffer time and again on account of the drought which hit this region. To make things worse for him, when the 'charas' is seized, its publicity is made in the newspapers the next day that so many kilograms of 'Charas' has been seized whose price in international market is such and such. That price is reported in crores. As a result of this publicity, the innocent person of the villages gets lured towards this that if the price of Charas is so high, then why shouldn't he buy some charas and make money? This kind of publicity is made, its price is mentioned in the newspapers, I think what is the need to give its price in the newspapers? It should be banned because it becomes a kind of advertisement of that commodity. Therefore, the poor people run in its pursuit.

I want to request you again that the visit of hippies is very frequent especially in hills. They are coming here and marrying the local people and have become the permanent traders. Their visits should be banned. I would request only this.

With these words, I support this bill.

[English]

SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN (Sivaganga):  
Respect Chairman, I fully appreciate the intention of the Government to amend the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (Amendment) Bill, 2000 which brings forward a substantive amendment to the Principal Act of 1985.

According to the International Convention, by giving a new shape for this Bill, not as a punishing act, but as a social reform Act and by giving a more detailed explanation to Section 7A of the Principal Act, now this Fund, collected by the Central Government by way of executing the Act, is going to be utilised for the purpose of-

- (a) combating illicit traffic in narcotic drugs, not only in that aspect, but also in,
- (b) controlling the abuse of narcotic drugs,
- (c) identifying, treating and rehabilitating the addicts,
- (d) preventing drug abuse,

- (e) educating the public against drug abuse, and
- (f) supplying the drugs to addicts where such supply is a medical necessity.

These aspects are very important at the present juncture because many innocent people are being dragged into this net of this vicious circle.

Even at the school level, the Bill has incorporated it that if anything punishable happens near the school, then that will also attract an enhanced punishment. as provided under Section 32B which is going to be inserted.

Therefore, this aspect of looking at the social welfare is very much appreciable. But at the same time, the executing part of the social aspect has also to be looked into, for which there has to be an organisation or there should be a structure to follow up this particular Section 7A.

It is because two classes of people are mainly offenders in this particular Bill. One is, people who are unemployed; the people who cannot earn in some other way except by this type of carrying prohibited items and selling them in the market.

There is another type of people who want to amass the wealth in a quickest possible way. So, these two types of people are there. In between, some innocent people are also taken into custody for commission of this particular offence. Therefore, I request you that when you define by the executive order of quantifying the commercial quantity and also the small quantity, according to the definition made in this Bill, there should be a consideration to cover it up. It should be more than 50 grams or even more than that. The prosecuting agencies are having a habit of putting up the cases by plucking small amount recovered and putting innocent people under the offence. When the prosecuting agencies seize things, contrabands, etc., they are allowed to destroy them in their own way, if it is a small quantity. If it is a bigger quantity or if that is at the harvesting stage then they have to get the help of the Magistrate to go and investigate and give the report, etc. Therefore, small quantities are much more easily utilised for falsifying cases against simple men. Therefore, the simple men should be protected from the hands of this Act. Therefore, I request that when the executive order comes forth, they should look into the proceedings whether the cases are made against small people, first-time offenders, etc.

In the same way, I would like to appreciate the Government for bringing forward three categories and for the punishments also being made lesser. There is a

notification which should be implemented from the date of the introduction of the Bill in the Rajya Sabha because there are a number of pending cases where the first-time offenders are there, who are going to face the punishment for ten years or more. Instead of that, they can have the appreciation of six months, they can be considered for the new provision. In the same way, the commercial quantity should also be explained in a better way when an executive order is given.

Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister that terrorists are very much using this way of narcotic drugs being transferred from one place to another place and exchange them for the arms. They are not converting it even into money. They just transfer these narcotic drugs and get the arms from the other side. So, these types of things are not looked into. In a commercial term, if there is an exchange of materials like this, then there should be regular punishment, which should be more than 20 years' imprisonment. Why it should be for 20 years? That can also be considered for life imprisonment because 20 years is not acceptable for the Magistrate for giving the punishment.

In the same way, when the terrorists are involved in the transfer of arms and when the seizure is found out, then the Act should be amended so that the highest punishment or capital punishment should also be included for commission of that type of offence.

Sir, we have got certain reports from the newspapers and articles that LTTE in Sri Lanka has got a very good movement through the narcotic drugs being transported from one place to another place for exchange of arms.

16.00 hrs.

Therefore, this type of terrorist organisations, internal and also external which are using these means of making quick money for exchange of materials, should be punished by separate forces by starting prosecution against them. Therefore, on that aspect also, this Bill is very clear in telling that the provisions are softer towards such punishment holders.

I would also like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to the provision of probation in Section 39. Since there is a lesser punishment, that is, when the punishment has come down from ten years to six months, so, if those who were previously using drugs for health purposes, found that they were violating the provision, then they were having the provision of probation applied to them. But my suggestion is that anybody who is coming within the first two categories, that is, the small quantity holders and also those between the small quantity holders



[Shri E.M. Sudarsana Natchiappan]

and the commercial quantity holders, should get the benefit of probation because they are very easily amenable to punishment, being the first offenders. So, this should also be taken into consideration.

Why I am submitting this particular point is because this Bill is, more or less, having its heart in Section 7B. It is a social obligation on the part of the Government and the society to rectify the people from going into the death trap of this narcotic drugs-using and help them to become proper citizens. That aspect is also becoming brighter and brighter by these amendments. Therefore, I would request that the Government should give much more attention to this also.

At the same time, we should not leave the terrorists and other offenders who are doing it only for commercial purposes.

With these words, I support the Bill and appreciate the Government's intention of bringing this Bill so quickly and making it an Act which can be applied retrospectively also, if possible, to the persons who are suffering a lot now in the pending cases.

SHRI ANADI SAHU (Berhampur, Orissa): Mr. Chairman, Sir, as the time is running short, I would also be very short. I would hit the nail straight on the head. I would come to amendments which have been proposed and I also support these amendments.

Stringent punishments, harsh bail provisions and tardy trials involving some of the enforcement agencies, a few lawyers and also unscrupulous judicial officers have made it very difficult to get conviction under this particular Act which was enacted in the year 1985 and amended further in 1989. The global situation is such that there is a well-oiled drug trafficking racket working at different places and because the drug trafficking work at the international level is very high, that is why the first and the foremost thing which has been thought of in these amendments is the controlled delivery system. About four years back a Pakistani drug trafficking agent was contacted by an English Government agent to deliver certain quantity of drugs in England and some amount was paid to him. He delivered the articles in England and took the remainder amount. A case was started against that Pakistani agent, but the question came up as to whether the English man also should be booked or not. It was a very good trial in England and on the basis of that, the international body thought that controlled delivery of drugs should be a part of enactments in different countries. That is why it has been brought here and it is a very good provision.

But there are some 'buts' and those 'buts' are about the trials that are being thought of in this enactment. Sir, through you, I would invite the attention of the Minister to the summary trial provisions which have been provided in Section 36A, Clause (5).

Now, so far as the summary trial is concerned, it is guided by Sections 260 and 262 of the Criminal Procedure Code, 1973. In the Criminal Procedure Code, there is a mandatory provision that not more than three months' conviction can be there in summary trial cases. But here in this case, if you go in for summary trial which will be tried by a Magistrate First Class usually, but occasionally by a Magistrate Second Class also, here it is mentioned as Magistrate First Class-the convictions cannot be for more than three months in the ordinary sense, although the Punishment in the NDPS, could be upto three years.

Since a two-tier system has been given for trials, it may create problem. A Magistrate First Class may not send the case to the Sessions Court and the convictions of ten years or twenty years which has been envisaged in this Act may come to a naught. These are certain things which need to be thought of while amending the provisions.

While going to frame the rules also, it is necessary to frame the rules in such a manner that these types of loopholes are plugged from the very beginning. Once the trial is in a proper shape, it will not create any problem.

Now hon. Member Shri Pandiyan has referred to poppy cultivators. This thing will become a very big problem. Section 18 has been amended now where only a small quantity has been indicated whereas Section 19, as it stands with the original Act, does not indicate about the quantity involved. That means that the poppy cultivators, in spite of the fact that they might have embezzled or misappropriated a small quantity, will get ten years' imprisonment whereas under Section 18, it could be only for six months. This will also create a dichotomy between the proposed Section 18 and Section 19 which needs to be thought of.

Since the objective and the horizon have been widened wherein persons of Indian origin who have committed any crime in India or outside or persons who are not of Indian origin but have committed crime outside and have been convicted, are also to be convicted. Hon. Member Shri Pandiyan was talking about recidivism. These may be taken into account while framing the rules.

[Translation]

SHRI SHRICHAND KRIPLANI (Chittorgarh): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (Amendment) Bill. This is right that all of us are in favour of making stringent laws through this Bill but strict compliance of its provisions should also be ensured. The hon'ble Finance Minister has brought this Bill in which efforts have been made for the first time to ensure that punishment may be given according to the gravity of crime. I have been elected from Chittorgarh Parliamentary Constituency. 75 percent of total opium of the country is produced in Jhalawar, Neemach and Chittorgarh area. I would like to request the hon'ble Finance Minister that after passing this Bill and after becoming law, arrangement should also be made to ensure that it is not misused and it should be complied with honestly. Drug trafficking has ruined many families. The poor is becoming poorer on account of it. I think that proper provisions have been made in this Bill taking into account all these things.

Some time back when this Bill was brought in the Rajya Sabha, Shri Balkavi Bairagi, Rajya Sabha Member, had expressed apprehensions about poppy seed. After delivering his speech, he got this news published in several newspapers that through this Bill the Government of Bhartiya Janata Party wants to create problems for the people by bringing poppy seed within the ambit of this Act. It would be better if the hon'ble Minister clarifies the position about it. Shri Pandey ji and Maheshwar Singh ji have told about poppy seed that it is available in every house. It is a seed. Though, there is no restriction on the seed of marijuana yet it is not misused. Similarly, poppy seed is not misused.

A clarification is necessary in this regard.

Sir, I have been told that time is short, I therefore, would like to put one or two points before you. I would like to thank the hon'ble Finance Minister because even since Vajpayee ji is heading the Government in India, new leases have been issued to the Farmers in a large number in my constituency. The Government has given as much facilities to opium producers as it could but inspite of that the main problem before us is that the support price of 'Doda-Chura' has not been fixed so far. Unless the support price of Doda-powder is fixed, farmers will not be able to get the benefit. The cultivation of opium in Uttar Pradesh is 42 per hectare while in Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh it is 52 per hectare. Moreover, 'Doda-powder' is under the control of the State Government.

Because of it, farmers get a price of two rupees per kilogram while the contractors sell this at the rate of thousands of rupees per kilogram. The Finance Minister should consider over it. I thank the Finance Minister that he hiked the opium prices last time. It is possible to check its smuggling by hiking its prices. If price of Rs. 500 to 1200 is paid for opium, then the same opium is sold for rupees eight to ten thousand per kilogram through smuggling. I urge that you should pay attention towards increasing the opium prices and the Central Government should take under its control the determination of the prices of 'Dodachuda' so that the farmers can become a little richer.

I have one more request. In a joint family where two sons live separately, then the land of one son is cancelled. In this regard, there should be a provision that if there are four sons in a family who are living separately then land of none of them shall be cancelled. Besides this, I want to say something in regard to the checking system for opium. According to the new system opium is tested in oven. This results in changes in the grading. The higher grade opium gets converted into lower grade while lower grade opium gets converted into higher grade. Farmers should get the price for their produce after proper checking of its grading.

In the end, I would like to request that many problems have been solved after our party came to power and the Finance Minister took charge of his office. I support this Bill.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI (Jodhpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, NDPS Act came into force on 16 November, 1985 and Opium Act was repealed before that. It is the second amendment after the NDPS Act came into force. First amendment was made in 1998 and the second amendment is being made now in 2001. I support this Bill.

Sir, keeping in view the paucity of time, I would refer to only two provisions of the Bill. For many years people have been consuming opium particularly in western Rajasthan where they were given licenses. But after coming into force of the NDPS Act, their licenses were withdrawn. In this situation, they are consuming smuggled opium. Secondly, the Government has given contracts for 'Doda Posta'. If even 500 grams of 'Doda Posta' which costs only 15-20 rupees, is found from a person after the award of the contract, he is punishable with ten years imprisonment and a fine of rupees one lakh. If 700 grams of 'Doda Posta' is found from habitual farmers, then they will be punished with ten years imprisonment and a fine of rupees one lakh.

[Shri Jaswant Singh Bishnoi]

In case more quantity is found then the punishment will be 20 years imprisonment and a fine of rupees two lakhs. The Government should stop its auction and should take it under its control from State Governments. Why does the State Government auction it for just two-three crore rupees? There should be some restriction on it or it should be brought under the Excise Act, where maximum punishment should be of three years and minimum of six months.

Second point is regarding some mandatory provision therein. I have been a lawyer and in many cases the accused is acquitted due to non-compliance of the mandatory provisions. The minimum quantity specified under section 27 of NDPS Act is five grams. If less, than five grams is recovered from somebody, then he will get less than three years imprisonment and if it's more than five grams, then he will be punished with ten years of imprisonment and a fine of rupees one lakh or 20 years imprisonment and a fine of rupees two lakhs.

Sir, I would like to speak something about drug addiction. When we go to villages, people oppose in village meetings to stop drug addiction. People are accustomed to it from old times. We can not put an omnibus ban on it. I have been elected from Jodhpur Lok Sabha constituency of western Rajasthan. There are thousands of people who are addicted to it. If any body has five, six or ten grams, then he is punished with a ten years imprisonment and a fine of one lakh rupees. In cases of enmity people having some grudges against someone trap such people and get them punished. They get them punished by ensuring compliance of mandatory provision. Therefore, I urge you to consider such cases so that poor or innocent people do not get punished under such law. Law says that even if 99 accused get acquitted it is not a problem but a single innocent person should not get punished.

I would like to draw your attention towards FSL report also under which point five gram morphin is called opium, even if 99.5 is ash, even then it will be considered as opium.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to urge the hon. Minister through you that legislation should be such as may not lead to poor and innocent people getting punished.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am grateful to all those hon. members who took part in this debate and gave many valuable suggestions here. I would like to assure them that even if we get such suggestions from them as

may be outside scope of this Bill, even then as far as possible we will keep them in mind while making rules and if it is found absolutely necessary, these will be incorporated in this Bill, at the time of future amendments.

Sir, as I had said in my initial speech that the Bill which has come up now, has a long history passing through many phases. The Standing Committee has considered it, the other House has considered it and I would say that in a manner, whatever valuable suggestions were received from the Members, we have tried our best incorporated them in it. As we can see, the main amendments received, Dasmunsi Ji and other hon. members said, are comprehensive and can be broadly categorised in four parts. First category covers such amendments as are national convention, some points of which had been left in 1985, but are being included by us now. The second is rationalisation of the sentence structure — I would elaborate it later on. After that there were some sections in the procedure which were leading to some practical difficulties.

We want to correct them by improving them and by bringing amendments to them. Finally, with a view to working on trial substance which will help in apprehending the offenders and give us the leads about them, we are incorporating four types of amendments in it. A prima-facie look at them can make one think, as hon. Raghuvansh Prasad Babu has said, that we are not showing lax in it. We are showing laxity. In fact, we are making it rational in the real sense. We are differentiating between the people who are victims of drug addiction and those who deal in drugs, making others their victims. It was necessary to differentiate between them. Therefore, jurists came round to the view that the quantity should be divided into three parts. Small quantity would mean that it is meant for consumption by people. Secondly, commercial quantity will be taken as being used by traders and there will be a quantity in between these two categories in which the punishment will be prescribed taking all the conditions into account. Besides this, there are Supreme Court judgements which say that some cases get delayed. The administration arrested somebody and kept him in jail, there was delay in the trial and for an ordinary offence he was sentenced to imprisonment for a minimum of 10 years under the Act of 1995.

So these amendments have been brought keeping the above discrepancies in mind and we have separately formed a committee of experts. This committee will submit their report soon. While formulating rules on the basis of their report, we shall define as to what do we mean by small quantity or commercial quantity of the drug. When

small quantity and commercial quantity will be defined then there will be no trouble in defining the in-between quantity. Keeping the above facts in mind we have brought these amendments. In these amendments there is also a provision that if those persons are arrested who are the victims of these drugs, then they should be given lesser punishment as our aim is to improve them. Those who are dealing commercially in the drugs should get severe punishments, ranging between ten years to twenty years the minimum being ten years. If he is habitual offender then there is provision of even capital punishment for him under this law. Hence, this provision has been made in it. In cases where punishment is minimum three years, we have made provision for summary trials of such cases so that any delay could be avoided. Provision of summary trial has been made in such type of cases where punishment is six months, one year, two years or three years but are not coming up for trial, so that chargesheeted person may not languish in jails and such cases could be disposed of speedily.

I want to bring another thing to the notice of this House. In the Asian continent India is the only country where farming of opium has been legally allowed. As a country, India has been allowed for cultivation of ricid-opium.

That's why we should be proud of it that we have implemented this programme so finely, that our credibility at the international level not shaken at all. Yet I will assert that contrary to what Raghuvansh Singh ji has said we have International Narcotics Central Board, 1998....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Sambhal): If you allow me I would like to tell one thing to this House. There is vast possibility of misuse of this Bill. I could not find much time so I could not attend the meeting of this House. I wanted to speak on this issue. Just now I am leaving for condolence meeting of Shri Indrajit Gupta. There are so many draw backs in this bill and there is possibility of misuse of it. Otherwise we are completely against dowry. A number of women have died because of it. People are taking about the decision of High Court in which it has been said that it is being misused in 75 percent of the cases. Even reports are being lodged in this regard. Some one has said that it is being misused not 75 but 90 percent of the cases. This Bill will be passed in any case. I want to convey my protest to Hon'ble Finance Minister. I am very much against the way you are going on giving powers to the police and bureaucracy under the prevailing circumstances. I was not present in the House at the time of discussion on the Bill. So I could not express myself. The provisions of

rigorous punishment that have been made in this Bill, whether with the consent of chairman or someone else, entails conferment of powers to police and bureaucracy. And there is a huge possibility of its misuse. Here I want to caution you and suggest a few things in this regard. Indiscriminate passing of Bills by us, the people's representatives will not be in the interest of the public. When a Bill was passed here, I was not present in the House. In our village keeping parrots as a pet entails punishments. There is a fine ranging from Rs. 2000 to 5000 for this. Even children keep parrots as pet. No body knows that pollution invites punishment. I am sorry that I disturbed you at midnight. Now, they are saying that it is being reconsidered and it has been sent to select Committee. This law is in the clutches of bureaucrats. It is not proper to delegate so much powers to these high officials at this time. These powers have been widely misused in democracy.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: I was on the same point. Associating myself with whatever has been voiced by Shri Mulayam Singh Ji, I want to reiterate here that we are differentiating through the present legislation. Some crimes which are not so serious, but very often people are victimised for committed them.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Why should not they be deemed as serious? If someone manages to put explosives at someone's residence, the owner will face capital punishment for that. This is the situation. So you should delegate least powers to these police officials and bureaucrats. This is my suggestion for you. For the rest as you wish. You have the numbers to get the Bill passed by this House.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, Shri Mulayam Singh should know if a person is arrested for keeping drugs with him or her, then under the present law the minimum punishment for the person will not be less 10 years imprisonment. But the amendments that we have propose under this act contain the provision that a person may deserve lesser punishment depending upon the surrounding circumstances of his case. Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh had the same complaint that the Government is slackening the law. I say there were sufficient reasons to do so and it was found necessary to make difference.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, India has a special position. In our country, we give legal permits for cultivation of opium. It was also said by Pandeyaji, who is not present here, as he had to attend to some urgent work. But, here are many Members who belong to that area where opium is cultivated. There are some regions where farmers cultivate opium in an area spread over 60-70 thousand hectares

[Shri Yashwant Sinha]

after getting licence from Government. This is a big responsibility which our country has accepted. The world community is paying particular attention to it. I would like to quote the report of International Narcotics Control Board for the year 1998 in this context:-

[English]

"Licit opium, poppy cultivation and opium production take place under Government control in India. There have been no reports of the seizure of Indian opium outside India."

[Translation]

I think that it is a matter of great satisfaction that despite such a large scale cultivation in our country, there was not a single incident of seizure of Indian opium in other countries. In addition to it there are many.....

[English]

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA: What about its export?

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: We export it licitly. We export it legally.

[Translation]

Mr. Chairman Sir, In the report of 1998, India was praised for implementing it properly and in it there is not anything for which the farmers should be victimized. The main purpose of amending this act is to alleviate the problems of poppy cultivating farmers. According to the data of pervious years, the per hectare average has increased from 33.1 kilograms in 1998 to 47.4 kilograms in the year 1999 and 52.5 kilograms in the year 2000.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, as far as the question of providing prices to the farmers is concerned, we have increased the prices by 25 percent in 1998 and 15 percent in 1999. We sell the material extracted from opium in international market and provide remuneratives prices to the farmers keeping in mind the price fetched by the material. It is our endeavour to continue it in future also.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to clarify the matter regarding poppy-seed which was raised by Shri Kriplani. I had clarified it in the other House and shall do the same here. I would like to put emphasis on the fact that Khaskhas is not covered under NDPS Act. There should not be any confusion about it. As far as Doda dust and husk are concerned, it is kept under the control of State Government and it is the proper authority to make decision

about its use. Dr. Pandeya was telling just now the people use it in thatching their houses, but I would like to tell that State Government has control over it. In the same way, I agree with Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi that drug abuse is a very big problem before us. If some people want to make India the centre of their activities, then we are aware of it and it is our constant endeavour to stop their activities by proper coordination of State and Central Government agencies. I have the data to prove the degree of vigilance shown by us on our borders and to show that we have confiscated their goods and punished those persons who are involved in it. Now, I shall quickly answer some questions which have been raised here. One of the questions raised by Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi is regarding section 29. We are not releasing those persons who are abetting crime. We are arresting those who do abettment under section 29 and there is section 68A 2B under which there is provision of seizure of the property of those guilty persons. In the same way we have accepted that proposal of the committee in which there was the suggestion for the time limit of 72 hours and which was stated by Dr. Laxmi Narayan Pandeya as within reasonable time. We have paid proper attention regarding the power to seize and it will be ensured that this power is not given to the officer below the rank of Inspector or Sub-Inspector.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have cleared the doubts regarding poppy seeds. In addition to it, concerns were expressed about the problems of farmers. I would like to congratulate the Honourable Members for appreciating the endeavour of the Government in taking every possible effort for solving the problems of those opium producing farmers who are engaged in this work for the last three years.

[Translation]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, so far as the issue of unlicensed poppy cultivation, raised by Shri Dasmunshiji is concerned, if it is being done somewhere in country then the Central Agency alongwith the State Governments keeps an eye on it. It is the joint responsibility of both the agencies of State Governments and Central Government. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA: Are you getting enough cooperation from the State Government?

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: In many a States we are; and in some States, we are not.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, you are aware that an incident happened in Bihar recently, the issue of 'Diyara' was raised here, which is place between the rivers, where such type of farming was being done on a very large scale, the officers of State Government went there, they uprooted, burnt and destroyed it. This provision is there.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, Mr. Dashmunshiji has raised an issue of Indian Ships. We are including Indian aircrafts in it because of our sovereignty on them. But, if any NRI registers his ships in some other country and operates it under the flag of some other country, then we don't have any control over that and we can not put that ship under our control. Therefore, there should not be any illusion in this regard.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, whatever points were raised, I have tried to reply to all of them. Drug abuse is very dangerous thing in itself and it would definitely be our endeavour to have control over it and the people should get rigorous punishment who are engaged in its trade. But, those who are its victims, we should show sympathy with them so that we can deviate them from this path and make them fully free fro drugs. With these few words, I would request you, Mr. Chairman, Sir, and to the House that this Bill may be passed.

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

*The motion was adopted.*

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House shall now take up clause by clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

*"That clauses 2 to 41 stand part of the Bill.*

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 2 to 41 were added to the Bill.*

#### **Clause 1**

#### **Short title and commencement**

*Amendment made:*

Page 1, line 4,—

for "2000" substitute "2001" (2)

(Shri Yashwant Sinha)

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**

*Amendment made:*

Page 1, line 1,—

for "Fifty-first"

substitute "Fifty-second" (1)

(Shri Yashwant Sinha)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That Enacting Formula, as amended, stand part of the Bill"

*The motion was adopted.*

*The Enacting Formula as amended, was added to the Bill.*

*The Long Title was added to the Bill.*

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: 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.*

#### **MOTION OF THANKS ON THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS**

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, we will take up item No. 12. Shri Vijay Kumar Malhotra to move the following. Time available is ten hours.

**16.43 hrs.**

[*Translation*]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I propose that:-

[Dr. Vijay Kumar Malhotra]

"That the members of the Lok Sabha assembled in this session are deeply grateful to the President for the Address which he has been pleased to deliver to both Houses of Parliament assembled together on February 19, 2001."

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Dr. S. Venugopal to second the motion.

16.43 hrs.

(MR. SPEAKER in the Chair)

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU (Tenali): Shri Vijay Kumar Malhotra, you can speak now....(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): It is the normal tradition that ruling party should move its and its partner to second it. The seconder is absent.....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Are you seconding it....(Interruptions)

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE (Solapur): I am ready to second it....(Interruptions). I have to speak on behalf of my Party....(Interruptions). I have no hesitation in seconding Shri Malhotra....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): It is the sheer negligence of the Government that a vote of thanks is to be given to the President and no member is there to second the motion....(Interruptions).

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Raghuvansh ji, what has happened to you now?

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Vijay Kumar Malhotra since you are the mover, you can speak now. The Secunder comes later.

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU (Tenali): Normally, the seconder has to move.

MR. SPEAKER: It is not taken up immediately. Shri Malhotra has to speak now.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Dr. Venugopal has come.

...(Interruptions)

DR. S. VENUGOPAL (Adilabad): Sir, I second the Motion.

MR. SPEAKER: First, Shri Malhotra has to speak, then only you can second it.

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Vajpayee Government has completed about two years and nine months. During this period country has faced several natural calamities. Shri Vajpayee Ji placed India amongst 1st six nations of the world by making atomic explosion, but several countries imposed sanctions on our country. Those countries who had been imposed sanctions like ours got destroyed. Their economic condition was totally ruined. Even after all these sanctions being imposed on us, the achievements of our country has been noted in President's Address.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, we had been forced to fight Kargil war though we won the war but we had to pay heavy price for this victory. There was super cyclone which hit the Orissa. Then a devastating earthquake occurred in Gujarat. In spite of all these calamities, the achievements noted in the President's address were achieved by the country during Vajpayee's regime. The greatest festival of the world, the Kumbh mela was also held. In this Kumbh 8-10 crores peoples gathered on a bank of river for one month and not a single incident of murder, theft, decoity, and such crime happened. First time in the history of Kumbh there was no dispute among Akharas and Shankracharyas for taking holy bath first of all. There was not even a single untoward incident. For this achievement the government of Uttar Pradesh should be praised and it is a matter of glory for us.

Mr. Speaker Sir, on January 2001 our foreign exchange reserve was 38.5 billion dollars i.e. 3,850 crore dollar i.e. 17,7000 crore rupees. In our country there was a situation at a time when we were compelled to pledge our gold reserves when the foreign exchange reserve was not available for more than a week and in spite of these calamities we have considerable foreign exchange reserve. This is the indication of the success of the government. Even after having the import bills of rupees 8,000 crore for import of Petroleum products. We have maintained a record foreign exchange reserve. We have a buffer stock of more than 40 million tons of the

agricultural produce. There was no such a high buffer stock earlier. Last year, there was a record production of 209 million tons of foodgrains, it is in itself a record. Our country has become the largest producer of milk and second largest producer of rice, wheat and vegetables in the world.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, considering the increasing crude oil bill, we have made efforts to attain self reliance in this field and our government had started the search of the Petroleum in 25 more fields and it will curb our import bill.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, After 54 years of independence, more than 50 crore people are illiterate and more than five crore children are not school going and small children are working in factories and they are facing untimely death. For these children a total literacy scheme has been launched and within three years the target of total literacy would be achieved. Schemes have been launched this year to achieve this target 1734 track courts would be established to reduce the number of pending cases in courts for speedy disposal of cases pending in courts.

Mr. Speaker Sir, much is being said about farmers but during the past years nothing had been done for them. After our government came to power many welfare schemes for the farmers have been launched. Credit cards have been issued to more than 1.5 crores farmers and also a passbook. Now they do not need to go to any Patwaris and Mahajans for a loan. Now he is not dependent on any Sahookars or Patwari. Now he can go directly go to the Rural Bank and withdraw money by showing his credit card and passbook. He can use it at his will besides it has also been linked to insurance. On the death of the farmer Rs. 50,000 and on being injured Rs. 25000 will be paid. Moreover, he is not required to pay any premium for this. Linking farmers with credit cards alongwith insurance is such a great achievement which could not be achieved by any government in the past.

Mr. Speaker Sir, there was a hue and cry for import from foreign countries and concerns were expressed in this regard. It has always been said in the House that imports from abroad will be cheaper which will deteriorate the conditions of the farmers what will be their destiny? Nobody told the facts. Through you I would like to make the country aware of the difference between import duty during Congress and the United front regimes and its position during our regime. I want to tell you that earlier import duty on wheat was nil and now it has been made 50 per cent Import duty on rice was nil and now it has been made to 70 to 80 per cent. Import duty on millet and maize was zero which has been increased to 60 per cent. Import duty on baby food has been increased from

16 per cent to 38.5 per cent. Import duty on milk powder was nil, now it is 60 per cent. Duty on sugar has been increased from 27 to 60 per cent. Provisions have been made in the budget to impose 100 per cent and 70 per cent import duty on chicken meat and other kind of meat respectively. Import duty on tea, coffee and coconut has been increased from 35 per cent to 70 per cent. It appears that no import will be possible and interest of the farmers will remain protected.

Mr. Speaker Sir, I am surprised that Congress President organised a huge rally which was a flop rally where Labourers were brought instead of farmers. In this rally it has been said that milk and foodgrain is being imported in this country. This Government is not stopping the import of the commodities which are being produced by our farmers. I want to tell our Government increased the import duty upto 75, 80 and 100 per cent on the commodities which was nil during Congress regims. Milk as a powder has not been imported during the last one and half years, but the illusion is being created and false figures are being presented before the world. Why don't they tell the people about the facilities provided by the present Government to the farmers. Why the facilities like credit card and insurance were not provided during Congress regime. Why did you not impose or increase the import duty, why did you not issue passbooks and provided the insurance? Why such things are being said?

Mr. Speaker Sir, Prime Minister Gram Sarak Scheme has been launched to connect all the villages with roads. This year a provision of rupees 2500 crore has been made for the purpose. Every village of the country will be connected with roads within three years. A scheme to provide potable water to each village has been started. To connect the north with South and East with West Prime Minister has initiated scheme of 9000 km long quadrangular road. Efforts are being made to bring the standard of our roads upto the levels of developed countries and work has been started to achieve it. 1500 km long road is being constructed this year. For other roads tenders are being floated and planning is in progress and all these roads will be ready by the end of three years.

Mr. Speaker Sir, under the Antyodaya scheme one crore families living below poverty line will be provided 15 kg foodgrains. In which wheat will be at the rate of rupees 2 per kg and rice rupees 3 per kg.

Government will purchase foodgrains at rupees six per kg and supply it through ration for rupees nine per kg and for one crore people living below poverty line these foodgrains will be provided at the rate of rupees two per kg. The Government will make available 25 kg



[Dr. Vijay Kumar Malhotra]

rice to them at the rate of rupees three a kg. These are the achievements of this budget speech.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the President have enumerated about 100-150 achievements. I do not want to take the time by describing them because they have been described in detail in the President's address. Despite all these achievements, opposition, in all particularly Congress leaders are imposing false, baseless and mischievous allegation upon BJP. For the Congress it is a matter of great frustration and disappointment that after constitution of the Government of B.J.P. and its allies, no major communal riot took place. Leaving some minor incidents, communal harmony is being maintained in this country and this harmony is the cause of the frustration and discomfort of the Congress, who ruled the country through out the years on the basis of Hindu-Muslim riots. That's why they have started to impose allegations. During the two years and nine months.....(Interruptions) I am sure that during the last two years and nine months...(Interruptions)

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani): There were one thousand....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You should not disturb the House.

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Can you name a person of B.J.P. or the Sangh family who has been punished or charge sheeted on account of communal riot.....(Interruptions)... can anybody tell the name of even a single person who had been punished or the communal riots had occurred. During last two and nine months not a single incident occurred and this is the reason Congress is levelling allegations.....(Interruptions)

[English]

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM (Badagara): They were never caught.

MR. SPEAKER: What is this type of running commentary?

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the most devastating earthquake in the last fifty years hit

Gujarat in which 30 thousand people perished..It induced people all over the country to help the needy. The whole country was united in helping the affected people which included the Congressmen as well as other persons. All of them worked a lot to help the needy persons. The Congress President also went to Gujarat. I respect her a lot. It is very good if she goes there. Her Gujarat visit conveys the message that the whole country is consoling the people of Gujarat and assures them that the whole country is with them in their hour of crisis. If someone goes for that purpose, it is good. But, the next day, it was repeatedly said on T.V. that there were discrimination in distribution of relief materials on the basis of religion and that the minorities, the poor and the Harijans are not being provided relief materials...(Interruptions)... I beg pardon for using the word 'Harijan'. I should have used the word 'the Scheduled Castes'. I withdraw that part of my statement. But, the same statement was repeatedly shown on T.V. after every half-an-hour on the channels which show their programmes 24 hours a day. It may be that she said many other things also, but these were not shown....(Interruptions)

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE: She said only those things which were told to her by the people. She gave that statement from that place....(Interruptions)

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: I am going to narrate the same subject. It is a matter of shame for the person who discriminates on the basis of religion at the time of such a tragedy. How can someone say things like that at that place...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI A.C. JOS (Trichur): People complained to her and that is what she said. She did not make any suo motu statement. She said what people complained to her.

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Fie upon that person who discriminates on the basis of religion while distributing relief. It should be condemned in the harsh words. But, the action of that person should be condemned in more harsh words, who makes allegations based on false and unsubstantial facts. These kinds of allegations were made there on a continuous basis. What was the effect of those allegations — the ship being sent from Britain was detained there. It was told that relief should not be sent as discrimination was taking place there. Things like that have happened at other

places also. On the previous day Patil Saheb had said that they had not said that Government had discriminated. You had said that people complained about something. Where should we send complaint? Complaints should be sent and actually complaints have come. These should be investigated. But it is not proper to publicise those complaints in newspapers even before those complaint letters have reached the Prime Minister....(Interruptions)

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL (Latur): T.V. and radio channels are not owned by Mrs. Sonia Gandhi. That person should answer the question who has told so. These things have happened not only in Gujarat but at Latur also, about which I know personally....(Interruptions)

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: We had not gone to Latur to do it....(Interruptions)

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: What does it mean....(Interruptions)

[English]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Let me complete....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: You are not ready to listen to others. You want to be only praised, you get angry if someone tells you the fact....(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA (Junagarh): The Chief Minister of Gujarat had told that if this had happened, it was not proper....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shrimati Chikhalia, please do not interrupt....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Well, what is the effect of it? Twelve thousand soldiers were deployed there. Did they discriminate? About 20-22 thousand....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Shivraj V. Patil, you will have your chance to speak....(Interruptions)

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, this is not correct and this should not go on record....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

No one said that the defence forces did discrimination. No one said that discrimination was done by the Government employees or the Government. You are saying such things which are confusing people....(Interruptions)

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Those people could not discriminate. No one has come forward to say that discrimination was done in providing houses or relief materials even after 35-40 days of the incidents. Is it proper for the leader of the opposition and the Congress people to make allegations and thereby sully the image of the country in the entire world? This should be looked into? Let us take another topic. There was a statement that the Chief Minister of that State should tender his resignation. Which I viewed on the T.V. on the third day after the incident. It was said at the time when relief work was in full swing for bringing out the dead from the debris. Is it proper? I have told that this type of allegation is always being levelled against us. From a very long time, the allegation of communalism is being levelled against us. It is said that the Sri Krishna Report and other reports should be implemented. The reports of Minority Commission have been released during the last two years. I would like to quote from these reports. There were news items that Sangh Parivar was involved in bomb throwing incidents at Churches in Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Goa. There were news headlines, T.V. Coverage, allegations and heated discussions in both the Houses of Parliament. When those persons were arrested it was found that they were I.S.I. agents from Pakistan. It was also proved by the Congress Government of Karnataka and Telgu Desham Government of Andhra Pradesh that it was the handiwork of someone else. But, no one apologized after the findings. Four reports have been published. The first report is dated 27 April, 2000. The Members of Minority Commission had gone to Koshi, Mathura, Agra and Rewari. After visiting these places, they came to the conclusion that religion was not involved in it and it was a law and order problem. There was neither politics nor communalism involved in it. These four reports are given by them. Another report was about Gujarat. It was said that the whole matter was being changed in books and matter relating to Hinduism and false matters are being incorporated in books. They termed it as saffronization and there was a lot of hue and cry in both the Houses. This commission visited Ahmedabad on the 7th August and Surat on 12th August. The minorities showed them those books.

[Dr. Vijay Kumar Malhotra]  
[English]

In the Second Report, it is said:

"National Commission for Minorities: A Report of the visit to Gujarat.

The Commission, *prima facie*, did not find any objectionable material in the school books placed before it by the representatives of the minorities in Ahmedabad."

"The Commission, *prima facie*, did not find any objectionable material in school books placed before it by the representatives of the minorities."

[Translation]

This is another report. The Commission visited Bangalore on 8th January, 2001 and 12th January, 2001. The Commission has written in Bangalore:-

[English]

"The representatives of the Christian community dwell at length on the role played by their community in various walks of life. The Delegation felt that Christians lived in complete harmony with other members of the society for centuries without any problems whatsoever. As such, the Christians should not develop amongst themselves any minority complex."

[Translation]

This is the report of the Commission. Then the Commission visited Orissa. I am quoting the press statement of Md. Shamim, the Chairman of the Commission:

Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is another report of the Minority Commission which is very adverse. I am ashamed of it. The entire country should be ashamed of it. The observations of that report are very serious. The report observes:

[English]

"The Chairman of the Commission Justice Mohammad Shamim said that there was no organised communal for fundamentalist force or organisation working at the national level against the minority communities, particularly the Christians. The Commission Chairman

said whatever incidents have been reported are either stray cases or confined to a particular village or area. Justice Shamim said adding that leaders of different minority communities should come forward voluntarily to find solutions. Member of the Commission John Joseph stated..."

SHRI A.C. JOS: He is your successor. You should not talk about him...(Interruptions)

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Whatever suits you, it is all right to you. They are all members of the Minorities Commission...(Interruptions)

SHRI A.C. JOS (Trichur): Why should the Commission not be given semi-judicial status? Let us not talk about Shri John Joseph...(Interruptions)

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: I continue further. It has been stated:

"The Christian community should and must not blindly blame the Hindus or the majority community for any attack on them."

"Local Muslims of this area are having a sense of insecurity after these incidents. It was learnt that many Muslim families had fled out of fear from the area. A number of women were reportedly molested. The Team is constrained to conclude that the police could have averted the deterioration of the situation if they had acted promptly. The National Commission for Minorities Team infers that the police..."

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM (Badagara): That is not correct. This is a reference to my constituency. This is absolutely baseless....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: I have not yet read it.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This is not the stage to give reply. What is this?

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Further, it says:

"The National Commission for Minorities infers that the police has taken a partisan stand in the whole episode. The police, that is the arm of the Government meant to bring peace and safety to all the citizens, has turned out to be puppets in the hands of the hooligans."

It is high time and imperative for the Government to fulfil their duty to ensure the safety of Muslims and take suitable action erring police officials. The disturbances lasted for more than nine days. This was an unusually long period and exposes the State Government agencies to the criticism of indifference to developing situations....(Interruptions) This needs to be inquired into and guilty punished....(Interruptions) The image of the Government gets tarnished if it seems to the public that the functionaries are operating in a partisan manner....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, this report is of Minority Commission in which all the four members are non Hindus.

[English]

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM: This is not correct....(Interruptions)

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: The National Commission for Minorities decided to send a team consisting of Shri John Joseph and Shri V.K. Dar, Members and Shri M.S. Sokhandi, Joint Secretary for an on the spot assessment....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

Which State is this report from....(Interruptions)

[English]

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM: It is about my constituency. How can I be patient?...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This is not the way to give reply.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: I have not even told as to which State is this report from, this can be understood. If I don't tell as to which State is this Report from then the Congress people will straightaway say that it must be of Gujarat or Uttar Pradesh where everything is being done against Muslim people, so, it may be of Haryana or Punjab. No this report is of Kerala State.

[English]

SHRI A.C. JOS (Trichur): It is not ruled by the Congress ...(Interruptions)

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: I am coming to that....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

Previously also Kumari Mamta Banerjee had presented persons belonging to the minority community who were victims of atrocities, murders and mayhem, as proof against West Bengal's Communist Government. Now these types of incidents are happening in Kerala. The condition of the muslims and how the State Government of that had been conducting itself, has been explained in this report. Even after this they are telling us about the situation there. This is the report of the Women Commission of Kerala. This Commission was constituted by the Communist Government itself. Have they tried to defend it so that they may not be held responsible and they can do whatever they were doing earlier....(Interruptions)

[English]

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM: One of my comrades had been killed and extremists in the Muslim community are behind it....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: What is this?

...(Interruptions)

MR SPEAKER: This is too much, Prof. Premajam.

...(Interruptions)

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: The Kerala Women's Commission held the State Government guilty on various counts for not making any effort to bring to book the culprits involved in the rape of a mother and a minor daughter at Naadapuram last month....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record except the speech of Dr. Malhotra.

...(Interruptions)\*

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Mr. Speaker Sir, I understand the way the Communists behave. They do not do what they speak.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record except the speech of Dr. Malhotra.

...(Interruptions)\*

MR. SPEAKER: He is the Mover. How can you disturb his speech?

...(Interruptions)

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: I am surprised that not even a single Member from Congress Party has spoken either in Rajya Sabha or in Lok Sabha about it. In the wake of Muslims fleeing from there, lodging report

[Dr. Vijay Kumar Malhotra]

by them with the Minorities Commission as well as report of the Women Commission, the silence maintained by the Congress party is really surprising. They are talking about contesting in West-Bengal election but here they are keeping mum. Now nobody is talking or raising the question of communalism. They make a clamour here in this House even if events of much less significance happen in any part of the country. Whether this is because Soniaji is trying to form a forum of all the opposition parties in which it become essential to include Communists also. She is dreaming of becoming the Prime Minister of this country by dislodging this Government and it does seem that it is the reason that the Congress party has chosen to keep mum over the events.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is a matter to be observed how far their drive against communalism is fair or unfair the second allegation being levelled is that we have sold out the nation to the multinational companies and profitable undertakings are being sold. This matter has been discussed here in detail so I don't want to go into it again....(Interruptions). That is enough and only two three questions are to be related with this issue and other members have to reply to this. Can a member say that it is not a fact that the W.T.O. agreement was signed during the period of Congress Party. The GATT agreement was signed by these people when United Front Government was there and the Communist party was part of it. They had fully enforced that agreement. In the election manifesto of 1973, 1996, 1998 and 1999 the Congress party took full credit of economic reforms and continued the work of disinvestment of public undertakings with full zest. In 1999 Mr. Manmohan Singh was fielded as a candidate in the election and was made claimant for the office of Prime Minister and it was declared that every thing would be done on the basis of his economic policies. If you refer to the speeches of Shri Manmohan Singh, Shri Pranab Mukharjee and Shri Chidamabaram then you will see whatever the Congress is doing today is a complete somersault from its pervious stand.

The Public Undertakings in West Bengal were sold away in haste. This can be realised the way the oldest Hotel of Calcutta was sold to a French company without inviting tenders, how a expert was called for petrochemicals. In West Bengal most of the Public undertakings are being sold away. This is being done in all the States. In Delhi D.T.C. is being privatised. Taking over of Super Bazar is not being accepted. Five private Companies are being formed for electricity. Privatisation is being done in Karnataka and Rajasthan. Disinvestment is being resorted to everywhere. But when it is discussed, everyone is quick to level allegations. Now it is being

told that suitable price is not paid. What Mr Jogi is telling? He claim to have names and what he alleges a scam of rupees 100 crores. He says he has the names and he will disclose them. If he has the names then why he is not disclosing? Good number of days have lapsed. It has been alleged to be a scam of Rupees 100 crores....(Interruptions) It is being told that he has the bank account numbers and he will be disclosing them to the J.P.C., but not here. When both Standing Committee on Finance and Parliamentary Committee on Undertaking are Joint Parliamentary Committees then why is he not disclosing to either of the two JPCs.? Why is he not disclosing to the Speaker in writing? Why is he not disclosing to the Vice Chairman of Rajya Sabha in writing? Why is he not disclosing to his Members in writing? Why is he not disclosing in this House here? There is no discussion and he has made allegations and after this he has maintained, silence saying that he will disclose it later on. Why is he not disclosing to C.V.C.? Whether such thing has happened ever before that on the day disinvestment was done our Minister said he is going to send all the paper to the C.G.A. and he has started the preparations and he has started collecting papers so that they can be sent to CAG. Hundreds of disinvestment have taken place whether papers were ever sent to C.A.G. on any occasion? Mr. Jogi can send his information to C.A.G. also. He can enlighten the C.A.G. as to where corruptions was indulged in and the same should be brought before the House. The House must consider this today that is if a person knows a crime has happened and if he hides that crime then hiding crime is bigger than knowing about the crime...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This will not go on record....(Interruptions)\*

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: If a person has a proof about any offence and if he does not disclose that proof then the himself is an offender and he is a part of that offence and even after that if he says I have proof but I will not disclose it, that proves he is an offender. Today what he is doing. He is behaving like a trade Union leader. He is standing there and telling he will not allow any one to enter into Chattisgarh as if it is his fiefdom, as if it is a matter of his home. In spite of being the Chief Minister he is violating laws. He is crushing the fundamental rights and is indulging in gangsterism. He is announcing from there that he will not allow any one to enter who will compensate the loss of rupees hundred crores which had already occurred and is likely to occur? The future of seven thousand workers is endangered.

\* Not recorded.

They are playing with the future of these workers. From now onwards, nobody will set up industry in Chattisgarh. Chattisgarh is getting ruined and besides this most of the plants are getting spoiled but Jogi Saheb is happy. He is fuming fire and giving threats. Is this the duties of a Chief Minister? It is a severe blow to our federal character. If such things are going to happen what will be the future of the country this we have to consider.

Sir, 'we can understand that the Communist party opposes our economic policies but as I have already mentioned why the Congress party is totally opposing this. They have to reconsider this issue. Congress leaders have given a number of speeches, they have spoken sufficiently over this issue but its plights can be seen. 11 by-elections ere held in the countries and the Congress to contested 10 out of 11 rural seats but it could manage to win just one seat, that too by booth capturing. In Uttar Pradesh all the three Congress Party candidate lost their deposits, they could get just 2000 to 2500 Votes only. In Uttar Pradesh, from where Shri Jawaharlal Nehru, Smt. Indira Gandhi, Shri Rajiv Gandhi, Shri Lal Bahadurji, won their elections and where the Congress party got 80-82-84 seats out of 85 seats but this time all the three seats, its candidates lost their deposits. Even then they are telling in this House that the N.D.A. Government is weakening. It is losing its credibility and Congress Parties credibility increasing. They have lost in Punjab by 21 thousand votes. They have lost in Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand, and have lost every where. They are wondering what to do after such a plight. In West Bengal their own members have left their Party and no body is prepared to join hand with them. In Tamilnadu no one is prepared to give them five seats. This is the situation of their party. Congress is 116 year old but they don't have even 116 members in the House. Now they are thinking what to do it is just like a drowning man trying to hold on to a straw.

Sir, a news item has been published in the News paper. I don't know the authenticity of that news.

[English]

Congress labours to understand reforms.

[Translation]

Congress party thought why their conditions is so miserable, whether it is because of the economic policies. Whether we should bid good-bye to Shri Manmohan Singh ji on his economic policies or should we stick to those

policies or keep on levelling false allegations to bring minorities to our fold or try to bring the Hindus closer to us after having a bath in the Kumbh. They are thinking as to what to do now. This report mentions:

[English]

"Confused Congress President sent a team, comprising the veteran Natwar Singh, Salman Khurshid and Anand Sharma to the United Kingdom to probe how the moribund Labour Party sprang to life after 18 years."

[Translation]

How the Labour Party came to power after 18 years. A team was sent to London to find out as to how can they come to power.

[English]

The team, to their shock discovered...

SHRI A.C. JOS: Dr. Vijay Kumar Malhotra, I am thankful to you for the great concern you are showing about the Congress. This is wrong news.....(Interruptions). Are you speaking on the President's Address?... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Jos, please do not interrupt....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: I would have not mentioned that but it has been quoted in the inverted comas, that's why I have mentioned it.

[English]

The paper has quoted:

"Mr. Singh wrote, Tony Blair and his spin doctor did not hesitate to confess past errors and were not afraid to take bold electoral and political risks. They have learned hard lesson the hard way. It is another matter that the Congress has refused to learn any lesson, etc."...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

I have quoted, "Khurshid said, "that was the most important aspect of the voyage of discovery in Britain."

[Dr. Vijay Kumar Malhotra]

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Congress should think over economical policies, whether they are wrong or not, whether their communal policies are wrong, policies of farmers are wrong or whether family succession or flattery is the cause of its down fall. They should think over these issues. You have a right to level allegations on us. You have criticised us a lot. You said that we should be ashamed, somebody said that "Shame on us". We have tolerated a lot. But we were very much surprised when the President of Congress Party Shrimati Sonia Gandhi while delivering a speech in the Ramlila ground said that the Government does not have the 'manners to run the Government.' Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is not proper to use such words in the speech that we don't have the manners. You can say that we do not know how to run the Government or we don't know the way to run the Government. But we are being taught manners....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: What is that? You are also provoking the other side. Hon. Members, please take your seat.

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Late Shri Rajiv Gandhiji had also once said "nani yaad dila denge", then also it was widely criticised. I don't know as to who is her copy-writer and who is her translator. Should she say that we don't have the manners. It looks very odd that the leader of Congress Party would teach manners to hon'ble Vajpayeeji, Mr. Speaker, Sir, Vajpayeeji is the stewart of the Indian politics.

[English]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, it is again misleading. She did not mention Shri Vajpayee's name....(Interruptions). For these things, the floor of the House should not be used. She did not mention Prime Minister's name....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: He don't have the manners to run the Government. Wasn't it mentioned....(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, this is not the way of using the floor of the House.

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Hon'ble Vajpayeeji is running the Government. He don't have the manners to run the Government, this was viewed on T.V. and listened to by the entire India. It was repeated by the television time and again....(Interruptions).

[English]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Nobody is saying against his people, he himself is saying about them....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I only want to say that "Bargad ki baat karte hai gamle me uge huye log" and that too at such a time when the Government have so many achievements. You can criticise but there are so many such issues on which one programme can be made by all the parties by joining hands together. Now, you are having your Governments in five States, BJP is having its Governments in five states, NDA's Governments are there in four-five States. This is the ideal time when a common policy can be formulated, for the nation on certain issues. The hon'ble Prime Minister called the Chief Ministers of all the States. So that a policy can be formulated for power sector and it is the matter of pleasure that a policy has been formulated. If Karnataka does something we oppose it. There is Congress Government in Delhi and BJP opposes that, we oppose in Rajasthan and if our Governments in Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh does something, then it is opposed by the Congress. Therefore, we can have a common consensus on certain issues. For example, population is the biggest problem. All the States and parties together can make a consensus over this issue. A policy can be formulated on building the infrastructure and levy of taxes.

The Prime Minister has taken initiatives in all the sectors. All parties and citizens should work together in these sectors like the foreign policy. We can make our country strong again in this way. With these words, I present this motion.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Dr. S. Venugopal to second the Motion.

DR. S. VENUGOPAL (Adilabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, at the outset, I am grateful to you for giving me this

opportunity to state our points of view on the Government's approaches and policies as stated in the Address of the hon. President to the Joint Sitting of both the Houses of Parliament on the first day of this Budget Session. I rise to second the Motion thanking the hon. President for his Address.

Sir, as expected, the President's Address has stressed and touched upon certain issues which are political, social and economic. Conventionally, the President's Address is taken as the Statement of the Government's policies for the current financial year.

The President's Address largely touched upon the initiatives and the programmes launched by the Government in the last couple of years and the Statement accordingly amounted to reiterating the continuity of its programmes, policies and approaches.

Since there is nothing much to debate or to argue, I would like to approach the issues from the perspective of our Party's policies and thinking on major issues; and express our views on important areas of concern.

Sir, this august House is aware that Andhra Pradesh has been at the receiving end of natural calamities in some form or the other at regular intervals, to where we have no hesitation to approach the Centre for necessary relief and highlighting inadequacy of the existing mechanism to face such situations.

Sir, as you know, it is unfortunate that on the 26th of January, when people were celebrating the Republic Day function, the unprecedented earthquake disaster took place in Gujarat. More than 20,000 people were reported to be died and about 57,000 people injured. Nearly 1.5 crore population of Gujarat out of 4 crore population had suffered the fury of this calamity in one way or the other. On the same day, our Chief Minister, Shri Chandrababu Naidu had announced relief to the tune of five crore of rupees and also arranged medicines, radio sets with operators and food materials to Guajrat by hiring flights and trucks. Also the employees of Andhra Pradesh Government had contributed one-day salary towards this disaster. The Speaker called the Members of Parliament of TDP and each Member of Parliament had contributed Rs. 10 lakh. Most of the voluntary organisations, individuals, media and others from Andhra Pradesh altogether contributed around Rs. 40 crore to Gujarat. Similarly, I would like to recall that when the super cyclone occurred in Orissa, the Andhra Pradesh Government and its employees had contributed generously. This shows our solidarity when others are in distress.

I would like to state that the Government should take a comprehensive look and come out with an action plan to meet the natural calamity. So far, earthquake had occurred 21 times in our country.

In 1993, there was an earthquake in Latur; in 1950, it happened in Assam; in 1988, it happened in Bihar; in 1991, it happened in Uttarkashi; in 1999, it happened in Chamoli and in 1997, it happened in Jabalpur. Like that, 21 earthquakes have happened in our country. Seeing the scenario a number of times, all the Members of this august House expressed concern that whatever mechanism evolved by the Central Government to tackle the natural calamity or to tackle the relief is inadequate. So, I am happy that the Central Government is moving in the right direction. So, the President's Address moved in the direction of positioning of an institutional mechanism at various levels to tackle the calamity. But we should not forget that it shall be the collective effort of the Centre and the States to meet such disasters.

Sir, I particularly, welcome the concern expressed by the President on the delay in passing the Women's Reservation Bill. The TDP supremo, late NTR had initiated steps for political empowerment in Andhra Pradesh. The Telugu Desam Party, since the beginning, is in the forefront of taking steps for the political and economic empowerment of women. We want that it should be extended to State Legislatures and Parliament. For some reason, it is unfortunate that the 85th Amendment Bill is being delayed. The hon. President clearly urged in his Address that it should be passed immediately.

You know, Sir, Andhra Pradesh leads in carrying out the women's empowerment programmes through DWACRA and DAKWA groups. The savings of DWACRA groups are Rs. 3.5 lakh and the Groups have engaged up to 800 representatives in Andhra Pradesh. Early in 1987, Andhra Pradesh had taken initiatives in giving political empowerment by earmarking nine per cent for them. So, I would request the hon. Prime Minister, in consultation with all the political Parties and their leaders, he should see to it that the Bill is passed in this Session only, thereby political empowerment may be given to women who constitute 50 per cent of our population.

Also a number of times, the hon. Prime Minister has gone on record that this Government is committed to the implementation of the Women's Reservation Bill. If you recall, last time on the last day of the Session, the Bill was put before the House for discussion. Knowingly or unknowingly, all the political Parties, before the elections, are committed to women's reservation. Most of the political



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parties included it as one of the items in their agendas. But after coming to power, I think, most of the political parties are differing with this issue. Sometimes, it is creating pandemonium in Parliament. So, I would request the Government, through you, that in this Session, this Government should see that the Bill is passed.

After the Women's Reservation Bill, the hon. President has also stressed the welfare and development of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and other poorer sections of the society. It is very dear to our policy. The Chandrababu Naidu Government has launched many programmes in that direction in Andhra Pradesh like *Mundadugu Chaithanya* for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, *Adarna* for Backward Classes and *Roshani* for minorities.

At this juncture, I invite the attention of the august House to the concern voiced by the President regarding the prevailing inequalities in economic arena after Independence. Quoting the object of the Constitution, Dr. Paramapooja Ambedkar, the hon. President said:

"Contradiction of equality in political arena and inequality in social and economic life shall be resolved without much loss of time."

We totally share the concern and urge upon the Central Government to do the needful to fulfil the aspirations of the large number of freedom fighters who have laid down their lives for the cause of our independence. The representations of the freedom fighters of Andhra Pradesh have already been given to the hon. Minister of Home Affairs and also to the State Home Minister with a request to redress their grievances. But it is unfortunate that the Government has not tried to tackle the problems pertaining to those freedom fighters.

As I said earlier, we are supporting this Government, based on the NDA's common agenda which is committed to secularism. Another which is like a bedrock of our philosophy is — I am happy to note it — that the President's Address reiterated its uncompromising commitment to secularism.

I appreciate the Government's statement that the law would take its own course unwiningly and impartially against those who seek to create trouble by disturbing the secular fabric of our country.

We have reason to be happy that such type of offences are slowly decreasing and we urge upon the Central Government to stick to their word and discharge

their duty of upholding the central character of the policy as enshrined in the Constitution.

Our party has noted with concern the statements of some individuals or groups of organisations with regard to Ayodhya and strongly urges the Central Government to ensure that no untoward incident is allowed to take place at Ayodhya and that the spirit of law is upheld.

The President also mentioned about federalism. Federalism is our party's life and breath as also of the country and we welcome the Central Government's efforts to ensure co-ordination and consultation between the Centre and the States in a spirit of federalism.

I am happy to note the way that the Government of India is moving. It has tried to convene some meetings on federal issues like Inter-State Councils and on several other issues. Some issues have been discussed several times like the devolution of powers to the States and also devolution of funds to the States.

The Sarkaria Commission had expressed the same view and the National Development Council also had endorsed devolution up to 50 per cent of the central taxes to the States. But I may bring to the office of the Government now that the devolution is only around 27 per cent. So, this means that the Government is paying inadequate and unless greater devolution is done, most of the States will not be able to complete the economic reforms.

Secondly, almost all the Central schemes are being implemented by the State Governments, including the recently launched one, the Prime Minister's *Sadak Yojana*. There, decentralisation of funds can be authorised to carry on the works. At least the State Governments have got the mechanism because they can go through the process of preparing the estimates through their own agencies and fully spend the funds, whatever may be allotted by the Centre. They know each part of the States, whether it is backward, or hilly area and so the State Government only will be able to identify the nature of the backward areas. But one sorry thing is that under the Prime Minister's *Sadak Yojana* the Central Government issued orders to all the States mentioning that they should only send the proposals and that they would select the roads. It is unfair and it is causing problems in the wake of the recommendations of the Sarkaria Commission.

17.44 hrs.

(SHRI SHRINIWAS PATIL in the Chair)

We know that the State of Andhra Pradesh had got into a lot of problems due to the Lakkadawala

Commission's recommendations. While assessing the poverty levels, since the subsidies have been provided by the State Government, the State had suffered in the allocation of the central funds heavily. The Eleventh Finance Commission also suggested that backward States or backward areas should be given higher allocations.

It detracts the initiative of the performing States. The States, which have taken to reforms and the States that are progressing, are not getting sufficient funds. They are getting only meagre funds. So, the performance should be encouraged, but not the multiplication of poverty. The Government in this regard can take serious steps. Those States, which are coming forward, which are doing progressive reforms or those States which are implementing the reforms, should be given more incentives. As per the Gadgil formula, allocations to those States should be enhanced.

Sir, as you are aware, the hon. President also dealt at some length about economic globalisation and addressed issues about WTO implications. Though the GATT Agreement was signed during early December, 1994, by the then Congress Government, there is no point in accusing the then Government about signing this Agreement on political lines. We have to carry on with the WTO implications. So, the present Government has to critically analyse the implications in different areas like pharmaceuticals, agriculture, small-scale industries, etc. They should come up with viable, practical and advantageous solutions to sort out the problems.

Sir, when the WTO commitments come into force, it will lead to a situation of global competition, posing certain challenges to the farmers. Our agriculture and small-scale industries are going to suffer a lot and, therefore, India cannot be allowed as a dumping ground for several items or commodities and thereby allowing the domestic production to suffer. Though China is not a member, it is entering in most of the fields. China is dumping almost all their products in our country.

China and India are almost similarly placed. So, there is no reason why we cannot do so. All that is required is to necessarily resolve, with clarity and commitment, to take necessary actions and exploit our natural resources and advantages in certain areas of economy. The Government, through the President's Address, did not make any statement in this regard. I would request the hon. Prime Minister to tell us as to what sort of relief or what sort of measures the Government is going to take during the transition period.

I would also request the Government to make mass media campaign or to make awareness about commencement of the WTO obligations. A process should be immediately initiated to educate the masses on the WTO implications. Our concern is: how are we going to face the present period till such time the necessary adjustments are made in this regard?

I strongly urge the Government to do everything possible to protect the interests of the farmers, because farmer is the backbone of our country, in the face of lifting up the Quantitative Restrictions on imports from the 1st of April this year. Our concern is: how are we going to face the transition period? So, I would request the hon. Prime Minister to kindly elaborate on this point in his reply.

Nowadays, in India, agriculture is currently the worst affected sector. It is reeling under several apprehensions because of imports of agricultural products from several countries. Quoting National Agricultural Policy announced last year the hon. President said:

"It seeks promotion of the higher public and private investments."

I am sorry to bring this to your kind notice.

It is reflected in the recent Budget that while the Budget Estimate for the agriculture sector in the current financial year was Rs. 2,930 crore, it has come down by more than Rs. 400 crore in the Revised Estimate.

I am thankful to the Finance Minister that he has increased the import duties in the recent Budget, but still the increase is inadequate and requires a close study on item-by-item basis. Also, the implications of WTO as also the umbrella package should be elaborately explained to the farmers.

I am also grateful to the Finance Minister that he has taken initiative for providing more funds from NABARD for the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund and also for reducing the interest rates. But whatever initiatives have been taken in the recent Budget, those are only post-harvest methods. But what about the pre-harvest package or pre-harvest methods, that is, during the sowing period, the Government is unable to explain. So, I would request the Finance Minister and also the Agriculture Minister to explain this.

Infrastructure development is another area in the context of the economic reforms. I am happy that the

[Dr. S. Venugopal]

Central Government is paying more attention and is giving top priority to IT sector and have also increased the allocations to road, petroleum and natural gas, and also, to some extent, the power sector.

I came to know that after the Government have taken a lot of initiatives for the IT sector, now there are 45 per cent Indians in Microsoft, 35 per cent in IBM and 35 per cent in Intel.

The country had 54,000 kilometres of railway network when the British left our country. But even after 53 years of our Independence, we could add only 6,200 kilometres in our railway network. So, this also requires attention by the Government.

The Government as well as the Finance Minister in his recent Budget Speech, have addressed the question of Public Distribution System. In his recent Budget Speech, the Finance Minister has indicated that the rice procurement operations should hereafter be handled by the State Governments only. But how far it will be possible, they are unable to explain. It is not possible for want of sufficient qualified staff because most of the qualified staff is not available in the States. Secondly, the availability of the godowns space with the State Governments is very limited. The system is disadvantageous to the surplus States, especially to Andhra Pradesh and Punjab. For example, Andhra Pradesh requires only 23 lakh tonnes for the Public Distribution System and the surplus rice available for procurement is 70 lakh tonnes as against 23 lakh tonnes in the previous year. This surplus stock in the country is normally exported through the Central Government. After the introduction of the new system in the Budget Speech of the Finance Minister, Andhra Pradesh has come to the rescue of several States. I recall that earlier, when in other States there was no production, only Andhra Pradesh came to the rescue of most of the other States. Now, when our reduction is very low, it is unfair to suggest that the procurement operations should be taken up by different States. The Government of India, for several reasons, should pay adequate attention in disposing of the stocks procured by different States.

It also resulted in huge accumulation of buffer-stocks more than the requirement. The normal requirement for the size of the population of our country is only around 20 million tonnes, but the present accumulated stock is around 45 million tonnes which is more than the double. Out of this, about one million tonnes of foodgrains is rotting in godowns for several years now and it is now unfit for consumption. The Government of India has to,

now, take a decision as to how to dispose of the rotten rice whether by dumping it in the sea or by some other measure. By doing so, in the States and in various godowns the space will be vacated and the storage charges will be minimised. Similarly the stock which is more than the present requirement should also be dumped.

The present situation of excessive buffer-stock is due to non-planning of the Food Corporation of India and also the Government of India. Presently the FCI is spending Rs. 5,000 crore annually on its operations. This is the reason why we are unable to compete in the international market. Due to non-planning or improper planning of FCI, this system is going wrongly. The handling charges are working to about Rs. 130 to Rs. 150 per quintal. Despite knowing these facts, the Government is not paying proper attention in this direction.

Since our country is totally dependent on the agricultural sector, I would request the hon. Prime Minister to kindly look into this area. Otherwise the farmers of most of the States including Andhra Pradesh and Punjab will be losing heavily in this direction.

In December last year, the Members of Parliament of the Telugu Desam Party had discussed elaborately about the procurement of rice pertaining to our State. Hon. Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution had also promised that 20 lakh tonnes of rice will be exported very shortly. But, I am sorry to say that though more than three months have elapsed, so far the process has not been initiated. The rabi crop is also entering into the market. The FCI will not be able to procure the rice. So, I would request the Government to tackle the situation immediately by exporting 20 lakh tonnes of rice from Andhra Pradesh.

Hon. President has also mentioned in his Address about the infrastructural concerns, Health, Human Resource Development and other major areas of abiding concern for our Party. Earlier, the Government had mentioned about Health-2000. But maybe, for want of resources or other reasons, we are now very near the target but not achieved it. I am rather disappointed that the first policy statement of this Government in this century is only mentioned as ensuring health for all without indicating any specific time limit. I urge upon the Government to come out with specific programmes in this regard.

With regard to education, the hon. President has made some references to the initiatives regarding higher

and technical education but surprisingly there is no reference to the universalisation of primary education. We want the Government to respond on this issue. If we especially take the literacy rate, it is unfortunate that though after 53 years of achieving Independence, the country is lagging behind in improving the literacy rate. The present national average is 52 per cent whereas the literacy rate for women is 34 per cent. We have to go a long way in achieving total literacy in the country. In this direction of the Government of Andhra Pradesh has recently launched a programme 'Akshara Sankranti'. In this all self-help groups like DWACRA, DAKWA and other Water Users Associations, Mothers Committees and School Education Committees are involved. With this initiative by the time we reach *Ugadi* Telugu New Year festival, nearly 60 lakh women will become literates in the matter of 100 days. There is an effort to expand such type of programmes in the national level.

The universalisation of primary education has not been mentioned by the Government.

18.00 hrs.

I want a response from the Government on this issue. Sir, you know that power is the need of the hour. Earlier, when the United Front Government was there under the Prime Ministership of Shri Deve Gowda, the Government had brought one action plan. That was called Common Minimum Programme for power. Almost all the Chief Ministers attended the meeting two times, but so far, most of the States are unable to implement the recommendations of that meeting.

Earlier, Shri Sharad Pawar had also introduced and recommended that a minimum amount of 50 paise per unit should be collected by the States, but most of the States are not implementing it. I want to stress upon the Government that more reforms should be undertaken in this area because now we require cheap power. Moreover, there is unequal distribution of power among the States. On the one side, in Jammu and Kashmir and North-Eastern States, there is surplus power. There is lot of potentiality for hydro-power, especially in the North-Eastern States. If you can tap the power potential of only Arunachal Pradesh, nearly 30,000 megawatt of power can be produced. Now, due to paucity of funds and lack of resources, hydro power is not being generated. There is NHPC, National Hydro Power Corporation. So, I would request the Central Government to pump in more funds for hydro-based power.

I would also like to draw attention of the nation to tap and generate more resources so that power generating units could be set up immediately wherefrom

cheap power is available and the National Grid could purchase and supply it to the Southern States where power is inadequate.

States should also concentrate on transmission and distribution losses. Most of the States have signed electricity reforms, but only five States — Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Karnataka, Orissa and Rajasthan — are doing very well. Recently, CEA has also given a power rating to these States and CEA also gave 'C' grade to 12 States. Andhra Pradesh Government has also taken lead in the power sector reforms and in the process, has made separate companies, divided the State Electricity Board into two companies, namely TRANSCO and GENCO. The Government has also initiated the power sector reforms. The State Government is also providing financial assistance for additional power generation. Out of those States which had agreed for power sector reforms, only four or five States are implementing power sector reforms and they are implementing them with human face. I would request the Central Government and the Prime Minister to evolve some system of encouragement whereby cheaper power should be given by NTPC, and five-year moratorium should be there on the power given from NTPC and other companies of the power sector. There is a necessity to form SERC and also the Board should be restructured throughout the country.

Sir, the Finance Minister has, as per most of the Press, presented a progressive Budget. Though my colleague would speak on the Budget, I want to mention that there is no incentive given to savings and also the rate of interest has been reduced by 1.5 per cent and no extra tax rebate has been given. It is further reduced from Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 7,500. When there is no tax rebate and less interest on savings, I fail to understand how the hon. Finance Minister will reach the growth rate of 9 per cent. Without making provision for resources, the only alternative left is of external borrowings. You know that after the introduction of the Budget, the stock market and sensx of BSE rose by 177 points, but presently, the market has totally fallen down. I do not know what is the reason. The Finance Minister and the Government has to inquire why it has happened. Also, I came to know that the GDP growth depends only on industrialisation or private industries.

They are involving the people. If the Government goes on depending on the external borrowings, then, in future, it may land itself in a debt trap.

[Dr. S. Venugopal]

I request the Prime Minister to give replies or clarifications on all these issues.

I am thankful to the hon. Chairman for giving me an opportunity to speak on all these issues.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Motion moved:

"That an Address be presented to the President in the following terms:-

'That the members of the Lok Sabha assembled in this Session are deeply grateful to the President for the Address which he has been pleased to deliver to both Houses of Parliament assembled together on February 19, 2001'."

Hon. Members whose amendments to the Motion of Thanks have been circulated may, if they desire so, move their amendments and send slips to the Table within 15 minutes indicating the serial numbers of the amendment that they would like to move. Those amendments only will be treated as moved.

A list showing the serial numbers of amendments treated as moved will be put up on the Notice Board shortly thereafter. In case any Member finds any discrepancy in the list, he may kindly bring it to the notice of the officer at the Table immediately.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh): Sir, I have one submission to make. I have sent a notice for one amendment today. I may kindly be permitted to move that also. I had sent it in the morning.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Just a minute. Shri Bansal, it has been told to me that your latest amendment cannot be moved because it is time barred.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: I had sent the notice in the morning.

MR. CHAIRMAN: According to the information given to me and as per the provision also, it is time barred.

[Translation]

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE (Solapur): Sir, I rise to express my gratitude to the hon'ble President, who has just addressed us on 19th February, 2001 in the joint sitting of both Houses of Parliament.

At the outset, I would like to express my condolence towards the people who have been affected by the devastating earthquake that had hit Gujarat. In President's Address, the direction of the council of Ministers, the direction of the government and the new programme for the upliftment of nation to be implemented in the forthcoming year, are presented...(Interruptions)

The President's Address gives a direction of both the Houses of Parliament and to the entire nation and also to the people of India. The address is placed before the council of Ministers and this address is prepared after taking into account the views of the council of ministers. The President addresses the entire country through the Address so that the entire country may be aware of the direction of the Government. He can not express his own feelings. When 75th anniversary was being celebrated, Hon'ble President had said something about Dr. Baba Saheb Ambedkar and the Constitution, on it you had created an illusion that the President cannot express his views. He do not have the right to go beyond the written speech provided by the council of Ministers, you had said so.

Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra is our colleague. I was listening to his speech with utmost attention. When the leaders of ruling party were expressing gratitude to the President in their speeches, I was expecting that they would speak on what was mentioned in the Address.

I was expecting that they would admit some mistakes that had been committed and would state about their future programmes. Prime Minister was sitting here and he was speaking very loudly, as if, he wanted to tell them as to how he commented on the opposition parties. I was listening with utmost attention and was surprised to know that such thought can crept into the mind of a scholar having a very cultural thinking. How dark glasses you were putting on your eyes that you could not see anything except the criticism of the Congress Leader and their party. When Gujarat was hit by the earthquake, she did not wait for anything, hon'ble Home Minister went there, she did not see to it and went there first of all to console the poor people of Gujarat. The people put their demands before her, aggrieved people told her, you might have viewed it on the Doordarshan that the people, while crying were saying that the Government is making discrimination with them.

Was it her heart's call, no it was the voice of the people. Our leader went there to see the plight of the people. But in his whole speech he did not say anything except opposing the Congress. How can, then, it be called motion of thanks on the President's Address? Even the

Prime Minister will also agree that it is not proper since he also was a leader of the opposition party. I have his book also.

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: He has sent his felicitations.

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE: The PM might have done so. He (Shri Malhotra) spoke about Indira ji and Sonia ji. There was a large congregation of farmers here at Ramila ground in Delhi in which farmers from all over the country gathered in large numbers. He is right in saying so. Our leader spoke of the farmers and expressed the farmer's view that this Government has little sense. Our leader voice the concern of the farmers. Such expressions are the manifestation of their inner agony. Such words come to their lips when there are tears in their eyes and they have no option but to commit suicide, otherwise, they would have said how nice Atal Ji is, what a nice person Malhotra ji is and how nice are those people who demolished the Babri Masjid. But, that did not happen.

He started his speech as if Atal Ji carried out nuclear explosion in India after coming to power. After that sanctions were imposed on the country. We do not care about them because our economic police improved a lot after their imposition. He has forgotten that we were opposed to it but he carried out nuclear explosions. Although we were speaking with a different voice outside, but inside when the reigning Government was finding itself in trouble, our leader of the opposition stated in the House that we stand by the country and this Government in this hour of crisis. Did not we extend our support then, these were the words of the Congress. He has forgotten so quickly. They conducted the nuclear test which brought sanctions in their wake. What was the need of doing that? Earlier the first was closed, which in itself is a weapon which was used by Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru for the progress of the country with a new vigour and novel direction. Not only this, they have even abandoned the policy of Non-Alignment.

I will shortly come to it but not right now. There was this policy of Non-Alignment and Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru, who was an apostle of peace, had under the leadership of Dr. Bhabha gave direction for amendment in Atomic Power to run the country peacefully. Pandit Ji planted the seedling for carrying amendment in Atomic Power. In 1971, Indira Ji carried the first nuclear test. It was not the work of this Government. Congress experimented with nuclear explosion but they used to speak about integrated Hindustan and Hindu Nation and that they will carry out

atomic explosion after coming to power and they did do it. But Pakistan carried three explosions the next day. What happened? A country of one hundred crore people felt like a dwarf in front of the whole world. All kinds of sanctions were imposed. Where had the Non-Alignment policy of the country gone?

We admit that we initiated disinvestment. The Congress Government initiated this disinvestment in the time of Narsimha Rao Ji under the leadership of Manmohan Singh Ji in 1991. Rajiv Gandhi Ji had given direction to it earlier and he wanted new technology to come in because the economic condition of the country was in bad shape. He is right, in saying that gold was pledged in 1989-90. But Congress gave the direction with regard to economic reforms and even today go by that stand. We do not want to charge that but will the economic reform be carried out by us leaving aside the poor? Will they look after the interests of only the capitalist and industrialists? What kind of planning can be done through this?

I think that I am first taking up those few points mentioned by them and after that I will come to the speech. They said that they won in Kargil. Where was the war in Kargil? We were caught unawareness and Pakistani soldiers entered into our territory. We fought to drive them out and in what manner? The Subramaniam Committee's report on Kargil has not been discussed in the House till now. A shepherd informed our intelligence about this action of Pakistan. Where were our Intelligence department, RAW department and Military intelligence at that moment and they are claiming aloud that we won the Kargil war. I have received some reports on the war. The winners of the Kargil, those who became martyrs...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL (Varanasi): When China attacked the country then the Members of this House had demanded for a report to be placed in the House regarding China's attack. Congress was in Power at that time. They have not presented that report in the House till date. We on our part did present the Kargil report. What are the reasons behind that report not having been presented in the House during the Congress's own regime...(Interruptions)

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE: It was long back but Li Peng was here recently, he has been China's Prime Minister two times and he is one of the seven topmost executives of China. China provides atomic power material to Pakistan and they did not have talks with it in this regard. They speak of CTBT and the McMoham

[Shri Sushil Kumar Shinde]

line from where the Chinese soldiers had reached upto Deshpur. Will they keep some points in mind or not? When there is an occasion then nothing except the second one is discussed. Did they try to open any other pass after the opening of the Nathula Pass? At that time our country was gradually progressing ahead after independence.

We were marching ahead with the slogan Hindi-Chini Bhai-Bhai based on the principles of Panchasheel. We had lended the hand of friendship, that we were stabbed in the back while doing so is another matter. It has been a subject of much discussion. In this very House Shri Krishnamenon was very close to Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru but he had to resign — has it been forgotten? On the other hand, nobody has given his resignation here. We will certainly discuss it thoroughly when the discussion on it takes place.

Sir, about Kargil victory I would only say that it was not our victory, truly speaking it was our defeat. How were we defending it? We were sleeping and the Pakistani soldiers entered into our borders and still we could not do anything. We wake up late and still talk of undivided Hindustan. They said that they have read many reports. They have read three reports of the Minorities Commission. Only one report they did not read because they read only the Pess Statement — but can you forget the Steins family, how the children were burned. Have you forgotten all that was in the news about Dara Singh. It was a mistake, we can also make mistake. During the course of ruling anywhere, one is liable to make mistakes, it is in the nature of things. There was atrocity and injustice to minorities. That should be corrected by us. We will not ask for keeping things as they are and will never indulge in just passing comments in this House. Various things are said about Sonia Ji always like how stronger the Cognress leadership has emerged in two years. There is no conflict within the Congress. They thought that the Congress will break up and go the BJP way, but that did not happen.

Sir, there was earthquake in Gujarat. We were also watching the Parade but came to know about the earthquake only on reaching home. Do they or don't they have anything like 'Disaster Management' in the wake of earthquake. Even after six hours no official of Gujarat Government reached There. The Government sat idle — I have report. Here we have a report of the Kutch Disaster Hit Residents Welfare Association. Officials of the Gujarat Government failed to turn up on the quake sites for six days. People were trapped inside the rubble but nothing was done properly to take them out of it. What is their

Disaster Management. some people hijacked our Indian Airlines plane to Kandhar and all that was pre-arranged. They were from Paksitan who hijacked it. That plane had a stopover in Amritsar but there is no such thing as Disaster Management in this Country, be it the Home Ministry or the Defence Ministry. All Officers and leaders appeared on the scene only after the plane landed in Kandahar — such is their Disaster Management. The Disaster Management will not do by taking things so lightly.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I was in Rajya Sabha. There was earthquake in Latur. Latur is the Constituency of hon. Shivraj Patil Ji. It is adjacent to my district. I will not blame the Maharashtra Government. Our own party's government was in power there but we could not provide the facilities. I had presented the Private Member's Bill. After that I contested elections and got elected to Lok Sabha. That Bill is lying as it is. Hon. President has just said in his address about setting up a Disaster Management Authority here. I have received a fax regarding the episode of Kandahar and the Gujarat earthquake. It says that people are still trapped under the debris. A question was taken up today morning during the course of which some hon. Members were saying that 18 thousand rupees were being given. While others were saying that 30 thousand rupees are given. If 10 thousand out of 30 thousand rupees go for removing the debris, than how can a quake victim construct a house for himself? They are not worried about that but about what Sonia Ji has said. They are so fearful of her. Why they must be afraid if they have to run the country. They are afraid even of her shadow. It is a fact that even today, material is not distributed properly to the quake victims. Aid is received from abroad and I think that partiality has affected people. Whether all people can write letters to them! Where were they when women, children, aged persons and girls were seen weeping on T.V. and telling Sonia Ji about the partiality, where were their eyes then? It is all right that a Disaster Management Commission/Authority will be set up. I am happy that the Government will pay some attention to it.

Sir, the country is passing through a difficult phase in the economic sector today because the Government policies are further going wrong. Just today morning hon. Jaipal Ji was speaking about hon. Parikh Sahib on economic policy. If the Harshad Mehta scam took place then why this name Ketan Parekh is coming. I was watching the public reaction to the Budget. Who were shown reacting to the Budget-Capitalists persons belonging to elite classes but no one from the poor or middle classes said that the Budget was good for them. Hon'ble Chatterjee Saheb, you are a leftist. Did you hear. It is

being said that you did not hear... You are my colleague and we also talk of socialism. Our late Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru had chosen the middle path with the aim that social and economic policies of this country would be shaped by the poor of this country but whatever is happening today, is just the contrary. We are inviting foreign capital in the name of disinvestment. We have no objection to inviting foreign capital because when gold was being mortgaged, there was no other way. At that time hon'ble Manmohan Singh Ji brought these reforms taking into account the views of Shri Rajiv Ji and Shri Narsimha Rao Ji. In 1978, Comrade Deng brought reforms but its results were not being witnessed till 1992.

I would like to remind my communist colleagues'

[English]

I am talking about comrade Deng. He has piloted the economic reforms.

[Translation]

I would like to remind that our policy is clear about economic reforms and it should be necessarily implemented. Will the Government keep in mind the difficulties being faced by the poor and miserable people of our country? They said that they did disinvestment of Balco. Then what did they do in West Bengal? Their stand was clear there. Why did they do disinvestment of Balco only? I do not know what will be the fate of it. It is bound to reach its logical conclusion. Something should be done in this regard.

According to the law the land of tribals cannot be transferred. At that time the land was given to the P.S.U. because the object was to give employment to the people of that area. This was also the policy of our Government. What decision they have taken in this regard. They said that Scheduled Tribes would be given full protection for one year and thereafter they would be offered V.R.S. They will face difficulties after one year's protection. Whether the Government wants to keep them happy for one year and after that they would be rendered jobless. What was their demand? The Chief Minister of Chhatisgarh who himself is a tribal is demanding that there people may be given protection because they are the owners of that land and sons of that soil. They are poor people. The Government wants to sell this land to other. Whether its case will be referred to the B.I.F.R. or not in case its profits come down? It is being reported that its profit will be less than 27 crore. In such a situation capitalists will repeat it. I will not talk about Sterlite. I do not want to go into what they did there. I will also not say anything about their report where it is lying and the report of the J.P.C. I will not also say anything about

their position during the time of the Big Bull but the Adivasi brethren gave away their land, labour and honour. As sons of the soil, they did hard work there and contributed to the national wealth. But the Government could not bear a little loss and just sold it.

As per the report of the Centre of Industrial and economic study, in 1997-98, 50 public sector Undertakings earned 13 per cent profit while the profit of big companies of private sector got reduced to 1.1 per cent only and those companies packed up from there. The net profit of these public sector undertakings was 5.4 per cent while it was 5.2 in case of Private companies. You can understand it as to whose profit has increased. Those who are against public sector, are overlooking this conclusion on a pretext. He is the Minister of Labour and he must be knowing the facts. As per the report of the Reserve Bank, thousands of private companies are unable to repay their bank loans. They have many useless things worth Rs. 50 thousand crores.

Whether the Government is considering about them as to how their loans will be repayed and how those will be brought under this policy of disinvestment? The Government thought that its job was over only after deciding about the amounts e.g. 500 crore, 100 crore or 5 thousand crore. The Minister was telling that they have got foreign exchange of 3850 billion dollars and a deal of Rs. 50 billion dollar is going to be finalised in the information technology only during the coming eight years. Then whether the disinvestment is being done only to arrange Rs 50000 crore? There is not only one sector. What is the need to take over the tribal sector. There are other sectors also. What are the demands of the tribals? They want profit sharing but the Government did not sign the agreement. Yesterday I was listening to the Minister of Law and the Spokesman on T.V. They said that if tribals make a demand, the Government could consider it. Then why the Government did not think about the poor people? The Government is listening to capitalists side only but it does not think about the poor.

[English]

Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee said in — 'Four Decades in Parliament' Lok Sabha, 9th December, 1969:

"In the situation that prevails today, we cannot close our eyes to reality. Our Scheduled Caste brethren need reservation but the question is not only of giving representation in Parliament or legislature. Even after 20 years of such representation, we have not been able to remove the backwardness of these oppressed classes. So, it is necessary that along with passing a Bill for providing reservation, we should also try to



[Shri Sushil Kumar Shinde]

bring them up to the level of the rest of the society by giving them special concessions in the social field and to prepare them to fully exploit the educational facility that we have given them."

This he said, not as the Prime Minister but as the Leader of Opposition. So, he speaks this from here but forgets when goes to the other side.

[Translation]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to tell you that privatisation is in hand. I was worried about the fact that around disinvestment is taking place in the country. In such a situation, we the members of Parliament want to be very alert. There is no reservation in Privatisation. SCs and STs do not have a place in that system. Our leader Late Rajiv Gandhi got the people of SCs and STs recruited through special drive. I have been reminding it in the House time and again but did not come to the well. He said that the people of scheduled castes and scheduled Tribes must be given opportunity through special drive.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I also moved a Bill in Parliament.

[English]

The Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Backward Classes (Reservation in Service) Bill, 2000.

[Translation]

Now I tell you the position of that Bill. One day it came up for discussion here. The mention about O.B.C. was also there in the Bill. Those people are very poor, so I included them in this Bill. The privatisation will be useful for them because they are deprived people.

A person begins to talk of improvement in quality only when he becomes a rich person. But if only a handful of people talk of quality then 90 per cent people will be left out. Then, a revolution like the one which occurred in Russia will take place in this country and it will come silently catching us unawares. So, if we want democracy, we will have to think over it, for which I have brought this Bill. When the Bill came on record in the House, suddenly one day I got a letter to the effect that the President had not given his recommendation in this regard because the Government had written to him that this Bill has financial involvement of Rupees two crore, therefore, it should not be given assent to. I have just read the good points mentioned by the hon'ble Atal Ji in this House

in 1969 as a Member. I felt very happy to know that our hon'ble Prime Minister made a very good speech about the poor people but now the same leader and same party write to the President that this Bill should not be brought forward in the House. I do not want to say anything more. It is painful that disinvestment is being done in this country while our President wants to uplift the people of this country by giving them a direction but on the other hand, this Government wants to destroy them. How can we allow it? Then you will not like it and would say that Ajit Ji was our Chief Minister and was talking some trade Unions and speaking like an ordinary trade Unionist. A trade Unionist is never an ordinary person. Trade union movement has the potential to shake the Government. We have witnessed it under the leadership of comrade Dange.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to read out one more very good speech of the Hon'ble Prime Minister which he had delivered on defence budget and reservation. Earlier, there were Rajpoot regiment, Sikh regiment, Mahar regiment and Chamar regiment in our Army in the Ministry of Defence but later the nomenclature of the Chamar regiment was done away with but Mahar regiment still remained there. About that, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee said in his speech in the Lok Sabha on 24-25th July, 1957—

[English]

"It is 10 years since the British left. But the communal classification of the armed forces still continues. There is a Dogra Regiment, a Rajput Regiment, a Jat Regiment, and a Sikh Regiment. We have declared India to be a secular State. Then the communal classification of our armed forces in accordance with our ideal of a secular State? If we have to give the names of our regiments, we should have a Rana Pratap Regiment instead of a Rajput Regiment, a Shivaji or a Tanaji Regiment in place of a Maratha Regiment, a Ranjit Singh or a Hari Singh Nalwa Regiment instead of a Sikh Regiment. The name should be such as would inspire bravery and at the same time not create a feeling of communalism."

[Translation]

Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ji had rightly said that we should provide reservation to Scheduled Castes in defence. Such type of speeches were being delivered at that time. I will not say that since there is no provision for reservation in the scheme of privatisation but it should just be considered here. I will not say that some concession may be given through reservation in the criteria fixed for physical measurements. Since the person

selected has to go to siachin sector and fight with the enemy so there should be no concession in the criteria fixed for physical measurements.

There is a need in Ordinance factories. But it was not discussed at that time also. I make a demand to implement it at least in Ordinance factories where many posts are lying vacant. But Mr. Chairman Sir, they do not think over it. The speech which he had delivered, we do not say that our Defence Minister will not demand for reservation in Ordinance factories which are...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN: There are many more speakers. Please conclude.

*[Translation]*

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE: Two speakers have just spoken so much and I am the only Member speaking on behalf of the Congress. I want to tell that we will not demand it, but reservation in Ordinance factories must be fixed and the benefit be given to OBCs and backward castes also. We have to see that we have named Jat regiment and Sikh regiment which is against the secularism of this country. These regiments should be named after Subhash Chandra Bose and Ambedkar and should bear good name. Mr. Chairman Sir, here scheduled castes are recognised by their surnames only, and therefore, the surnames have been deleted. Now people do not recognise Athawale and Shinde. It seems that they are of the same caste but we have to tell their actual caste...*(Interruptions)* Mr. Chairman Sir, Dr. Baba Saheb Ambedkar, while submitting the Draft of the Constitution before the Constituent Assembly, on 26th January, 1950, had said that-

*[English]*

"On January 26, 1950 we are going to enter into a life of contradictions. In politics we will have equality. In social and economic life we will have inequality. In social politics we will be recognising the principles of one and, one vote and one value. In our social and economic life we shall by reason of our social and economic structure continue to deny the principles of one man, one vote, one value. How long shall we continue to deny equality in our social and economic life? If we continue to deny it for long, we will do so only by putting our political democracy in peril. We must remove this contradiction at the earliest possible moment or else those who suffer from inequality will blow up the structure of political democracy which this Assembly has so laboriously built up."

*[Translation]*

Mr. Chairman Sir, I am saying this because I have a

*[English]*

Report of the Commission for scheduled castes and Scheduled tribe, 1955 and subsequently

*[Translation]*

even after that it has been done. We have unattended land measuring 173.62 million hectares which is not utilised.

*[English]*

Water erosion 107 million hectares, wind erosion 17.80 million hectares, ravine 3.97 million hectares, salt affected 7.62 million hectares, water logging 8.53 million hectares, shifting cultivation 4.91 million hectares, degraded forest 19.49 million hectares, special problems 2.73 million hectares, coastal sand erosion 1.46 million hectares.

*[Translation]*

In total 173.64 million hectare land is lying there. This land is not being used. How good it would be if 2-3 acre land be distributed among the Dalit, poor and tribals for cultivation.

Mr. Chairman Sir, it has been said that farmers will be provided with Kisan Card. You have launched this schemes 1½ year before and how many cards you have distributed among farmers till now. Even a crore cards have not been distributed and I want that it would be useful only when it is distributed in all places.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, it has been said in President's Address that agricultural production has increased tremendously and there is no place to store them.

*[English]*

"As per the Economic Survey, despite a normal monsoon for the thirteen successive years on the basis of average rainfall, prospects of agricultural production in 2001 are not considered to be bright.

The production of foodgrains is expected to decline to 1999 million tonnes in 2000-01. This, in turn, is expected to lead to a decline in the overall agricultural output in the current year."

[Shri Sushil Kumar Shinde]

[Translation]

These are not my words, it has been reported in your survey. You were saying that such a large quantity of foodgrains is being distributed. I am happy to know that a new scheme named Antyodaya has been launched on the occasion of the birthday of the Prime Minister. Whatever may be the name we are happy on distribution of foodgrains to the poor. Shri Shanta Kumar Ji has started the foodgrains distribution scheme in his own State. This scheme has been started only in three States of the country. There is no plan, no perspective and no estimation. It is mere starting scheme in their own state. Why are you misusing the name of Prime Minister. He is a gentlemen leading the country. We are proud of him. Why are you tarnishing his name. Give, whatever you want, to poor but why are you naming this after him.

MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR): Mr. Chairman Sir, I would like to convey the Hon'ble member through you that this scheme is for whole of the country. The process of selection of poor families is being followed in whole country. Three States have started it yesterday. Other States will start it from the month of March and in all the States one crore families of poorest among poor will be selected and they will be provided with cheaper foodgrains.

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE: It is alright. Will you please tell me the quantities distributed in each of these States. We welcome it. This is a good scheme. Nothing is wrong with it.

Mr. Chairman Sir, I have been elected from Sholapur Constituency. I raised questions about the poor conditions of the textile, handloom weavers and about Bhiwandi, Sholapur and Malegaon and I told that textile workers are committing suicide there and asked do something for them but there was no hearing. I want to tell that during the regime of Smt. Indira Gandhi they were given to weave dhotis under 20 point programme. When I raised a question here I was told that some scheme bearing the name of Deen Dayal Upadhyaya has been initiated by this Government and the name of Indiraji has been deleted. Under the scheme help is being provided to the persons engaged in handlooms and powerloom. I want to say that they are not getting the benefit from such schemes. I would like to say that they should be helped by making a scheme like 20 point programme. I have asked Textile Minister to reduce the number of programmes from twenty to five so that it could have been made feasible and viable but it has not been done.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Shinde, there are eleven speakers and you have 45 minutes.

[Translation]

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE: Mr. Chairman Sir, I want to say something but due to paucity of time at least I want to say that professions are being followed on the basis of castes. A person doing the work of shoes is called cobbler. If a Brahmin starts to do the shoe repairing work he will also be called cobbler. Today this system be changed. Schemes are launched for the youths engaged in tanneries and sweeping through Khadi and gramodyog, but these schemes are so shortsighted that actually needy people are not getting any benefits from these schemes. I want to tell that 25-30 youths of tanner community wanted to start a scheme for which they wanted co-operation. They were educated people but their scheme was not sanctioned for two and half years. No attention was paid towards it. Members of Parliament was compelled to speak and intervene in it and thereafter it became successful to some extent. From this it seems that no tanner, scavengers or poor person can do his business in this country. He cannot get any help. There should be a rule that any poor person who want to start a business, if he submits his project report it should be sanctioned within 15 days. When such a situation comes into reality only then youth of our country will be with us and March with us but this Government is not worried about it. We will have to keep the poor with us. We will have to maintain the hope of the poor and the Government should keep up their expectation.

In Bamiyan Statue of Buddha is being destroyed by Taliban. I want to ask to the Government that whole world has expressed its anger towards it and what our Government have done except merely giving a statement. We do not your representative meet Kofi Annan to do something and form a powerful lobby of Islamic countries to check it. You are interested in frequent foreign tours but why you are afraid to go to U.N.O with two or four persons for such work? I do not know whether I asked about it. You are ringing the bell frequently therefore I am not in a position to tell everything but in today's paper there was a news about security lapses.

In the beginning I had told about Kargil. In today's Indian Express it has been published that

[English]

"yet another secret tunnel discovered on Indo-Pak border".

[Translation]

Not merely discovered but they have entered into it and made a way to pass into it from their side. When a question was being asked about Siachen, then I talked about it. In 1993 General Musharraf was in Kargil adjoining Siachen. He was leading the Pakistani Brigade. He knows about all the provinces and from which sector to enter. He has complete map but is observing silence. Meanwhile another tunnel came into existence. Where is your intelligence?...*(Interruptions)*

I was telling about Mr. Li-Peng. We have been deceived by China we have also been deceived three or four times about Pakistan even then we are running the Government slowly and with ease. Here you have 22 parties with you. We progressed neither in Industrial sector nor in economic policy even this Government failed to stand in international scenario. I will not speak more since you are looking at me again and again. I wanted to speak till tomorrow morning but

[English]

Sir, I wanted to stand on my feet till tomorrow morning but you are now allowing me.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I would be glad to hear you but there are many hon. members who want to speak. Please conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE: I must thank Hon'ble President. But this Government has closed its eyes and do not want to listen. It is a dumb Government. What should I speak to it. I read and spoke this much and presented so many datas. Please tell something in your reply as to what you can do for dalits, poor and backward classes and what will you do to really protecting this country?

I wanted to speak much about economic policy but I can't speak. Much loss has been incurred in small savings in Maharashtra because you have reduced the rate of interest. You have reduced it by 1.5 percent in whole country. What is being done by you for small savings? You used to divert rupees 1100 crore towards development and this money was being used for power generation. You want power generation for the country. There is theft in distribution. I want to speak much more but they have deaf ears. I would speak if they use it and accept what I speak. They listen but do not follow. How this Government will work? We will have to save this country from them and with these words I conclude.

[English]

## TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani): I beg to move:

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the repeated pronouncements of certain organisations and individuals to forcefully and unilaterally construct a Mandir on the site of the Babri Masjid even in defiance of all Court orders, and the need to take action against such elements and also to take all measures for protection of the disputed site." (1)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the immediate need to take into Government custody all the constructed materials and items for putting up a Mandir at the site of the Babri Masjid, in order to pre-empt any unilateral action against the Court orders." (2)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about rectification of the technical defect in the prosecution of accused including three Union Ministers on offences relating to demolition of Babri Masjid and to thus assure justice in the matter." (3)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about winding up the Constitution Review Committee." (4)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need for rehabilitation of all the victims of the disastrous earthquake of Gujarat without any bias or discrimination against affected Muslims and Dalits." (5)

[Shri G.M. Banatwalla]

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about a crash plan for alleviation of poverty." (6)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the need for a National Pension and  
Welfare Policy for the infirm, destitute,  
handicapped and the aged." (7)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about imbalance in the development of various  
regions in the country and the need for an action  
plan for balanced development of the country."  
(8)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the pressing need for the educational and  
economic development of the minorities." (9)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the need for Statutory schemes for  
providing compensation to and rehabilitation of  
the victims of violence, particularly the victims of  
communal riots." (10)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the need for reservation in Parliament,  
Legislatures, local bodies defence services and  
educational institutions for the minorities,  
particularly the Muslims." (11)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about any time-bound programme for solving the  
unemployment problem and also to give

'unemployment allowance' to all the unemployed  
registered with Employment Exchanges in the  
country." (12)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about inclusion of 'Right to Education' in the  
Constitution, as a Fundamental Right." (13)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about including the 'Right to work' in the  
Constitution, as a Fundamental Right." (14)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about including the 'Right to -Shelter' in the  
Constitution, as a Fundamental Right." (15)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about including the 'Right to an adequate means  
of livelihood' in the Constitution, as a  
Fundamental Right." (16)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the need for free and compulsory education  
upto tenth standard and for making it a  
Fundamental Right in the Constitution." (17)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about an effective industrial policy to check  
migration from rural areas to urban areas." (18)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the need for immediate reforms in the  
judicial procedure for securing speedy justice."  
(19)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the need for introduction of the method of  
proportionate representation without any threshold  
in our electoral system." (20)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about ensuring voting rights at elections, to the  
Indian citizens working abroad." (21)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the decline in the value of rupee against  
dollar." (22)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the need to promote with special care the  
educational and economic interests of the people  
of the country, in particular those of the  
Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and the  
minorities and also to protect them from all forms  
of injustice and exploitation." (23)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the action taken for protection of places of  
worship of the minorities." (24)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the urgent need for expeditious clearance  
of court cases pertaining to Babri Masjid  
Ramjanam-Bhoomi dispute." (25)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the need to increase central investment  
for the overall development of Kerala." (26)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the need for construction of a bridge  
across the river Bharathapuzha connecting  
Ponnani and Tirut in Malappuram district of  
Kerala." (27)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the pressing need to substantially increase  
the post and telegraph facilities in the  
Malappuram district of Kerala in view of the  
growing need for the same and also owing to  
the peculiarities and distinctive features relating  
to that State." (28)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the need to strengthen and to improve  
the functioning of the Minorities Financial  
Development Corporation." (29)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the need for appropriate legislation to ban  
exit polls during elections, particularly when  
elections are held in the country in a phased  
manners." (30)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the need for a special package for the  
welfare of fishermen community, which is the  
most neglected section of our society, and also  
for the integrated development of coastal  
infrastructure." (31)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about efforts made by the Government to secure  
termination of the United Nations sanctions  
against Iraq." (32)

[Shri G.M. Banatwalla]

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the need for Government vigil and prompt  
action against inclusion of anti-minority material  
and contents in text-books." (33)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about prosecution of persons found guilty of  
communal offences and dereliction of duty by  
various judicial commissions of inquiry." (34)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the disapproval of air-strikes by United  
States against Iraq." (177)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the call of the United States to Russia to  
stop supply of nuclear fuel to power reactors in  
Tarapur Nuclear Power Station." (178)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the sentiments of those uprooted by the  
devastating earthquake in Gujarat that they be  
rehabilitated in the same village and at the same  
location and site from which they have been  
unfortunately uprooted." (179)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
that any 'set of incentives and disincentives' to  
check population in the implementation of  
population policy is by itself coercion." (180)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the need for a Draft New Curriculum for

School Education so as to remove its defective  
and undesirable features." (181)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the Public Interest Litigation field in the  
Supreme Court regarding determination of illegal  
migrants and the stand of the Government in  
relation thereto." (848)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): I bed to move:

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the alarming rise of AIDS cases in the  
country." (248)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about providing shelter, job and food to families  
living below poverty line." (249)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about providing health care centers in every  
village in the country." (250)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the need to provide allowance to  
unemployed youth." (251)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the accumulation of foreign debt." (252)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the pressing need for comprehensive plan  
for educational and economic development of the  
minorities." (253)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the provision of free ration and other  
essential commodities to persons living below the  
poverty line." (254)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the decline in the value of rupee against  
dollar." (255)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about checking the prices of life saving drugs  
and to make them available in the market at a  
cheaper rate." (256)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the continuing killings of the Defence  
personnel by the terrorists in the border States  
of the country." (257)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the militant activities in Kashmir even after  
extending Cease-fire by Indian Government." (258)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the measures taken to tackle the problem  
of flood particularly in West Bengal, Orissa and  
Assam." (259)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the steps to be taken to check brain-drain  
of sports persons, scientists, technicians,  
engineers and doctors out of the country." (260)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the need to take effective steps to protect  
and preserve all places of worship in the  
country." (261)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about preventing communalisation of education  
and culture." (262)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the need to raise the level of submerged  
roads in the National Highways in the country." (263)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the complete modernisation of our defence  
forces." (264)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the equality of rights, wages etc. for  
women." (265)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about Government's desire to formulate a policy  
on youth." (266)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the revival of sick industrial units in the  
public sector." (267)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the provision of minimum wages to  
agricultural workers." (268)



[Shri Basu Dev Acharya]

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about constructing more dwelling units for the  
economically weaker sections of society in the  
country." (269)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the measures to check the growing  
menace of the poverty, employment, disparity and  
price rise in the country." (270)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the schemes for the development of  
primary education, secondary education and  
higher education." (271)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about making arrangements for augmenting to  
production of foodgrains, pulses and oil in the  
proportion to the increasing population of the  
country." (272)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the effective measures to check hoarding,  
black marketing, profiteering and adulteration etc." (273)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the development schemes for farmers,  
labourers, youth and women." (274)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the miserable performance of India in  
international sports and games in spite of larger  
population than many other countries." (275)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the non implementation of various schemes  
for conversion of barren land into cultivable land  
through a time bound programmes." (276)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the rapidly declining underground water  
level and availability of water in the country." (277)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about an action plan at the national level for soil  
conservation in the country." (278)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the steps to curb the import of foreign  
goods through border areas of the country." (279)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the national loss due to recurrence of  
floods and droughts in the country and the  
effective steps to be taken to control and menace  
and to give relief to those who are affected by  
such natural calamities every year." (280)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about introducing new technology for agriculture  
development in the country." (281)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about providing financial assistance to cane and  
rice growers in the country." (282)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about growing infiltration of foreigners into India."  
(283)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about checking the increasing ISI activities in  
the country." (284)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about provision of sufficient facilities to the war  
widows and ex-soldiers in the country." (285)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about provision of sufficient funds for floods  
protection in the country." (286)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the need to industrialize the backward  
areas of the country." (287)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the revival of collieries of Eastern Coalfields  
Limited, which are on the verge of closure." (288)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about improving the functioning of telephones in  
villages." (289)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about need for administrative reforms so as to

make the administration corruption-free,  
accountable, transparent and more effective."  
(290)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the scheme to promote cottage industries  
in the rural areas of the country." (291)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about roll of back of the prices of diesel, petrol,  
kerosene oil and cooking gas." (292)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about any time-bound programme to bring the  
Dalits and Adivasis above the poverty line." (293)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about any time-bound scheme to make up for  
the shortage of electricity in the country." (294)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about any action plan to bring down the cost of  
higher education within the reach of common  
man." (295)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the formulation and implementation of any  
scheme for familiarization and utilisation of latest  
technologies for the benefit of common people  
of India." (296)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about formulation and implementation of a

[Shri Basu Deb Acharia]

scheme at the national level for providing basic civic amenities like sanitation, sewage, roads, potable water etc. in urban areas." (297)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the measures taken to curb corruption at national level." (298)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about formulation and implementation of welfare schemes for the betterment of old persons/senior citizens." (299)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need for providing telephones to all the panchayats of the country." (300)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about growing regional imbalances and the steps taken to correct them." (301)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need to make public sector units viable by taking such measures as timely completion of projects, utilising their full capacity and providing necessary funds for their revival." (302)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about any scheme to effectively check the floods and drought which occur every year in different parts of the country." (303)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about concrete measures taken to increase exports." (304)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need for devising a proper mechanism for resolution of inter-state river water disputes." (305)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need for an oil exploration policy for attaining self-sufficiency in that sector." (306)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need for manufacture of quality and cheap medicines." (307)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need for reforms in postal sector." (308)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need for reforms in banking sector for improvement in banking services, especially in rural areas." (309)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need for a comprehensive Textile Policy including handloom sector." (310)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about providing adequate relief assistance to States of West Bengal, Orissa, Bihar, Gujarat and other States which have been affected by natural calamities." (311)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the threat posed to the security of the  
country due to unrealistic foreign policy adopted  
by the Government." (312)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the inability of the Government to fulfil  
the hopes and aspirations of the poor people."  
(313)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about effective measures taken to check  
hoarding, black marketing, profiteering and  
adulteration in the country." (314)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the need to provide basic facilities in all  
the schools in villages of Bihar, Orissa, West  
Bengal, Assam." (315)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the roll back of prices of essential  
commodities and life saving drugs." (316)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the steps taken to check brain-drain of  
doctor, scientists, technicians and sports person."  
(317)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about introduction of vocational courses to the  
rural unemployed youth and women for enabling  
them to become self-reliant." (318)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the need to take steps to construct more  
Highways and Ports." (319)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the need to provide infrastructure for the  
improvement in cattle breeding and also to check  
spread of diseases amongst them." (320)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the implementation of health schemes and  
to provide medicines to check the deterioration  
of health of the people living in the remote  
areas of the country." (321)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the need for augmenting investments in  
the field of science and technology in public and  
private sectors." (322)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about need to take effective measures for  
abolition of beggary in the country." (323)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the problem of increasing pollution in the  
country and to take effective measures to check  
it." (324)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the increasing malnutrition problem in the  
country and to take effective corrective steps in  
this regard." (325)

[Shri Basu Deb Acharia]

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the consistent attack against the secular  
character of our polity by the fundamentalist  
elements." (348)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the constitution of a Commission for  
reviewing the Constitution which violates  
democratic norms." (349)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the ill effects on the economy of the  
country of the lifting of quantitative restrictions."  
(350)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the specific plan for providing employment  
to educated unemployed youth in the country."  
(351)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the need to protect the Constitutional rights  
of the Minorities." (352)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the strict implementation of Dowry  
Prohibition Act, 1961 so as to abolish dowry  
system from the country." (353)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the rise in prices of essential commodities  
which has hit the common people in the country."  
(354)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the enactment of the Essential  
Commodities (Amendment) Bill, 2000." (355)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about banning the entry of private indigenous or  
foreign sector, in the Insurance Sector." (356)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the ill effect of disinvestment policy of the  
Government." (357)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the selling of profitable public sector  
companies to private sector." (358)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the failure of the Government to eradicate  
illiteracy from the country." (359)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the failure of the Government to declare  
the devastation due to super cyclone in Orissa,  
unprecedented flood in West Bengal and  
earthquake in Gujarat as national calamity." (360)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the need to control wide-spread land  
erosion which is taking place in Murshidabad,  
Nadia, Hooghly and Bardhaman districts of West  
Bengal." (361)



That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

“but regret that there is no mention in the Address about equality of rights, wages etc. for women workers.” (362)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

“but regret that there is no mention in the Address about women health and child welfare schemes.” (363)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

“but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the revival of sick industrial units in the public sector and rehabilitation of the displaced workers.” (364)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

“but regret that there is no mention in the Address about providing remunerative prices to the farmers for the agricultural produce in consonance with the rising cost of inputs.” (365)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

“but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the unprecedented rise in the prices of essential commodities thus making them beyond the reach of the common man.” (366)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

“but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the failure of the Public Distribution System to provide essential commodities to the poorer sections in remote areas of the country.” (367)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

“but regret that there is no mention in the Address about formulating a time-bound programme to provide employment opportunities in the rural areas to prevent exodus of educated youth to the urban areas seeking job opportunities.” (368)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

“but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the steps to be taken to check unabated brain-drain of doctors, scientists, technicians and experts from the country.” (369)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

“but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the growing unemployment in the country and the need to provide unemployment allowance to all the unemployed youths to mitigate their hardships.” (370)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

“but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the closing down of 90 collieries of ECL, thus throwing 1 lakh workers out of job.” (371)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

“but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the reducing custom duties and increasing excise duties to benefit steel and other industries.” (372)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

“but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the Bill for providing minimum wages to agricultural workers.” (373)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

“but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the measures contemplated by the Government for bringing economy in Government expenditure.” (374)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

“but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the proper development of tourists places in the country.” (375)

[Shri Basu Deb Acharia]

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the need for providing electricity and  
irrigation facilities for all round development of  
farmers." (376)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the land reforms in the country." (377)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the provisions for free and compulsory  
education in India." (378)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
to reduce the price hike of petroleum products  
such as diesel, LPG and Kerosene and other  
essential commodities." (379)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the guarantee of minimum wages for  
agricultural workers." (380)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the demands of unorganised labourers of  
equal pay for equal work." (381)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the effect on small savings of retired  
persons by the cut imposed by the Banks in  
interests rates on such deposits." (382)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the inadequate coverage of pension  
schemes for widows and other destitute women."  
(383)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the dangerous effects of the privatisation  
of coal mines on the economy of the country."  
(384)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the need to stop Foreign Direct Investment  
in retail trade." (385)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the improper working of the telephones in  
rural areas." (386)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about implementing any scheme to transform the  
sea water into potable water." (387)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the problems of handloom industry like  
shortage of capital, raw material and lack of  
modern technology." (388)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about any scheme of linking the villages with  
national highways." (389)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about any plan for development of the coastal  
areas of the country." (390)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the financial assistance for development  
of horticulture." (391)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the concern for evolving a time bound  
action plan to eradicate poverty in the country." (452)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about reviewing the Power Sector Policy with  
respect to participation of private sector as it  
has failed to take off in a significant manner." (453)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about providing the latest equipment in the  
Central Government hospitals for the treatment  
of ever growing number of cancer, heart and  
kidney patients in the country." (454)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
for bringing about suitable reforms in the  
education system so as to make it employment  
oriented." (455)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about bringing comprehensive changes in the  
industrial policy to check the large scale migration  
from villages to cities which is the result of  
uneven industrial growth in the country." (456)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the non-implementation of various schemes  
for conversion of barren land into cultivable land  
through a time bound programme." (457)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about taking adequate steps to eradicate  
communalism, casteism, linguistic chauvinism and  
regionalism from the country." (458)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about rapidly receding under-ground water level  
and availability of water in the country." (459)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about formulating a comprehensive action plan  
at national level for water conservation." (460)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about introducing free and compulsory primary  
education for every child through the medium of  
mother tongue in order to eliminate illiteracy." (461)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about formulating a new labour policy with a view  
to provide round the year employment to the  
labourers working in organised and unorganised  
sectors." (462)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the speedy implementation of the report  
of the Commission for Linguistic Minorities." (463)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about formulating a comprehensive scheme to  
generate more Employment opportunities in the  
rural areas." (464)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about appointing a Committee of Experts to  
suggest permanent measures to control the loss  
of lives, crops and property due to natural  
calamities." (465)



[Shri Basu Deb Acharia]

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about taking effective measures to combat the  
growing atrocities on women and children in the  
country." (466)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
to bring down the unprecedented rise in the  
prices of essential commodities." (467)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about formulating a time bound programme to  
abolish bonded labour existing in certain parts  
of the country." (468)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about taking effective measures to check the  
problem of increasing pollution in the country." (469)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely —

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about steps to check the increasing malnutrition  
problem in the country." (470)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
to formulate an action plan at national level for  
soil conservation in the country." (471)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about formulating a time bound comprehensive  
action plan to eliminate child labour in the  
country." (472)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention about the  
appointment of a Committee to suggest reforms  
in judicial process to enable expeditious disposal  
of both criminal and civil cases." (473)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the need to take advance preventive  
measures against natural calamities like droughts,  
cyclone, floods and earthquake in different parts  
of the country." (562)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
that aid and relief material received from various  
countries is not reaching in many earthquake  
affected village of Gujarat." (563)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
that there could be no discrimination in giving  
aid and relief material to earthquake affected  
people of Gujarat." (564)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the measures taken to provide help to  
the people who are still deprived of aid and relief  
material in cyclone affected areas in Orissa." (565)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the nexus of politicians and builders in  
Guajrat which resulted sub-standard buildings  
which collapsed during earthquake." (566)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about laying down guideline for construction of  
earthquake resistance buildings." (567)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the plight of coal-mine workers who live  
their lives in accidents in coal-mines due to lack  
of proper safety measures." (568)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about steps taken to check illegal migration from  
Bangladesh." (569)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the problem of industrial sickness  
particularly in small scale sector." (570)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the rural development schemes and setting  
up of cottage and food processing industries in  
rural areas." (571)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the unabated activities of the secessionist  
elements in the country." (572)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the growing number of cancer patients in  
the country and the inadequate facilities available  
for treatment of these patients even in the Central  
Government hospitals." (573)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the increasing exodus of youth from rural  
areas to urban areas particularly the metropolitan  
cities." (574)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the need to ban the continuance bonded  
labour system in certain parts of the country." (575)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the continued incidents of atrocities on  
women and children in the country." (576)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the growing incidence of poverty in the  
country and to take time-bound action to  
eradicate poverty." (577)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the unabated incidents of atrocities on SC,  
ST, minority groups and other weaker section of  
society in the country." (578)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about an assured plan to provide employment to  
all and to up lift the standard of life of the people  
in the country." (579)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the scarcity of drinking water in various  
parts of the country and to take effective steps  
to provide drinking water to all the people all  
over the country." (580)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the need to take steps to eradicate  
communalism, casteism, linguistic, chauvinism  
and regionalism from the country." (581)

[Shri Basu Deb Acharia]

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the growing drug addiction amongst the  
school and college students and other teenagers  
and in the country and to take remedial steps to  
control drug addiction in the country." (582)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the improvement of National Highways in  
many parts of the country specially in Bihar,  
Orissa and U.P." (583)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the adequate provision for the development  
of industries in different parts of country especially  
Eastern and North-Eastern States." (584)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the generation of black money and its  
increasing influence on our political system and  
to take stringent measures to curb this menace." (585)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about augmenting the power-generation in the  
country and ensuring proper distribution to check  
frequent power break-downs." (586)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the steps taken to improve the standards  
of sports in the country." (587)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
to eradicate corruption prevailing in Government  
departments in the country." (588)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the effective storm warning mechanism to  
save the people from cyclones." (589)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the need to check the increasing number  
of rape cases of the minor girls in the country." (590)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the need to put ban on child labour in the  
country." (591)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the need to provide houses to the weaker  
section of the society and down trodden people  
of the country." (592)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the need to check the price rise of the  
essential commodities which is affecting the  
common people in the country." (593)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
for providing metalled roads in the remote areas  
of the country." (594)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about increasing crimes with regard to the fake  
currency notes in various parts of the country." (595)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about providing of drinking water in the rural  
areas of the country." (596)

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia): I beg to move:

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the measures taken to check continuous  
brain drain from different fields." (501)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about providing speedy and cheaper justice to  
the poor people of the country." (502)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about need for providing cheaper and proper  
dormitory and catering facilities for the tourists  
visiting various pilgrimage centres in India." (503)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about growing number of cancer, heart and  
kidney cases and inadequate facilities for their  
treatment in the country." (504)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about allocation of adequate funds for research  
in pharmaceutical sector." (505)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the need for the development in Paradeep  
Port." (506)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about safeguarding the interests of lower and  
middle income groups while reviving the  
economic conditions of the country." (507)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about ensuring filling up of reservation quota for  
the disabled in jobs." (508)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about efforts made by the Government for  
improving relations with Pakistan." (509)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
to improve the condition of weavers in the  
country." (510)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the need for setting up a separate Ministry  
for Fisheries." (511)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about isolation of our country from international  
community, due to Nuclear Tests." (512)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about banning of entry of Private Sector,  
indigenous or foreign, in Insurance Sector." (513)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the need to industrialise all the backward  
areas of the country." (514)

[Shri Hannan Mollah]

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about any specific time-bound action plan to  
contain the alarming growth of population." (515)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about ensuring that the financial assistance has  
been reached for the cyclone and flood victims  
of West Bengal." (516)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about erosion of banks of river Ganga in, West  
Bengal." (517)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about urgent need to ensure minimum support  
price for raw just in the West Bengal." (518)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about providing basic needs like clothing, shelter  
and employment to all sections of the society." (519)

SHRI SAMAR CHOUDHURY (Tripura West): I beg  
to move:

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the ethnic problems in the North-East due  
to imbalances created by the shortcoming in  
planning for the development of the region." (520)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the urgent need for formulating special  
development programmes for the tribals, who are

yet to be brought to the main stream of the  
national life." (521)

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh): I beg to  
move:

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about any scheme for the welfare of senior  
citizens." (597)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about fall in small savings, due to unfavourable  
policy decisions." (598)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the closing down of Small-Scale Industries,  
in large number." (599)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the low growth rate of agriculture sector  
and the hardships faced by the farming sector." (600)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the effects of proposed cut in some vital  
subsidies on the people." (601)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the selective killing of innocent Sikhs in  
Kashmir." (602)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about growing intolerance of certain religious  
fundamentalist groups in the country." (603)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the reduced intake of students in various  
colleges and Kendriya Vidyalayas." (604)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the gradual fall in the amount paid to  
employees under the Voluntary Retirements  
Schemes." (605)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about any scheme to provide guaranteed  
employment to unemployed educated youth and  
also to provide unemployment allowance to  
them." (606)

SHRI BHAN SINGH BHAURA (Bhatinda): I beg to move:

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the need to review the policy of  
disinvestment of Government's equity in public  
sector banks and also to take effective measures  
to bring down the level of the non-performing  
assets of these banks." (637)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the need to review the policy of  
disinvestment of profit making Public Sector  
Undertakings." (638)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the need for national revision of the wages  
of employees of sick industries." (639)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the need to amend the Payment of Bonus  
Act for removing the eligibility ceiling and also  
enhance the ceiling on bonus amount." (640)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the need to take effective steps for revival  
of the Sick Public Sector Undertakings." (641)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the need to review the policy of opening  
of Coal Sector to private sector." (642)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the serious threat posed to the security of  
the country due to the leasing out of major ports  
to private sector operators." (643)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the need to review the policy of  
privatisation of generation and distribution of  
electricity in the country." (644)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the urgent need to take urgent steps for  
elimination Child labour in all hazardous  
industries." (645)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the urgent need to bring forward a  
legislation for making elementary education as a  
Fundamental Right." (646)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the need to take steps for recovery of  
loans due by corporate sector to Public Sector  
Banks." (647)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the need to take steps for recovery of  
huge amount of tax arrears." (648)

[Shri Bhan Singh Bhaura]

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the adverse impact of the complete  
withdrawal of Quantitative Restrictions (QRS) on  
import by April, 2001, on small scale industries  
sector." (649)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the need to encourage setting up of agro-  
based industries in the fields of dairy farming,  
horticulture, floriculture and pisciculture." (650)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the need to bring forward a comprehensive  
legislation for welfare of agricultural workers." (651)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the need to implement land reforms." (652)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the slow-down in the growth of economy." (653)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the effects of the proposed move to undo  
land ceiling legislation and leasing out of private  
land to multinationals." (654)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the effects of commercialisation of  
education on the vast multitude of poor people." (655)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the need for formulation and  
implementation of a rehabilitation package for the  
retrenched workers of Public Sector  
Undertakings." (656)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the need to include "Right to Employment",  
as a Fundamental Right in the Constitution." (657)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the need to take steps against  
communalisation of education and culture of the  
country and distortion of our History." (658)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the need to take measures to ensure  
regular payment of wages to the workers in  
various public sector undertakings." (659)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the need to take steps for empowerment  
of rural women." (660)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about winding up of Constitution Review  
Commission set up by the Government." (661)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the regional imbalances in the country in  
respect of per capita national product, per capita  
income, and health and sanitary condition etc." (662)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the failure to generate productive wage employment in rural areas leading to large scale migration to urban areas resulting in explosion of urban population, and steps to solve problems like slums, deteriorating health and sanitary condition etc." (663)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the necessity of enactment of the Constitution (Eighty-fifth Amendment) Bill providing for reservation of not less than one third of the seats for women in Lok Sabha and Legislative Assemblies of States." (664)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about ill effects of the proposed labour laws reforms on the interests of workers." (665)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the adverse effect on the Indian economy due to strategic takeover and acquisition of Indian companies by the multinational Corporations." (666)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need for speedy implementation of a revival package for a number of sick industrial units." (667)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the effects of Government's policy of down-sizing the workforce in the public sector undertakings including banks through VRS/VSS etc. on the unemployment in the country." (668)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the effects of the Government's policy to undermine the public distribution system on the people of the country." (669)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need for declaring Jalandhar city in Punjab as a Science City." (670)

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA (Sambalpur): I beg to move:

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the reconstruction and rehabilitation work for the people of Orissa who were badly hit by the super cyclone." (732)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about declaring Orissa a Special Category State with a view to bring it at par with the other developed States of the country." (733)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about any special package for the State of Orissa which as per the recent survey has the largest percentage of population below poverty line." (734)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need to increase royalty on Coal with a view to give benefit to the poor States like Jharkhand and Orissa." (735)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the urgent need for judicial reforms for providing speedy justice." (736)



[Shri Prasanna Acharya]

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the need for deferring repayment of loans  
by poor States and also for waiving interest  
thereon with a view to save them from debt-  
trap." (737)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the need to increase the irrigation potential  
in drought prone States like Chattisgarh, Orissa,  
Bihar and Madhya Pradesh etc." (738)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about any specific programme to check large  
scale migration of people from poor States like  
Orissa, Chattisgarh etc. due to regular droughts."  
(739)

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Sir, I beg to  
move:

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
to give top priority to the security of the country  
and not to surrender to the terrorism." (755)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the measures to check price rise and  
uproot corruption. (756)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
to give top priority to the agriculture and to solve  
the problems of farmers and agricultural  
labourers." (757)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about any specific programmes to impart training  
to the farmers in the field of modern and scientific  
farmings." (758)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about any specific programmes for the upliftment  
of the down trodden, tribals, backward classes  
and the oppressed class of people of the  
country." (759)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about any specific programme for removing the  
unemployment in the country." (760)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the increased supply of foodgrains to  
farmers who are living below poverty line and  
have not been issued Red Cards." (761)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the proper working of the telephones in  
the rural areas." (762)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the inclusion of Nonia and Mallah castes  
of Bihar and U.P. in the Scheduled Caste list on  
line of the other States." (763)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the programme of building better relation  
with our neighbouring countries by making foreign  
policy more effective." (764)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the measures to check the growing  
menace of poverty, unemployment, disparity in  
incomes and price rise in the Country." (765)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the need for renewed efforts by the  
Government for fulfilling of the hopes and  
aspirations of the poor people." (766)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the deteriorating economic situation in the  
country leading to the closure of public sector  
undertakings." (767)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the need for improvement in cattle breeding  
and also to check spread of diseases in them." (768)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the measures taken for augmenting the  
production of foodgrains, pulses, edible oils in  
proportion to the increasing population of the  
country." (769)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the steps taken to meeting the shortage  
of cold storage facility for storing potatoes and  
onions in the country." (770)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the need for revival of loan facilities from

R.E.C. for electrification of all the villages in  
Bihar." (771)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about completing the works of electrification of  
all the villages of districts Mazaffarpur, Sitamarhi  
and Vaishali in Bihar by granting REC loans to  
Bihar Electricity Board." (772)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about augmenting the capacity of Muzaffarpur,  
Kahalgaoon, Barh, North Karpura, Tenughat,  
Navinagar Thermal Power Station." (773)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the scheme for draining out the water from  
water-logged fields (chauras) of Bihar." (774)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the scheme to save Bihar State from the  
fury of floods of rivers like Gandak, Kosi,  
Bhagmati and Ganges consequent upon the  
signing of Indo-Nepal Treaty." (775)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the need for construction of pucca houses  
for the people belonging to Scheduled Castes,  
Scheduled Tribes, Minorities and weaker sections  
in Bihar." (776)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the need for early completion of the houses  
which are under construction under Indira Avas  
Yojana in Bihar." (777)

[Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh]

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about providing transportation facility for export of fruits and vegetables such as potato, onion, tomato, banana, mango, lady finger, 'Parwal', etc. to industrial cities and abroad in air cargo and A.C. rail coaches from Bihar for the benefit of the farmers." (778)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about developing Vaishali in Bihar as a international tourist spot." (779)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about providing telephone facility in all villages of the country particularly in all villages of Muzaffarpur, Sitamarhi and Vaishali districts of Bihar." (780)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the measures taken to check child labour and prostitution." (781)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need for formulation of development schemes for farmers, labourers, youth and women." (782)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the current status in regard to construction of proposed cold storages by the Ministry of Food and Civil Supplies in Dal Singh Sarai and Samastipur in the Samastipur District of Bihar." (783)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the steps taken for providing export facility for Mango, Litchi and Green Vegetable growers of North Bihar." (784)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need for an international agreement with Nepal for construction of dams on rivers of North Bihar so as to prevent floods by these rivers." (785)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about constructing a multi-purpose high dam on river Kosi in Varah area to augment the water flow in Ganga so that adequate water could be supplied to Bangladesh from Farakka barrage as per the international agreement." (786)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need for formulation of a scheme for constructing embankment (spurs) to protect dozens of villages in Samastipur and Vaishali districts of North Bihar from floods." (787)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the failure of the Government to tackle the natural calamity in the country and to provide relief to the affected persons." (866)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the Government's apathy towards disaster management." (867)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the failure of the Union Government to provide even a paisa assistance and relief to those who had been affected by floods in West Bengal and Bihar." (868)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about a uniform policy and programme for relief and rehabilitation to overcome natural disaster in Gujarat, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Bengal and other States." (869)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the National Youth Policy to promote established democratic values in the Constitution and to make the youth able to meet the challenges before the nation." (870)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the lack of a policy and programme to provide socio-economic justice to the poor backwards, dalits, adivasis, exploited and deprived people." (871)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about providing the benefits of reservation to the women belonging to the Dalit, Adivasi, Minority Communities and Backward Castes, who are actually oppressed and deprived." (872)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about any concrete programme to implement the National Population Policy." (873)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about any plan to provide to highest priority to the internal and external security of the country." (874)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the lack of a firm commitment on the part of the Government to save the common people in Jammu and Kashmir from terrorists." (875)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about steps to ensure safety of non-Assamese in north-eastern States." (876)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about to start a programme to provide employment to the unemployed youth of Jammu and Kashmir." (877)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about providing employment to the unemployed persons of the country." (878)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about any concrete programme for the benefit of the State which have recently been divided to form new State." (879)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the creation of new States such as, Gorkhaland, Telegana, Harit Pradesh, Poorvanchal, Bodoland, Vidarbha, Vindhya and Saurashtra." (880)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the constitution of a State Reorganisation Commission." (881)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the non-allocation of Rs. 15,000 crores to Bihar which is under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes during the Seventh, Eighth and Ninth plans." (882)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the waiving of outstanding loan of Rs. 10,000 crores of the Bihar State." (883)

[Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh]

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about giving special status to Bihar in view of  
its economic backwardness." (884)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the memorandum given to the Prime  
Minister by sixty members of Parliament from  
Bihar to solve the problems of Bihar and the  
action taken on it." (885)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about reopening of closed sugar mills in Bihar."  
(886)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the need to take action by the Union  
Government for the electrification of all the  
villages in Bihar." (887)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about not giving Bihar its share for rural a single  
rupee while giving electrification." (888)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about not providing an amount of Rs. 40 crores  
to Bihar sanctioned by Rural Electrification  
Corporation during 1996-97." (889)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about issuing only Rs. 25 crores to Bihar out of  
a sanctioned amount Rs. 54 crores for central  
schemes of agriculture department." (890)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about 10 lakh hectares of land in Bihar which is  
under water logging and any programme to make  
it free from water logging." (891)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about protecting Bihar from floods through an  
agreement between India and Nepal and the  
action to be taken by the Union Government to  
compensate for the loss caused by floods every  
year." (892)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about giving an economic package of  
Rs. 1,79,000 crores to Bihar after its partition." (893)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about not releasing money to Bihar under  
Panchayati Raj held as per the recommendations  
of Tenth and Eleventh Finance Commission." (894)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*,  
namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address  
about the problems being faced by lakhs of  
labourers due to the closure of factories in New  
Delhi. (895)

SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH (Mandi): Mr. Chairman,  
Sir, Hon'ble President had addressed both Houses of  
Parliament assembled together in Central Hall on 19th  
February and senior hon'ble member of the House  
Shri Vijay Kumar Malhotra has moved a motion of thanks  
in the House which is seconded by Shri Venugopal. I  
rise in support of the motion.

19.00 hrs.

Prior to me Shri Shinde was speaking on this issue,  
who is familiar to me since he was a member of Rajya

Sabha. He spoke for about one hour. I have noticed when he was a Member of Rajya Sabha he was a very considerate and wise person but when he got elected to Lok Sabha he has become biased. Today his speech was full of knowledge. Alas! Had you expressed your concern for the people of scheduled caste and scheduled tribes at that time when you were in power then such a large number of vacancies would not have been existed in these areas and whether such mismanagement has taken place within two or two and a half years? Whether these vacancies have come into existence just now? Whether these vacancies were not existing earlier? Today you have spoken much about the farmers. Today you have full sympathy with the farmers. But till today what you have done for them? I do not want to go in details for that.

You have spoken on 'Balco' for 20-25 minutes. Are you not satisfied even after the reply given by the Government in this regard....(*Interruptions*) In Para 2,3,4,5 and 6 of the President's Address there is mention of devastating earthquake that hit Gujarat on 26th January. He had expressed its satisfaction over the relief and aid provided by the Union Government, State Governments as well as foreign countries. Citizens of this country have also contributed their hard earned money. I want to congratulate the Government for taking prompt action to deal with the situation. Even at such occasion, Shri Shinde has tried to gain political mileage and criticized the Government. This is not the first time when earthquake has hit this country. It may have hit different regions of the country when Congress was in power. But one should at least think over it what relief and aid was provided to the victims of earthquake when Congress was in power and what is being provided at present. I want to congratulate this Government that there is a mention in the President Address that a Disaster Management Authority will be set up in near future. This is also necessary because I have seen that when any incident happens in a small State, it takes a lot of time to declare it as a national calamity. For example last year in Kinnaur constituency there was a devastating flood due to clouds bursting.

The scientists had said that flood of that magnitude had come after 62,000 years which had played havoc in that area. I had told in this House that there was not even clouds that day in any part of Himachal Pradesh. Perhaps the floods had come all of a sudden from the Tibetan side. It created havoc not only in Kinnaur, but in all the areas on the banks of Sutlej, whether the area belonged to Shimla or Mandi districts and Himachal Government had to bear the damage to the tune of 1700 crore rupees. The Chief Minister of that State wrote letters

to all the Honourable Members of Parliament. We distributed the copies of the letter to M. Ps. so that help could be provided to the state in the hour of crisis as our resources of income were limited. But, I am sorry to say that apart from the Members of Parliament from the State, only three other Members of Parliament from other States helped us....(*Interruptions*) I told about three Members of Parliament. Bansal Saheb, you are one of those Members and I would like to thank you for that. I think that there should be an authority. I would also like to request that authority should be on the pattern of the Election Commission so that in case of a disaster, all the departments automatically come within the control of that authority and all the needy people could get proper relief. That authority should make assessment of all the relevant factors. I think that the damages faced by small States do not come under the purview of national calamity because the number of dead people is small. It is quite natural as the population is scattered in far flung areas; but it does not mean that damages are not severe. Moreover, the quality of the apple of Kinnaur is considered to be the best in the country and it is the source of income of farmers there.

19.05 hrs.

(DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH *in the Chair*)

As 200 kilometres of roads and 17 bridges got damaged so there was no way to transport those apples to the markets. So apple from orchards was bought by the Government under market intervention scheme. 3,438 metric tonnes of 'A' grade apple was bought at the rate of Rs. 10 per kilogram. Its total cost was 434.92 lakh rupees and the Central Government has to pay 50 per cent of that amount under market intervention scheme. I am grateful to the Minister of Agriculture for sympathetic consideration of all these issues, but the Central Government's share has not been sent as yet. So, I request that the money should be sent soon.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Why do not they give money. They would have given it if Telugu Desham had demanded it....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH: He has recommended it; the money will be provided soon. In addition to it 52,821 tonne of 'C' grade apple was bought at the rate of Rs. 3.20 per kilogram. Apart from Kinnaur district, it is concerned with that area of Kullu district which is situated on the banks of the Sutlej river and is part of Mandi and Shimla districts. Even today I have met the Minister of Agriculture and he has assured that the money will be provided to Himachal Government very soon under the

[Shri Maheshwar Singh]

market intervention scheme. I would like to congratulate the Government of Himachal Pradesh for repairing and constructing the roads and bridges even though some of them had to be constructed new, in record time. Through you I would like to request the Central Government to reimburse 141 crore rupees which were spent by the Government of Himachal Pradesh as it has got only eight crore rupees as financial help until now. I not only hope but firmly believe that the Government of Himachal Pradesh will get that money as soon as possible.

In para ten there is mention of the increase in the population of the country. In this context, I would like to say that there should be delimitation of parliamentary constituencies in the coming time. I hail from Himachal Pradesh. Its entire area is 55,000 square kilometre and my parliamentary constituency covers an area of 32,000 square kilometres. Three Members of Parliament represent an area of 23,00 square kilometres and one Member of Parliament represent an area of 32,000 square kilometre. It includes three tribal area of Kinnaur, Bharmaur and Lahaul-Spiti. All of these are tribal areas but form parts of different districts. I think that in future not only the population but the geographical condition of the State should also be the basis. That tribal area does not have any representative in this august House, so there is also the need of Constituting tribal area there.

In para 11 it has been mentioned that external and internal security of the country will be the top priority and I would congratulate the Government for that. A lot has been said about Kargil, but Shinde Saheb ignored the fact that the entire country congratulated the Government for the manner in which it tackled the Kargil problem. He may or may not congratulate the Government as he is a Member of the opposition. He has the right to oppose and no one can prevent him for doing that. But, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to one more point. Honourable Shanta Kumar Ji is present here and he is from Himachal Pradesh. He knows it very well that the entire army supply for Kargil whether it was grains, petrol, ammunition or soldiers, all of them passed through Rohtang pass via Kullu as it was the shortest route to Kargil. But the biggest hurdle is the Rohtang pass which is generally closed for five to six months because of snow. There is no other approach route to reach there. It is true that there are two more passes in the way; one is at Baralacha and there is yet another also. If a tunnel is constructed under Rohtang pass, which will be only eight and a half kilometre in length, it will minimize the distance by 50 kilometre and the expense on fuel and repairing of roads will be saved. At present, at least 24 crore rupees are spent on road repairing. The construction of this tunnel is very necessary from security point of

view. Its construction will make it possible that the road remains open for nine months and the supply to the border areas like Kargil can be easily made to reach there.

At the time of the Prime Minister's last year's stay at Lahaul-Spiti on 3rd June, it was announced by him during a public meeting at Kelang that in view of its requirement the tunnel will be constructed in the coming future. In an earlier survey conducted by the RITES company, its estimated cost was 1500 crore rupees. Now, according to latest feasibility report prepared by Konkan Railways, the estimated cost is only 500 crore rupees due to modern machinery. I think that 500 crore rupees is not a big amount from the point of the security of the country. So, the tunnel should be constructed very soon and the Prime Minister's announcement should be implemented.

In para 22 of the President's Address, there is mention of a record yield of 209 million tonnes of agricultural products. For it, I would like to congratulate the Government. It has been mentioned that the farmer's condition is most pitiable and regarding cards the farmers say that very few cards have been made Shindeji, please tell me about the number of cards made during your party's regime; was there any agricultural insurance at that time? At least the Government should be congratulated for the good work being done by it. The National Horticulture Board is providing the subsidy of 50 per cent for constructing cold storage, so that better cold storages could be constructed. I congratulate the Minister of Food for having given due consideration to the issue of wastage of food-grains during storage due to rats, sunlight and rain. The modern method of storage for preserving food is also being considered.

In para 25, it has been promised that under Prime Minister's Village road scheme, more than one lakh villages with a population of more than 500 will be connected by metalled roads in next seven years. I would like to congratulate the Prime Minister for that. It has been stated that in States like Himachal Pradesh and North-Eastern States even those villages will be connected by roads whose population is 250. There is a problem in implementing this scheme. Most of the villages in hilly areas are surrounded by forests. The forest Act of 1980 will come as an obstacle in implementing it. It will prevent the construction of roads. As the matter pertains to the Central List so when the construction of roads in Himachal Pradesh and North-Eastern States is undertaken, the responsibility of taking environmental clearance should be taken by Central Government; only then the roads can be constructed, otherwise not. People of these areas also

want to get basic facilities and these facilities can be provided after securing environmental clearance. It has been stated that the Members of Parliament will play a role in construction of these roads and in selection of the schemes. It needs to be ensured. This scheme was launched on 25th December last year. I believe that participation of the Members of Parliament will be ensured in future. I would like to suggest under this scheme that those roads which are recommended by Members of Parliament should be named as M.P. priority Road as the roads in some States are named as M.L.A. Priority Roads. The hon. Minister is present here. I would like to congratulate him for having concern for the plight of poor as was mentioned by Shindeji. At present there are about thirty-three crore people in the country who are living below poverty line and among them 1000 poorest of the poor families will be chosen by the Government under Antyodaya Anna Yojana; for it I shall congratulate the Government. Shindeji raised an objection that under it the work was done in only three States. It happened so because survey was conducted there early. Under this scheme, the poorest families will be provided 25 kilogram foodgrains and wheat and rice will be priced at two rupees per kilograms and three rupees per kilograms respectively where survey has been completed. In the beginning the pensioners were not included under Annapurna Yojana but the Government have decided that the persons who are above 65 years, will also get ten kilogram foodgrains.

A lot remains to be said but due to paucity of time I conclude by thanking Mr. Chairman for having given me an opportunity to speak.

[English]

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN (Tirunelveli): Mr. Chairman Sir, thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to participate in the debate on the Motion of Thanks to the President's Address for the speech he has delivered to both the Houses of Parliament.

Sir, we were disappointed even on that day after hearing the President because you know that it was a customary Address put forward into the mouth of the President by the Cabinet.

SHRI C.P. RADHAKRISHNAN (Coimbatore): Sir, his disappointment is also a customary one.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN: Sir, the President has not specified any new programmes except for disinvestment of Indian Airlines, Air India, ITDC, IPCL, VSNL, CMC, BALCO, Hindustan Zinc and Maruti Udyog. However, it

is a definite and categorical statement by the President, all other matters spoken by the President are not going to meet the aspirations of the people of India; are not up to the expectations of the people of India. That is why, I start with a note of dissent.

Sir, last year when I spoke on the Motion of Thanks to the President's Address, I had spoken about many expectations of the people of India and more particularly, the people of Tamil Nadu. I have given about as many as 12 amendments to this Motion of Thanks. I was, on that day, looking for any page whether there was any reference to the inclusion of Setusamudram project. It was not included. Then I went through the other pages to see whether there was any reference to the establishment of a circuit bench of the Supreme Court in Southern India, especially in Chennai. There was no such reference. It is not a constitutional obligation discharged by the Government, and the President was forced to read whatever the Government asked him to read. So, he was constrained.

Then, was there any reference to the problems faced by the agriculturists? No there was no mention about them. I was amazed when there was no reference about the allocation of funds for projects for cleaning the water of the rivers Koovam, Vaigai and Tamirabarani.

These are all polluted. I brought to the notice of this House through matters under Rule 377 and made so many references.

Sir, it seems that people are made to believe that the Government has sanctioned a sum of Rs. 700 crore. We saw in newspapers that the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu and the Environment and Forest Ministers had laid the foundation stone for these projects. I was looking for the allocation of those Rs. 700 crore. Now, Rs. 7,000 crore is deficit. I know that there is a financial constraint. This project was projected by the body politic of the Government, the State Government and the Central Government. There was no reference about it in this Presidential Address. There was no reference about it in the Budget also. I have gone through the budgetary allocation for the year 2001-2002 and the Expenditure Statement for the year 2000-2001. So, the President had not talked about that project.

Then, there was no reference to nationalisation of any rivers in India. There was no reference about providing support price to farmers. Mr. Chairman, Sir, you are a crusader and a pioneer for the welfare of the farmers. There was no reference about that.



[Shri P.H. Pandiyan]

Is there any reference about the Constitutional guarantee given by this Government on the floor of this House in respect of providing 33 per cent reservation to women? That guarantee is still not given to women. What about the sugarcane growers who are facing huge loss?

Sir, there was no reference about the stringent action to be taken against the defaulters in the nationalised banks. There was no reference about the welfare of the labourers engaged in *bidi* work. The *bidi* workers are going to be affected by the ban on cigarette advertising. There is going to be a ban and that section is going to be affected. I do not know how this Government is going to cope up with that. There was no reference about it.

I would like to bring to the notice of this Government through this House about the Sethusamudram project that everybody, irrespective of party lines, is in favour of execution of this project.

Sir, Bharathiar, a great poet, had said:

*"Velli panī malaein meethu ulavuvom  
adi melai kadal muzhuthum kappal viduvom."*

He said that where there is sea, we can run ships. He was a freedom fighter. He wrote these poems to stimulate the feelings of the younger generation to get Independence.

Sir, I must mention about the historical aspect of this project. During 1947-1955, the Indian Government took up this project and examined it under a Committee headed by Sir A. Ramaswamy Mudaliar. So, a Committee was appointed during 1947-1955 but nothing had happened. In 1955-56, Sir A. Ramaswamy Mudaliar had submitted his Report that a sum of Rs. 8.18 crore was needed for execution of this project. There were attempts in 1964, 1967, 1981, 1986, and till 1994; but nothing had happened.

Sir, Sethusamudram is emanating from my constituency. The distance between Tuticorin and Chennai via Sethusamudram is 316 miles whereas if you take a round about route, the distance comes to 750 miles. This project will save fuel cost considerably. The present distance between Tuticorin and Visakhapatnam is 1050 miles as on today. If this project is executed, the distance would come down to 726 miles. So, the gain would be 324 miles.

There will be a short distance. Between Tuticorin and Kolkata, the distance is 1370 miles today. If that project is executed, it would come to 1015 miles. We will gain 255 miles. Between Tuticorin and Rangoon, it is at

present 255 miles. If we execute this, it would come to 136 miles. We will gain 119 miles. The distance between Tuticorin and Singapore is 1736 miles as on today. If this project is executed, it would come to 1675 miles.

Sir, I would like to draw your attention to two other projects. At the time of formulation of this project, in the entire world, there were two other projects which were executed. They are Suez Canal Project and Panama Canal Project. We all know about Suez Canal which is connecting the Red Sea and the Mediterranean. It is 99 miles long, 198 feet wide and having a minimum depth of 34 to 40 feet ensuring the passage of ships with 32 feet long. The navigating time is 50 hours. This project of Suez Canal was estimated at that time.

Then, the Panama Canal is separating North and South Americas and connecting the Atlantic and Pacific Ocean. It is 40 miles long. The Minister of External Affairs may know everything. It is 300 to 1000 feet wide with the minimum depth of 41 feet. The navigating time is 10 hours. India is unfortunate....*(Interruptions)* Tamil Nadu is a part of India. That is why, I say. Why not the Central Government execute this project? Why not the Government allocate fund to this project? Why should it be delayed? It will cut across every section of Indian territory.

Then there is another point about this project which should be highlighted. The project excavators, the planners of this project met Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru when he was the Prime Minister. He assured them. After that, it is being assured every time, but nothing has happened. There is a long book. Sethusamudram project has a history of its own. It is drafted by the Chamber of Commerce in Tuticorin, Sir, we are disillusioned by the non-execution of this project.

As far as establishing a Bench of the Supreme Court in Chennai is concerned, the delay in disposal of the cases is also amounting to injustice. Travelling to a longer distance to Delhi and from Kanyakumari to Chennai is also injustice. It is a costly justice. Why not the President in his Address say that under article 130 of the Constitution, he will establish a Bench? He has got the power to do so in consultation with the Chief Justice of India. It is the onerous power. It is not the Cabinet power but it is the onerous power. If the Chief Justice of India agrees with the President, we can establish a Bench in the southern part of India, in Chennai. It has not been mentioned.

I would like to point out that the Central Government headed by our Prime Minister has lagged performance in

different directions. The Government failed in Kashmir problem. Did they ascertain the diabolic act, the diabolic attitude of President Mushharraf? It should be bilaterally discussed. The cease-fire should be bilaterally discussed. Then only, we can arrest the cross-border terrorism. The cross-border terrorism has not been arrested after the unilateral declaration of cease-fire by India. There was an attempt to bomb the PMO. There was a bomb attack in the Supreme Court. There was a bomb attack in Red Fort. There was a likelihood of bomb attack in Coimbatore when he was likely to visit. The ISI agents are operating in India. Stealthily, currency is flowing indiscriminately. Five hundred rupees notes are being flown from Pakistan.

What about the narcotic activities in different parts of the country?

India is used as a transit country by different countries like Myanmar and others. We are not producing any synthetic drugs. We are not drug traffickers. It is used as passage route whether it be Nepal border, Bhutan border, or Pakistan border, it is being infiltrated. So, the Government lacks will, lacks power and lacks vision....(Interruptions)

AN HON. MEMBER: We have power, we have vision.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN: No, power is not there.

The executive is weak, Parliament is not weak. I do not say that. The Cabinet is weak. We were not able to oppose cross-border terrorism by Pakistan when there were militant activities even after the unilateral declaration of cease-fire was made.

We visited Kargil. Some of us, as a Committee visited Kargil.

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO (Dhenkanal): The soldiers are dying there!

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN: There, daily soldiers are dying. We visited Jammu. We examined about 250 people. About forty people were killed. What did the Government do? What is the remedy? On all fronts, even in the North-East the Government has failed. They are not able to face cross-border terrorism. They are not able to check militant activities. They are not able to contain militant activities.

What about finance? What about the value of the rupee? The value of the rupees has gone down. Who is responsible for it?

Today morning there was a question. I think Shri S. Jaipal Reddy raised a question during the Zero Hour that the Sensex operation was not to the expectation of the shareholders. How do they inflate the shares or deflate them? The economic activities have also come to a standstill.

How can the Government cope with the Gujarat problem? How are they going to set apart Rs. 7,000 crore at least, for the first time? They need at least Rs. 14,000 crore. The Chief Minister of Gujarat has said it. You were also there in the meeting of the Committee set up for Disaster Management. The Chief Minister of Gujarat had asked for Rs. 20,000 crore. It is very difficult to re-build Gujarat in a day. I know that. What is the proposal there? How is the problem going to be sorted out?

Everywhere there is talk of elections, elections and elections. It is only polarisation of politics. What are the constituents of the NDA doing? Are the partners of the NDA happy? Are they supporting them fully? They talk one thing here something outside. They speak in different voices. They are not able to satisfy the needs of the people.

The problems faced by the common man are variable and they vary in different terms. Is the Government giving employment to people? No. Is it able to provide shelter to everybody? No. Is the Government able to provide food to everybody? They have said it. They are not able to do it. That is all.

But for the first degree rich class—first degree and the middle classes they can advance loans, to students who may go in for higher studies, upto Rs. 5 lakh or so.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN: I have just started. There are only ten Members. They are not going to participate.

The economic position of the country and the policy of the Government are not clear even today. The Finance Minister only quoted some financial statistics. We are not economists. We want that the people should be happy. We are not economists. We only want that the people should be happy.

SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN: We never wanted to be economists also.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN: In that way, the Government has failed on all fronts. The people want employment. The people below poverty line are not happy.

[Shri P.H. Pandiyan]

The Government is counting the days. We are not happy because they are cajoling the partners. Some partners intimidated and got their things done. But the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu is not intimidating. Had he intimidated, the Sethu Samudram project would have come?....(Interruptions) He should have intimidated like this, 'if you are not granting Sethu Samudram project, we are withdrawing' So, you should intimidate like that....(Interruptions) Shri Chandrababu Naidu got it. Can you not write letters? You can write a letter to an ordinary man, but to the Prime Minister you must pressurise. You should warn your Prime Minister to give you Sethu Samudram project, otherwise he cannot be Prime Minister or the Chief Minister there....(Interruptions)

You should know that Shri Chandrababu Naidu got it during the foodgrains crisis in Andhra Pradesh. By one Government Order, it was done....(Interruptions) On that day, there was a trouble in Parliament. There was a likelihood of voting. He utilised that opportunity. He seized that opportunity and got things done. It is a bargain from the State. He bargained for the people of Andhra Pradesh. We have nobody to bargain for ourselves because our Chief Minister is 77 years' old and hon. Prime Minister is 77 years old. They can write letters. Shri Chandrababu Naidu is only 45 years' old. He can direct the Prime Minister. 'I want this thing' So, both are 77 years' old and are equal in writing letters. There is no energy—this side, there is no energy and the Chief Minister has no energy ... (Interruptions)

Sir, on the last occasion a question was there: is there any big irrigation project sponsored by the Government of Tamil Nadu? All the States were listed. All the States said, 'one or two projects'. But in Tamil Nadu, there was no big irrigation project sponsored by the Government of Tamil Nadu. The Government should act on certain things like *Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana*. However, the Government is not acting. There is a backlog of cases in different High Courts. There are a number of vacancies in the Supreme Court. All the vacancies have not been filled up. The Government is not able to cope up with the situation in all the directions....(Interruptions) The Government is not able to operate in all the directions. They are able to confine to numbers only....(Interruptions)

So, I would say that this President's Address is a formality — I do not say empty formality—it is a formality. It is a customary Address, but without substance; without fulfilling the aspirations of the people; without fulfilling the expectations of the people below the poverty line.

Sir, the hon. Prime Minister has said that he is going to scrap the subsidy given in the form of free electricity to farmers. He has said this last week, just two days back. How can a poor agriculturists pay the electricity tariff now? All these years he has enjoyed this benefit. All of a sudden if you cancel the tariff and ask him to pay, he will not be able to pay. So, the Government has failed in the agricultural front....(Interruptions)

SHRI C.P. RADHAKRISHNAN: There is one small clarification. It is not the statement of the hon. Prime Minister. It is the expression of the Conference of all the Chief Ministers....(Interruptions)

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN: So, all the Chief Ministers of the NDAs are party to it....(Interruptions) We are not a party. I am not a Minister and I am not a party to it. So, all the Chief Ministers of NDA have supported the withdrawal of the subsidy.

SHRI C.P. RADHAKRISHNAN: Not only NDA, but Congress Party also supported it....(Interruptions)

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN: But in Tamil Nadu, the agriculturists are the worst affected.

SHRI C.P. RADHAKRISHNAN: Tamil Nadu has objected to it. That is also recorded. They opposed it in the meeting.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN: What is the remedy? The poor agriculturists have to pay the minimum tariff. The Government went on its assurance to poor farmers. So, the farming sector is neglected. The people below poverty line are neglected. Who is appreciated and who is well looked after — Sterile! Who is well looked after — Air India, with all the disinvestment! Who is well looked after — only the corporate sections! Corporates are the adopted children of the Government and the poor people are the God's children. That is all. They are not the adopted children of the Government, the rich people are the adopted children of the Government. What do you say, Shri Raza Singh Rawat? We can attack the Government because it is the President's Address. We cannot attack the President because the President acts on the advice of the Council of Ministers. This Address has no substance, so it is not worthy of reading. That is why some people were agitated even on that day. Two times I heard it — in English as well as in Hindi....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, please conclude.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN: I am concluding in a minute, Sir.

This Government, headed by the Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihar Vajpayee, deserves to be replaced. Then only young can write a better Presidential Address. If some you *Turk* sits there, he will do well and he will write well. So, this Address is not to the expectations of the Allies also. If the Allies say yes, they must say so. Let the people will identify them because they are going to face the Assembly elections.

The law of the land is totally violated. CBI is used as a tool to suppress the Opposition. This morning I raised a question but I was not able to get the answer, so I am repeating the same. For 17 years, there was an investigation against one Minister. Last week suddenly, the CBI said that they were filling the charge-sheet. So, the Prime Minister is not able to control even the CBI. I do not think this Prime Minister will direct the CBI to file a charge-sheet against that Minister after 17 years. So, the country is in militancy. Can you negotiate with the militants? If you are a militant, you can negotiate with the militants. Answer with bullets if he is coming with bullets. You are all democrats, you cannot negotiate.

SHRI ANADI SAHU (Berhampur, Orissa): Why can we not negotiate?

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN: He says, why not. He was a police officer, he knows it. Will you negotiate with the criminals? You will kick him, you will arrest him, you will put him in the lock-up, then only you can extract information.

SHRI C.P. RADHAKRISHNAN: Now he is a retired police officer.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN: So, Sir, thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to speak. On behalf of the AIADMK, I have expressed my views on the President's Address. Though this Address has no substance, yet, to support the President, I am constrained to support it.

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GUDHE (Amravati): Hon. Chairman Sir, I rise to welcome and thank the President for the address he has delivered before the members of both the Houses of the Parliament.

Mr. Chairman Sir, last four years have been very challenging for our country. Continuous Lok Sabha elections have adversely affected our economic situation. Thereafter the super cyclone of Orissa and now the earthquake of Gujarat struck. Due to these there was a great loss of life and property. These natural calamities

have affected our economy adversely. Even after all these, we should thank our Prime Minister, because under his stewardship the economy of our country has improved. Hon. Prime Minister made an appeal to the countrymen and the countrymen made contributions as per their capacity. The people contributed whole heartedly and on large scale for the victims of natural calamity of Orissa and Gujarat earthquake. I would like to thank the countrymen for their noble cause. I would also like to thank our Hon. Prime Minister, who led the nation in such difficult circumstances.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have heard and read the President's Address with rapt attention. A number of speeches have been delivered and will continue to be delivered on Motion of Thanks on the President's Address. Today those who are on treasury benches used to be in opposition and those who are now in opposition used to be on treasury benches till yesterday. They did nothing for the country for the last 40 to 50 years and we hope that those who are on treasury benches for the last four years should do something. I would like to put forward few points before the Government.

President has mentioned in his Address that 37% of the total population of the country consists of youth. It means in a population of 100 crores 40 crores are youth and out of this 20-22 crores youth are unemployed. I have faced the problem of unemployment. I am fortunate enough that I have been elected to this Lok Sabha but there is no plan for these 20-22 crores youth. Among these youth there are some engineers and many are highly educated. Nowadays multinational companies are expanding fast but even then the question of employment is there before unemployed youth. Unemployed youth are wandering jobless holding their Degrees in one hand and begging with other hand. They need employment, they need food to eat, but unfortunately, the Government has not declared any scheme so that the unemployed can be given any work. That is why if we didn't pay any attention to the problems of these unemployed youth then a day will surely come when these youth will start agitation. After independence, for 52-53 years we and our ancestors have led our country, but now the reins will have to be handed over to the coming generation. If we didn't pay attention to these youngsters then they will become violent taking arms in their hands and come on the roads. If we do not empower them in coming days then no Government will be able to run. That is why I urge upon the Government that whatever programmes the Government has to formulate for the farmers, it is very essential that the Government should formulate more and more programmes, more and more schemes for the youth.

[Shri Anant Gudhe]

Mr Chairman Sir, we are celebrating this year as Women empowerment year. Hon'ble President has stated in his address that in the year of women empowerment it is very essential to give powers to women. The President in his address has also mentioned that the bill regarding providing 33% reservation of seats for women in Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha should be passed in this House, but the question is that out of the total population of the country more than 50% population is of women and by just providing 33% reservation in Lok Sabha and State Assemblies the problems of women are not going to be finished. By just providing 33% reservation for the women their development is not possible. That is why in order to make women self-reliant we will have to take some stringent steps. Till now there are women who are the victims of dowry system. There are number of women who wander here and there for want of employment but they do not get employment. They are unable to feed themselves and their children. The Government should formulate schemes for these women who are economically backward in the country as early as possible.

Mr. Chairman Sir, I would like to urge upon the Government that as we had declared in the past, we will set up separate police station in every district, specially for the women. Today when women go to police station to ask for justice or for telling their grievances they don't get justice. That is why, there should be atleast one police station in every district where grievances of the women could be heard and there should be such a court in every district where they can get justice. The appeal of the woman should be heard there and an effort must be made to give them justice. The Government should definitely pay attention on this matter in the year of women empowerment.

Mr Chairman Sir, hon'ble President has mentioned in his address that we have a very good crop this year. We have produced 40 million tonnes of foodgrains more. This is a record production. Our country stands second in the world in the production of rice, wheat, vegetables, fruit etc. We have produced crop in such a good quantity but the farmer who produces foodgrains for the entire country is dying of hunger. The Constituency from where I am elected, particularly Vidarbha is affected by famine for the last four-five years. Sometimes famine is caused due to excess rains and sometimes it is due to deficient rains. This year there is no crop due to deficient rains.

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY (Kokrajhar): Vidarbha should be made a separate State.

SHRI ANANT GUDHE: Nothing is going to happen by making a separate State. Even drinking water is not available in Vidarbha. Earthquake struck Gujarat, there was a cyclone in Orissa, same thing is there in Vidarbha also where farmer is in great misery today. The State Government has declared famine in that area but it is unfortunate to say that even after declaring the area famine-prone the State Government has not helped the farmers. The farmers of that region are not having any work. Such a situation is prevailing there. Four months have passed since the State Government has declared that area of famine prone area but no package has been declared yet. That is why it is essential to pay attention to the farmers. Farmer produces foodgrain but if he has to marry off his daughter he has nothing for her marriage. He has to take loan. In case he is unable to repay his loan he is compelled to commit suicide....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now.

SHRI ANANT GUDHE: The seasoned leaders are giving speeches daily and they are speaking continuously.

If that farmer has to marry off his daughter he has to sell some of his land. If any farmer is having 2-4 daughters he has to sell his entire land to marry off his daughters. This is the pitiable condition of these farmers. The farmer who has made our country prosperous is facing such a pitiable condition.

I thank the Govt. for formulating many schemes for the farmers in this year's budget. These schemes are very good for the farmers but they can not develop through these schemes only. There is dire need of more and more protection to the farmers by the Govt. who barely have five or ten acres of land and who do not have even irrigational facilities. Hon'ble Minister is sitting here. On one side we are distributing foodgrains at the rate of Rs. two per kg. to the poor and tribal people of the State but at the same time the Govt. has imposed a heavy duty on the imported foodgrains. This will provide relief to the farmers but still there is need of giving more attention to the interest of the farmers in this country.

I will conclude after saying one thing. For a long time a question is being raised about Belgam, Karwad and Nepani in Maharashtra. There is a border dispute regarding them between Maharashtra and Kamataka for many years. There is restriction on speaking Marathi for the residents of Belgam, Karwad and Nepani in Kamataka and there is a demand for a long time to include these areas in Maharashtra. Talks were already held with the hon'ble Prime Minister for this. Discussion is going on with the Chief Ministers of Maharashtra and Kamataka

also on this issue but I am sorry to say that this issue did not figure in this year's President's Address. Therefore, I would urge upon the Govt. to call the Chief Ministers of both the States to put an end to this long standing dispute.

20.00 hrs.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the people of Marathi speaking Belgam, Karwad and Nepani in Karnataka demand for their inclusion in Maharashtra and the Govt. should take steps for its immediate consideration and implementation and I believe that the Govt. will make efforts for this.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, with this hope and thanks to you for allowing me to speak, I conclude. Jai Bharat, Jai Maharashtra.

20.01 hrs.

(SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN *in the Chair*)

[English]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh): Mr. Chairman, Sir, three weeks before the hon. President addressed the two Houses of Parliament, we heard him speak on the eve of the Republic Day. On the first occasion it was the statesmen in the President who spoke to his countrymen from the core of his heart, sharing with them his views, his perceptions, his disappointments, his hopes and his expectations. The second time, in the his address to the Parliament, he was obliged to just read out a report prepared by a Government that seems to be basking in the make-belief glory of complacence.

Sir, look at the performance of this Government in any field from any angle. It is dismal and disappointing. It has proclaimed that the *mantra* of the decade would be 'faster and more balanced development'. But protestations and words so far have not matched the actions of the Government anywhere. The Government intends to take the common man up the path of milk and honey — a wild interpretation of their economic reforms. But the assurance to fortify self-reliance, generate more employment and remove poverty sound hollow given that the domestic industry, particularly the small scale industry and the farmers have been badly hit and severely bruised.

Sir, inspite of the swelling ranks of people without jobs, which has failed to attract the attention of the Government, the Government is guided by the wishes of the Chambers of Industries and the multinationals and has announced easier lay off and retrenchments. This is

the Government's view of reforms. Already, the poor labourers have suffered immensely and are being exploited by well-connected contractors. If the Government passes the Bill that it wishes to do at the instance of the CII, then our poor Indian labourers would be doomed.

Sir, we also are unfortunately, hearing that even for sweeping the streets, the Government is trying to get in touch with a French Firm to hand over that job to them. This Government swears by Dr. Ambedkar. But its policies threaten the very concept of reservation for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes so necessary to undo centuries of injustice to them. The census format even deprive the Members of the Scheduled Caste community to mention their caste in a State as the hon. President, the other day, himself discovered to his chagrin.

Sir, there was a talk about the empowerment of women. But there was no reference of it in the Address of the hon. President and the Government of the day seems to be only paying a lip service to this question of reservation for women. This item is listed on the last day of every Session and perhaps the Government is prepared that this is not to be taken up for a discussion.

Sir, in his Address to the Parliament, the hon. President has urged the Members of Parliament to contribute their utmost to the furtherance of the Republican values as enshrined in our Constitution and yet, this Government, a hydra-headed coalition of convenience put in place by a motley conglomeration of disparate and political outfits, considers it necessary to tinker with the Constitution through a Review Commission.

In the meanwhile, the mandarins in the Prime Minister's Office, called the PMO, have acquired extra-Constitutional and a megalomaniac role. There is no downsizing or rightsizing of the Government, there is only up-sizing of the PMO. And we do not know what it would lead to and where would our Constitutional responsibilities and duties go!

In Jammu and Kashmir, the Government has failed miserably. Pakistan persists—even today the Government has admitted in answer to one of the Questions—with its support to cross border terrorism. But we no longer hear our Home Minister talk of his proactive policy while the Prime Minister continues to ruminate over his *Lahore Bus Yatra*. All the while our brave soldiers, our jawans, our officers and the innocent people continue to make the supreme sacrifice of their lives at the altar of nation's unity and integrity.

The Government is afflicted by utter confusion and paralysis and has failed to devise a strategy of peace

[Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal]

offensive. No dialogue is in sight. In fact, there is utter lack of sincerity on the part of the Government in dealing with the Jammu and Kashmir situation.

It was heartening to hear the hon. President tell us that the Government is uncompromising in its commitment to secularism. Pious words these are, intended more to retain the support of its allies than to really mean any business.

The communal agenda is only put on the backburner. It has not been repudiated. If the Government is really sincere about what it says, let it take the House into confidence. Let the Government tell us what it has done, what plan of action it has worked out, to take action against those people who arrogate to themselves the right to interpret Indian ethos and culture and have the audacity to tell Indian citizens belonging to a faith other than their own to disown their own religious places simply because they are situated outside their country.

Dr. Vijay Kumar Malhotra, the Mover of the Resolution—he is not present here in the House now—was making much out of this. He went to the extent of making an uncharitable allegation against the Congress that because there was no communal violence in the last two and a half years of the BJP rule, the Congress was flabbergasted over it. I do not know what he really means to convey by that or what the rationale of his thought is! I am constrained to make this comment, Sir, the simple fact that Congress is in Opposition, and has performed a role much different than the role that was performed by the BJP in its endeavour to come to power, may be the reason why we have lesser number of such incidents. But, has the Mover of the Resolution forgotten what happened—no reference was made to it—in the case of murder of Mr. Steines and his two of his minor sons? It is the confession of the person involved in the offence that he belongs to the *Sangh Parivar*. Thereafter, have Members on the Treasury Benches forgotten so soon as to what is happening in Jammu and Kashmir, the selective killings of the members belonging to the Sikh families?...(Interruptions)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): He is in the jail now. When your party was in power, you could not arrest him. We arrested him....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (Mumbai South Central): Mr. Chairman, Sir, according to report, he has no connection with the *Sangh*....(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: If you are honest in what you are saying, please introspect and try to find out as to who is responsible for it?...(Interruptions)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: You ask your leader as to why she kicked out Janaki Ballabh Patnaik much before his term was over....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Mr. Chairman, Sir, kindly delete *Sangh Parivar* from the proceedings....(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: The demolition of statues in Afghanistan is outrageous and barbarious. But what about those self-anointed protagonists of Hindutva who demolished the Babri Masjid here?

The hon Prime Minister referred to it as the re-assertion of the national sentiments, and the people out there—the Taliban Group—say that it is their reaction to what happened in our country....(Interruptions)

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Whatever he is saying has been quoted by the national press....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Kindly speak in English because I am not getting the English translation.

...(Interruptions)

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Now, he is remembering the Babri Masjid....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: I would reiterate this again. You can see record what I have told....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Member, please allow him to speak. When you get your turn, you can reply to it....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: I said that what even Taliban is doing is wrong....(Interruptions)

[English]

I am condemning those people ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: If you could have tried to understand as to what I am saying then you would not have said this.

[English]

I was saying that it is the Taliban who have said so, and thereafter, now, it is their people—the Bajrang Dal people who say, “we will revenge that.” Are they going in for this mad race ad nauseam? Will this madness and stop? Will the Government not take action against the people who, by their irresponsible utterances, lead to situations like this?

Sir, the hon. Prime Minister—I would repeat with all humility—calls that cataclysmic event as the re-assertion of the national sentiment! What are they talking off?

Mr. Chairman, Sir, we are reminded by the President at the asking of the Government of the contradictions in our society....*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT (Shajapur): What do you say about the destruction of idols by the Taliban Government? Do you approve it?...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Kindly allow him to speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Under what rule you are asking it? This is a debate. When you get your turn to speak, you can reply to it.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: They are fanatic people....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Sir, what the Shahi Imam is saying outside is that he is supporting the Taliban activities....*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: They are trying to follow the same path that is why situations like this are taking place....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Who broke the temples in India?...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: I only want to urge that the civilization of our country teaches something else. But you speak against that civilization and take resource to the same path as that of Taliban and due to this our head bows in shame....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Mohan Rawale, kindly resume your seat. It is a debate.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: It has been written....*(Interruptions)*...There was a temple and it was broken by Babar....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Mr. Chairman, Sir, we are reminded of contradictions in our society by the President. We have got the surplus foodgrains buffer stock of 5 crore tonnes owing to the hard work of the Indian farmers for the last 35 years. The Government says that it is their harvest, a harvest of two and a half years.

Sir, is it not a shame for us that if we have the surplus stock of 5 crore tonnes, crores of people go to sleep on empty stomachs? I would not immediately find fault with the scheme of the hon. Minister. The scheme seems to be well-intended but again, it lacks vision. There is no mention in the President's Address about any viable and reliable scheme for something like what we had, i.e. food for work'. No food security system can work otherwise. A penniless person cannot buy the food offered to him at Rs. one a kilo or Rs. two a kilo. So, the only thing that he would witness once again is all these stocks being diverted to black market to only fill the money bags of people who along with the officers of the Government indulge in that activity.

Sir, any rural development programme must have, as its component, a substantial construction activity, and that seems to be lacking here.

There is certainly a mention of the promotion of warehousing and even soft loans. But I would like to know one thing from the hon. Minister of Public Distribution, who is present here. Over two decades back, people were coaxed to construct godowns for the FCI and so, certain rates were fixed. Today those people are



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put in a precarious condition, that after 20 years also, the rental which they are forced to accept is much less than what it was. Is this the Government's credibility in its dealings with the people? Given this track record, will the people come forward to build the warehouses for the Government?

There is an ominous indication of the functioning of the Government. The Government, we fear, may withdraw the system of Minimum Support Price to the farmers. If that happens, our decades of gratitude to the farmers who work tirelessly to bring a situation of having bufferstock in the country would be meaningless and our plans go haywire.

We have been informed that India has become the largest producer of milk. Yet come 1st April, our markets will be flooded with imported dairy products and American chicken legs. This is the Government's roadmap to reforms. There is no word from the Government about enhancing import duties of these products. The Mover of this Motion was referring to certain statistics saying that during the Congress days, there was no import duty on milk, there was no import duty on wheat and there was no import duty on rice, etc., and today, they have clamped such import duties. Can anyone from this side stand up and say whether anybody anywhere in the world at that time thought of exporting these commodities to our country? Today, a potato, which costs only Re. 1 comes processed and we have to pay Rs. 40 for it. This is what is happening to the economy of our country. The Government is shirking its responsibilities to come and help the poor people of this country. If there is any increase in the import duty of edible oil, as it was made out by this Government, it is again, to help the American people, the exporters of Soyabean oil, vis-a-vis the palmolein-producing countries of Asia. The Government pats itself for eliminating shortages of all commodities.

For all its failures, the Government or the spokesman of the BJP, the hon. Member who moved this Motion today, blames the Congress or blames the predecessor Governments. As I said, for the surplus in food, it says that it is its harvest of a year and a half. With utmost respect I would like to only say this. Given these policies, all that the Indian farmer today is exposed to is the mercy of the free market. Why is the growth of agriculture only one per cent against the estimated five per cent? The Government owes an answer to this House.

The Prime Minister's Rural Roads was announced with much fanfare last year. We thought that it was something good. Maybe, it was a replica of RLEGP. But nothing has happened after that. For 10 months, no

guidelines were prepared. Finally when certain guidelines were announced, there is no mention of the role of *panchayats*. *Panchayats* have nothing to do with the work that is going on in the rural areas. This is the respect the Government pays to the *panchayats* and to other local bodies.

In the field of telecommunications, the Government applauds itself for expanding and modernising the same. I certainly do not expect the Government to acknowledge the stupendous work done by Shri Rajiv Gandhi in this field. He was then scoffed off by none other than the present Prime Minister of this country, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

This Government talks of increasing the tele density in the country. But I charge this Government for going soft on those private operators who had made promises to provide telephones in the villages but failed to do anything. Let the Government come forward and tell us what action has been taken against all those defaulters.

A valid point was made by my hon. colleague on the issue of Information Technology. If the Government expects to make hundreds of billions of dollars from the Information Technology, why is this mad hurry to sell nation's assets at throw away prices? Certainly, we salute our young bright professionals who have put India on the world map of Information Technology. There is a revolution in our country on this front. But what are the Government's policies? Look at the hardware Sector. The policies of this Government have led to mushrooming of the grey market. The grey market has captured 60 per cent of the share. There is no mention of that by the Government. Perhaps, there is no policy. As I said on earlier occasion, the disaster that the country today faces is the result of the cumulative failures of the Government policies.

We certainly expected the Government to permit DTH. Here again, it has put the cart before the horse. We only hear them talking about Convergence Bill which is pending, the work which is being done thereon etc. But till that Bill is not passed in this House, and till the Government is not clear as to what it has to do with various channels, you have got to see whether you can permit this. There is a reference to certain safeguards and precautions being taken. I do not know what the Government means by those safeguards, what those safeguards are, and how they would be enforced. But I do know a Bengali Channel of Doordarshan recently referred to Kashmir as Indian Occupied Kashmir. The Government did nothing about it. Fox News which is the website of the Government's favourite, Rupert Murdoch,

put up a map of India excluding Jammu & Kashmir there from. I would like to know what action has been taken on these matters.

The President's Address reminds us about the alleged neglect of Railways for long years. The vast and sprawling network built up assiduously by the dint of sheer hardwork of railway men and the Government for over fifty years has not been acknowledged. There is no acknowledgment of that and I do not expect the Government to do that. But this Government has done precious little to improve the working further. Let them stand up and say that this is the innovation we have brought about in Railways, and this is the modernisation that we have done in Railways. The Government, instead of working as an engine, the engine of power which pushes or pulls others along, is working as brakes. The Government of the day is working as brakes to the nation's march towards development, self-respect and dignity.

It seems that it is the Government's anxiety today to run down all the achievements of the past. The public sector has played a vital role in the economic growth and employment generation. The Government accepts it. It cannot deny that fact. Yet the public sector has become the whipping boy of the day's dispensation at the Centre. A loosely cobbled up numerical majority in the House does not give you the right to deal with the nation's assets as recklessly as you are doing now. You may gloat over your victory on the BALCO matter the other day, but the nation has the right to expect of you to declare clearly as to what your plans are.

Which are the units which the Government is going to put under hammer? The reason for disinvestment, the market value of the assets and not the values which the Government calculate. If a prudent man were to sell his house, what would he get out of it. That is how the Government has to put it before the House. The system of making evaluation, profile of the valuer chosen, details of the tenders received and all other details necessary to ensure an honest and transparent transaction must be put before the House before the Government proceed further in the matter.

A day's debate is just not enough. I would say with all humility, a day's debate in the House is just not enough to pass the requisite scrutiny when the national assets are put to sale. The present policy of disinvestment and privatisation stinks. Sir, it is with all responsibility that I make this charge against the Government. Its present policy of disinvestment and privatisation stinks. The global advisors are not independent professionals. They are not independent consultants but representatives

of investors eyeing to gobble-up our public sector units, those projects which were nurtured by the sweat of the workers and the public money.

Who are the so-called strategic partners? I have tried to understand as a layman, what do we mean by the strategic partners. What do we mean by strategic sale? You choose a partner in advance, tell him to go in for scouting of money and bring it to us. Because there will be on other tenderer — there will be a single tender — we will say that there is no other person wanting this and this amount is much more what we were expecting. As the valuation was fixed by somebody watching your interest, you say, "fine, we will give it to you".

Why and how was the public sector started in our country? It was because we then felt that the requisite money was not available with the private sector and today also it is not available with the private sector. But we are selling those to the private sector because somehow they manage to put that much money together. One tenderer is coming and the Government is giving it off to him. To those strategic partners the Government is charging only 51 per cent and is handing over the entire thing, even the management. They come to our country and raise resources from our internal financial institutions. Please check up, is it not a fact that they do so. It was at the time of Independence, after Independence in fact, when we realised that this system of appointing managing agents for big concerns in our private sector was not good for the country. Because we had come of age, we thought that we could manage our own affairs. Therefore, the law relating to the appointment of managing agents was done away with. Today, after 50 years, the Government is again bringing in managing agents to manage the affairs in our country.

MR. CHAIRMAN: There are ten more Members to speak from your Party. You have already taken half-an-hour.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: I will keep that in mind. My Party would stick to the time given to it.

This is what has happened to BALCO. The national interest and the tribal economy of Chattisgarh has been bartered away for a song. The Government may gloat over its victory, as I said, because of the numerical strength but they are in the dock today. The country is watching them. They have played havoc with the lives of the tribals. Because of their obsession to garner more money, they feel anything is good enough for the country.

[Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal]

Sir, there is glib-talk about education. Education certainly is a veritable barometer of the state of development of any society. But here again, the Government is shirking its responsibility.

It treats education like any other commodity. Perhaps, its only approach is money and business. Sir, the Government is forcing universities to raise resources by admitting students who are not up to the mark but who can pay at the cost of people who cannot pay but are bright students. As I said the other day, such students will be a drag on the society, and a drag on the class. But the Government goes about the same job.

Sir, the Government talks of rather offers tantalising education loan. But in my humble opinion, that is again meaningless. The stipulation is that the loan has to be repaid after a period of four years. When you do not assure employment to the young educated citizens of the country, will you not rather deteriorate and worsen their financial condition by burdening them with those loans? They will feel that after a few years and after acquiring this knowledge they would step up into the world and get an excellent job. But where from would they get a job? They would rather been trapped in a vicious debt trap.

Sir, there is a high talk of Government's resolve to strengthen the educational infrastructure on its own. But the intake in the colleges — and this I say particularly with reference to what is happening in Delhi — and even in Kendriya Vidyalayas is being reduced. If I am wrong the Government could check me. If my facts are correct, I would urge the Government not to take this suicidal path.

The President's Address has expressed concern over the deteriorating quality of life in urban areas. But no determination is noticeable in the Government's approach in the matter. The number of pavement dwellers in the metropolitan cities is increasing rapidly and instances of defecation in the open, though embarrassing, are common even in cities where I come from, namely, Chandigarh.

The Government's simple solution to fight poverty is to fudge figures. Contradictory figures about the number of people living below poverty line are doing the rounds. For the first time, we see the Government talking about growth rate but not in accurate terms. You see the *Economic Survey*. For the first time, there is no clear mention of the economic growth rate but only the likely rate of growth. Sir, I salute the Government for its statistical innovations. There is a clear slow down of economic growth in all major goods producing and labour

absorbing areas. Yet a technical and statistical figure is given to us which is nothing but a smoke screen created to obscure reality. Six years ago, our savings amounted to 25 per cent of the GDP. Today, this figure is less than 22 per cent. This is because of the disincentives inherent in the Government's policies particularly hitting the small savings and the raw deal given to the retired and middle-income groups.

Over 20 million cases are pending in courts. There is a need of 5000 more courts. But we are told that the Government is in the process of setting up fast track courts. The Government has got into this habit of using high vocabulary borrowed from its whiz-kid. Tomorrow, as is the wont of the Government of the fast track courts will be replaced by the words FTCs given the fetish of coining those words.

Sir, no serious exercise has been undertaken to consult the judiciary and the representatives of the lawyers to see as to what you can really do to expedite decision of the cases and to cut litigation. Here I would like to say that despite this, the Government continues to be the biggest litigation causing hassles to the private individuals and extreme drag on the public exchequer.

Finally, as you want me to conclude, I have to say a very few words about the foreign policy. The Government says that it has responded creatively to the changing world scenario. The appreciation I find is missing completely of our claim of strong independent views on international matters. It is nowhere perceptible. Rather, gone are the days when a non-aligned India could not be taken for granted by super powers. Today the Minister for External Affairs escorts foul-mouthed terrorists to Kandahar. He bears the ignominy of their company. Then the Taliban, as I said earlier, blasts the Buddhas. And we, as it was said by me earlier, only bask in the complacency of having passed resolutions, not trying to mobilise the world opinion at all.

Iraq, our traditional friend, has been bombarded. What have we done? We only decide to be obvious of the fact only because we must please somebody. Is this the new dimension of our external relations? I just want to bring this to the notice of Shri Ajit Kumar Panja, who is sitting here.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): It is not correct that no world opinion was created. We have taken every step. At present, I am happy to announce that the whole world has denounced certain barbaric activity.

MR. CHAIRMAN: How did you assess the world opinion?

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA: Through our Missions, through our Ambassadors and also through public utterances made by them which we have got with us.

SHRI C.P. RADHAKRISHNAN: You should not have this type of doubts.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: The hon. mover of the Motion had asserted that the Government has effected and overcome the effect of sanctions. This was rather the high watermark of his speech today. But the truth is otherwise. I say the Government, paranoid over sanctions and in an anxiety to win an elusive UN Security Council seat, it is out to please the United States and does whatever it wants us to do.

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA: It is not correct. We have taken all steps. I myself visited Iraq, denounced all types of sanctions because it is counter productive. It is on record.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Is this the new dimension of our external relations and growing strength of interaction with the USA which the President's Address probably proclaimed?

I will conclude by saying that the reforms as pursued by the Government are nothing but elite driven. There is no place for an average Indian, much less the poor in the Government's scheme of things. The Government is internally fragmented in its policy views, but clings to office by the sheer instinct of survival amongst its constituents. The Government today is an apology for inefficiency and our democracy and apologetic democracy. Wasteful expenditure and corruption have not been checked. Whenever we point out to an anti-poor component of the Government's policy or even try to point out one well-meaning flaw in the Government's approach, the answer always given to us is that we began the reform process. Yes, we did. But we also asserted that economic inter-dependence is not incompatible with political independence.

Let me just repeat it. We did begin the reform process. But we did assert at the same time economic inter-dependence is not incompatible with political independence. Today it is this independence which the present Government is robbing the nation of. People continue to pay the price for misgovernance. It is for the Government to reflect over that. But, I would only like to

say that if the Government does not heed to the timely and often statesmanly warning signals by the President, the Government would do so only at the peril of the nation.

With these words, I certainly join all the hon. Members in thanking the hon'ble President for his Address to both the Houses of Parliament.

\*SHRI ADHI SANKAR (Cuddalore): Hon'ble Chairman, I rise to support the Motion of Thanks to President for his Address to both the Houses of Parliament in its joint session. I deem it a privilege to participate in the discussion on the motion moved in this august House. I feel proud to put forth my views on behalf of my party Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam in this discussion on the policy guidelines and implementable measures and schemes that have been spelt out by our President. I welcome the policy statement of this transparent and responsive clean Government. This governance at the Centre that is popular with the people upholding democratic values ensured by Shri Atal Behari Vajpayee is suitably and reasonably supported by the great leader of all the Tamil masses and our leader Dr. Kalaignar, the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu. Our leader believes in saying what he would do and unfailingly do what he says and I am happy to find this Government treading its path on the same lines. Shri Vajpayee's Government has converted challenges into opportunities and provides able governance under an umbrella called National Democratic Alliance.

We the members of Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam would like to express our grateful acknowledgments to our President for his Address stating the programmes and policies though we too have certain disappointments as pointed out by certain parties in the opposition benches. With particular reference to Sethu Samudram project I cannot but point out the lack of vigour with which it ought to have been carried out by now. We are of course pained but at the same time we believe in the commitment made by the Government on this count earlier.

Sethu Samudram envisages to deepen the shallow waters between Dhanushkodi and Thalaimannar to make shipping viable across the gulf of Mannar and Palk Straits. Digging a canal across Adam's Bridge is also an aspect of the project. Sethu Samudram project was conceived to circumvent the round about sea route beyond Colombo taking a lengthy sea-faring around the island nation Sri Lanka. From 1947 to 1955, a feasibility study was

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\* English Translation of the Speech originally delivered in Tamil.

[Shri Adhi Sankar]

conducted by Shri A. Ramasamy Mudiliar Committee set up by the Government of India. A project report was submitted to the Government of India to complete the Sethu Samudram project at a cost of about Rs. 8.17 crore. But unfortunately that project has been shelved all these years right from the Nehruvian era. Many leaders have all along been saying that Sethu Samudram project would be taken up. But it is to be implemented still. Our Hon'ble Prime Minister Mr. Vajpayee whom we believe to be saying what he can do, recently stated while dedicating to the nation the Ennore port complex that Sethu Samudram project would be taken up for completion. But it is not finding place in our President's Address.

Sethu Samudram project is necessary to augment shipping service from Tuticorin to several destinations along the eastern coast of our country apart from several South East Asian harbours. Our shipping services can be expanded to places like Calcutta, Vishakhapatnam and Chennai and also to Singapore and Yangoon. Sethu Samudram project on its completion would help the Tamil Nadu Electricity Board to save several crore rupees in foreign exchange. The thermal power station at Tuticorin would now require 15 thousand tonnes of coal everyday. The coal that has to come from Haldia, Paradeep and Vishakhapatnam could be transported by ship saving time and energy by completing Sethu Samudram project. It would be cost effective. Taking a roundabout going round Sri Lanka to reach Tuticorin can be avoided.

In 1986 Shri Rajesh Pilot, the then Surface Transport Minister, and in 1994 Shri Jagdish Tytler, the then Surface Transport Minister, have made statements in this august House in this regard. They pointed out to the financial crunch due to the slide in the economy and the technology changes in the shipping industry to be the causes for delay in implementing the Sethu Samudram project. They explained the difficulties in taking up the project that involved the removal of rocks in the seabed affecting coral reefs and eco-balance there. We are living in a modern scientific era where deep sea excavations to lay and construct even railway lines and stations under the sea water have been found feasible due to technological advancements. At such a time when things are possible with science, we are afraid the Government is still apprehensive and we are greatly disappointed about that. It has been projected that the Union Government could save a minimum of about Rs 100 crore the hard earned foreign exchange from the day the Sethu Samudram project is completed. This is a conservative estimate. Many more gains are bound to accrue. And hence the Sethu Samudram project must be pursued vigorously. This is being ceaselessly pursued by our able leader Dr. Kalaignar and he has been taking up this

matter for completion with the Union Government whenever he meets the Union Ministers and in his letter to our beloved Prime Minister Shri Atal Behari Vajpayee and other leaders at the Centre. We are disappointed with the lack of desired vigour. At the same time we take solace at the fact that Union Government has set apart Rs. 5 crore for completing a feasibility study in the changed scenario. We also understand that financial allocations would be made once it is approved and sanctioned. We are now happy that this project has seen the light of the day at least now. We firmly believe in the commitment of this Government in implementing this Sethu Samudram Project and I also recall the assurance given by the Hon'ble Prime Minister at the function in Ennore Port complex. Hence, I urge upon the Union Government to set apart funds for this project in the current Budget itself.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Radhakrishnan, you also may take up this and get the allocation for this project.

SHRI ADHI SANKAR: In our President's Address we do not find a mention about our long pending demand to make Tamil as one of the official languages of the Indian Union. Tamil is an ancient and classical language of the country and it must be made an official language. On behalf of DMK and on behalf of our leader Dr. Kalaignar I would like to reiterate our demand to make Tamil an official language of the Union Government as a first step at the earliest while you may consider to accord similar status to other Indian languages also.

I would like to mention about the references made in the President's Address about the situation prevailing in Jammu & Kashmir. What is witnessed there is quite alarming. The indiscriminate firings and killings and the free run of the militants are disturbing us. Innocent common people are massacred there. It has been stated that our Government would come forward to hold talks to evolve a way out from the impasse. There should not be a let up in curbing terrorism. There should not be any relaxation in curbing the activities of the militants. Stringent action must be taken against the insurgent tendencies. We feel that stepped up action alone can yield results as of now.

Pakistan has announced that it is prepared to hold talks with India. But when we watch the ever-increasing activities of the militants it becomes evident that Pakistani wants to mislead us. We cannot but think that it is a double talk and Pakistan's offer apparently lacks seriousness and sincerity it warrants. Any kind of talks must begin only after Pakistan proves itself credible and trustworthy and it must begin only after Pakistan proves

beyond doubt that it does not encourage cross border terrorism. We want to appeal to the Union Government that we must be cautious in our conciliatory approach.

As long as Pakistan lets loose religious fundamentalism and spread communal tensions and terrorism against humanity we need to be wary of them. Pakistan's abetting cross border terrorism must end; its involvement in insurgency and its smear campaign against India must end; democracy must be restored there; only then India should think of holding any talks with Pakistan. I would like to emphasise this on behalf of our party Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam.

It was comforting to note in the President's Address the importance accorded to agricultural sector and farmers and farm labour in particular. Our leader late Anagar Anna pointed out that God is in the smiling faces of the poor. For a change we see the face of our beloved Prime Minister in the smiles of the poor in the agricultural sector because the compassion and concern of the present Union Government has been amply indicated in our President's Address. I do not see this an exaggeration.

As for agricultural production and productivity are concerned, President's Address enlists the efforts to augment the same wriggling out of the stagnation. I am proud to point out that our Tamil Nadu ranks first among all the States of the union in rice production. Tamil Nadu also first in both sugarcane production and oil seeds cultivation. Ever after our leader Dr Kalaignar has assumed office as Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu steps in the right direction were taken to increase the productivity thereby increasing production which is now at the top when compared to other States as regards to rice, sugarcane and oil seeds. We translate into action the aspirations of the agriculturists in line with the policy of the Union Government for the whole of India as indicated in President's Address.

When we come to vegetables that are grown, we witness an augmented growth of vegetables in Tamil Nadu. In 1995, the vegetable production remained at 40 lakh metric tonnes. Now in 2000, it has increased to about 50 lakh metric tonnes. As for fruit cultivation is concerned, what was 32 lakh metric tonnes in 1995 as fruits yield has gone up to 47 lakh metric tonnes now.

In tune with Centre's policy envisaged in President's Address, Tamil Nadu has contributed its mite in agricultural sector and has even gone further in ensuring increased productivity and agricultural production. Electricity is provided free of cost to agriculturists. Through vegetable marketing centres set up throughout Tamil Nadu styled as 'Uzhavar Sandhai' benefits accrue to both the

cultivators and consumers. 8 lakh cards to farmers to identify fertiliser subsidy beneficiaries have been distributed. This massive scheme has been carried out at a cost of Rs. 12 lakh.

As far as paddy procurement is concerned Rs 360 was given in 1996 to medium quality paddy and now in 2000 it stands at an enhanced remunerative price of Rs 510. Fine quality rice is procured now at the rate of Rs 540. Thus our leader Dr. Kalaignar has ensured the welfare of both the agriculturists and agricultural labourers giving them a big boost and adequate encouragement to increase production. For sugarcane the then AIADMK Government gave just Rs. 5 more than the Central Government price but our DMK Government led by Dr Kalaignar has enhanced it and pays Rs. 180 over and above the centrally administered price. Thus the agriculture sector is carefully nurtured in tune with our Union Government's policies outlined in our President's Address.

Above all these measures, Tamil Nadu Government has set up a Board for the welfare of the agriculturists and agricultural labour. In order to ameliorate the sufferings and hardship that could be faced by the have-nots among the people in the agricultural sector adequate measures are being taken by this newly conceived Welfare Board. The agricultural labourers through this Welfare Board could see a change for prosperity and progress. What is expressed as an action plan in President's Address is already translated into action in Tamil Nadu.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What are you speaking on? President's Address or Governor's Address.

SHRI ADHI SANKAR: I am speaking on President's Address.

Our President in his Address laid emphasis on the Women's Reservation Bill that seeks to empower women for their upliftment. Women's reservation has been introduced in all the local bodies in Tamil Nadu. This has been a successful experiment that has come to stay in Tamil Nadu. 33% reservation to women has been ensured in the local bodies that function in Tamil Nadu. Our DMK Government has successfully endeavoured to empower women in Tamil Nadu ensuring their constructive participation in local administration.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Women's Reservation in local bodies is through a Constitutional Act and it is Constitutional obligation.

SHRI ADHI SANKAR: But it is only our DMK Government that had the political will to implement it in letter and spirit.

MR CHAIRMAN: I have given you seven minutes more than the time allotted to your party. Complete your speech soon.

SHRI ADHI SANKAR: Our President in his Address to the Parliament had indicated the concern of the Government to streamline and strengthen the public distribution system. In Tamil Nadu, Monitoring Committees have been set up at various levels to distribute rice and other essential commodities through fair price shops. Advisory Committees have also been set up at every level. With the help of the Union Government and with the guidelines of the Centre, public distribution system is being managed efficiently in Tamil Nadu. We are happy to tread along with the Union Government to share the concerns of the needy and people living below the poverty line as has been set out in our President's Address.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI ADHI SANKAR: When we come to stabilisation of population, of which census is on now, the Government of Tamil Nadu has taken effective steps in line with the concern expressed by the Union Government as outlined in the President's Address. The President has also indicated about strategies like extending incentives in the population stabilisation programme. Our Tamil Nadu is already in the fore front to bring down the birth rate. Our only concern is we must not be penalised instead of being rewarded in the ensuing delimitation of constituencies of the House of the people.

While referring to Urban Development, our President in his Address had outlined the Union Government's efforts to streamline the unwieldy increase in size of our cities and towns and spelt out the need to enforce certain regulatory and restrictive measures. I would like to point out at this juncture the commendable steps that are being taken up by our Mayor of Chennai Shri M.K. Stalin to ease traffic congestion by way of constructing flyovers to make it a beautiful city -- 'Singara Chennai'. This is only to point out that our party DMK and our administration are working hand in hand with the Centre as per its plans and schemes referred to in our President's Address.

When it comes to 'Health for All', need to strengthen our public health system has been stressed in the Address by our President. On this count I would like to bring to your notice that Tamil Nadu Government has already taken massive campaigns to take health and medical facilities to the rural masses. 'Varumub Kappom' and 'Vazhvoli' schemes are already popular there in Tamil Nadu. President has also indicated that new national

health policy would be brought out soon. I would like to urge upon the Union Government to give incentives to States like Tamil Nadu as a way of rewarding them for the pioneering initiatives they have been taking in the field of extending medical facilities to the masses ensuring better health care. Now drug policy must be commensurate with the aspirations of the practitioners of various medicine systems in our country. We look forward to welcome it.

There is a boom in the ever changing IT sector. In order to keep pace with the new strides in 'Information Technology' a new Bill aimed at integrating them is to be brought out soon. President in his Address has mentioned this. I am proud to point out that Government of Tamil Nadu is making inroads in the field of Information Technology way ahead of many other States. A technological park has been set up already and a new one is in the offing. We are not lagging behind in walking along the Union Government in its endeavours spelt out in our President's Address.

Before I conclude my speech, I would like to reiterate our demands to curb militancy and terrorism from lifting its ugly head, to take up and complete Sethu Samudram project and to make our Tamil language the ancient and classical language an official language of the Union of India. With the fond hope that our righteous demands would be addressed, I thank the President for his Address and extend my support to the Motion of Thanks.

*[Translation]*

21.00 hrs.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir nan Adhi Sankar Avargalin Tamil urik yenad vaaltukkadaai terivittu Kolgiren. Avaraku yenad nandari.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Kindly speak in Hindi you have just said in Tamil.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: I congratulate and thank Adhi Sankar for speaking in Tamil....*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN: With your permission, the time of the House is extended till he completes his speech.

SOME HON'BLE MEMBERS: Yes....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI C.P. RADHAKRISHNAN: Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, we are supporting you, we wanted to extend time of the House....*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Adhi Sankar is a Shankar of Satyug but those sitting behind our are the Shankars of Kaliyug.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, we know that

[English]

The President's Address is a policy statement of the Government. The President's Address reflects the policy and programmes of the Govt. to be implemented this year. The Govt. speaks through the President about the works which is to be undertaken. Till now we have heard in this House all the learned members who spoke on this subject and also Shri Malhotra who proposed the motion of vote of thanks on the President's Address and Shri Venugopal who supported his proposal but hon. Members who proposed and seconded motion of thanks on President's Address are not present in the House. This shows the sincerity of this Govt. towards the motion of thanks on President's Address. They have put hon. Minister Shri Jatiya here and are not present themselves.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN). There are many hon. Members who would like to speak today. Tomorrow, it will be very crowded. They can speak today. We would listen to them.

MR. CHAIRMAN: If there are any hon. Members to speak today, we can extend the time of the House.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is not in accordance with the Parliamentary decordum that the mover and supporter both are not present in the House.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Tomorrow, you may not get time.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: In case the Members, who have sat up to nine o'clock, desire to speak, we should allow them to speak....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Prof. Rasa Singh, if you want, you can speak.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: This is an example of carelessness of these people and the Govt. and it also shows how much respect they have for the hon. President.

SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH: Raghuvansh Prasad ji we all people in such great number are present to hear your speech but no member of your party is present to hear you and still you are calling us careless.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Chairman Sir, hon. Member Shri Maheshwar Singh ji was thanking the Food Minister too much in his speech. I would like to inform the hon. Member Shri Maheshwarji that the NDA Govt. made two declarations in the beginning during its formation. One of them was to double the production of foodgrain within 10 years. It means that the production must increase atleast 10 percent every year. I would like to speak through you in the House that in comparison to last year the foodgrain production has decreased by 70 lakh tonnes this year and if we look at the total production then it has decreased by one crore tonne. If such situation exists, then for what you are congratulating the Govt. Total production has decreased by one crore tonne, GDP is decreasing, fiscal deficit is increasing. Looking at the economic indicator this way shows that the Govt. has failed miserably on all fronts and there's no direction for the future.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the NDA made its second declaration in its manifesto to eradicate the unemployment. You can go through the whole of President's Address and you will find that there is not a single word about removing the unemployment. Unemployment is not the problem of the country as per his version. I mean to say that it is a clear proof of govt's hollow thinking is. It is singing the song which has already been sung. There was destruction in Gujarat but what is being done for its people, what have you done for its affected people?

Today, all people came to know in the Question Hour that no provision has been made for them. Nothing has been provided for those whose houses have collapsed. Can their houses be rebuilt by distributing ten or fifteen thousand rupees relief? They say that there was destruction to the tune of Rupees 20000 crore. And we have calculated the relief of rupees 500 crore till now. In that, they say that the Prime Minister has opened the exchequer, 48 crore rupees were given by the States, 200 crore rupees by foreign countries and a total aid of 700 or 800 crore rupees has been provided. Can this help rebuilding and make up for their losses—no it can



[Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh]

not be. I see that the Govt. lacks the determination. It can not bear any disaster, destruction, national calamity. Their whole set up has collapsed. This financial situation is also in doldrums. The Finance Minister had claimed that our financial condition is strong and we will not impose any tax but the Prime Minister stated that we have to impose tax to face this problem. His management was mismanagement too. Their financial condition is such that it can not bear any national calamity.

In Gujarat, there is natural disaster while in Delhi it is Govt. disaster. Minister of Urban Development Shri Jagmohan Ji is bent up on closing all the factories. He does not describe himself as a minister in the Govt. but call himself an employee of the Supreme Court and that the Supreme Court has employed him to seal the units and we are bound to implement its order. Such an action from the Govt. will render the people jobless, they are crying for help. This Govt. have no arrangements. Every now and then they hold meetings but say that we have been authorised by the Supreme Court to implement that order.

The Minister is not ready to think as to where those poor people would go. They have no sympathy for those poor people. They are emotionless and are destroying the poor people blindly in the name of the orders of the Supreme Court.

Same is the case of foodgrains with regard to foodgrains and with regard to poor, they say that there are 6 crore families below the poverty line should we call it their ignorance on their lack of general intelligence, when they say that they would give the foodgrains at the rate of rupees two or three per kg. To the one crore families which are poorest of poor among those six crore families. They are implementing the Antyodaya scheme one of the hon'ble members Shri Maheshwar Singhji was mentioning about Antyodaya scheme. I want to say that not even a single kg. of foodgrains was distributed in the country under Annapurna scheme....(Interruptions). Do not mislead us. The announcement was made three years back. Three years have passed when this scheme was announced.

"Din gaya baras gaye yatna gayee nahi  
Rotiyan gareeb ki prathana bani rahi.  
Shyam ki bansi bajai, Ram ka Dhanush chada  
Budh ka bhi gyan badha, Nirdhanta gayee nahi."

There is poverty on the earth and a large number of people living below the poverty line in India feed themselves on the food containing 1200 calories approximately whereas they need 2500 calories. Their godowns are full of foodgrains. Where would they carry 2 lakh tonne foodgrains. Whether they would throw it into the sea, throw it into the river, but it is not even fit for consumption of the aquatic waters. The godowns of

FCI are packed with 5 crore 40 lakh tonne foodgrains, but the poor are not getting the foodgrain. No one, on earth, can be such a big enemy of the poor, as this Government is. The farmers are crying for help on the one hand, then how would they make procurement? someone may please tell us. All their godowns are full and they say that they will make procurement. They cheat the farmers. The first problem is that the farmers should get the minimum support price of their produce. Farmers are not finding the buyers, they are not getting the fair prices, minimum support price, that is why the farmers are crying. They cheat them that they would make procurement. How could they make the procurement? You have increased the prices, discontinued the PDS removed the APL and said that it would give foodgrains at the rate of rupees nine per kg. It is available in the market at the rate of rupees six per kg. And they would give at the rate of rupees nine per kg. This is the height of cheating. What name they are going to give to these fair price shops? Would they be named 'Sarkari Mahangi Galee ki dukan' or 'Manafa khor Galee ki dukan' because in market the price is rupees six and these shops are selling at rupee nine. This Government is indulging in profiteering. There was hue and cry that the prices has been reduced. It has been reduced to eight rupees and fifty paise but how much profiteering you would do? You have discontinued giving Sugar of A.P.L. 50-52 lakhs tonne of levy sugar was procured and was given for P.D.S. In order to give benefit to the mill owners you have reduced sugar from 52 lakhs tonne to 40, from 40 lakhs tonne to 30 lakhs tonnes and presently it is 15 lakhs tonne. By doing 15 lakhs tonne the 30 lakhs tonne sugar, which was under levy has become free, it means the sugar price, which was rupees 11 has gone up to rupees 16-17 per kg. Due to this the mill owners have earned a profit of rupees 5-6. They have provided 1200 crores of rupees as profit to mill owners and on the other side enhanced the expenses of the consumers by rupees 1200 crore. It is our allegation that the Government has given profit of rupees 1200 crore to the capitalists by decreasing levy and discontinuing sugar under A.P.L. you have stopped giving sugar to poor and middle class people. We are trying to stop P.D.S. Government has pressure of World Bank and W.T.O. Every thing of A.P.L. has been stopped, B.P.L. has been continued but its rates have been increased. That is why poor people are not having the capacities to purchase it. What would happen to the 180 lakhs tonne of sugar produced in the country? At last the farmers will have to suffer. The problem of sugarcane consumption has arisen. Godowns are full of foodgrains you are telling this is for the poorest amongst poor all the hon'ble members are here. Can any one tell us how the selection of one crore families out of the six crore families living below the poverty line will be done. How would you select poor amongst the poor? Can any one explain and tell? They have cheated us. If we provide food to five most hungry people out of 100 people, there could be agitation. How are they going to distribute foodgrains. You are telling that you would give to poorest person. You will distribute to 1 crore

families out of six crore families. Is it not senseless. I don't think it is ignorance.\* How would you distribute it among the people below the poverty line. This may lead to agitation. If we leave those persons, all the poor people will start fighting. How would you select five crores out of six crore families. How would you choose one crore. It means no one will listen, we know the reason for it. The Prime Minister has constituted a consultative committee in which Shri Ambani, Shri Bajaj and other capitalists are there to give suggestions. It means you are giving the keys of a house to a thief to protect it. How can a richman realise the sufferings of a poor man. A sick man can know the importance of medicines. A person who does not know the sufferings of poor. Can not know the conditions in which a poor live. How and from where will he get foodgrains? What is his earning? There is unemployment. He is not getting work. Every where there is unrest. That is why agitation has started. There was a rally in 'Gandhi Maidan' on 4th March. People from all corners of Bihar attended it. There is a saying that when 'Gandhi Maidan' is full with the people, the Central Government is shaken and when it is shaken the Central Government falls. That is why all the farmers, poor people and Dalits have united. Any agitation of farmers has started in Mumbai. In Jalandhar potatoes were placed on the Road. It was the same situation in Buland Shahar and Hapur and no one is there to care for it. Potato growers have been ruined, the growers of oil seeds, foodgrains, wheat and maize have also been ruined. The growers of paddy soyabean, Jute, Sugarcane are also in pitiable condition. There is a danger of W.T.O. also. That is why I feel the Government is following wrong policies. They don't have any affection for the farmers and villagers. Congress party has also organised a Kisan rally. Shri Malhotra ji was saying it was a flop but it was top rally. We have been uniting people throughout the country. We feel if we unite all the people we can defeat the Government in the Parliament. In Philippines the Government was defeated and there was such a big agitation that the present had to run away. Similarly Dr. Lohia and said active people cannot wait for five years. We will defeat the Government in its mid term because they are anti farmers, anti poor and anti common people. We are noticing this that everywhere there is unrest and resentment. Here in North Block the Central Secretariat service people are staging dharna and agitation. Perhaps they have pressurising the Government but the Government has not assured them. Will democracy run in such a way? There was an emperor named Farooque Shier. He was killed. This Government is also going to meet the same fate. People of the Central Secretariat Services are the persons who do the work at grass root level but there is no one to listen to them. No talks have taken place till date. Besides, the Parliamentary Committee report is in their favour but even then they are being stagnated on one post for 18 years. Report of the Pay Commission 1996 have been implemented for the higher officers and they have got 30-40 thousands of rupees

whereas the demands of the officers in lower level, who are really doing the grass root work are not being considered. No talks have taken place. Agitations are being held just before the Government even then no one is listening to them. What will happen to the problems of villagers. A democratic Government always keeps its eyes and ears open. But this Government is unaware of all these things. Hon'ble members are saying that they talk to criminals and bow down before them. How would they save the nation? Ajit Panjaji said that we have mobilised the world opinion. Taliban is....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, you have taken 20 minutes.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: I am concluding. All the fundamentalists of the world are same. We have demolished Babri Masjid and there they are destroying Buddha's idols. We have passed a resolution. They say you have demolished the Babri Masjid, that is why we are doing this in reply to it. You see how these fundamentalist are united. Then they say you remove this idol from here then we will stop destroying these Buddha idols. Whatever may be the number of fundamentalist in the world, whether they are in India or in other countries they are a blot on humanity. Mr. Ajit Panja you are sitting with the people who have demolished the Mosque. That is why Taliban are unaffected by the words of these people because they are also terrorists and fundamentalists. In Fiji Speight said that the Government of India should help them. We were stunned to hear this. Then we could understand that the people of B.J.P. raising the issue of origin, issue of caste and religion that is why they have raised the issue regarding Sonia Gandhiji. That is why Mr. Speight raised the issue of origin, therefore the fundamentalists of Fiji and that of India are of the same nature. Similarly the fundamentalism of India and Taliban are enemy of humanity, whether they are the destroyer of old mosque or Buddha idols. That is why it is my request that all the humanists must unite. Persons who are the enemies of humanity and unity must be criticised. Then only India can hold its head high. How can the Talibans hear you. So we should come forward to save humanity.

Mr. Speaker. Sir the 2600th birth anniversary of lord Mahavira is being celebrated. Jatiyaji had participated in it. He has given the message of non-violence, brotherhood and live and let other live. This message was spread from India to all over the world some 2600 years back. We demand that on this occasion 2600 villages of Vaishali, where he was born, must be made model villages. I demand this from the Government.

This Government has failed on all fronts. In the President's Address the programmes likely to be taken by the Government in the next year have not been

\* Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

[Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh]

mentioned. They don't have any further programmes. They just go on telling that they would construct temple there on the same place. Besides this programme they don't have any programmes for the welfare of the public, alleviation of poverty, and removal of corruption. What has happened to Lok-Pal Bill why it is not being introduced \*

That is why they are hesitating to introduce the Lok Pal Bill.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude. You have taken 25 minutes....(Interruptions)

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA: Sir, you have to stop him. Otherwise, he will say that the entire Ministers are corrupt

MR. CHAIRMAN: Do you mean to say the present ministers?

Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, you can not make wild allegations.

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA: It is not correct.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I expunge that portion.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: The fate of the Women Reservation Bill is also the same. Unless and until you give their due share to tribal women, poor women and women belonging to the minorities, there is no use of bringing Women Reservation Bill. It is just an eye wash. There is a mention of Women Reservation Bill in the President's Address. He said consensus should be there. We want to thank for this proposal but I urge upon the House to pass our amendment. Seven members of Parliament belonging to Bihar have given representation to the President.

We could not get our share of 10,000 crores of rupees in the 7th, 8th and 9th five year plans and rupees 10000 crores are due on Bihar....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now. Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, what can I do.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Hari Shankar Mahale, Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, I have given the floor to him please conclude....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: So waive 10,000 crore and keeping in view the economic condition of the Bihar kindly give status of special State to Bihar. Then only Bihar can be saved....(Interruptions)...BALCO is being sold in Chattisgarh. Not a single reply has been given by the Government....(Interruptions)... Why the Government are scared of the enquiry? Goods worth rupees 5000 crore, belonging to BALCO were sold away for rupees 500 crore. That is how the Government is engaged in selling the country but we will not allow them to sell...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: As far as allegations against the Ministers are concerned, I will expunge them, suddenly, no one can make an allegation. He has to substantiate it....(Interruptions)

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA: Sir, I am obliged.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: We all in the opposition will unite and save the country. In order to uplift the poor farmers, villagers we will defeat the Government by doing agitation and then we can have a Government who is pro farmer and then India will strive forward. With these words I conclude.

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE (Malegaon): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to express my thanks to the President's Address. The question of border problem of Maharashtra is still unsolved. Marathi speaking people are residing in Hubli, Kalbad Belgam of Karnataka. They always speak Marathi language. The people of that area want that the area should be merged in Maharashtra but no decision in this regard has been taken till now. The Central Government has to consider in this regard. Through you, I would like to request the Government to solve this problem at the earliest.

Many people have spoken in regard to 'BALCO'. Injustice is being done to tribal people. The tribal people and backward class people have to suffer the ill effects of privatisation because they will not get the jobs. Very few people get Government jobs, but due to privatisation and disinvestment the tribal people and backward class community will be left jobless because the original Indian are tribal people but these people have to suffer a lot. Law is made for just name sake because we don't get electricity, telephone and land for schools, and for constructing ponds. It takes more than 10 years for sanctioning a scheme. Initially the cost of the scheme is estimated to be rupees 2 crore but their cost escalates to rupees 10-20 crore till the scheme is sanctioned as a result thereof the developmental activities are hindered. Therefore, I urge upon the Central Government through you that the law should be relaxed and the Government should concentrate on the developmental activities.

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\* Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

People often speak on reservation but our demand to the Government is that reservation should be provided to the tribal people and minorities. Government should also think about solving the problem of unemployment. While speaking about the bad condition of the farmers just now Shri Raghuvansh Babu has spoken that the economic condition of most of the farmers is very poor. 60% of the population of the country is farmer. The farmers of Punjab have not committed suicide but last year some farmers have committed suicide. That is why Government need to improve the Agriculture policy. For the generation of power in Maharashtra Enron company is there. Government of India has given counter guarantee to this company. Barring the Defence Department the entire country has been mortgaged. I therefore, request the Government to cancel the agreement with Enron Company and throw this company out of India.

Mr. Chairman Sir, Mother land is greater than heaven. All the people should live happily in the country and it is the duty of every Indian to fulfil this objective. Recently India has won a war but it is lagging behind in winning the internal war which is going on in the country. The issue of Ramjanam Bhoomi is just like a war. India has declared ceasefire three four times. Government of India should not act like this. Nothing is going to be achieved by declaring ceasefire. Through the acts like this it is giving protection to terrorists. This is not appropriate. There is a saying in Marathi "Malayades Kachaji langoti Khatya Lala maru Khathi" which means leave away dhoti for the gentle man but for wickedman it is essential to beat them with stick. For Pakistan this treatment is essential. Mr. Bill Clinton came to India and went back saying bye-bye but what he has done for India. He stayed in India for eight days but he did nothing for the country. Same thing happens with China. China claims Tibet is a part of its territory and India claims that it is her part. But the people of other countries admit that it is a part of China. It is not fair on the part of such countries to say like this. We should think about it. India should not give an inch of land to China.

Secondly, the President of Russia visited India. We have old friendship with them. They have given something or the other to India. For that India should thank them. They have entered into some very good agreements with us. I thank Russia for entering into an agreement with India. I have respect for the Vajpayee Government but Ramjanam Bhoomi is a national issue. It is not appropriate to talk about it. Whenever Mahatma Gandhi raised a national issue he was sent to Jail and he was given severe punishment. But when Shri Lalkrishna Advaniji, Joshiji raises any national issue then why do they scare to go to Jail. This is not appropriate. It is not fair on the part of the party leaders to say such thing and spread casteism.

Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me maximum time to speak on the President's Address.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Some words used by the hon. Member Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh during his speech are unparliamentary. Hence I am expunging them from the records.

Hon. Member Shri Sansuma Khunggur Bwiswmuthiary to speak now

[Translation]

21.36 hrs.

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY (Kokrajhar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me the time to speak on the discussion on motion of thanks to the President's Address. In this connection, I would like to repeat with a sense of great sorrow and all seriousness that the Hon'ble President of India while addressing both the Houses of Parliament in the Central Hall on 9th February, did not make a mention of the policy for solving the problems of crores of the tribals of the country in the manner in which it was expected to have been addressed. I would specifically like to mention that the new Government of the country constituted three new States 30 years after the year 1971-72. The newly constituted States are Uttaranchal from Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand from Bihar and Chhatisgarh from Madhya Pradesh. But, the movement for demanding separate States was going on not only in these three States but in other regions of the country also. An agitation for a separate State of Bad land was going on in northern area of Assam. An agitation for Kamtapur in North Bengal and for Gorkhaland in Gorkha area were also going on. In the same way, an agitation for Vidarbha in Maharashtra and for Telengana in Andhra Pradesh is going on. In addition to it, there is agitation for Bundelkhand, Purvanchal and Panchal Pradesh in Uttar Pradesh. There are agitations in other places also. But Bhartiya Janta Party did not accept the demands of the eastern States despite its policy of smaller States. They are not ready to constitute other States except in the cases of Uttaranchal, Jharkhand and Chhatisgarh.

[English]

It is a matter of serious concern for deserving people that if the BJP is very much committed to the completion of creation of more number of smaller States in the country why are they so reluctant to the genuine and long-standing demand being raised by the people of Bodoland, by the people of Gorkhaland area, by the people of Telangana region, by the people of Vidarbha region, by the people of Panchal region and so on and so forth? So, I would like to request that the Government of India should immediately take a very positive and effective policy decision to create more number of new States in India including Bodoland, Gorkhaland, Telangana, Panchal and Vidarbha and so on and so forth in the best interest of ensuring all round growth and development within those regions.

[Shri Sansuma Khunggur Bwiswmuthiary]

Here, I would like to mention certain serious points which have not been mentioned at all in the President's Address. He has not mentioned anything about the protection of the tribal lands and about the restoration of alienated tribal lands. So, I would appeal to the Government of India to create a separate National Scheduled Tribes Development Authority, which has to be headed by the Prime Minister himself. All the tribal Members of Parliament should be the members of that National Scheduled Tribes Development Authority, and their rank and status should be either of a Deputy Minister or of a Minister of State. This National Scheduled Tribes Development Authority itself should formulate the tribal development policies and should prepare the Budget for undertaking tribal welfare programmes, tribal development projects and schemes etc., all over the country.

Apart from all these points which I have mentioned, I would like to mention some more points in the form of demands. Bodo is a very ancient and rich language. This language should have been given national status under the provisions of the Indian Constitution. But, over the last 53 years of Independence, this language has not been accorded national status under the provisions of Eighth Schedule of the Constitution. So, I would appeal to the Government of India, to take a very concrete and positive policy decision to include Bodo language in the Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution without any further delay.

Apart from all these points, I would like to appeal to the Government of India to create more number of autonomous districts under Sixth Schedule of the Constitution, in the southern bank of River Brahmaputra, and to include Bodokacharis living in North Kachar Hills and Karbi Anglong autonomous district in the Scheduled Tribe Hills List.

Further, I would appeal to the Government of India to revoke the proposal of Pagladia Dam Project which poses a great danger to the overall interest of the local people. It has been proposed by the Government of India to establish that Dam at the cost of the interest of indigenous tribal people. If that Dam is constructed, about 26 villages will be uprooted. We are strongly opposed to that move.

[Translation]

Moreover, there should be a Central University Engineering College, Medical College, Central Agriculture University and some I.T.s for the people of Bodo land area. Besides some Polytech Institutes there should be an Indian Institute of Technology also. If such big educational institutions can be set up in Delhi, Chennai, Kolkata and Bangalore, then why can't these be set up in Bodo land.

[English]

If the Government can set up these institutions at other places, then, why not in Bodo area.

[Translation]

Out of the total amount earmarked for annual plan for every Ministry and Department in the central budget, at least 10 percent should be fixed for the development of the tribal people. This amount should be earmarked in the name of National Tribal Development Fund. The amount given for the development of tribal people by the Central Government is not properly utilized. The amount required to be spent on them is not incurred accordingly. The Central Government should prepare good plans for the development of tribal people.

Moreover, the population of tribal people is also increasing. So, keeping in view the increase in population, their reservation quota in Government jobs should be increased from 7.5 percent to 12 percent. In 1995, the Supreme Court had issued an order by which the promotions of tribal people were stopped. The Central Government should fill up the posts immediately.

[English]

Despite the commitments made by the hon'ble Prime Minister, nothing has been done in this regard.

[Translation]

In Bodo land, drinking water is not being supplied. There is no infrastructure for this. There are no roads. There is no medical facility and health services. No arrangements have been made for higher education.

[English]

There is no medical college, there is no engineering college, there is no university, and there is nothing of this sort. We have been neglected very badly for the last 53 years after Independence by the successive State Governments of Assam and even by the Government of India. We also boast of ourselves being people of this great country — India. Why can you can not accord equitable justice to the people living in the plains, to the Bodoland people of Assam, to the tribal people of the whole country. We want to live in India as dignified Indian citizens along with our distinct, ethnic self-identities and with the political right of self-determination within the Indian Union. In the long run, I would like to appeal to the Government of India to take a positive, concrete and effective policy decision to create more number of new States in India including Bodoland, Gorkhaland, Telangana, Vidarbha, Panchal, Bundelkhand and so on and so forth, on the lines of Uttranchal, Jharkhand, and Chhatisgarh to ensure all round growth and development of those regions and to bring them at par with the rest of the country.

21.48 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, March 8, 2001/Phalguna 17, 1922 (Saka)*

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