

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Ninth Session
(Thirteenth Lok Sabha)



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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Monday, May 13, 2002/Vaisakha 23, 1924 (Saka)

(The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock)

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is 13th of May today and 50th anniversary of the Parliament. This occasion should be celebrated by the Government in a grand manner. We are MPs and you are the Speaker, but the Government are taking it lightly as they have only decided to release a stamp to mark the occasion...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I would like to speak on the issue.

11.01 hrs.

REFERENCE BY SPEAKER

**Re: 50th Anniversary of the
Parliament of India**

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon'ble Members, today is a day of very special significance to our country, especially for us the Parliamentarians. It was on this day, fifty years ago, the People's representatives, elected through the First-General Elections in Independent India's history, met in this historic chamber under one of our most distinguished Speakers, Dada Saheb G.V. Mavalankar. That day marked the culmination of the first stage of institution-building for free India, a process we had set in motion with the first sitting of the Constituent Assembly on 9 December 1946.

Today, it is an occasion for all of us to attempt an introspection and stock-taking of the first half a century of our parliamentary democracy. The past fifty years have witnessed our country establishing itself as a strong democracy making rapid strides on various fronts. We can be legitimately proud of the socio-economic progress, and the political stability we have been able to achieve through our successive Parliaments over the past five decades. Throughout these eventful decades, this historic chamber has been witness to selfless leaders articulating

and addressing the grievances of our vast and diverse population. It is the one place where our diversities merged and out of it emerged the united identity of our country.

It is also an occasion to pay our respectful homage to the Father of Nation, Mahatma Gandhi, Dr. Baba Sahib Ambedkar and other Founding Fathers of our Republic for whom sacrifice in the service of the nation was too big and because of whom we could lead a free and dignified existence all these years. It is thanks to the dedication and commitment of such selfless leaders the sacrifices of many unknown soldiers in the national cause and the unqualified support of our people at large that we are in position to pride ourselves has the largest democracy in the world today.

Hon'ble Members our democratic institutions have stood the test of time. Our Parliament today stands tall and proud to remind ourselves of the primacy of our people in the political order that we chose in the wake of Freedom. At the same time, it is imperative that we further safeguard and strengthen our democracy and democratic institutions. We all need to remind ourselves, time and again, that democracy is a system based on dialogue and debate. Democracy can thrive only if everyone involved demonstrates a good degree of the spirit of tolerance and an unwavering commitment to submit oneself to the norms of parliamentary discipline and decorum. In a representative democracy, the Parliament is expected to function as a role model for other institutions and the country at large.

As elected representatives of the people, we all need to recognise that our diversities are our sources of strength. There should not be any room for any divisive agenda in our political landscape. Democracy is about the art of co-existence. We should realise that no purpose is realised through violence and hatred. Our own tested path of the past, the patty of non-violence that inspired and guided our Freedom Movement, has not lost its relevance for our country, nay the world, today.

As Members of the Parliament of our great country, we all have a common cause and that is the maximum welfare of all our people, the people of different persuasions and beliefs.

Socio-economic emancipation of millions of our countrymen still remains as our unfinished task. Let us all unite in the pursuit of such noble and worthwhile causes, and strive further to consolidate the achievements of the last five decades.

Hon'ble Members with this realisation, let us all rededicate ourselves to the service of our country, so that India of the next fifty years shall be more strong, prosperous and emotionally integrated.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government should be asked to celebrate the occasion in a grand manner.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to make a submission in this regard. I regret that this issue is being raised time and again. The Golden Jubilee Celebration of the Parliament should have been organised by the Parliament itself. Unfortunately, we did not have a Speaker earlier, now you have assumed the office. You may formulate programmes to mark the golden jubilee of the Parliament, the Government will cooperate to the fullest extent. But it does not seem proper that the Government organise the golden jubilee celebration of the Parliament. The Parliament is greater than the Government. Government will provide full assistance. Golden Jubilee should be celebrated by you and it is not proper to find fault with the Government on this account.

MR. SPEAKER: I agree with the view of Shri Pramod Mahajan. I assure the House that next year the Golden Jubilee celebrations would take place on my behalf, on Parliament's behalf and on behalf on Lok Sabha.

11.09 hrs.

ORAL ANSWER TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Amendment in Industrial Disputes and Contract Labour Acts

+

*661. SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA:
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the move to amend the industrial disputes and Contract Labour Acts has been strongly criticised by various Trade Unions;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have consulted the TUs before making any amendments in the Labour laws;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons thereof and the details of the further strategy formulated to reconsider the amendments in consultation with the TUs?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) Central Trade Union Organisations have observed 14th March, 2002 as National Protest Day. The Central Trade Union Organisations, affiliated to AITUC, BMS, CITU, HMS, UTUC (LS), UTUC, TUCC jointly announced their resolve to observe strike on 16th April, 2002 in the Central Public Sector Undertakings, Financial Institutions including banks, insurance, ports and docks on the Government's proposals for labour reform.

(c) to (e) Amendments in labour laws is a continuous process and involves consultation with the tripartite partners and takes time. The amendment proposals in Industrial Disputes Act have been discussed from time to time in various platforms. To examine the new Industrial Relations Law, a Tripartite Committee was constituted under the chairmanship of Late Shri G. Ramanujam, the then President of INTUC and subsequently a Bipartite Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. Shanti Patel, President of HMS, was constituted for examination. These Committees had representatives from Central Trade Union Organisations. The question of enacting a new Industrial Relations Law was also discussed in the 31st Session of the Standing Labour Committee held in July, 1992 and also in the 33rd Session of Indian Labour Conference in October, 1996.

The views of the representatives of the Central Trade Union Organisations such as BMS, INTUC, NFITU, CITU, HMS, AITUC, UTUC (LS), UTUC etc. on the amendment needed to the Contract Labour (Regulation & Abolition) Act, 1970 was elicited in a meeting held with them on 04.09.2000.

Government is fully aware of the views of the Central Trade Union organizations in regard to the amendments and these have been duly considered.

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, whether Government have talked to trade unions attached

to AITUC, BMS, CITU, HMS, UTUC (LS), UTUC, TUCC in view of their strike on 14th March against the new Industrial Disputes and Contract Labour Act.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, my second question is whether Government would implement the recommendations of the two committees constituted under the Chairmanship of Shri G. Ramanujam and Dr. Shanti Patel for solution to problem of Labour organisations in toto?

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is my good fortune, that if our Speakership, the first question is being asked from me. Through you, I would like to say that I am aware that 'Virodh Diwas' was observed on 14th March, and the Labour organisations named by the hon. Member had given strike call throughout the country against the proposed changes in the law. As far as the committees under Dr. Shanti Patel and Dr. G. Ramanujam are concerned the recommendations of the former has not been received while that of the latter, which was constituted earlier, have been received by the Government and the follow up action is being taken.

SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the reply of the hon. Minister is not correct. I would like to know whether he will talk with those organisations or not and also whether the new laws would enable the multinational companies to expand their reach in India?

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the talks with trade unions is an on going process and every Government talks with them. Ramanujam committee was set up in 1990 to consider the I.D. Act. Thereafter, Dr. Shanti Patel Committee was constituted in 1996 after having consultations with them. It was also considered by Group of Ministers in 1992. Thereafter it was also discussed in 1999 in the Labour Conference. Thereafter it was discussed with Employees Organisations of Central Trade Union in 1992 and their views were agreed in toto in the meeting held on 4th May, 2000.

Subsequently in 2002 the hon. Prime Minister convened the meeting of all the Trade Unions and once again all these things were debated in Labour Conference on 18th and 19th May. In this way we have been in touch with Trade Unions.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are 52 boards over here and all boards are formed in consultation with all trade union leaders. We are constantly in touch with each other. Our Ministry ascertain their view in every matter. Therefore, we are constantly in touch with each other.

As to what hon'ble Member was saying about interaction with them, it is not only being done by our

Government, but earlier Governments have also done the same and we are constantly in touch with each other.

SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister is deviating from the context, he is not giving the clear reply. I would like to know whether you will start fresh discussions with these organisations or not?

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have already told that the discussion is going on.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, you said it.

[English]

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am feeling elated that under your stewardship, for the first time I am asking a supplementary question.

[Translation]

I would like to submit that the statement given by the hon. Minister is totally ambiguous and is not related to the main question. You were asked whether the move to amend the industrial disputes and contract Labour. Acts has been criticised by the Boards of various Trade Unions. You have said that it has been discussed at various platforms. Secondly you were asked whether the Government will consult the Trade Unions or not before making any amendments in the Labour Laws. You have said that their opinion is being taken.

But nobody asked you about the date of Bandh and the name of the Trade Union who joined the Bandh call. In 37th Labour Conference, the Prime Minister had given a statement that the Government will continue its reforms programme, it has created apprehension in the minds of all labourers and workers in India. There is a provision of outsourcing the contract labour in the limit of 600. The Government has also started saying that the trade unions are blackmailing the owners and employers. You yourself said during the discussion in the Standing Committee on Labour that there is more social security in economically powerful countries so the labour reforms can be brought only in the economically powerful countries but there is no such social security in India. Therefore, it is difficult to implement labour reforms over here. I would like to know whether you will hold discussion with trade unions, when the issue of labour reforms will be raised and whether you will bring any mandatory provision for holding consultation with the trade unions?

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member says that my reply is ambiguous. I have clearly stated in detail what the hon. Member have asked.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: It has not been asked where the Bandh was organised and where not.

MR. SPEAKER: Let him reply.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: I have told about the dates of discussion after the Bandh and definitely through you I said, I have had meeting with the Labour Union Leaders for 24 hours. In the meeting, we were not holding discussion on music.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: There is a great difference between consultation and holding discussion. You yourself said that India is not an appropriate place to implement labour reforms...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: Whether you will listen to me? At least listen to the reply of question you have asked.

Secondly, I would like to clarify that I have not said that there is no social security in developing countries. I did not said so, please correct it. I said that there is a strong social security network in Asian countries also particularly, there is a hurdle in implementing labour reforms thereby affecting the development of industries in India to overcome this hurdle, we have to strengthen our social security umbrella. This was the complete statement. You have said that we had a meeting with trade union people, the Prime Minister had met them and all these things are being discussed. The new economic regime of the country is challenge for the entire world and it is also a challenge for our country. To meet this challenge, we have to increase the industrial growth, employment opportunities in the country and side by side we have to provide protection to the workers of this country. Keeping in view, all these things we have to make progress in totality. For this, I have just said, that Cabinet has agreed in principle for I.D. Act. Your doubt should definitely be cleared because Government is very conscious in this matter. You may be little more concerned, but we too are concerned. We are also concerned about the labour rights, which they have got after many years of struggle should also be protected. Their jobs should be protected and we have to survive in competitive regime by focusing our mind on the changes taking place in the entire country and the world. Therefore, nothing can be sorted out without holding a dialogue.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is a democracy over here, there is a rule of people. There is no dictatorship over here...(Interruptions)

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: The laws being enacted by the Government are based on the system of hire and fire...(Interruptions)

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as has been asked and the hon. Minister has also said that the amendment proposals in Industrial Dispute Act and Contract Labour Act have been discussed with various trade union organisations. I would like to know from the hon. Minister about the dates on which the discussion with these trade unions taken place. During the last four-six months and the amendments which the Government have decided to bring and whether the Trade Unions have agreed or disagreed on those amendment proposals and secondly I want to know about the time by which amendment in these two Acts are likely to be incorporated?

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have said in the very beginning that no date can be fixed in this regard because this is a very difficult question. This question relates to approximately 13 crore people in the country. The Government is definitely serious about it. The Prime Minister himself has said, that he will discuss it with the opposition parties. The alliance partners of the Government of National Democratic Alliance have said that whenever this is brought up, it should be brought only after holding discussion with us. As it is still under consideration, therefore, I cannot say by when it will be brought in the House for making it a legislation.

[English]

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: It was reported three days back that the Standing Committee on Labour discussed these issues and the all India trade unions have also expressed their views. The major question regarding these labour laws is the question of security of service. I am sure that the Minister is also aware that the security of service provided by the Industrial Disputes Act is the result of a long drawn out struggle by the Indian working class. They have been provided security of service if an employee is in service continuously for a period of 180 days. The cornerstone of the Industrial Disputes Act is that he gets an idea of his service.

Contract labour is otherwise. Contract labour is the negative of this security of service. It is for a particular period; then all relations cease to exist. This is the major question. All the trade unions are opposed to this prospect. Will the Minister be pleased to state whether

the Chamber of Commerce people have approached the Government for changing the Industrial Disputes Act and especially the provision regarding the disputes to dismissal. Because they want people to be employed for salaries at their will and pleasure. This is an off-shoot of globalisation.

MR. SPEAKER: Your question has reached him already.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Since the multinational companies are being allowed to come here, they will have to observe these laws. They want people whose services could be terminated at their own will and pleasure. What is the attitude of this Government? I would like to know whether the Government will be required to have an open discussion, bring the leaders of all Indian trade unions before the Bill is brought to this House.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, whatever Shri Radhakrishnanji said is right. Certainly the meeting of the standing committee on labour was held. He is saying it right that in the meeting the leaders of the trade unions had criticized in regard to the ID Act and contract labour act. INTUC is of the opinion that they are against any kind of amendment in it. However, it will not do. Earlier also there was a provision for the closure of 300 people instead of 100. Certainly the world has changed. We have to stay and live in this world. But hon. Member is absolutely right that all the trade union leaders criticized us.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the question asked by the hon. Member is not covered in the original question. But the hon. Member remained engrossed in it. Whatever he has said regarding the worker's welfare is certainly in our Notice. I can only say this much in the House that the debate is still going on it in the House. No consensus has been evolved among the group of Ministers over the Contract Labour Act. Though the Cabinet has agreed in principle on the I.D. Act. Any law pertaining to this will be brought through this House. All the necessary exercise in this regard will be done by this House. There is no way out besides it. It will only get passed through the House. The Government is equally concerned about workers as the hon. Member is. Any further step will only be taken by taking in view the interest of the workers, industry and the development prospect of the country besides keeping in view the demand of the time.

MR. SPEAKER: Industry Minister, hon. Member Radhakrishnan ji was asking a question that will the

discussion be held with the worker's union before introducing the Bill? You have not replied it. I would like to know its reply.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Prime Minister has held a discussion in this regard. I am also there with him at that time. Complete discussion has been held. A little bit of work is being done. We do keep on discussing.

MR. SPEAKER: It means that the discussion won't be held with them again.

[*English*]

SHRI K. MALAISAMY: Sir, the Industrial Disputes Act, the labour laws and even the Trade Unions Act have been in existence for decades and both the management and the trade unions are used to them. Now, overnight, you have brought a move to amend these laws leading to a great handicap to the trade unions and the labour at large, with the result it looks to be anti-labour. In the light of the strong protest, in the light of the *hortal* and in the light of opposition from all the trade unions and others, would you mind to have a total relook or would you give it up once for all in the light of strong protest and opposition?

[*Translation*]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Member is saying that we have brought it overnight, it is not true. We have not brought it overnight. The discussion is going on. We are still in a fix. Hon. Member is saying that we have fallen flat-it is not so. Talks are going on...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI K. MALAISAMY: Once for all...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: How can this be said. All the amendments made right now have been done by Lok Sabha and have been passed in Lok Sabha. Some of those have been passed in this session only. Some laws are just adding glamour to the book and are not serving any purpose. Right now the trade union Act was passed by the House, Workers Compensation Act and Cine workers Act have also been amended in the current session. Tea Plantation. Workers Act was also repealed by the House. It is a continuous process. A lot of concern has been expressed regarding the ID Act and it is not that you alone are concerned about it. The trade unions,

political parties of the entire country and I myself are concerned about it. The discussion on the Bill is going on right now.

[English]

SHRI K. MALAISAMY: Sir, the Labour Minister is meant for the welfare and protection of the interests of the labourers and he should fight for the labourers. But he is acting against the labourers.

MR. SPEAKER: He has already replied to your question.

[Translation]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, it is a very important subject and we have no doubt on the intention of the hon. Minister. We want to see as to what the Government is going to do and whatever I am saying here or outside is being said with the intent that the industries in our country may flourish and the labourers may get assistance and the people of our country may get relief. The question being raised here pertains to the amendments in Industrial Disputes Act and Contract Labour Act. As per the Industrial Disputes Act, no industrialist can declare its unit lock out without the permission of Government if it engages more than 100 labourers.

However, in the budget speech hon. Finance Minister said that the figure of 100 will be replaced by 1000. It is absolutely right to say that it is very important in context of the new and changing world but what is happening in today's world? Today less manpower is engaged in the factories. Owing to the inception of new technology and increased mechanization fewer number of people are required to do more and more work. This should also be kept in mind. If the figure of 100 is increased to 1000 then it is also very necessary to keep in mind about its impact on the labourers working in the factories. Perhaps the Government has not paid any attention towards it.

We know that 1000 persons work in more than 60-70 percent of factories. This decision is not going to give any relief to the labourers working in those factories. The Contract Labour Act also propose to carryout privatisation and Government are making the provisions of contract labour under it in which the 'principle of hire and fire' will be applied time and again. It is not compulsory to accept the hire and fire policy to promote industries and this has been proved beyond doubt by Japan where hire and fire is not in vogue. A labour joining a factory once is kept on work for good. It does not matter if he does not work at a particular place. It is also necessary to keep it in view. Everyone, including

the Members belonging to the ruling as well as opposition party and me also are saying that if the proposed amendments in laws are carried out without studying it in detail, it will result in a lot of losses. I want this assurance from the Government that the hon. Minister will put forth this opinion forcefully before the Cabinet. It could also lead to the improvement in the decision and opinion of the Cabinet. However, I request that this should be done in a blended manner by accommodating the opinion of all so as to assure us. Would you assure us in the way?

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Shivraj Patil ji has raised two-three points right now. One thing he has said is that the decision of increasing the number of workers from 100 to 1000 as mentioned by the hon. Finance Minister in his speech, should be implemented after holding consultation with all. I would like to say that the Cabinet has not accepted the suggestion of increasing the number from 100 to 1000 given by the hon. Finance Minister during his budget speech. Cabinet passed it in principle. It means that the issue of number was not fixed. It was his suggestion.

Second question he asked is about contract labour Act. No discussion on contract labour Act has so far been held in the Group of Ministers. The suggestion to amend the labour laws was received from two states only. The suggestion from Maharashtra was that this number should be increased from 100 to 300. We have sent this to them. Secondly, Andhra Pradesh has declined to accept the ceiling of 1000. This is his suggestion, which is pending with us. This has not been discussed so far in the group of Ministers. The hon. Prime Minister has very clearly said that Labour Laws would be changed only after making consultation with the opposition. I know that INTUC President Shri Sanjeev Reddy was not present in the recent strike. I talked to him. His views are very constructive and he said that discussion should be held on this and we should find a way out with an open mind.

Regarding the questions asked by hon. Shivraj Patil ji, I, through you, would like to say two-three things in this regard. The hon. Prime Minister, as also the entire NDA is concerned about it and they feel that this issue relates to a substantial part of the population of India as also the employment problem here. Therefore, it cannot be introduced without proper deliberations. Deliberations are going on this.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Thanks.

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Thanks, hon. Speaker. I am happy to say that I have been given a

chance to ask question on the very first day of your assuming the office. Coincidentally, my question is regarding the trade union to which I am associated. Last year, the Ministry of Finance called a meeting of Trade Union Leaders, representatives of various associations regarding privatisation and dis-investment. A good discussion was held and we also reached to good results. Repeatedly questions were raised here, meetings were held and committees were also appointed. But now dis-investment and privatisation have taken place and the views of trade unions are different in the present times. The Government are going to introduce a new law in the House so as to bring changes last year many trade unions got organised in Maharashtra and on 25th May held a meeting and organised a bandh in Maharashtra, in the month of the March, this year people organised a bandh in the entire country...(Interruptions) This matter relates to the owner and the trade union...(Interruptions). All our Laws apply on both of them. And therefore, if a meeting is held before introduction of any law, all people would express their views on it...(Interruptions) Sir, I would like to ask one more question.

MR. SPEAKER: You can ask only one question.

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: This matter is related to the Trade Union Act, so kindly give me a minute to speak.

The Trade Union Act has been changed, but the suggestions made by us viz. the tenure of each of the elected organisation from Gram Panchayat to Lok Sabha, which would be agreed by everyone, this is done for five years but while making changes in the Trade Unions Act, the alternate year was done to three years. This suggestion was not acceded to...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: All the Trade Unions of the country including CITU, H.M.S., INTUC etc. gave the suggestions with regard to the changes to be introduced in the Labour Laws. People running industries, i.e. the industry owners gave 15 suggestions. I know all those suggestions. For how many times should I talk to them. I have all their suggestions....(Interruptions)

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: It would have been more beneficial, had we talked face to face.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: He is very right in saying that Maharashtra witnessed the first 'bandh' in connection with Labour Laws. Even recently the members of all Trade Unions organised 'bandh', as mentioned by myself. I have stated everything clearly regarding the apprehensions. The concern expressed by the hon. Members is also the

concern of the Government. I can assure them to this extent only.

[English]

Commercialisation of Technologies and Training

*663. SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Board of Management and Research Advisory Council of IARI had approved in May, 1997 the commercialisation of products, technologies, services and training so as to provide a competitive edge as well as economic advantage for sustaining and enlarging the research efforts;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereon?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) The Board of Management in its 69th Meeting held on 11.9.1996 approved the commercialization of IARI products and technologies (Agenda Item No. 4). These were earlier recommended by the Research Advisory Committee of IARI held on February 15, 1996 (Agenda Item No. 6) for commercialization with the view to review the monetary gains to the Institute out of commercialization. The activities of commercialization include products, technologies, services, consultancies sponsored research and training. Committee suggested that the following areas of research could be commercialized.

- Development of hybrids and production of hybrid seeds
- Production of biofertilizers
- Micro propagation techniques
- Development of vegetables and horticultural products
- Formulation of biopesticides and pesticides both for national and international markets
- Designing and production of farm machinery

It was also suggested by the committee that IARI should continuously explore areas for earning revenue from sources other than governmental and while undertaking above activities, research activities at the institute must not be allowed to suffer in any case and appropriate linkages must be established with the private sector.

The Minutes of the 69th meeting regarding commercialization of technologies were confirmed during the 70th Board of Management meeting held on 10.2.1997.

(c) The commercialization of products, technologies and services help the institute in generation of resources which helps the institute for strengthening of better infrastructure facilities and augmentation of research activities for the benefit of the farming community.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Question No. 663 and 671 are almost similar, they may kindly be clubbed.

MR. SPEAKER. There is some basic difference in both the questions and so, I cannot give permission to it. Please ask the question alongwith this one.

SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI: Hon. Mr. Speaker, Sir, the answer placed by the hon. Minister on the Table does not provide complete details because the report of the Indian Agriculture Research Institute and Research Advisory Committee presented after the meetings held on 11.9.1996 and February 1996, does not clearly mention about the steps taken for the welfare of farmers. I do feel that the Indian Agricultural Research Institute has given a great contribution in bringing 'green revolution' in the country. The hon. Minister may kindly state as to what benefit would be given to farmers and directly to small farmers with the proposals for commercialisation?

SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV: Sir, the hon. Member has mentioned about the meetings of 11.9.1996 and 15th February, 1996 in the details placed on the Table. All facts have been mentioned in it. viz., we are proceeding towards commercialisation, the products included, technology applied, services to be given, consultancy to be provided, sponsored research to be undertaken, training etc. all have been clearly mentioned. There are six points through which we are proceeding towards commercialisation. Secondly, in our country small and marginal farmers are more in number, 78 per cent of the entire cultivable area is a holding and that is why whenever we make any experiment or evolve any policy on behalf of the Government, we definitely keep in mind the interest of these small and marginal farmers. In all

our efforts, we genuinely wish that they should be benefited to the maximum and our policies as also work may revolve around them.

SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI: Hon'ble Minister is not clearly stating in his reply the target envisaged in that committee report to provide benefits to the farmers. There is an apprehension that the commercialization, use of hybrid seeds for vegetable and horticulture production and Micro Propagation techniques may lead to the price hike of seeds and that the multi-national companies will take the full benefit from this scheme and small farmers may remain deprived of it. Will the hon'ble Minister clear my doubts in this regard?

SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV: Regarding commercialization, hon'ble Member and the House should be aware of the fact that on one hand the outcome of the researches is used to develop the fertilizers, pesticides and weedicides etc. and on the other hand it helps farmer community to avail of its benefits. If any production unit seeks the technologies which we develop through researches, we would definitely sell those techniques to them. Small farmers will not suffer any losses if the benefit of research work undertaken in Krishi Vigyan Kendras, 'Kisan Melas' or Indian Council of Agricultural Research on various crops, vegetables and fruits is given through training or through procurement centres rather the growers show interest in buying the technology. The only difference would be that Government Institute will compete and surpass the private companies and the benefit accrued from selling the techniques developed through researches would be invested in research work and for the welfare of the Institute.

SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI: Hon'ble Minister may kindly mention the places where 'Kisan Melas' have been organised, the work done in these Melas, the techniques propagated and the benefit accrued to the farmers through it?

SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV: Kisan Melas are not organised at one place. Approximately 400-500 Krishi Vigyan Kendras, 90-95 research centres of Indian Council and several agricultural universities are functioning in the country. They all organise 'Kisan Melas' in all parts of the country. Therefore, it is not possible to mention the number of Melas and benefit accrued to the farmers, just now. If Hon'ble Member wants the information, he may give in writing and complete information will be sent to him in this regard. Just now, it is not possible to furnish the details, however, I would like to mention that the works undertaken by the Indian Council of Agriculture, Agriculture Universities and Krishi Vigyan Kendras are benefiting the farmers a lot.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Minister is very much concerned about farmers and he should be. As per the report of C.A.G. given in 2001, I.A.R.I. should get the approval from Research Advisory Council on project related files. However, CAG in its report has mentioned that there are 402 projects for which this approval has not been sought. This shows the lack of coordination between the Management and Research Advisory Council. So far as I know, the concerned Ministry give recognition and financial assistance also to such projects. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister how it was decided to give them financial assistance without getting permission from Advisory Council. I would also like to mention that in CAG's report 23 Research Projects undertaken in 13 wings of Agriculture Research Institute have been shown as completed but as per my information some of them have not even started and those which were started, were closed later on. I would like to know from the Government about the projects of which CAG has given its report and accordingly the action taken in this regard till now. As per my information, some employees of the department have misplaced the files to dispose of the matter. I would like to know the details in this regard. Hon'ble Minister should explain it in the details so that House could get aware of it.

SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV: The question raised by the hon'ble Member does not relate to the original question. The original question is related with the commercialization of training and technology but the hon'ble Member's question is related to the report of CAG. I will reply in detail in this regard when there would be discussion on action taken on CAG's report. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I can furnish the reply even now if you ask, but the question is not related to the original question.

MR. SPEAKER: You may send a direct reply.

SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV: All right. Sir, I will do.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, I would like to ask a very simple question about this matter. Modern technology has been adopted in the agricultural sector. There are *Krishi Vigyan Kendras* in large parts of India. It is difficult for such *Kendras* alone to motivate and train the farmers and also to update the technology for them about various types of agricultural disciplines.

I would, therefore, like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government of India — involving the State

Government on different disciplines of agriculture like jute, paddy, wheat and sugarcane — shall jointly initiate the technical training programme at every district headquarters involving the *Zila Parishad* and the *Panchayati Raj* system. Otherwise, a particular *Krishi Vigyan Kendra* can hardly take care of that particular block. Other people cannot join and update themselves with that programme.

Finally, the *Krishi Mela* is one of the important areas where farmers go in a large number to learn about various things. I would like to know whether the *Krishi Fair* concept could be sponsored by the Union Government and the State Government in every district where such things are required.

[Translation]

SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV: Sir, agriculture and cooperatives are the State subjects. Centre take every action with the Cooperation of State Government. We call State Government Officers in our institute and update them with the achievement made in the field of research undertaken in all our agriculture research institutes, be it related with Agriculture Department, Fisheries or with animal husbandry. It is a regular process. Whatever, we achieve through these research, we explain them. It is also the duty of the State Government Officials to disseminate the information so received up to the level of Agriculture Development Officers at block level who will in return update the farmers in this regard. I mean to say that the whole process has three aspects—first is research, second training and third is *Krishi Prasar Extension*. We impart training to State Government Officials, functionaries of *Krishi Vigyan Kendras* and voluntary organisations associated in respect of the researches undertaken. They further disseminate the information at block level and panchayat level. As the hon. Member has asked we fully agree with him and are committed to launch a '*Krishi Chetna Jagran Abhiyan*' at Panchayat level by arranging dialogue with State Government, State Government Officials and Panchayats.

SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to ask a supplementary. Through my Q. No. 668 pertains to provide vocational training to women and girls is included in the list, however, I would not get the time to ask the supplementary question as the Question Hour goes till 12 O'clock only. In my supplementary, I would like to ask the hon. Minister of Agriculture that out of the total population of the country, half comprises of women but the discussion held just now was regarding small and marginal farmers. Therefore, through you, I would like to tell the hon. Minister of Agriculture that women

are actively involved in agriculture sector, therefore, I feel that we would be benefited more if women farmers are imparted training with new technology. In view of this I would like to know from the hon. Minister, if any separate training for women farmers will be started so that they could be benefited with these new technologies and uplift themselves with social and economical point of view.

SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV: It is absolutely right that Indian women play a major role in agriculture. The female member in the families of small and marginal farmers are primarily associated with the agriculture. They are doing all the works related with small scale and cottage industries and animal husbandry. Agriculture science centres and Indian Council of Agriculture are conducting separate training programme for women. Such an idea was placed since the formation of Agriculture Science Centre by the previous Government. Under these programmes training is given for traditional way of food processing and simultaneously to change the traditional knowledge into scientific one...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: No training programme have been conducted for the women so far. Not even 5 per cent. I do not know how the officers are reporting in such a way. As per our inspection not even 2 per cent of women have been given training.

SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV: Sir, I am stating about the ongoing programmes for imparting training as mentioned by Shri Dasmunsi.

MR. SPEAKER: There is no need to reply his query.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Hon. Minister is well aware of the ground realities. Officers cannot fool him. I am rightly stating that not even 2 per cent of the women have been given training.

SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV: Sir, last month at national level conference was convened for the women farmers of our country at Pragati Madian. NGOs also convened a nationwide conference of women farmers at Vigyan Bhawan. Secondly, I have instructed all the science centres and research institutions during my visit to provide name and addresses of 10 per cent of all men and women farmers to the Ministry to whom the training have been imparted. I have personally inquired from one thousand men and women farmers through letters whether they have participated in the training, if so, the benefits they achieved and about their suggestions for further improvement. We would like to expedite the training programmes with the association of farmers.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Sir, I was to ask a lengthy question but there is no time. In short, I would like to ask about the right on land of those widows, whose farmer husbands commit suicide. Besides, banks do not provide the facility of collateral loan to these women. I would like to ask the hon. Minister regarding the right on land of these widows?

SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV: Sir, as far as the right of this question is concerned, then I have to say that since this right is in no way related to Civil Right and the Right of Succession, therefore, I cannot answer. Please write to me in detail if any help is required on the matter from Ministry of Agriculture. We can sought the detail from the concerned Ministry on the basis of the request.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Sir, Maharashtra is progressing in the field of horticulture and in the production of grapes and Hafoos mangoes. Production of Hafoos mangoes has been increased in Konkan and those of grapes increased in Shangli and Sholapur. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether any special arrangement be made to impart training to the interested farmers and their wards?

SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV: Sir, as hon. Member has stated, we have separate research institutions for fruits, vegetables, cereals, milk and food processing and training is being given there. We try to train the educated wards of farmers regarding the new technology so that they may do the farming based on modern technology and be able to compete in the world market successfully Government of India is making progress in this regard and also running programmes for it.

WRITTEN ANSWER TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Diversion of Forest Land

*662. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that over 10,000 hectares of forest land is being diverted for non-forest use annually in the country;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to protect the forest land;

(c) whether the loss of/reduction in wildlife has been reported due to the said diversion of forest land; and

(d) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken to remedy the situation?

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

(b) The Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 has been promulgated to regulate the diversion of forest lands for site-specific projects only.

(c) and (d) While allowing such diversion, care is taken to ensure that it does not have any significant impact on the fragmentation of habitat or its qualitative degradation, which would adversely affect the wildlife population.

[Translation]

Investment of P.F. in Capital Market

*664. SHRI RAMCHANDRA PASWAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to invest the provident fund deposits in the capital market; and

(b) if so, the profit likely to accrue to the Government by the above move and the reasons for taking such a risky step?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) Guidelines have been issued by the Ministry of Finance on the pattern of investment of provident fund deposits. The pattern of investment being followed at present by Employees Provident Fund Organisation provides as under:

- (i) 25% in Central Government securities.
- (ii) 15% in State Government Securities and Central or State Government Guaranteed securities;
- (iii) 40% in Public Sector Financial Institutions/Public Sector Companies or Certificate of Deposits issued by a Public Sector Bank and the infrastructure Development Finance Company Ltd. (IDFC); and/or
- (iv) 20% to be invested in any of the above three categories as decided by the Board of Trustees.
- (v) The Board of Trustees subject to their assessment of the risk/return prospects, may

invest up to 10% out of (iv) above, in private sector bonds/securities which have an investment grade rating from at least two credit rating agencies.

The above pattern of investment has enabling provisions for investment in private sector bonds/securities by the Trusts and the decision in this regard has been left to the Board of Trustees. The Government does not derive any profit from investment of provident fund deposits.

Special Technique for Rain Water Harvesting

*665. SHRI RAM SINGH KASWAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are formulating any special technique for harvesting rain water;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the quantum of water likely to be harvested with the said technique?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN SETHI): (a) to (c) The Central Water Board (CGWB) under the Ministry of Water Resources have operationalised and tested various techniques for harvesting rainwater like recharge pits, recharge shafts and recharge trenches, injection well recharging techniques, water spreading methods, sub-surface dykes, check dams, percolation tanks and roof top rain water harvesting. The CGWB has also prepared and circulated manual and guidelines on artificial recharge to ground water to all States/Union Territories incorporating various modern techniques of rainwater harvesting for adoption. As per estimate made by the Central Ground Water Board, 36453 million cubic metres of surplus monsoon rainwater can be stored annually in underground aquifers to recharge ground water.

[English]

Development of Temples/Pilgrim Centres

*666. SHRI A. NARENDRA:
SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO:

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

(a) whether the Government have identified certain temples/pilgrims centres for development of infrastructural facilities there;

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

(c) the funds allocated by the Government in this regard and the amount actually utilized, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) On the recommendations of the Committee on Pilgrim Tourism constituted by the Department of Tourism, Government of India in the year 1992, 19 pilgrim centres in 12 States along with two circuits in Uttar Pradesh (one of these circuits is now in Uttaranchal State) were identified for development of tourist infrastructure facilities.

(b) A list of pilgrim centres identified by the Committee on Pilgrim Tourism is enclosed as statement-I.

(c) The Department of Tourism, Government of India sanctioned an amount of Rs. 1683.88 lakhs during the last four years i.e. from the year 1998-99 to 2001-02 and released Rs. 746.37 lakhs to various State Governments for development of tourist infrastructural facilities at various pilgrim centres in the country. The details of the amount sanctioned and released State-wise are given in the enclosed statement-II.

Statement-I

Committee on Pilgrim Tourism identified the following pilgrim centres

Sl.No.	State	Centre
1.	Assam	Kamakhya
2.	Bihar	Bodhgaya and Patna
3.	Gujarat	Dwarka, Palitana and Odwada (Near Vapi)
4.	Himachal Pradesh	Paonta Saheb and Jwalaji
5.	Jammu & Kashmir	Mata Vaishno Devi
6.	Kerala	Guruvayur
7.	Karnataka	Gulbarga and Sringeri
8.	Madhya Pradesh	Ujjain
9.	Maharashtra	Shirdi, Nanded Jyotiba (in Kolhapur District)
10.	Orissa	Jagannath Puri
11.	Rajasthan	Ajmer Shareef
12.	Tamil Nadu	Rameswaram

TWO CIRCUITS IDENTIFIED:

1. Barsana-Nandgaon-Brindavan-Gowardhan in the State of Uttar Pradesh
2. Badrinath-Kedarnath-Gangotri-Yamunotri now in the State of Uttaranchal

Statement-II

List of projects sanctioned at various Pilgrim Tourism Centres from 1998-99 to 2001-2002

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	State	Name of the Project	Year of Sanction	Amount Sanctioned	Amount Released
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Assam	1. Pilgrim Centre Kamakhya, Guwahati	1998-99	25.75	08.00

1	2	3	4	5	6
		2. Development of Surya Pahar Pilgrim Centre at Goalpara, Assam	1999-2000	30.00	09.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1. Establishment of basic amenities for pilgrims at Zemsthang, Tawang	1998-99	69.66	19.90
3.	Bihar	1. Integrated development of Tourist Centre—Landscaping and redevelopment of Kundkshetra Rajgir (Distt. Nalanada)	1998-99	50.00	25.00
		2. Illumination of Mahabodhi Temple premises Bodhgaya	1998-99	24.00	12.00
		3. Development of Rajgir Hot Spring as Health Resort	1998-99	13.92	4.18
		4. Entrance gate/Notice Board, etc. at Bodhgaya sites at Nalanda, Vaishali, Patna and Rajgir	1998-99	13.32	4.00
		5. Tourist information centre at Bodhgaya.	1999-2000	15.00	4.50
		6. Renovation of Baidyanath Vihar, Deogarh	2000-2001	20.00	6.00
		7. Wayside facilities at Patna by pass Patna sahib	2000-2001	19.55	5.86
4.	Daman & Diu	1. Illumination of St. Paul Church	1998-99	100.00	50.00
5.	Goa	1. Development of Infrastructure at World Heritage Churches & Monuments, old Goa	1998-99	25.57	08.00
		2. High Mast Illumination at Church compound Assolima	1999-2000	10.32	00.04
6.	Gujarat	1. SEL Show at Somnath Temple	1998-99	93.77	05.14
		2. Dwarka Development Plan Phase-I	1998-99	47.80	23.90
		3. Development of Dwarka Phase-II	1999-2000	41.11	12.30
7.	Haryana	1. Integrated development of Kurukshetra as Pilgrim Centre	1998-99	48.00	24.00
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	1. Renovation of Tourist Reception Centre at Katra	1999-2000	10.00	3.00
		2. Beautification of Pilgrim spot at Purnamandal, Jammu	2000-01	23.37	7.00
9.	Karnataka	1. TRC at Gulbarga	1999-2000	22.40	06.72
10.	Kerala	1. Construction of Pilgrim facilitation centre at Sabarimala	1998-99	104.89	31.45
		2. SEL show at Kanakkunu palace	1998-99	53.50	4.00

1	2	3	4	5	6
11.	Madhya Pradesh	1. SEL Show at Khajuraho	1998-99	100.00	50.00
12.	Nagaland	1. Development of Tourist Pilgrim centre at Vankhosung	1999-2000	25.47	07.64
13.	Orissa	1. Addl. Accommodation at existing Yatri Niwas at Konark (Orissa) (Phase-II)	1999-2000	48.00	14.40
14.	Punjab	1. Tourist Reception Centre at Anandpur Sahib	1998-99	97.64	78.00
		2. Illumination of Gurudwara, Keshgarh Sahib	1998-99	55.00	55.00
		3. Illumination of Gurudwara, Kila Anandgarh Sahib	1998-99	14.00	14.00
		4. Illumination of Gurudwara Teg Bahadur Sahib	1998-99	5.00	5.00
		5. Illumination of Gurudwara Mai Jito Ji	1998-99	5.00	5.00
		6. SEL show at Anandpur Sahib	1998-99	61.65	61.65
15.	Rajasthan	1. Integrated Development of Vishram Sthali at Pushkar Road, Ajmer	1998-99	40.70	23.35
		2. Development of steps at Taragarh, Ajmer	1999-2000	09.33	02.70
		3. Pilgrim centre at Digamber Jain Padam Pura	2001-02	20.70	11.66
		4. Pilgrim Centre at Salasar Dham distt. Churu.	2001-02	12.79	7.50
16.	Tamil Nadu	1. Refurbishment of Thanjavur Palace	1999-2000	15.00	05.00
		2. Yatri Niwas at Madurai	1999-2000	38.10	00.10
17.	Uttar Pradesh	1. Construction of Yatri Niwas at Kushinagar	1998-99	39.93	12.00
		2. Refurbishment of monument at Kushinagar	1998-99	12.00	3.60
		3. Upgradation of existing Tourist Bungalow at Varanasi	1998-99	12.73	3.60
		4. Flood lighting at Bateshwar Temple Agra	1998-99	5.00	2.50
		5. SEL Show at Fatehpur Sikri	1998-99	40.00	20.00
		6. Tourist Complex at Varanasi	1999-2000	40.00	12.00
		7. Yatri Niwas at Vrindavan (Mathura)	1999-2000	40.00	12.00

1	2	3	4	5	6
		8. Yatri Niwas and site development & land scaping surrounding area of Yatri Niwas at Shravasti	1999-2000	25.00	07.50
		9. Integrated Development of Tourist Centre and place of pilgrimage, Vrindavan	1999-2000	45.00	05.18
		10. Construction and repairs of internal road and drains of Chitrakoot	1999-2000	14.00	00.01
18.	Uttaranchal	1. Construction of Yoga and Aryurvedic Centre, Haridwar	1998-99	28.73	8.60
		2. Construction of 20 bedded Tourist Huts at Gangotri	1998-99	12.53	4.00
		3. Upgradation cum-expansion of existing Tourist Bungalow at Haridwar	1998-99	42.30	12.69
		4. Construction of 20 beded FRP Huts at Yamunotri	1999-2000	20.0	06.00
Total Amount				1683.88	746.37

Total Number of Projects Sanctioned from 1998-99 to 2001-2002	—	51
Total Amount Sanctioned from 1998-99 to 2001-02	—	Rs. 1683.88 Lakhs
Total Amount released from 1998-99 to 2001-02	—	Rs. 746.37 Lakhs

Passenger Facilities at Airports

*667. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Transiting through airports" appearing in 'Financial Express' dated March 26, 2002;

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

(c) whether Airports Authority of India (AAI) has any transit facilities for passengers passing through any of the Airports;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the extent to which these facilities are being used by transit passengers; and

(f) the steps taken to streamline the passenger facilities at airports?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) to (f) Yes, Sir. Various facilities including internet kiosks, duty free shops, comfortable chairs, telephone facilities, restaurant, snack bar, executive lounge etc. have been provided for passengers, including transit passengers at Indira Gandhi International Airport, New Delhi, which are being fully utilized. Telephones have been placed in different parts of the terminals, and these facilities have been strengthened recently. There are designated smoking areas where only passengers are expected to smoke. Security arrangements are in line with ICAO requirements, and security personnel are suitably trained and instructed to follow the laid down procedure/guidelines with utmost courtesy. Complaints/suggestions are acted on internally as part of the on-going efforts to improve the quality of services. Up-gradation of existing facilities and provision of additional facilities are also planned.

Vocational Training to Women and Girls

*668. SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Directorate General of Employment and Training is providing vocational training to women and girls in the country, including Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of women and girls benefited therefrom during each of the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (c) Directorate General of Employment & Training (DGE&T) under the Ministry of Labour is providing basic, advanced, post advanced vocational training in ten Trades and also instructor's training exclusively for women through one National and 10 Regional Vocational Training Institutes (RVITs) located in various parts of the country including Gujarat. Location of these Institutes and the number of women trainees trained during the last three years is given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Number of Women Trained in National/Regional Vocational Training Institutes for Women (NVTI/RVTIs) under DGE&T, Ministry of Labour during the last 3 years

Sl.No.	Institute	Trainees Trained under Regular & Short-Term Courses								
		1999-2000			2000-2001			2001-2002		
		Regular	Short-Term	Total	Regular	Short-Term	Total	Regular	Short-Term	Total
1.	NVTI-Noida	367	186	553	394	251	645	405	209	614
2.	RVTI-Mumbai	188	24	212	192	11	203	175	115	290
3.	RVTI-Bangalore	230	972	1202	187	243	430	238	190	428
4.	RVTI-Trivandrum	153	15	168	175	31	206	179	104	283
5.	RVTI-Hissar	72	433	505	77	270	347	82	131	213
6.	RVTI-Calcutta	48	115	163	49	79	128	54	43	97
7.	RVTI-Tura	22	0	22	33	0	33	44	0	44
8.	RVTI-Allahabad	117	26	143	146	0	146	154	0	154
9.	RVTI-Vadodara	45	18	63	79	26	105	89	0	89
10.	RVTI-Jaipur	97	360	457	181	269	450	209	287	496
11.	RVTI-Indore	68	59	127	88	97	185	70	138	208

Note: Regular courses range from 8 months to 2 years; Principles of Teaching (regular) courses are of 4 months. Short-Term courses range from one week to 8 weeks.

Antibiotics used in Processing of Sea Foods

*669. DR. N. VENKATASWAMY: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of drugs/antibiotics banned for use in the food processing;

(b) whether the Government are aware that some of these banned antibiotics are being used in the processing of sea foods in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government have received any complaints from certain States including Andhra Pradesh in this regard;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (PROF. CHAMAN

LAL GUPTA): (a) Drugs/antibiotics are not allowed in food processing including sea foods under the provisions of Prevention of Food Adulteration Act 1954 and Rules made thereunder.

(b) to (d) There is no complaint regarding use of antibiotics in processing of sea foods.

(e) and (f) Do not arise.

[*Translation*]

Unused Land at Airports

*670. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to give the unused land of airports on lease;

(b) if so, the details of unused land available at different airports and proposed to be given on lease, airport-wise;

(c) whether the Government have fixed any norms at give such land on lease; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) and (b) No Sir. However, there are plans to utilise vacant land for commercial purposes like construction of hangars, cargo warehouses, retail petrol outlets, hotels, resorts, shopping plaza, etc. wherever possible. An assessment has been made for various airports, of the vacant land that can be thus utilised, details of which are as under:—

CSI Airport, Mumbai - 43 acres; IGI Airport, Delhi - 267 acres; N.S.C.B.I. Airport, Kolkata - 42 acres; Chennai Airport - 6 acres; Juhu - 6 acres; Ahmedabad - 4 acres; Lucknow - 3.5 acres; Vadodara - 22 acres; Jaipur, Nagpur, Bhubaneswar, Hyderabad, Guwahati, Bhopal and Vijayawada - 0.5 acres each;

(c) and (d) As per the policy of Airports Authority of India, the land for the commercial purposes can be allotted only through call of tenders to ensure transparency in dealings.

[*English*]

Maintenance of Research Project Files in IARI

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

(a) whether IARI has not maintained the research project files leading to failure in detecting deficiencies in projects;

(b) if so, whether the Ministry has looked into the causes of not maintaining the project files;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the remedial action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) to (d) The maintenance data of Indian Agricultural Research Institute for the research projects started since 1994 is given below:

Research Project File-I	—	211
Research Project File-II	—	871
Research Project File-III	—	178

Now, the research project files are being maintained regularly.

Import of Soyabean Oil

*672. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ:
SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Agriculture has laid down guidelines that imported soyabean oil should not be genetically modified;

(b) if so, by when the guidelines are likely to be enforced;

(c) whether distinguishing the genetically modified soyabean oil from the conventional (non-modified) soyabean oil is difficult through tests;

(d) if so, the manner in which the distinction is made between the two;

(e) whether the imported genetically modified soyabean oil is injurious for health;

(f) if so, the efforts being made by the Government to ban its import; and

(g) by when import of such oil is likely to be banned?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) to (g) The Ministry of Agriculture has not laid down any guidelines regarding import of genetically modified Soyabean oil. The import of genetically modified product is governed by Rules framed under Environment Protection Act, 1986 which is handled by the Ministry of Environment and Forests. Rule 11 of the Rules for the Manufacture, Use, import, export and storage of Hazardous Microorganisms/Genetically Engineered Organisms or Cells 1989 notified under EP Act 1986, provides that food stuffs, ingredients in food stuffs and additives including processing aids containing or consisting of genetically engineered organisms or cells, shall not be produced, sold, imported or used except with the approval of the Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC).

Distinction between genetically modified soyabean oil and non genetically modified soyabean oil is not possible by available analytical methods when the oils are refined. When oils are non refined very sophisticated and sensitive methods like Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) may enable the distinction. Refined GM Soya oil does not contain genetically modified protein and D.N.A.

Installation of CCTVs at Airports

*673. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH:
SHRI M. CHINNASAMY:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the names of airports where Close Circuit TVs (CCTVs) have been installed in the country;

(b) the names of airports where there is no such facility;

(c) whether the Government propose to install CCTVs at all the airports;

(d) if so, the time by which the CCTVs will be installed at all the airports;

(e) whether CCTVs installed at IGI airport has helped to augment airport's security apart from keeping an eye on airport officials and touts and monitor their activities;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the details of the officials booked and incidents detected after installation of CCTVs?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) and (b) Close Circuit Television (CCTV) Surveillance Systems have been installed at the airports at Delhi, Mumbai and Chennai and are under installation at the airports at Kolkata, Trivandrum, Amritsar, Jammu, Srinagar, Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Goa, Calicut and Hyderabad. The facility of CCTV is not available at airports other than those mentioned above.

(c) and (d) There is no proposal for installation of CCTVs at all airports.

(e) and (f) CCTV is installed at airports for facilitation and security purposes and, *inter-alia*, it also helps to curb corruption and acts as deterrent for any malafide activity by airport officials or other persons. It has helped in monitoring suspicious activities not only inside the terminal building, but also on the city side of the terminal.

(g) Minor incidents like unattended baggages, lost passports, laxity in checking of vehicles by staff, etc. have come to notice. However, no serious offence has been made out so far warranting registration/booking of cases.

[Translation]

Setting up of FPI in Collaboration with Japan

*674. SHRI JAIBHAN SINGH PAWAIYA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up food processing units in collaboration with Japan in the country; and

(b) if so, the number of such units proposed to be set up under the agreements reached with Japan indicating the locations thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (PROF. CHAMAN LAL GUPTA): (a) and (b) This Ministry does not set up food processing units directly. However, the Government is encouraging and permitting setting up of industries with foreign collaboration, including with the companies of Japan.

[English]

Special Package to Increase Revenue

*675. DR. A.D.K. JAYASEELAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to announce special package for various destinations of the world to increase revenue of national carriers and to meet the challenges of foreign airlines; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) and (b) At present Air India and Indian Airlines do not have any special package for any foreign destination. However, Air India is offering a free ticket for a companion on a full paid ticket for travel out of India. Indian Airlines have incentive scheme called *Desh-Videsh*. A person who qualifies under this scheme could also be eligible to buy a package in Singapore under certain conditions. Such challenges are constantly assessed to evolve appropriate strategies for countering these. This is a continuing process.

New Tourism Circuits

*676. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to link Indian Buddhist Circuits with countries in South East and Far East Asia;

(b) if so, whether the Government have also a proposal to open a new circuit called Ramayan Circuit, a package that links India with West Asia, Central Asia and South East Asia; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Hon'ble Prime Minister of India stated during his Inaugural Address at the 51st PATA Annual Conference 2002 in New Delhi on 15th April, 2002 "One can also think of a regional Buddhist Circuit that will link India's own Buddhist Circuit with countries in South-East and Far East Asia. There is also scope for developing a regional Ramayana Circuit and a package that links the centers of Sufi spiritualism in India, West Asia, Central Asia, and South-East Asia".

India is now adopting a policy of 'Look East' in marketing its tourist destinations and would thus be placing greater emphasis in attracting tourists from South-East Asian countries to our Buddhist centers. India is a member of Geo-economic grouping Mekong-Ganga Co-operation (MGC) under which we are endeavoring to intensify collaboration in the tourism sector.

New Scheme for Making Water to Farmers Accessible

*677. SHRI Y.V. RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have launched a new scheme for making water more accessible to the farmers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the States that are likely to be benefited under the scheme;

(d) whether Andhra Pradesh has been included under the scheme; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. In order to exploit the ground water potential available in eastern region, Government of India has approved a new Centrally Sponsored Scheme of "On Farm Water Management" which has been launched during the year 2001-2002 for increasing crop production in Eastern India. Under the scheme, financial assistance for sinking shallow tube wells/low lift irrigation points, electrical/diesel water pumping sets and dug wells (for plateau regions only) is provided to the farmers through NABARD. This is a credit linked scheme. The funding pattern of the scheme is on 20:30:50 basis i.e., 20% as contribution from the beneficiaries, 30% as Government of India assistance as subsidy and remaining 50% as loan from the commercial/state cooperative/rural banks. This scheme is being implemented in ten states viz. Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chattisgarh, Jharkhand, Manipur, Mizoram, Orissa and selected districts of Eastern U.P. & West Bengal.

(d) and (e) No, Sir. The scheme has been approved specifically for exploiting the available ground water potential of the Eastern States.

Indo-French Agreement Regarding Agri-Food

*678. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:
SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and France have decided to increase cooperation in the field of agri-food;

(b) if so, whether any concrete action plan has been undertaken by both the countries in regard to agriculture;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether both the countries have also agreed to work more in agri-food and agri-processing area as India is one of the leading producers and exporters of these products; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) to (e) There is a proposal to have cooperation between India and France in the field of agriculture which includes agri-food and food processing areas. No agreement has been signed in this regard as yet.

Sterilization of Tigers and Lions

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

(a) whether sterilization of tigers and lions has been suggested to contain their population in view of the resource crunch;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to provide financial assistance out of the funds allocated for "The Tiger Project" to provide food for lions and tigers;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Since the protocol for releasing captive bred tigers and lions in the wild has yet not been developed, breeding of these species in zoos has to be controlled to ensure health care upto prescribed standards. Sterilization is considered as one of the effective methods for controlling the population of tigers and lions in zoos.

(c) to (e) Since the funds under the "Tiger Project" are used for conservation of tiger population in the wild only, financial assistance under the scheme can not be given for maintaining animal populations in the zoos.

[Translation]

Licence to American Seed Industry

*680. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the companies of the American Seed Industry which were provided licences alongwith the dates on which licence were issued to such companies;

(b) whether America has mounted pressure on the developing countries to purchase its seeds; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) A statement is enclosed.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Statement

List of foreign technical/financial collaboration cases approved by Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion from August 1991 to February 2002

S.No.	Name of Indian Companies	Name of foreign collaboration	Date of approval	Item of description
1	2	3	4	5
1.	EID Parry, Chennai	Dekalb Plant Genetics, USA	25.10.1991	Hybrid seeds
2.	Proagro Seeds Company, New Delhi	Bio-genetics, USA	06.01.1992	High yielding hybrid seeds
3.	Ganga Agri Seeds Ltd., New Delhi	Agri-Genetics Corporation, USA	28.01.1992	Hybrid seeds

1	2	3	4	5
4.	Pro-agro Seeds Company, New Delhi	Corn States Hybrid USA	08.08.1992	High yielding seeds
5.	Southern Petro Chemical Industries, Chennai	Pioneer Oversees Corporation, USA	05.03.1993	Hybrid vegetable seeds
6.	Mahyco, Mumbai	M/s Agro Seeds Company, USA	20.09.1995	Vegetable seeds
7.	Mahyco, Mumbai	Sun Seeds, USA	16.04.1996	Hybrid vegetable seeds - onion, carrot, tomato
8.	Cargill Asia Pacific Ltd., New Delhi	Cargill INC, USA	15.04.1996	Hybrid seeds
9.	Spell Bound Peninsula Ltd., Baroda	Bio-ponic International California, USA	18.10.1996	Hybrid and synthetic seeds
10.	Mansanto (India) Pvt. Ltd., Mumbai	Mansanto (India) Ltd., USA	15.12.1997	Cotton planting seeds and other related activities.
11.	Mahyco, Mumbai	Mansanto (India) Pvt. Ltd., USA	21.04.1998	Hybrid and improved seeds
12.	EID Parry India Ltd., Chennai	M/s Dekalabs Genetic Corporation, USA	15.05.1998	Development of hybrid seeds
13.	M/s Nath Sluis Ltd., Aurangabad	Semins Vegetable Seeds, USA	12.05.1998	Quality hybrid seeds
14.	Pro-Agro Seeds Company Ltd., New Delhi	Bio-genetic Tech Company, USA	27.10.1998	Hybrid seeds of corn, pearl millet, grain sorghum, fodder sorghum, sunflower and vegetables
15.	Pro-Agro Seed Company Ltd., New Delhi	Bio-genetic Tech Company, USA	27.01.1999	Hybrid seeds of corn, pearl millet, grain sorghum, fodder sorghum, sunflower and vegetables
16.	Mansanto India Ltd., Mumbai	Parry Mansanto Seeds Pvt. Ltd., USA	01.01.1999	Bio-Tech Seeds
17.	Mahyco, Mumbai	The Scripps Research Institute, USA	10.05.1999	Hybrid seeds
18.	US Agri Seeds INC, New Delhi	US Agri Seeds INC, USA	28.06.1999	Vegetable seeds
19.	—	Sunseeds, USA	13.07.1999	Seeds of onion, carrot, tomato, pepper, cucumber & melon

1	2	3	4	5
20.	Nath Sluis Seeds Ltd., Aurangabad	Semins Vegetables Seeds, USA	06.07.1999	Quality hybrid seeds
21.	Mahyco, Mumbai	Mahyco American INC, USA	10.08.1999	Hybrid seeds
22.	Nunhems Pro-Agro Seeds Pvt. Ltd., Hyderabad	Sun Seeds, USA	09.08.1999	Hybrid vegetable seeds
23.	Spic PHI Seeds Ltd., New Delhi	Pioneer Oversees Corporation, USA	29.12.2000	Manufacture of hybrid seeds
24.	Pioneer Oversees Corporation, New Delhi	Pioneer Oversees Corporation, USA	10.04.2001	Parent seeds and pro-commercial hybrid seeds
25.	Alltech INC New Delhi	Alltech INC, USA	21.05.2001	Seed marketing and trading
26.	Mansanto Holdings Pvt. Ltd., Mumbai	Mansanto (India) Pvt. Ltd., USA	19.06.2001	Hybrid and improved seeds
27.	Mahyco, Mumbai	Mansanto Seed Company, USA	10.06.2001	Hybrid seeds
28.	Seedworks India Pvt., Ltd., Hyderabad	US Agri Seeds INC, USA	13.11.2001	Fruit & vegetable seeds

[English]

**Licence to Operate Ground Handling Services
at Airports**

6823. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to
state:

(a) whether the licence of Dnata which was issued
to operate the ground handling services in Mumbai, New
Delhi, Chennai and Trivandrum in May 2001, has been
kept on hold;

(b) if so, the basis on which the licence of Dnata
was suspended;

(c) whether any inquiries and investigations were
made before suspending the licence;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the follow-up action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED
SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) No licence has been issued
to DNATA to operate ground handling services.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Non-Deposit of P.F.

6824. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister
of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Provident Fund deducted from the
salary of employees of Maharashtra Antibiotics and
Pharmaceuticals Ltd. for the period 1990-2001 has not
been deposited with the Provident Fund Commissioner
Office;

(b) if so, the total amount of Provident Fund
deductions yet to be deposited with the Provident Fund
Commissioner Office;

(c) the reasons for not depositing the deducted
amount; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) The establishment is in default in employees' share of Provident Fund contribution from October 1998 to June 2001. From July 2001 onwards, the establishment has been closed.

(b) Employees' share deducted but not deposited is Rs. 54,41,389. The entire amount has now been recovered.

(c) and (d) The unit is a sick unit registered with the Board for Industrial & Financial Reconstruction. The Appellate Authority for Industrial & Financial Reconstruction (AAIFR) has recommended liquidation of the establishment. The liquidation proceedings are pending before the Hon'ble High Court of Mumbai. However, FIRs under Section 406/409 of Indian Penal Code have been filed against the establishment and the bank accounts of the establishment have been attached.

North Eastern Coalfields Limited

6825. SHRI BIKASH CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of employees given jobs on compassionate ground in North-Eastern Coalfields Limited (NECL) under the Clause 9.3.2 and 9.4.0 of the National Coal Wage Agreement during the last three years;

(b) the number of employees who have been adversely affected by non-implementation of the said clauses of the agreement; and

(c) the steps being taken to ensure implementation of the said clauses of the agreement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) As informed by Coal India Limited (CIL) the number of employees given jobs on compassionate ground in North Eastern Coalfields Limited under clause 9.3.2 and 9.4.0 of National Coal Wage Agreement (NCWA) during the last 3 years are given below:

	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02
Clause 9.3.2	0	1	2
Clause 9.4.0	0	0	0

(b) 121 Cases are pending under clause 9.3.2 of National Coal Wage Agreement (NCWA). No case has been received under clause 9.4.0 of NCWA.

(c) Necessary steps are taken to dispose quickly the cases under clause 9.3.2 and clause 9.4.0 National Coal Wage Agreement (NCWA) where such applications are found complete with all relevant documents.

[Translation]

Bumper Harvest of Gram Crop

6826. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are prospects to reap a bumper harvest of gram crop this year but the price of gram are likely to rise due to the stockists; and

(b) if so, the remedial steps being taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) The production of gram which recorded a fall from 5.12 million tones in 1999-2000 to 3.52 million tonnes in 2000-01 is likely to rise to 5.07 million tones during 2001-02 as per third advance estimates of foodgrains production for the year 2001-02. In fact the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) as on 27.04.2002 shows a fall of 4.7% as compared to the WPI a month ago and a decline of 0.2% as compared to the WPI of corresponding week last year.

Impact of Disinvestment on Unemployment

6827. SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any representations from various labour organisations to stop the process of disinvestment and invest the funds on the research and developmental works for generating more employment opportunities;

(b) if so, the details thereof and action taken thereon; and

(c) the concrete steps taken by the Government to combat the increasing problem of unemployment in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) and (b) Government has received representations from various Employees Associations against disinvestments of Government equity in Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs). Before disinvestments is any PSU, the discussions are held with the employees representatives, whenever needed, to allay

their apprehensions and to assure them that the Government is committed to protect the interests of the employees. As announced by the Finance Minister in the Budget Speech for the year 2001-2002, the proceeds from disinvestments are to be utilized for providing restructuring assistance to PSUs, safety net to workers, reduction of debt burden and as an additional budgetary support for the Plan, primarily in the social and infrastructure sectors.

(c) All decisions of the Government relating to disinvestments do not automatically have a direct impact on the jobs of the employees of the concerned Public Sector company. When the decision involves a strategic sale with the transfer of management and control of the company, the issues relating to employees assume importance and the concerns are appropriately addressed in the terms and conditions of sale.

In order to address the problem of unemployment in the country, the Tenth Plan with focus on providing gainful high quality employment to the additions to the labour force and it is listed as one of the monitorable objectives for the Tenth Plan and beyond. The growth strategy of Tenth Plan would lay emphasis on rapid growth of those sectors which are likely to create high quality employment opportunities and deal with the policy constraints which discourage growth of employment. Particular attention would be paid to the policy environment influencing a wide range of economic activities which have a large employment potential.

[English]

Tourism Promotion in North-Eastern Region

6828. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a vast scope to explore tourism potential in North-Eastern States after the introduction of flights between North Eastern Region and Thailand;

(b) if so, the details of projects submitted by the Government of Assam and the other North Eastern States to exploit tourism potential in the region; and

(c) the response of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) Yes, Sir. The introduction of Air India flight between Guwahati and Bangkok will help the opening of the North-Eastern States for foreign tourists.

(b) and (c) Development of tourism is primarily undertaken by the State Governments/UT Administrations. The Department of Tourism, Government of India, however, provides some financial assistance for tourism projects prioritised in consultation with them. Three hundred and eighty one projects with Central financial component of Rs. 8314.77 lakhs were sanctioned for all the North-Eastern States including Sikkim during the 9th Plan. Projects for 2002-03 have not been identified as yet.

Prices of Aluminium

6829. SHRI SUNIL KHAN:
SHRI BIKASH CHOWDHURY:

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

(a) whether the primary producers of Aluminium have raised the price of Aluminium with the consultation of Mines and other related departments, when global Aluminium prices fell drastically;

(b) if so, whether the down stream Aluminium manufacturers are facing crisis and gradually the said manufacturing units are being closed down as a result thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government have stopped the import of Aluminium to the country already at the behest of primary aluminium producers; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) Aluminium Sector is decontrolled and the aluminium and its products have been placed under the Open General License (OGL) category for import and export. Consequently, there are no price controls over aluminium. The prices of aluminium are determined by market forces.

(c) and (d) As informed by Directorate-General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), aluminium and articles thereof are freely importable except certain categories of waste and scrap thereof which are restricted for imports. DGFT have not issued any notice stopping the import of aluminium into the country.

Organic Farming

6830. SHRI SAIDUZZAMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the scientists at NDRI, Karnal have worked out status and control pesticide residues in milk and milk product;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether scientists are advocating use of IPM, INM and organic farming;

(d) if so, the steps being taken thereon;

(e) whether the Government are aware that milk from the Cooperative including Amul has a dangerous pesticides in all the milk products produced and exported by them;

(f) if so, whether the Government propose to adopt organic farming; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A limited survey of milk and ghee carried out in Haryana, Punjab, UP and Delhi shows only isolated cases of the presence of DDT and BHC in milk and ghee. In general, most of the samples tested were lower than the maximum residue limit for DDT and BHC. In case of ghee, the occurrence of the pesticide residues were very rare.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Farmers are recommended to use biopesticides, pheromones and bio-control agents substituting hazardous synthetic pesticides. Increased use of compost and vermin compost is recommended.

(e) No, Sir. Milk processed by Amul and other Cooperatives is periodically analysed to conform to the limits of Pesticide residue laid down under Prevention of Food Adulteration Act. The products meant for export also conform to the requirements laid down by the Export Inspection Agency of India and the importing countries.

(f) and (g) Government proposes to advocate adoption of organic farming by the farmers to protect the public health. To popularize organic farming, farmers are being educated through demonstrations in the field, Kisan Melas, KVKs and Goshthi etc.

For further promoting organic farming in the country during the Tenth Plan, a proposal for a new scheme,

'National Project on Organic Farming' is under formulation by the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, which includes setting up of a National Organic Agriculture Board (NOAB), whose function will be to promote and facilitate various aspects of organic farming in the country.

Setting up of Agribusiness Centres

6831. SHRIMATI D.M. VIJAYA KUMARI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have proposed to set up "agribusiness centres" for rendering services to farmers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the efforts made to invite private participation in the matter?

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

(a) to (c) A new Scheme 'Establishment of Agri-clinics and Agri-business Centres' has recently been launched in collaboration with National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD). The Scheme proposes to assist agriculture graduates and graduates in subjects allied to agriculture in setting up of around 5,000 Agri-clinics/Agri-business ventures per year in identified activities through Bank finance with refinance from NABARD on self employment basis. Start up training of two to three months in the areas of entrepreneurship and business management as well as for skill improvement in the chosen area of activity will also be provided to agricultural graduates interested in setting up agri-clinics and agri-business ventures. Graduates who propose to avail the benefit of the Scheme will be given bank finance on priority sector lending terms on acceptance of their project proposals. The average cost of an individual venture is estimated to be around Rs. 5 lakhs, with a maximum limit of Rs. 10 lakhs per individual, and the group ceiling of Rs. 50 lakhs for a venture by five or more graduates. The Scheme envisages provision of extension and consultancy services, soil and input testing services and other support services for the farmers through these agri-clinic and agri-business centres. The agri-clinic and agri-business ventures would start operations after the eligible agriculture Graduates are able to obtain loans from the Banks and set up their ventures.

This Scheme has been given wide publicity and the response to the Scheme from all the States has been encouraging. As on 8.5.2002, 10860 applications have been received under the Scheme from various part of the country and training under this Scheme has already started in various institutions across the country.

[Translation]

Lime Stone

6832. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of each category of lime stone available in the country;

(b) whether the surveys and exploration have established the availability of deposits of various categories of lime stone in the country;

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

(d) whether all the said categories of lime stone are available in abundance in Rajasthan;

(e) if so, the protection and incentives proposed to be provided by the Union Government for exploitation and utilisation of these deposits;

(f) whether the Government of Rajasthan has proposed any scheme in this regard; and

(g) if so, the details thereof and the action being taken by the Government in this regard?

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

(a) The details of grade-wise reserves of limestone available in the country are as below:

(in '000 tonnes)

Recoverable Reserves as on 1.4.1995

	Proved	Probable	Possible	Total
All India	12061132	16705201	46912557	75678890
By Grade				
Chemical	134722	762103	1946644	2843469
Steel Melting Shop (SMS) (OH)	354583	1214273	2907734	4476590
Steel Melting Shop (SMS) (LD)	148898	15604	62561	227063
Steel Melting Shop (OH) & LD Mixed	3773	43839	133724	181336
BF	1570877	1032597	2727534	5331008
BF & Steel Melting Shop (SMS) Mixed	73035	100894	1149585	1323514
Cement (Portland)	7720348	12473765	31886650	52080763
Cement (White)	30738	16118	24379	71235
Cement (Portland & White)	180731	30253	125588	336572
BF & Cement (Mixed)	354046	135591	422894	912531
Steel Melting Shop, Chemical & Paper	5099	4108	594455	603662
Paper	1596	2354	—	3950
Others	38449	253101	1086935	1723485
Unclassified	371002	561480	2264690	3199874
Not-known	728235	56420	1579183	23633838

(b) and (c) The survey and exploration have established the availability of deposits of various categories of limestone in the country. The State-wise details are given in the enclosed statement.

(d) In the State of Rajasthan Steel Melting Shop (SMS). Cement and Chemical Grade Limestone is available in abundance.

(e) As per the information available with Indian Bureau of Mines, 9% concession on freight is being given by railway authorities on completion of certain monthly targets together by M/s Rajasthan State Mines & Minerals Ltd. and M/s Rajasthan State Mineral Development Corporation Ltd. for transportation of limestone from Sanu Area in Jaisalmer district.

(f) and (g) As per the Rajasthan State Government policy, mining leases for SMS grade Limestone is granted to State Sector Undertakings and Cement grade limestone to the manufacturers of cement. Mining Leases for different grades (other than SMS, Cement and Chemical) of Limestone are granted under the Rajasthan Minor Mineral Concession Rules, 1986. The Government is considering to revise the policy according to its grade and end uses.

Statement

The Details of Reserves of Limestone, State-wise as on 1.4.1995

(in '000 tonnes)

State	Recoverable Reserves			
	Proved	Probable	Possible	Total
1	2	3	4	5
Andhra Pradesh	1465769	1213974	12379295	15059038
Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	125459	125459
Assam	180532	48550	488425	717507
Bihar	135314	18646	309855	453815
Chhattisgarh	3206617	733638	1062367	90069
Daman and Diu	90060	—	—	90069
Gujarat	371512	1105838	7559987	9037337
Haryana	52229	2384	28765	83477
Himachal Pradesh	1380640	106995	2158287	3645922
Jammu & Kashmir	35305	10095	695907	741307
Jharkhand	159593	47954	303554	511102
Karnataka	839490	7169842	9430184	17439516
Kerala	122072	27815	4489	154376
Madhya Pradesh	1433178	705899	1486906	3625983
Maharashtra	482051	231605	170897	884553
Manipur	472	6195	8118	14785
Meghalaya	68061	634464	3819437	4521952
Nagaland	825	—	308250	309075
Orissa	392440	258902	539705	1191047
Pondicherry	5260	—	4180	9440
Rajasthan	1082989	3937578	4723372	9743939

1	2	3	4	5
Sikkim	—	—	1785	1785
Tamil Nadu	242277	250107	313030	805414
Uttaranchal	60964	157784	849356	1068104
Uttar Pradesh	257072	24700	124340	406112
West Bengal	6400	12146	16606	35152

Deemed University for Culture

6833. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a deemed university for culture;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith location; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) to (c) Sir, the Department of Culture, Government of India supports two fully funded institutions which function as deemed universities, namely (i) National Museum Institute of History of Art, Conservation and Museology, New Delhi; and (ii) Central Institute of Higher Tibetan Studies, Sarnath, Varanasi (UP). No proposal to set up another Deemed Culture University is under consideration.

Compensation to Victims of Animals' Attack

6834. SHRI VISHNUDEO SAI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the provisions made for providing compensation and other humanitarian assistance in case of death, injury, disability and loss of property caused by the attacks of protected wild animals;

(b) the amount of compensation being provided under these provisions;

(c) the dates of which the compensation amount has been increased; and

(d) the details of the amount provided as compensation and relief during the last five years in the

country including Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Government of India under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes provides compensation of Rs. 1,00,000 for loss of human life/permanent incapacitation and one-third of this amount in case of grievous injuries caused by wild animals.

(c) The compensation amount in case of loss of human life/permanent incapacitation was increased by Central Government from Rs. 20,000 to Rs. 1,00,000 on 22 December, 1999.

(d) The information is being collected and would be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Workers in Coal Companies

6835. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARASTE: Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of workers (other than supervisory staff) in different coal companies in the country particularly in Madhya Pradesh, noticed during each of the last three years;

(b) the number of workers engaged in manual job in different coal companies during the said period; and

(c) the quantity of coal produced manually and mechanically, separately during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) The number of workers other than supervisory staff in different Subsidiaries of Coal India Limited (CIL) is given below:—

Company	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02
Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	122497	117025	104823
Bharat Coking Coal Ltd.	108466	102399	96956
Central Coalfields Ltd.	73237	70374	67574
Western Coalfields Ltd.	72481	70083	67145
South Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	86376	85308	83243
Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd.	19692	19338	18949
Northern Coalfields Ltd.	14068	14014	14070

Out of the above manpower, the number of employees in the Subsidiary companies falling under Madhya Pradesh (other than Supervisory staff) are given as under:—

Company	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002
South Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	86376	85308	*34224
Mahanandi Coalfields Ltd.	8312	8206	8206
Northern Coalfields Ltd.	28970	27379	25687

*Chhattisgarh State formed out of M.P. in November, 2000.

(b) Number of piece-rated workers engaged in manual job during the said period in different Coal companies are as under:—

Company	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002
Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	35191	32898	30283
Bharat Coking Coal Ltd.	30436	28425	273767
Central Coalfields Ltd.	17857	17159	15809
Western Coalfields Ltd.	11703	9998	8732
South Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	9837	8788	8026
Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd.	2450	2307	2127

(c) The quantity of coal produced manually and mechanically in CIL during the last three years are as under;

Figures in Lakhs tonnes

	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02
Manual production*	284.71	249.58	223.40
Mechanised production:			
Under Ground	238.53	255.96	268.95
Open Cast	2082.59	2175.85	2304.22
Total	2321.12	2431.81	2573.17
Over all Total	2,805.83	2,681.39	2,796.57

*Manual production includes production by conventional, Board & Pillar method and others.

Facilities to Farmers

6836. SHRI T. GOVINDAN:
DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any programme for the welfare of fruits growers in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the funds allocated for the purpose during 2002-2003;

(c) the steps being initiated by the Government in this regard;

(d) whether the Government have provided any facilities to the farmers to preserve their produce like vegetables and fruits before the same is handed over to whole sale outlets; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) to (c) The Government has not formulated any scheme exclusively for the welfare of fruit growers in the country. However, the Government is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Macro-Management in Agriculture - Supplementation/Complementation of State Efforts through Work Plans under which assistance is being extended for the development of fruits also. Under this scheme the State Governments can prioritize their activities as per their felt needs and requirement. The fruit growers can avail the benefits of the scheme by way of getting food quality planting material of fruit crops through nurseries, assistance for area expansion, productivity improvement programmes and training on latest technologies. An outlay of Rs. 736.86 crores has been earmarked for the Scheme during 2002-03.

(d) and (e) The Government is providing assistance since 1999-2000 in the form of back ended subsidy through the National Horticulture Board under the Scheme on Capital Investment Subsidy for Construction/Modernization/Expansion of Cold Storage and Storages for Horticulture Produce for enabling the farmers to preserve their horticulture produce. So far a storage capacity of 24.12 lakh tonnes have been created by establishing 521 cold storages units in the country.

Eco-Tourism

6837. SHRI B.K. PARTHASARATHI: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Is eco-tourism economically viable in India" appearing in the *Times of India* dated February 23, 2002;

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

(c) whether the Government propose to conduct any study on the possibility of economic viability of eco-tourism in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) In the new National Tourism Policy, 2002, greater emphasis has been laid on eco-tourism whose parameters it has been stated should be broader than those of nature tourism alone. It must help in eliminating poverty, in ending unemployment, in creating new skills, in enhancing the status of woman, in preserving cultural heritage, in encouraging tribal and local crafts and in improving overall environment and facilitating growth of a more just and fair social order.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Centrally Sponsored Tourism Schemes

6838. SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether several Centrally Sponsored Schemes relating to tourism are in offing for Madhya Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) and (b) Development and promotion of places of tourist interest/centres in the country including the State of Madhya Pradesh is a continuous process. Funds are provided for tourism-related projects on the basis of identification of projects annually in consultation

with the State Governments/UT Administrations. During 2001-2002, 11 projects have been sanctioned for central financial assistance of Rs. 256.37 lakhs to the State of Madhya Pradesh.

[English]

Coal India Limited

6839. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Coal India Limited (CIL) has augmented its supply position keeping in view less import of coal by bulk coal users due to unstabilisation in exchange rates;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether CIL is in position to provide lower ash content coal to thermal power stations;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the demand for such coal at present?

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

(a) and (b) The supply of coal to different sectors by Coal India Limited (CIL) is as per its annual offtake plan which is finalized after discussion with the concerned consumers/Departments. Coal off take plan of CIL for 2002-03 has been fixed at 286.4 million tonnes as against actual of 282.2 million tonnes in 2001-02. CIL has augmented its offtake plan by 4.2 million tonnes over the previous year.

(c) to (e) CIL is in a position to supply low ash coal to the existing thermal power plants which require such coal. CIL is supplying more than 70 million tonnes per year of low ash coal of A, B, C and D grades to the power sector, which is about 37% of the total despatch to the power sector.

Eco-Sensitive Zones

6840. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any representations from various Gram Panchayats and Public Representatives of Maharashtra against the recent decision of declaring Matheran and adjoining areas as Eco-sensitive Zone;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereon;

(d) whether the Government are considering to review their decision of including about 100 villages of Matheran-Panvel road in the said zone;

(e) if so, the time by which it is likely to be done; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (f) A large number of suggestions and objections from the public, their representatives, Gram Panchayats, NGOs and other agencies have been received, in response to the draft Notification issued on 6th February, 2002 to notify Matheran and surrounding region as an eco-sensitive zone. These suggestions and objections are both for and against the proposed notification and would need to be examined before finalizing the notification as per the provisions of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

Shortage of Staff in DMS

6841. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Delhi Milk Scheme (DMS) has been facing shortage of staff particularly cash-clerks for a long time; and

(b) if so, the time by which the said posts are likely to be filled up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) No Sir. Delhi Milk Scheme is not facing shortage of staff at present. Against 110 sanctioned posts of Cash Clerks, 17 vacancies exist at present. Due to the ceiling imposed on the filling up of direct recruitment posts and decline in DMS operations, no definite time limit can be laid down for filling up of these posts.

Deccan Odyssey Train in Maharashtra

6842. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his ministry has taken up the issue of having "Deccan Odyssey" luxury train in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, whether the MTDC and Tata Consultancy Service had submitted the proposal to the Ministry long back; and

(c) if so, the present status of the proposal and the extent to which it is likely to attract tourists on implementation?

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

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The proposal of the Government of Maharashtra for introduction of Luxury Train has been sanctioned for Central Financial Assistance of Rs. 8.49 Crores. The feasibility study by Tata Consultancy Service shows that the FIRR is 22% and that it will be a great tourist attraction.

Maintenance of Temples in Orissa

6843. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of funds allocated for the preservation and maintenance of Lord Baldevji temple at Keonjhar, Orissa during the last three years; and

(b) the details of other steps taken for the proper preservation and maintenance of ancient temples in the State?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) The Lord Baldevji temple at Keonjhar, Orissa is a monument protected by the Government of Orissa. As such, it does not come within the purview of the A.S.I.

(b) The Archaeological Survey of India has 73 centrally protected monuments, which also include temples, in the state of Orissa. Maintenance and conservation of the centrally protected monuments is a continuous process. The centrally protected monuments are in a good state of preservation.

[Translation]

Soil Erosion

6844. SHRI SUBODH ROY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the measure the Government propose to take to check soil erosion caused by Ganga river in Bhagalpur and Kahalgaon in Bihar;

(b) whether adequate funds have been allocated for the purpose; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) Flood Management being a State subject, the responsibility of planing, funding, executing and operating of flood control schemes including soil erosion primarily rests with the concerned State Governments. The assistance rendered by the Central Government is technical catatyctic and promotional in nature. No scheme to check the soil erosion caused by Ganga river in Bhagalpur and Kahalgaon in Bihar has been received from the State Government.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Illegal Cargo Flights

6845. DR. ASHOK PATEL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a cargo-aircraft had been flying between Delhi and Dubai illegally during the past several months;

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

(c) whether any inquiry has been conducted in this regard;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) the action taken against the persons found guilty as per findings of the inquiry?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) to (e) No cargo aircraft had been flying between Delhi and Dubai without valid permission. However, a case has come to the notice of the Delhi Police where Ministry of External Affairs had cleared cases 'sponsored' by the Embassy of Kazakhstan for landing chartered cargo flights by 'G.S.T. Aero' from Dubai during February and March, 2002. Investigations have revealed that the fax letter sent by the Embassy of Kazakhstan to Ministry of External Affairs was forged and manipulated by ground handling agent 'Sam-Avia'. Embassy of Kazakhstan have informed that they did not send the letter based on which Ministry of External Affairs had reportedly issued authorisation to the Directorate General of Civil Aviation to issue clearance. The matter is being investigated by Delhi Police.

[English]

Outstanding Advances in ICAR

6846. SHRI ARUN KUMAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Audit Report of the CAG (Scientific Department) for the year ended March 31, 1991 highlighted outstanding advances of Rs. 102.06 lakh and the ICAR in its action taken note stated in October, 1994 that action to clear outstanding amount was being pursued vigorously but scrutiny of records revealed that ICAR failed to check payment of advances and outstanding advances and the same accumulated to Rs. 1013.61 lakh as on March 31, 2000 against officials, private parties and Government organisations as per CAG Report 5 of 2001;

(b) if so, whether the matter has since been enquired into for giving false assurance of recovery of advances and to fix the responsibility and accountability of the officials responsible therefor;

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the present status of outstanding advances indicating the names of parties against whom these are outstanding alongwith the time since when these are outstanding?

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

(a) The audit observation of the CAG Report actually pertains to Indian Veterinary Research Institute, Izatnagar. Advances totalling Rs. 102.06 lakhs were outstanding pertaining to CPWD, DGS&D and Departmental Officers

as on June, 1991 in respect of IVRI, Izatnagar as per C&AG Report for the year ending 31st March 1991. All the Government departments are pursued closely to render the adjustment accounts expeditiously. The adjustment of advances given to departmental employees is made as per the General Financial Rules. As a result of constant monitoring the advances of Rs. 102.06 lakhs pertaining to IVRI, Izatnagar as indicated in CAG Report 1991, were adjusted. As regards outstanding advances of Rs. 1013.61 lakhs in respect of IVRI, Izatnagar, pertaining to CAG Report 2001, is concerned it is stated that these figures pertain to the period from 1995-96 to 1999-2000 only. Further the ICAR, being a pre-deposit party for the purpose of availing the services of Government Departments like CPWD, DGS&D, CPS DAVP, etc. for execution/procurement of certain works/stores respectively is required to deposit the amount in advance. As such release of advances to various Government Organizations as well as Contingent, TA, LTC advances to its employees is an ongoing process. These advances are, however, closely monitored by the Unit concerned as well as by the ICAR Headquarters for early settlement/adjustment. The position of outstanding advances is also submitted for consideration of the SFC/GB regularly. Majority of these advances relates to CPWD which is the authorized agency for construction works. At present the total outstanding amount of Rs. 1013.61 lakhs pertaining to IVRI, Izatnagar has been brought down to Rs. 785.74 lakhs.

(b) N.A.

(c) N.A.

(d) The present status of advances outstanding against different parties i.e. Government Departments/Private Parties/Departmental Officers etc. and the time since outstanding is as follows:

(Rs. in lakhs)

Year	Govt. Deppt. (CPWD/DGS&D)	Private Parties	Deppt. Official	TA	LTC	Total
1995-96	232.64	—	0.51	22.00	—	255.15
1996-97	149.38	—	—	—	—	149.38
1997-98	24.35	6.89	—	—	—	31.24
1998-99	95.38	0.85	0.01	—	0.05	96.29
1999-00	251.71	1.27	0.52	0.12	0.06	253.68
Total	753.46	9.01	1.04	22.12	0.11	785.74

*[Translation]***Upliftment of Small and Marginal Farmers**

6847. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any policy for the upliftment of the small and marginal farmers of the country particularly those of Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(a) to (c) National Agriculture Policy announced by Government of India in July, 2000 accords due priority to upliftment of small and marginal farmers. Accordingly, the Government provides assistance to small and marginal farmers in the form of subsidized inputs, extension of technical know how, price support measures and promotion of allied activities so as to help them raise agriculture production and their income. In Rajasthan assistance is provided for production and distribution of certified seeds, plant protection chemicals, purchase of farm implements and equipment under farm mechanization and horticulture schemes like a drip irrigation, purchase of sprinkler sets etc., to the farmers including small and marginal farmers, in whose case the subsidy is higher than the subsidy given to others.

*[English]***Agricultural Labourers Affected due to Chemical Pesticides**

6848. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that due to exposure to chemical pesticides about 500 agricultural labourers have been fatally affected in the Warangal district of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether the similar cases have been reported from other States also;

(c) if so, whether the Government contemplate to conduct an in-depth health study in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (d) As per the report from the Government of Andhra Pradesh, 51 cases of pesticide poisoning involving 13 deaths due to exposure to pesticides have been reported during September and October, 2001. Some deaths due to pesticides poisoning have been reported from a few other States also.

The Registration Committee constituted under the Insecticides Act, 1968 registers the pesticides only after satisfying itself regarding their efficacy and safety to human being, animals and the environment. If the pesticides are used as per the prescribed directions, they do not pose any harm to human beings, animals and the environment. Further Government is promoting Integrated Pest Management (IPM) to reduce consumption of chemical pesticides. Farmers are provided training on safe and judicious use of pesticides by organizing farmers field schools. Training is also imparted to medical doctors on diagnosis and effective management of pesticide poisoning cases. No in-depth health monitoring study is contemplated in this regard by the Ministry of Agriculture.

Celebration of Birth Anniversary of Lord Mahavir

6849. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a sum of Rs. 100 crore was sanctioned by the Union Government for taking up various projects in connection with Jainism, conservation of Jain monuments and other related welfare projects during the 2600th Janma Kalyanak year of Bhagwan Mahavir;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of projects taken up so far in this connection and the amount spent on each project;

(d) whether the projects taken up and the amount spent/to be spent on each project were approved by the National Committee constituted by the Government for the purpose;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) and (b) An amount of Rs. 45.00 crores was provided by the Government of India during 2001-2002 to celebrate 2600th Janma Kalyanak of Bhagwan Mahavir for a period of one year beginning 6th April, 2001. The Government has provided an additional sum

of Rs. 50.00 crores during the current financial year for celebrating the event.

(c) The projects taken up and amount spent on each so far are as follows:—

- (i) Rs. 493 lakhs for developmental works at Bhagwan Mahavir Vanasthali in New Delhi.
- (ii) Rs. 1788.92 lakhs for developmental works around Jain Teerthsthal at Shreyansgiri, Urvaha, Deedwana Oli, Bawangaja, Sonagiri and Gandharvapuri in Madhya Pradesh, Viratnagar, Kesariya, Amer, Zawar Mines, Achalgarh, Amarsagar, Sh. Mahaveerji, Lodruvapatan, Dilwada, and Ranakpur in Rajasthan, Bateshwar, Dudhai, Sironji, Vehlana, Hastinapur and Badagaon in Uttar Pradesh, Bhiloda, Umata and Kumbharia in Gujarat, Ludhiana in Punjab, Arasikeri in Karnataka and Vaishali and Pawapuri in Bihar.
- (iii) Rs. 1076 lakhs for conservation of centrally protected Jain Monuments at 54 sites in Kolkata, Hyderabad, Patna, Vadodara, Bhopal, Jaipur, Chennai, Bhubaneswar, Chandigarh, Bangalore, Dharwad, Thrissur and Lucknow Circles.
- (iv) Rs. 28.00 lakhs for construction of Sculpture sheds at four different places in Cuttack and Puri, for construction of a mini Site Museum at Chaudwar and for construction of Jaina Heritage Museum at Pratapnagri, in District Cuttack.
- (v) Rs. 50.00 lakhs for development of two earthquake ravaged villages in Bhuj District of Gujarat.
- (vi) Rs. 1000.00 lakhs for animal and bird care with special emphasis on Gaushalas.
- (vii) Rs. 3.00 lakhs for holding seminar on Jain & Prakrit Studies.

(d) to (f) The National Committee, constituted by the Government to celebrate 2600 years of Bhagwan Mahavir's Janma Kalyanak, in its meeting held on 9th December, 2000 had *inter-alia*, decided to put emphasis on creating permanent assets e.g. Mahavir Vanasthali Park in New Delhi, to complete the incomplete works in Vaishali & Pawapuri, to launch special projects for conservation of Jain Monuments and to constitute an Implementation Committee under the Chairmanship of Minister of Tourism and Culture. All projects taken up so far are in accordance with the decisions of the National Committee and the Implementation Committee.

Investigation of A.A.I.

6850. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:
SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:
SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI:
SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Advertising rights scam costs AAI Rs. 21.6 crore" appearing in the Hindustan Times dated May 01, 2002;

(b) if so, whether CBI has since investigated the scam in which Airports Authority of India (AAI) officials in connivance with Delhi based company has caused losses to exchequer by several crores;

(c) if so, the details of the *modus operandi* of the scam; and

(d) the time by which investigations are likely to be completed and responsibilities to be fixed?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) registered First Information Report (FIR) against some officials of Airports Authority of India and M/s. TDI International (I) Pvt. Ltd. Further details in this regard are being ascertained from CBI.

Investment of EPF in IFCI and IDBI

6851. SHRI VAIKO: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the major defaulters where the Employees Provident Fund has been invested;

(b) the total amount due from each of these defaulters;

(c) the amount invested by EPF in Industrial Finance Corporation of India (IFCI) and also in Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI);

(d) whether the independent Provident Fund Trust also has invested independently in IFCI, IDBI and other financial institutions;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the Central Board of Trustees of EPF in the recent meeting at Delhi discussed this issue;

(g) if so, the details thereof;

(h) whether the EPF authority plans to take up the impending crisis at the highest level of the Union Government; and

(i) if so, the response of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) Hindustan Machine Tools (HMT) and Industrial Finance Corporation of India (IFCI) are the major defaulters where the Employees Provident Fund money has been invested.

(b) As on 31.3.2002 the total face value of the amount due from HMT is Rs. 25 crores and Rs. 50.12 crores from IFCI Ltd.

(c) As on 31.3.2002 the amount invested by EPF in IFCI and IDBI is Rs. 1,046.43 crores and Rs. 3,442.57 crores respectively.

(d) There are no independent Provident Fund Trusts under the purviews of the Central Board of Trustees, EPF.

(e) Does not arise in view of (d) above.

(f) to (i) The matter was discussed by the Central Board of Trustees (EPF) in its Special Meeting held on 12.4.2002.

Irrigation Project as National Projects

6852. SHRI AMBAREESHA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of irrigation projects of Karnataka which have been declared as National Projects;

(b) whether the Government have any proposal to declare more irrigation projects as National Projects in the country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) As of now, there is no proposal to declare any irrigation project as a National Project.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

CBI Inquiry against ASI Officials

6853. SHRI P.D. ELANGOVAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the CBI has since completed investigations on the pending cases against ASI officials charged with corruption and misappropriation of funds and machinery;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether lots of official files and grievances records have not been attended/addressed by the Directorate of Archaeological Survey of India and kept pending for months together; and

(d) if so, the steps taken for the speedy disposal of such pending cases/files?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) and (b) The CBI have finalized investigations in the following cases registered in the last three years:—

1. RC 14 (A)/98-CBI/BLR, Dated 30.4.1998- Misappropriation of Government funds by some of the former and present officials of the Bangalore Circle.

2. PE 3 (A) 2000-LKO, Dated 29.9.2000 - Misappropriation of Government funds by former and present officials of the Lucknow Circle.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. A grievance redressal mechanism has been specifically prescribed for this purpose.

[Translation]

Child Labour and Child Apprentice

6854. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN:
SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any difference between a child labour and a child apprentice;

(b) if so, the manner in which these two are classified; and

(c) the number of occasions when the schemes launched for the child labourers have been reviewed so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) and (b) Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986 defines a "Child" as a person who has not completed his or her fourteenth year of age. On the other hand, as per the Apprentice Act, 1961, "apprentice" means a person who is undergoing apprenticeship training in pursuance of a contract of apprenticeship. A person shall not be qualified for being engaged as an apprentice to undergo apprenticeship training in any designated trade, unless he (a) is not less than fourteen years of age, and (b) satisfies such standards or education and physical fitness as may be prescribed.

(c) The Government of India has been implementing two schemes for the benefit of children withdrawn from work namely the Scheme of National Child Labour Projects (NCLPs) and the Scheme of Grants-in-aid to Voluntary Organisations.

The Projects are continuously monitored through receipt of periodical reports and returns and reviews at the Centre, State and District levels. A Central Monitoring Committee, under the Chairmanship of Labour Secretary, has also been set up for the overall supervision, monitoring and evaluation of the NCLPs. The working of child labour projects has recently been reviewed in a National Conference on Child Labour held in January 2001. A large scale evaluation of selected NCLPs has also recently been taken up. Completed evaluations have shown that the magnitude of the child labour problem can be considerably reduced through the rehabilitation measures by the projects.

[English]

Appointment of Directors in Air India

6855. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air India has appointed new Directors while the airlines all over the world is downsizing; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) and (b) No new post of Director has been created in Air India. However, certain Director level posts were filled up internally by promotion of eligible officers following superannuation/transfer of the previous incumbents. Infact, some Director level posts have even been downgraded/abolished in Air India.

Illegal Coal Mining

6856. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI: Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to refer to the reply given to the Unstarred Question No. 2514 dated December 5, 2000 regarding Illegal Coal Mining and state:

(a) whether the information has since been collected;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons for delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The information has since been collected and is given below:—

State	Company	No. of FIR Lodged		
		1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01 (April. - Sept.)
W. Bengal	ECL	209	110	83
W. Bengal	BCCL	—	—	—
Total W.B.		209	110	83
Bihar	ECL	54	45	20
Bihar	BCCL	2	2	1
Bihar	CCL	4	25	15
Total Bihar		60	72	36

(c) Does not arise in view of the answer given to parts (a) & (b) above.

Waterfalls in Andaman and Nicobar Islands

6857. SHRI BISHNU PADA RAY: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the existence of waterfalls at Krishna Nallah in Andaman & Nicobar Islands;

(b) if so, the number of such waterfalls alongwith locations;

(c) whether the Government propose to develop the waterfalls from tourism point of view and have earmarked any funds for the purpose;

(d) if so, whether the Government have any proposal to provide ropeway facilities there; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) There are two main water falls namely "White Surf" and "Whisper Wave" in Little Andamans.

(c) Development and promotion of places of tourist interests/centres is primarily undertaken by the State Governments/UT Administrations. However, Department of Tourism, Government of India provides funds for the tourism-related projects every year in consultation with them. During 2001-2002 on project for development of waterfalls at Krishna Nallah was prioritised.

(d) At present, there is no ropeway project proposed for the waterfall area.

(e) Does not arise.

Use of Fertilizer

6858. SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in India 99 Kg. fertilizer per hectare is generally used whereas in China, Japan, U.K., France, Germany, U.S.A. and even in Bangladesh the use of fertilizer is much more i.e. 257, 290, 330, 248, 243, 110 and 141 Kgs. per hectare respectively;

(b) whether due to intensive cropping and excessive use of high yielding seeds, the nutrient reserve (NPK) being the main ingredient in our agricultural lands, is being exhausted, resulting in loss of fertility;

(c) if so, whether the safeguard the fertility of land the Government are planning to go in for an Integrated Plant Nutrient Supply System which offers an accurate mixture of chemical, organic and biological fertilizers simultaneously with emphasis on agricultural research and technological or applied training of the farmers;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

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

(a) The average consumption of fertilizers in the country in terms of plant nutrients is about 95 Kg. per hectare. It is, therefore, lower than the consumption in the countries like China, Japan, U.K., France, Germany, USA and Bangladesh.

(b) In the intensively cultivated areas, the removal of plant nutrients from the soils is higher than other areas. In such areas/States, consumption of plant nutrients is also much higher than National average consumption of 95 kg. The consumption of NPK in Punjab is about 185 kg. per hectare, in Andhra Pradesh 158 kg/ha., in Tamil Nadu 163 kg. and UP 125 kg. per ha.

(c) to (e) With a view to propagating the concept of Integrated Plant Nutrient Supply System, Government, encourages the use of organic manures such as rural and urban compost, vermicompost, biogas slurry and biofertilisers along with chemical fertilizers. This concept is being popularized by the extension agencies in the State Governments and the Centre through training and education of the farmers. To augment the supply of non-chemical form of plant nutrients, Government has been implementing a scheme on Development & use of Biofertilisers where biofertiliser production units were set up in different States. Under the scheme of Balanced & Integrated Use of Fertilisers, support was given during Eighth and Ninth Plan to set up the compost plants in the urban areas so as to convert the biodegradable wastes into manure for use in agriculture. To give a boost to production and promotion of organic source of plant nutrients, during Tenth plan, the Government has proposed a new scheme entitled 'National Project on Organic Farming' which will facilitate the production and promotion of organic source of plant nutrients which could be used as supplemental source of nutrients.

CVC Inquiry against DMS Officers

6859. SHRI C. SREENIVASAN:

SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to refer to reply given to Unstarred Question No. 474 dated March 4, 2002 regarding CVC inquiry against DMS Officers and state:

(a) the details of the irregularities pointed out in the inquiry report;

(b) whether the Government are also aware of the reported misuse of office vehicles by the DMS officers;

(c) if so, the efforts being made to check the same;

(d) the steps taken to implement the policy of rotational transfers in DMS particularly with regard to the officers facing CVC inquiry;

(e) whether promotions have reportedly been given to some of the said officers recently;

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

(g) the time by which the inquiry is likely to be completed?

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

(a) Following are the findings of inquiry report:—

1. IPCL did introduce 80:20 ratio and DMS also accepted it.
2. 80:20 ratio is operationally feasible.
3. 80:20 ratio is more cost saving as the price of LLDPE per M.T. is less than that of LDPE
4. That the records are amply clear that introduction of 80:20 ratio was the consensus decision. There were no reports either from the operational or technical ground to discontinue this.

(b) and (c) DMS being an operational organisation, the officials of the organisation is required to travel extensively and proper check on the movement of vehicles is conducted through log books and entries.

(d) No officer has been charge-sheeted on the recommendation of CVC except one officer against whom a Departmental enquiry for misconduct and negligence of duty has been initiated by this Department in consultation with the CVC. Most of the Group 'A' posts in DMS are isolated posts and therefore rotation of transfer is not possible.

(e) No Sir.

(f) and (g) Question does not arise.

Violation of Provisions of Working Journalist Act

6860. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether various associations of journalists have voiced their concern against the violation of provisions of Working Journalists Act by some management;

(b) if so, whether the Government are aware of a practice where journalists are forced to accept low salaries; and

(c) the steps proposed to meet the long-pending grievances of the 'fourth Estate'?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (c) Manisana Wage Boards set up under the Working Journalists and Other Newspaper Employees (Conditions of Service) and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1955 submitted their recommendations on 25.7.2000 which were notified by the Government *vide* Orders dated 5.12.2000 and 15.12.2000 for implementation by all States/UTs Since then, the Government have received a number of representations from various newspaper unions/associations against non-implementation/partial implementation of the recommendations of the Wage Boards.

As per the Act, responsibility of the implementation of the Wage Board Award and various other provisions of the Act lies with the respective State Governments. Therefore, the Government have time and again impressed upon all States to take immediate steps, in particular to set up tri-partite implementation Committee/Special Cells to oversee full and effective implementation of the recommendations of the Award. The Ministry of Labour is also closely monitoring the progress of implementation of the Award.

[Translation]

Construction of Indian Hall in Mexico

6861. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Indian Hall has been constructed in Mexico under the Cultural Exchange Programme (C.E.P.);

(b) if so, the total amount spent thereon by the Government;

(c) whether instead of seeking the information through the state-of-the-art means of communication three officers were asked to go on a foreign tour of Mexico but they had to return from the airport due to certain reasons;

(d) if so, the expenditure incurred by the Government on the above exercise; and

(e) the action taken by the Government against the guilty officers involved in such irregularities?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) and (b) The National Museum had sent some exhibits to the National Museum of Culture in Mexico for setting up a Hall of Indian Culture there, at a cost of Rs. 22,19,308/-.

(c) Three Curators of National Museum were deputed to Mexico after following due procedure for setting up the Gallery in the Hall of Indian Culture in National Museum of Culture, Mexico. A message from Director, National Museum of Culture, Mexico was, however, received only after the departure of these officials that due to change in Government, they were unable to provide any hospitality and facility for setting up the Hall of Indian Culture and as such they had to return without doing any work.

(d) A sum of Rs. 5,28,843/- was incurred.

(e) As there are no irregularities involved in this case, the question of taking action against any officer does not arise.

[English]

Mine Safety

6862. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI: Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to employ mechanised substitutes for hazardous mining operations;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have any proposal to engage labour and local population in mine safety; and

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

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

(a) and (b) Mechanisation of mining operations in the mines of Coal India Limited (CIL) is a continuous process which reduces the exposure of employees of hazardous conditions. Neyveli Lignite Corporation Ltd. (NLC) has adopted highly improved mechanised open cast mining technology in their mines ever since inception.

CIL has envisaged to enhance the present level of mechanised production of 257.32 Mt. (Opencast - 230.42 Mt. and Underground 26.90 Mt.) in 2001-02 (Provisional) to 327.79 mt. (Opencast - 288.42 Mt. and Underground 39.37 Mt.) in 2006-07 (Projected), break up of which is as under:

Technology	(Fig. in million tonnes)	
	2001-02 (prov.)	2006-07 (Projection)
Mechanised OC	230.42	288.42
Conventional longwall	0.22	0.27
Mechanised Board & Pillar (SDL/LHD)	24.13	31.31
Mechanised longwall	2.21	4.97
Continuous miner	Nil	2.33
Special methods & others	0.34	0.49
Total mechanised production	257.32	327.79

Mechanisation in all the existing underground mines is not feasible because of prevailing unfavourable geo-mining conditions like steep inclination, thickness variation, capability etc.

(c) and (d) There is no proposal to involve the local population in promoting mine safety. Provision for involvement of workers in promoting mine safety already exists. There is an institution of Workmen's Inspector (in mines where employment per day is at least 500) to advise the Manager about safety matters in the mine. Also, Safety Committees are required to be provided in mines (where employment per day is at least 100) with

at least 5 representatives from the workers. This Committee meets at least once a month.

[*Translation*]

Outstanding Dues against VVIPs

6863. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the former Prime Minister of India and other Ministers and officers etc. have not paid outstanding dues to the Government for the air travel they undertook by Air India, Indian Airlines, Alliance Air and Pawan Hans;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the amount outstanding against each individual; and

(d) the date by which the dues against them are likely to be recovered and the steps taken/proposed to be taken to recover dues from them?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of House.

Companies Having Aircraft

6864. SHRI RAMSHAKAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has been keeping records of aircraft in possession of various Departments/Undertakings;

(b) if so, the details of those Government Departments, Ministries, Public Sector Undertakings and Autonomous Bodies which have their own aircraft;

(c) the date on which these aircraft were procured alongwith the number of flights made by them, till-date;

(d) the objective for which these aircrafts were purchased; and

(e) the number of cases of misuse of these aircraft that have come to the notice of the Government during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) to (c) The details of aircraft in possession of Government Departments, Ministries, Public Sector Undertakings are given in the enclosed statement. Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) does not maintain the records of the number of flights made by these aircrafts.

(d) State Government aircrafts are normally used for carrying Chief Ministers, other State Dignitaries and senior officers. Aircraft of Public Sector Undertaking/Autonomous bodies are used for carrying senior executives/Officers of the organization/Company. BSF aircraft are used for carriage of officers/troops; injured personnel and dead bodies while helicopters are also used for survey of border areas. ONGC helicopter are used for movement of their personnel to oil field and pipeline survey.

(e) No case of misuse has come to the notice of DGCA. However, DGCA's basic role is to monitor safety and airworthiness of the aircraft.

Statement

Sl.No.	Regn. No.	Type of Aircraft	Date of Regn.	Owner/Operator
1	2	3	4	5
1.	BSA	Beech Super King	03.08.95	Border Security Force
2.	EQL	Cheetah SA315	11.10.90	Border Security Force
3.	EBA	Cheetah SA315	06.01.97	Border Security Force
4.	EUI	Cheetah SA315	19.10.95	Govt. of Jammu & Kashmir
5.	EUY	Cheetah SA315B	04.08.97	Govt. of Jammu & Kashmir
6.	APG	Bell 430	14.01.99	Govt. of Andhra Pradesh
7.	CNK	Piper Cub Special	15.02.85	Govt. of Uttar Pradesh
8.	CNM	Piper Cub Special	15.02.85	Govt. of Uttar Pradesh

1	2	3	4	5
9.	DGJ	Piper Cub Special	19.10.87	Govt. of Uttar Pradesh
10.	DIT	Piper Cub Special	19.10.87	Govt. of Uttar Pradesh
11.	DJT	Piper Cub Special	12.10.85	Govt. of Uttar Pradesh
12.	EDJ	Beech Baron B-55	09.05.74	Govt. of Bihar
13.	EDL	Beech Baron B-55	30.05.74	Govt. of Uttar Pradesh
14.	EDT	Alouette III	19.08.75	Govt. of Maharashtra
15.	EEJ	Beech Baron B-58	25.03.76	Govt. of Orissa
16.	EFG	Beech King Air	30.04.77	Govt. of Bihar
17.	EGK	Alouette III	13.02.80	Govt. of Karnataka
18.	EGP	Alouette III	12.11.81	Govt. of Andhra Pradesh
19.	EHB	Beech Super King	18.12.81	Govt. of Orissa
20.	EHJ	Alouette III	08.10.90	Govt. of West Bengal
21.	EHY	Beech King Air	24.12.82	Govt. of Punjab
22.	EIE	Beech Super King	29.12.83	Govt. of Uttar Pradesh
23.	EJR	Beech Duchess 76	13.11.85	Govt. of Bihar
24.	EJY	Beech Bonanza	24.01.86	Govt. of Uttar Pradesh
25.	ENU	Dauphin SA365N	23.08.89	Govt. of Bihar
26.	ENV	Dauphin SA365N	15.09.89	Govt. of Bihar
27.	ENX	Dauphin SA365N	30.10.87	Govt. of Gujarat
28.	EQE	Cheetah SA315	27.10.88	Govt. of J & K (State Forest Co)
29.	EQN	Beech King Air	10.3.89	Rajasthan State Flying School
30.	EQO	Beech King Air	21.3.89	Govt. of Uttar Pradesh
31.	FJK	Bell 407	12.7.01	Govt. of Jammu & Kashmir
32.	GUJ	Beech Super King	29.5.00	Govt. of Gujarat
33.	HYA	Beech King Air	20.12.94	Govt. of Haryana
34.	MPG	Beech Super King	12.2.01	Govt. of Chattisgarh
35.	MPS	Bell 430	30.3.98	Govt. of Madhya Pradesh
36.	SOK	Dauphin 365N3	1.2.99	Govt. of Karnataka
37.	TNA	Bell 412EP	14.7.95	Govt. of Tamil Nadu
38.	UPA	Beech Super King	25.4.94	Govt. of Uttar Pradesh
39.	UPB	Bell 230	26.7.95	Govt. of Uttar Pradesh
40.	UPT	Zenith CH 2000	14.1.97	Govt. of Uttar Pradesh

1	2	3	4	5
41.	UPU	Zenith CH 2000	14.1.97	Govt. of Uttar Pradesh
42.	UPV	Zenith CH 2000	14.1.97	Govt. of Uttar Pradesh
43.	UPW	Zenith CH 2000	1.10.96	Govt. of Uttar Pradesh
44.	UPX	Zenith CH 2000	1.10.96	Govt. of Uttar Pradesh
45.	UPY	Beech Bonanza	12.8.96	Govt. of Uttar Pradesh
46.	UPZ	Beech King Air	16.8.95	Govt. of Uttar Pradesh
47.	ELY	Lama SA315B	19.9.86	M/o Environment & Forests
48.	EJZ	Beech King Air	1.5.86	Govt. of Haryana
49.	EFI	Alouette III	5.5.99	Govt. of Uttar Pradesh
50.	LJK	Bell 407	19.4.2002	Govt. of Jammu & Kashmir
51.	MPT	Beech B200	26.4.2002	Govt. of Madhya Pradesh
PUBLIC SECTOR COMPANIES/AUTONOMOUS BODIES				
52.	DTP	Piper Super Cub	6.1.65	IIT Kanpur
53.	DUM	Cessna 182H	28.10.65	IIT Kanpur
54.	DWA	Pushpaka MK-1	8.3.67	Indian Institute of Science
55.	ETL	Piper Saratoga II	27.10.93	IIT Kanpur
56.	BNK	Bell-206 L4	3.2.98	Bharat Forge Co.
57.	CIL	Beech Super King	9.12.93	Coal India Ltd.
58.	DMQ	Beech Twin	28.9.60	I.I.S.C.O. Bumpur
59.	DMR	Beech Queen Air	27.10.60	I.I.S.C.O. Bumpur
60.	BOQ	Beech Queen Air	4.8.74	Steel Authority of India
61.	BOR	Beech Twin	12.7.62	Hindustan Steel Ltd.
62.	DYP	Bell 206 A	16.1.89	Agro Aviation Division
63.	EAN	Islander BN-2A	25.11.70	Vishakhapatnam Steel Plant
64.	EBB	Beech Super King	24.1.97	National Remote Sensing Agency
65.	EIV	Alouette III	4.4.85	ONGC Nazira Assam
66.	EIW	Alouette III	4.4.85	ONGC Nazira Assam
67.	EIZ	Alouette III	4.4.85	ONGC
68.	ELZ	Beech King Air	22.12.86	Steel Authority of India
69.	EQD	Beech Super King	12.7.88	Bokaro Steel Plant
70.	EQY	Chetak SA 316 B	1.7.91	Coal India Ltd.
71.	ERY	Chetak SA 316 B	1.10.91	Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd.

1	2	3	4	5
72.	HAH	Schweizer 300C	23.12.98	Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd.
73.	KDN	Schweizer 330 SP	5.1.99	Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd.
74.	ECJ	Alouette III	8.9.75	Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd.
75.	EFQ	Avro HS-748	21.8.86	National Airports Authority
76.	EFR	Avro HS-748	21.8.86	National Airports Authority
77.	ENK	Dornier 228-200	31.12.86	National Airports Authority
78.	EPU	Dornier 228-201	4.4.89	National Airports Authority
79.	EEY	Alouette III	8.10.76	Kudremukh Iron Ore

AIRCRAFTS WITH AIR INDIA

S.No.	Regn.	Aircraft Name	Date of Regn.
1	2	3	4
1.	EFU	Boeing 747-237	21.2.79
2.	EGA	Boeing 747-237	6.7.79
3.	EGB	Boeing 747-237	6.7.79
4.	EGC	Boeing 747-237	6.7.79
5.	EHN	Airbus-A-300B4	30.4.82
6.	EHO	Airbus-A-300B4	30.4.82
7.	EHQ	Airbus-A-300B4	6.7.82
8.	EJG	Airbus-A-310	13.1.86
9.	EJH	Airbus-A-310	13.1.86
10.	EJI	Airbus-A-310	13.1.86
11.	EJJ	Airbus-A-310	9.1.86
12.	EJK	Airbus-A-310	9.1.86
13.	EJL	Airbus-A-310	9.1.86
14.	EQS	Airbus-A-310	23.8.90
15.	EQT	Airbus-A-310	23.8.90
16.	EPQ	Boeing-747-337-Combi	18.11.99
17.	EPX	Boeing-747-337-Combi	17.7.2001
18.	ESM	Boeing-747-437	24.5.93
19.	ESN	Boeing-747-437	24.5.93
20.	ESO	Boeing-747-437	24.5.93

1	2	3	4
21.	ESP	Boeing-747-437	5.7.94
22.	EVA	Boeing-747-437	29.10.96
23.	EVB	Boeing-747-437	29.10.96
24.	EVE	Airbus-A-310-300	16.12.2000
25.	EVF	Airbus-A-310-300	16.2.01
26.	EVG	Airbus-A-310	20.7.01
27.	EVH	Airbus-A-310	30.6.01
28.	EVI	Airbus-A-310	14.1.02

AIRCRAFTS WITH ALLIANCE AIR

1.	EGE	Boeing-737-200	26.2.01
2.	EGF	Boeing-737-200	26.2.01
3.	EGG	Boeing-737-200	1.6.99
4.	EGH	Boeing-737-200	1.6.99
5.	EGI	Boeing-737-200	1.6.99
6.	EGJ	Boeing-737-200	26.2.01
7.	EGM	Boeing-737-200	26.2.01
8.	EHE	Boeing-737-200	26.2.01
9.	EHF	Boeing-737-200	26.2.01
10.	EHG	Boeing-737-200	1.6.99
11.	EHH	Boeing-737-200	1.6.99

AIRCRAFTS WITH INDIAN AIRLINES

1.	EDY	Airbus-A300B2	10.4.78
2.	EFV	Airbus-A300B2	7.9.79
3.	EFW	Airbus-A300B2	22.4.80
4.	EFX	Airbus-A300B2	22.4.80
5.	EHC	Airbus-A300B4	20.3.82
6.	EHD	Airbus-A300B4	20.3.82
7.	EVC	Airbus-A300B4	8.6.98
8.	EVD	Airbus-A300B4	21.12.98
9.	EIO	Dornier 228-201	12.6.97
10.	EJN	Dornier 228-201	12.6.97

1	2	3	4
11.	EJO	Dornier 228-201	12.6.97
12.	EPB	Airbus-A-320	8.5.89
13.	EPC	Airbus-A-320	8.5.89
14.	EPD	Airbus-A-320	8.5.89
15.	EPE	Airbus-A-320	8.5.89
16.	EPF	Airbus-A-320	8.5.89
17.	EPG	Airbus-A-320	8.5.89
18.	EPH	Airbus-A-320	8.5.89
19.	EPI	Airbus-A-320	8.5.89
20.	EPJ	Airbus-A-320	18.10.99
21.	EPK	Airbus-A-320	18.10.99
22.	EPL	Airbus-A-320	8.5.89
23.	EPM	Airbus-A-320	7.12.99
24.	EPO	Airbus-A-320	21.11.89
25.	EPP	Airbus-A-320	21.11.89
26.	EPQ	Airbus-A-320	21.11.89
27.	EPR	Airbus-A-320	21.11.89
28.	EPS	Airbus-A-320	21.11.89
29.	EPT	Airbus-A-320	21.11.89
30.	ESA	Airbus-A-320	19.5.93
31.	ESB	Airbus-A-320	19.5.93
32.	ESC	Airbus-A-320	19.5.93
33.	ESD	Airbus-A-320	18.5.93
34.	ESE	Airbus-A-320	18.5.93
35.	ESF	Airbus-A-320	18.5.93
36.	ESG	Airbus-A-320	3.12.93
37.	ESH	Airbus-A-320	19.4.94
38.	ESI	Airbus-A-320	6.10.94
39.	ESJ	Airbus-A-320	27.10.94
40.	ESK	Airbus-A-320	30.11.94
41.	ESL	Airbus-A-320	23.12.94
42.	EVO	Airbus-A-320	15.5.01

1	2	3	4
43.	EVP	Airbus-A-320	26.3.01
44.	EVQ	Airbus-A-320	19.12.01
45.	EVR	Airbus-A-320	19.12.01
46.	EVS	Airbus-A-320	24.4.02
47.	EVT	Airbus-A-320	2.4.02

AIRCRAFT WITH IGRUA

1.	EMA	Trinidad TB20	15.12.86
2.	EMB	Trinidad TB20	15.12.86
3.	EMC	Trinidad TB20	15.12.86
4.	EME	Trinidad TB20	6.2.87
5.	EMF	Trinidad TB20	6.2.87
6.	EMG	Trinidad TB20	6.2.87
7.	EMH	Trinidad TB20	6.2.87
8.	EMI	Beech King Air C90	31.3.87
9.	EMJ	Beech King Air C90	29.4.87
10.	ENO	Robinson R22 Beta	3.11.87
11.	ENP	Robinson R22 Beta	3.11.87
12.	IGA	Trinidad TB20	4.3.99
13.	IGB	Trinidad TB20	4.3.99
14.	IGC	Trinidad TB20	4.3.99
15.	IGD	Trinidad TB20	15.4.99
16.	IGE	Trinidad TB20	15.4.99
17.	IGF	Trinidad TB20	15.4.99
18.	IGG	Trinidad TB20 NG	26.4.01

AIRCRAFT WITH PAWAN HANS LIMITED

1.	ASM	MI-172	23.4.98
2.	EKZ	Dauphin SA365N Helicopter	8.5.87
3.	ELB	Dauphin SA365N Helicopter	6.11.86
4.	ELC	Dauphin SA365N Helicopter	6.11.86
5.	ELD	Dauphin SA365N Helicopter	3.12.86
6.	ELE	Dauphin SA365N Helicopter	3.12.86

1	2	3	4
7.	ELF	Dauphin SA365N Helicopter	31.12.86
8.	ELG	Dauphin SA365N Helicopter	31.12.86
9.	ELI	Dauphin SA365N Helicopter	13.2.87
10.	ELJ	Dauphin SA365N Helicopter	13.2.87
11.	ELK	Dauphin SA365N Helicopter	13.2.87
12.	ELL	Dauphin SA365N Helicopter	4.3.87
13.	ELM	Dauphin SA365N Helicopter	4.3.87
14.	ELN	Dauphin SA365N Helicopter	3.7.87
15.	ELP	Dauphin SA365N Helicopter	8.5.87
16.	ELQ	Dauphin SA365N Helicopter	8.5.87
17.	ELR	Dauphin SA365N Helicopter	12.8.87
18.	ELS	Dauphin SA365N Helicopter	15.9.87
19.	ELT	Dauphin SA365N Helicopter	12.8.87
20.	ENW	Dauphin SA365N Helicopter	4.5.98
21.	ENZ	Dauphin SA365N Helicopter	29.5.95
22.	PHA	Bell 206 L4 Helicopter	13.4.93
23.	PHB	Robinson R44 Helicopter	15.4.94
24.	PHC	Robinson R44 Helicopter	25.8.94
25.	PHD	Bell 206 L4 Helicopter	20.5.96
26.	PHE	Bell 206 L4 Helicopter	20.5.96
27.	PHF	MI 172	26.12.96
28.	PHG	MI 172	26.12.96
29.	PHH	Bell 407	27.1.98
30.	PHI	Bell 407	27.1.98

[English]

Cost of Cultivation

6865. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether gross return for paddy has gone up over the years and stood at around Rs. 11,264 per hectare per annum in 1996-97 whereas the net return works out to a pathetic Rs. 379 per hectare; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to reduce the cost of cultivation with an aim to help the farmers?

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

(a) Perhaps the Hon'ble member is quoting statistics appearing in a report published in the 'Economic Times' dated 9th April, 2002.

The per hectare gross returns for Paddy in Madhya Pradesh increased over the years and stood at Rs. 6446

in 1996-97 whereas the net returns stood at Rs. 1275 in that year. The figure of Rs. 11264 refers to value of output of Paddy per hectare in Madhya Pradesh in 1996-97.

(b) For reducing the cost of cultivation, programmes of agricultural development under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes have aimed at increasing productivity leading to decrease in unit cost of production. Besides major inputs like fertilizers, electricity, irrigation water etc. are being supplied at subsidized rates to check rise in cost of cultivation and thus help the farmers.

[Translation]

Expansion/Development of Agricultural Education

6866. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:
DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the system of agricultural education in the country needs comprehensive expansion and development;

(b) if so, the details of the suggestions received by the Government so far in this regard;

(c) whether the Government have formulated any prospective plan for implementation on the basis of the above said suggestions; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Dr. M.S. Swaminathan Committee in its report entitled "Bridge to a Century of Hope on the Farm Front (1997)" made broad spectrum of recommendations ranging from Panchyati Raj Institutions and Krishi Vigyan Kendras to Postgraduate Centre of Excellence in order to enhance national relevance & global competitiveness to agriculture education system.

Sub-Committees constituted to implement above recommendations have suggested:

- Agricultural education in the country be brought under the umbrella of ICAR.
- Personnel policies be made conducive to induct & retain talent.

- Vocationalization of educational programme & out-reach courses through State Agricultural Universities.

(c) and (d) ICAR has already prepared Vision-2020 and on the basis of it Education Division is working for development, formulation and institutionalisation of Agricultural Education Plan.

Appraisal of Schemes

6867. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH:
SHRI PADAM SEN CHOUDHRY:

Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to constitute special appraisal teams to monitor the implementation of various schemes and programmes;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) to (c) Each Ministry has its own mechanism for monitoring of the schemes/programmes sanctioned by it. The Committee of Secretaries headed by Cabinet Secretary periodically monitors the progress of major Central Sector Projects. Besides, a Committee has been set up to examine the extant procedures for investment approvals and implementation of projects and suggest measures to simplify and expedite the process of both public and private investments. This Committee is examining the issue of constitution of special facilitation teams by the Administrative Ministries to monitor implementation of various projects/programmes.

Ropeway System

6868. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Ropeway system existing in the country, place-wise;

(b) the details of Ropeway system proposed to be provided in Rajasthan, location-wise;

(c) whether the Government propose to provide any funds for the purpose; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) As per the information provided by some of the State Governments, the Ropeway system is existing at the following places:

- | | | |
|---------------------|---|---|
| 1. Bihar | — | i. Rajgir |
| 2. Himachal Pradesh | — | i. Hotel Timber Trail, Parwanoo to Timber Heights, Distt. Solan |
| | | ii. Jabli to Kasauli in Distt. Solan |
| | | iii. Shri Nainadeviji in Distt. Bilaspur |
| 3. J & K | — | i. Cable Car—Gulmarg |
| | | ii. Ropeway—Sanasar to Patnitop |
| | | iii. Chairlift, Gulmarg |
| 4. Uttaranchal | — | i. Mussoorie Gunhill—Ropeway |
| | | ii. Joshimath to Auli Ropeway |
| | | iii. Nainital to Snowview Ropeway |
| | | iv. Haridwar-Mansadevi Ropeway |
| | | v. Haridwar-Chandidevi Ropeway. |

(b) The following locations have been identified by the State Government of Rajasthan for establishment of ropeways:

- Kaiser-Kyari Amber, Jaigarh
- Savitri Mandir, Pushkar
- Taragarh (Ajmer)
- Moti Magri, Sajjangarh Fort (Udaipur)

- Scout Office, Gaumukh (Mount Abu)
- Jalore Fort (Jalore)
- Kailana Lake, Machhiya Fort (Jodhpur)
- Moosirani Chhatri Bala Kila, Alwar

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Assistance for Kumbh Mela

6869. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of Kumbh Mela to be held at Nasik and Trimbakeshwar in Maharashtra in 2003;

(b) if so, the details of arrangement being made therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to give any special assistance for the said Mela; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) to (d) Organisation of fairs and festivals is the responsibility of the State Governments/UT Administrations concerned. However, Department of Tourism, Government of India provides grants-in-aid on the basis of projects identified in consultation with them. The Planning Commission has sanctioned an amount of Rs. 50.00 crores for improving infrastructure for Kumbh Mela in Nasik during the year 2001-2002.

Scientific Farming

6870. SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to introduce scientific farming for increase in productivity in fisheries, poultry and piggery products especially for the self employment/upliftment of the backward communities in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have banned using of certain antibiotics on shrimp, hatcheries and processors;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) its impact on the export of these items?

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

(a) and (b) The Government is implementing the schemes of Development of Freshwater Aquaculture, and Integrated Coastal Aquaculture to increase the production of fish and the productivity of fishermen and the fish farmer through technical, financial and extension support. Similarly, the Government has been implementing the Schemes of Assistance to States for Poultry/Duck Farms, and Assistance for Piggery Development to increase the productivity of poultry/piggery farmers through introduction of improved and exotic breeds. These schemes help in supplementing the income of backward section of the society who are primarily engaged in these activities.

(c) and (d) As per the guidelines issued by Government of India in 1995, antibiotics are not to be used in shrimp farming activities. Further, Government of India *vide* Notification dated 17th August 2001 has specified a limit of maximum residue level of various antibiotics in sea food production. Government has also imposed a condition in the sanitary import permit that feed for aquaculture should be free from any chemical residues including antibiotics.

(e) Compliance with international standards on hygiene and food safety such as non use of banned antibiotics, may help India to be competitive.

Appointment in Coconut Board

6871. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA:
SHRI R.S. PATIL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Coconut Board is functioning without its Chairman for the last several years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which the Chairman is likely to be appointed?

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

(a) to (c) Coconut Development Board is not functioning without Chairman. Horticulture Commissioner in Department of Agriculture & Cooperation is holding charge of the post of Chairman of Coconut Development Board since January, 2002, when the Chairman appointed in October, 2000, took voluntary retirement. The Chairman, on regular basis, is to be appointed in accordance with the recently amended Rule 10 of Coconut Development Board Rules 1981.

Funds to Gujarat for Drought Relief Measures

6872. SHRI RAMSINH RATHWA:
SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the funds provided to the Government of Gujarat as drought relief measures during each of the last three years, till date;

(b) the funds utilised and lying unutilised with the State during the said period; and

(c) the remedial steps taken thereon?

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

(a) In addition to release of Central share of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF), assistance from National Fund for Calamity Relief (NFCR) amounting to Rs. 54.58 crore during 1999-2000, assistance from National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) amounting to Rs. 85 crore during 2000-01 and Rs. 27 crore during 2001-02, were released to Gujarat for drought relief.

(b) and (c) Distribution of relief on the ground is the responsibility of the State Government. The State Government has not so far reported the details of expenditure incurred specifically for drought.

[Translation]

Restoration of Air Services from Gorakhpur Airport

6873. SHRI BABBAN RAJBHAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether flights operation has been discontinued from Gorakhpur Airport located between Lumbini, the birthplace of Lord Buddha and Kushinagar frequented by large number of followers of Lord Buddha;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to restore the air services at this airport in view of the tourists visiting the said places; and

(c) if so, the time by which the air services from Gorakhpur is likely to be restored?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) to (c) Indian Airlines was operating twice a week service on Delhi-Kanpur-Gorakhpur-Delhi sector till May, 1992. The average passenger carriage between Delhi and Gorakhpur was about 20 passengers per flight. This service was, therefore, withdrawn due to inadequate passenger demand.

At present, Indian Airlines has no plans to restore the service due to capacity constraints.

International Flight from Bodh Gaya

6874. SHRI PADAM SEN CHOUDHRY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to start international flights from Bodh Gaya, the world famous Buddhist tourist spot in Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the names of the countries for which the flights will be started; and

(c) the time by which these flights are likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) to (c) Air India and Indian Airlines do not have any immediate plans to start international flights from Gaya Airport. However during the recently held bilateral civil aviation talks with Sri Lanka, the designated airline of Sri Lanka has been granted access to Gaya. Commencement of operations is subject to the Gaya airport being ready for international operations by Winter, 2002 and other terms contained in the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the two Governments.

Employment on Compassionate Grounds

6875. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:
DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:

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

(a) whether several cases relating to employment on compassionate grounds are pending in various subsidiaries of the Coal India Limited (CIL);

(b) if so, the number of such cases and the dates since when these are pending, subsidiary-wise;

(c) the reasons for such a long pendency; and

(d) the time by which these cases are likely to be disposed of ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) Providing employment on compassionate ground is an ongoing process. The cases are processed immediately on receipt of claim from the next of kin. 2885 cases are pending at various stages of examination in the subsidiaries of CIL over the last 4 years. Subsidiary-wise details are given below:

Name of the Company	No. of Cases Pending
Eastern Coalfields Limited	1412
Bharat Coking Coal Limited	72
Central Coalfields Limited	673
Western Coalfields Limited	477
South Eastern Coalfields Limited	53
Northern Coalfields Limited	11
Mahanadi Coalfields Limited	66
North Eastern Coalfields Limited	121
Total	2885

(c) The main reasons for pendency are:

1. Incomplete information/application.
2. Variance in information with regard to name, age, relationship of the dependent etc. which takes time for verification from different levels including verification report from state authorities.
3. Claims by more than one dependents for employment.
4. Some cases become sub-judice.
5. In some cases employment is provided to the dependent who is subsequently found medically unfit for working in mines and another dependent claims employment.

6. Delay by the dependent in turning up before the committee on the date fixed for the purpose.

(d) This being on-going process all efforts are taken to clear the cases as soon as the queries are complied with and application with related documents are found in order.

Polluting Mines

6876. SHRI SHIVAJI MANE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether many mine owners are spreading a lot of pollution in violation of the norms prescribed by his Ministry;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government against each of the offenders during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) Under the Environment (Protection) Act, standards and guidelines for coal mining operations have been notified which are enforced by the State Pollution Control Boards/Pollution Control Committees through their consent mechanism. Further, as per the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, every mining project has to acquire environmental clearance from the Ministry. The Ministry while according environmental clearance to a mining project prescribe specific conditions for safeguarding the environment. The conditions are regularly monitored by the Regional Offices of the Ministry and the State Pollution Control Boards/Pollution Control Committees. In case of any violation from the prescribed conditions, necessary action as per the provisions of the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 is taken by the State Pollution Control Boards/Pollution Control Committees.

[English]

Leakage of Water In Canals

6877. SHRI R.S. PATIL:
SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a survey conducted by the Government of Karnataka has revealed leakage of water to the extent

of 15 tmcft to 18 tmcft in 37 main canals and distributaries of major and medium irrigation projects;

(b) if so, whether the State Government is making efforts on a war footing to plug the leaks;

(c) if so, whether the Government of Karnataka has requested to the Union Government for financial assistance in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) As per the information received from State Government of Karnataka, leakage of 26 TMC of water was observed in 57 main canals along their distributaries and Field Irrigation Channels (FIC) covered under 19 irrigation projects, considering the release of water for a period of 180 days.

(b) The State Government has reported that they are taking steps like Lining of canals, Grouting, Repairs of sluices & regulators & Remedial measures suggested by experts from time to time to plug leakages.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Workshop on Unorganised Sector

6878. SHRI G. GANGA REDDY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether a two day workshop on unorganised sector (Labour) was held recently at Bhopal which was addressed by renowned economists and social scientists;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations made by the workshop; and

(c) the response of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. A two-day Workshop on "The Unorganised Sector in Madhya Pradesh" was organised by a Non-Governmental Organisation, called the Institute for Human Development on 1-2nd April, 2002 at Bhopal. As per the information received from the Government of Madhya Pradesh, they have not yet formally received the recommendations from the organisers of the Workshop.

[Translation]

Loss to BCCL due to Burning of Coal

6879. SHRI LAXMAN GILUWA: Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the total areas of Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL) got affected from underground fire and the quantum of coal destroyed thereby alongwith the progress made under the fire fighting project aimed at;

(b) the coal reserves still available in Jharia region and the quantum of coal destroyed due to the fire;

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to control fire and save Jharia town;

(d) whether the Government propose to shift Jharia town; and

(e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the rehabilitation package?

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

(a) Total area affected by fire in BCCL as per study conducted by CMPDIL in 1999 is around 8.9 sq. km. out of the total leasehold area of about 280 sq. km. Total reserve lost due to fire is estimated at around 37 million tonnes. 10 fires have been extinguished. Spreading of fire in BCCL has been retarded/controlled but could not be fully controlled, in spite of best efforts, due to enormity of the problems.

(b) Total geological reserve in Jharia Coalfields as assessed by GSI as on 1.1.2002 upto a depth of 1200 metre is 19.43 billion tonnes. Reserve destroyed due to fire is around 37 million tonnes.

(c) The following measures are being taken by BCCL to control fire depending upon the conditions.

- Blanketing/surface sealing/sealing
- Sand flushing
- Inert gas injection
- Trench cutting
- Water pooling etc.

(d) and (e) A Master Plan for 'Dealing with Fire, Subsidence and Rehabilitation in the Leasehold of Bharat Coking Coal Limited' was prepared in March 1999. The

Master Plan envisages rehabilitation of unstable and uncontrollable subsidence prone habitated areas of Jharia Coalfields including parts of Jharia town. The total cost of such rehabilitation as per the above Master Plan is Rs. 1981.14 crores (March 1999 base).

[English]

Bio Diversity Action Plan

6880. SHRI R.L. JALAPPA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Karnataka has forwarded any Bio Diversity Action Plan to the Government;

(b) if so, whether the same has been incorporated in the national version of the plan for conservation, sustainable use and equitable sharing in benefits from the use of biological diversity; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) and (c) The Ministry of Environment & Forests is implementing a National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) project for developing detailed action plans for biodiversity at ecoregions, State and sub-State levels. Drafting of the national plan has been initiated and it takes on board the action plans prepared by various States, including Karnataka.

Ban on Import of Sea Food from China

6881. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the European Union had banned import of sea food from China due to the presence of banned anti-biotics;

(b) if so, whether the importing countries are testing every consignment of sea food coming from Asia as anti-biotics detected in the sea food are found to be harmful for human consumption;

(c) if so, whether the Agricultural Produce Export Development Authority (APEDA) has issued an alert to all sea food exporters not to use anti-biotics on aqua farms; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) All consignments of shrimps from Thailand, Vietnam and Myanmar are being tested for Chloramphenicol and Nitofurans. Such testing is not done for Indian shrimps.

(c) and (d) The Marine Products Export Development authority (MPEDA), which is the nodal agency for promotion of seafood export, has alerted all seafood exporters, processors, farmers, feed manufactures, hatchery owners, etc. not to use the banned antibiotics in their Aquaculture inputs.

Welfare Funds for Unorganised Sector

6882. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:
SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI:
SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH:
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:
SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of workers working in unorganised sector;

(b) whether majority of the workers in the unorganised sector is not covered under any welfare scheme/funds;

(c) if so, whether there is any proposal to create welfare funds for unorganised workers and reformulate welfare schemes for beedi workers;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether there are persistent demand for setting up welfare funds for agricultural workers and those employed in the beedi sector, salt industry, fish processing industry and fish farms; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) As per Sample Survey conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation in 1999-2000 about 37 crore workers are employed in the unorganized sector.

(b) to (f) The Government has set up Welfare Funds for some categories of unorganised labour like beedi workers, cine workers and certain non-coal mine workers. Besides, there are a number of welfare schemes like Janshree Bima Yojana, National Social Assistance Programme, Employment Oriented Schemes funded by the Central Government for the benefit of workers in the

unorganised sector. It is the constant endeavour of the Government to provide some kind of social security cover to the unorganised workers in other sectors including salt industry, fish processing industry and fish farms etc. by exploring the possibility of constituting similar welfare fund mechanism. There is no proposal under consideration of the Government to set up a welfare fund for agricultural workers, but the Government has launched the Krishi Shramik Samajik Suraksha Yojana-2001 to cover 10 lakh agricultural workers in selected 50 districts over a span of 3 years. The scheme aims to provide life-cum-accident insurance, money-back, pension and superannuation benefits. The agricultural worker is required to pay Re. 1/- per day or Rs. 365/- per year and the contribution of the Government is Rs. 2/- per day or Rs. 730 per year per beneficiary.

[*Translation*]

Mineral Research Centres

6883. SHRI BRIJLAL KHABRI: Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of mineral research centres in the country, State-wise;

(b) the details of the mining work being undertaken in the country at present, location-wise; and

(c) the minerals extracted therefrom during 2001-2002 ?

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

(a) As per the information available the number of mineral related research centers/laboratories in the country (State-wise) is detailed below:—

State	No. of Research Centres
1	2
Maharashtra	9
Haryana	1
Orissa	3
Uttar Pradesh	2
West Bengal	3
Jharkhand	5
Goa	1
Assam	1
Andhra Pradesh	4

1	2
Tamil Nadu	2
Gujarat	1
Karnataka	2
Uttaranchal	1
Jammu & Kashmir	1
Delhi	2
Rajasthan	1
Total	39

The above list includes high precision laboratories and mineral research centres run by Central Government, Council of Scientific & Industrial Research, Central Public Sector Undertakings, State Governments & Public Sector Undertakings, academic institutions, major private laboratories and others.

(b) and (c) The mining work is undertaken almost in all states of the country for the minerals. The production of minerals during the year 2001-2002 (upto January, 2002) along with location of some important minerals is given below:—

Minerals	Name of States	Production during 2001-02 (upto January, 2002)
Coal	M.P., Chattisgarh, Jharkhand, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, West Bengal & Uttar Pradesh.	2,59,661 Thousand Tonnes
Lignite	Tamil Nadu & Gujarat	18,768 Thousand Tonnes
Iron Ore	Chattisgarh, Goa, Jharkhand, Karnataka & Orissa	68,493 Thousand Tonnes
Copper Conc.	Maharashtra, Jharkhand, Rajasthan, M.P.	1,36,564 Tonnes
Chromite	Orissa & Karnataka	17,97,697 Tonnes
Manganese Ore Ore	Orissa, Maharashtra, M.P., Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand & Goa.	12,40,394 Tonnes
Gold	Gujarat & Karnataka	8,226 Kilogram
Bauxite	Orissa, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh	65,60,499 Tonnes
Lead Conc.	Rajasthan	42,361 Tonnes
Limestone	Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan, Chattisgarh, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu & Karnataka	1,05,794 Thousand Tonnes
Phosphorite	Rajasthan	8,45,662 Tonnes
Dolomite	Orissa, Chattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh & Jharkhand	24,98,494 Tonnes
Kaolin	Kerala & Rajasthan	6,65,750 Tonnes
Gypsum	Rajasthan	22,39,401 Tonnes
Magnasite	Tamil Nadu	2,37,402 Tonnes
Steatite	Rajasthan	4,21,852 Tonnes

[English]

Special Incentive Plan for Development of Food Processing Units

6884. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering a special incentive plan to develop Food Processing units in Orissa, Assam, Jharkhand and Chattisgarh specially for minor forest produce; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (PROF. CHAMAN LAL GUPTA): (a) No special incentive plan specifically for food processing units in Orissa, Assam, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh is under consideration with Ministry of Food Processing Industries.

(b) Does not arise.

Setting up of Technology Mission for Horticulture Crop

6885. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:
SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH:
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY:
SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to cover only select perennial crops under the National Agriculture Insurance Scheme in some districts;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether demands have also been made to set up a technology mission for horticulture crops; and

Loss of Production

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) No Sir, National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) covers only food, oilseeds and annual commercial/horticultural crops. Perennial crops are not covered at present.

However, keeping in view the demands of various states, a Committee in the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation was set up to examine the possibilities for the coverage of perennial crops. This Committee has recommended for coverage of selected perennial crops on experimental basis. The Government of India have accepted the recommendations of the Committee.

(c) and (d) No Sir, demand for setting up Technology Mission for horticultural crops has not been received by this Department. In fact, Technology Mission for horticultural crops are already under implementation in North-Eastern States.

Jammu and Kashmir has asked for a separate Technology Mission for horticultural crops in the state.

Production Loss to BCCL

6886. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to refer to the reply given to the Unstarred Question No. 2444 dated 7, 2001 regarding Production loss to BCCL and state:

(a) the details of each factor responsible for the production loss of coal in Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL) during the last three years and till-date, year-wise; and

(b) the corrective steps taken to set the matter right?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) The details of each factor responsible for the loss of coal production in Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL) during the last three years and till date is as follows:

(In '000 tonnes)

Description	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02 (Provisional)
Power Failure	447295	292285	598788	422133
Non-availability of land	42331	9378	212052	178331
Rain/Drowning	59690	11728	70633	48851
Equipment breakdown	1175923	764774	1632429	1191684
Shortage of funds	2730	2610	41541	63956
Geo Mining disturbance	2636	18167	62991	192690
Others	1357332	708515	1421888	1265655
Total Loss	3087937	1807457	4040322	3363300

(b) The following corrective steps have been taken by BCCL to reduce the loss of production:—

- (i) *Power failure*—Close liaison with the Damodar Valley Corporation officials to improve matters with respect to increased availability of power, redistribution of critical peak loads, reorganisation of power lines and planned overhaul of electrical equipment.
- (ii) *Problem of Land Acquisition and Rehabilitation*—Frequent follow up with district and state authorities, coordination meeting with Chief Minister and concerned Secretaries of Jharkhand State, frequent interaction with revenue and forest officials for follow up of pending land acquisition proposals and direct purchase of land through mutual negotiation with villagers.
- (iii) *Inundation of mines*—Augmentation of pumping capacity in the mines, detailed action plan for monsoon preparation to prevent flooding of mines.
- (iv) *Shortage of funds*—Utilisation of surplus and spare able equipment of sister subsidiaries and by loan from Coal India Limited.
- (v) *Equipment break down*—Better spare management and inventory control.

[Translation]

Pulse Production in the Country

6887. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether production of pulse is not sufficient in the country;

(b) if so, whether certain pulse varieties have completely changed and its production has increased;

(c) if so, the names of such pulse varieties and the areas where its production has increased; and

(d) the existing difference in its consumption and production and the quantity that is required to be imported?

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

(a) The production of pulses falls little short of requirement. The production varies from year to year due to behaviour of monsoon.

(b) and (c) The research on pulses is conducted by Indian Institute of Pulses Research, Kanpur and other centres under Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR). ICAR has developed and released many varieties of pulses during last three years. The list of these varieties is enclosed as statement. The yield potential of released varieties ranges from 2.00 to 2.5 tonnes/ha. in case of Chickpea (Gram), Field pea and Pigeonpea (Arhar) and from 1.0 to 1.5 tonne/ha. in case of Green Gram (Moong) and Black Gram (Urad). The maturity duration of different pulse crops has also been reduced in many pulses crops which has helped in introduction of pulses in different cropping systems and seasons.

(d) The estimated production of pulses during the year 2001-02 is 13.8 million tonnes against the consumption requirement of 13.9 million tonnes. However, the import of pulses is under Open General Licence (OGL) and no targets for import are fixed. The import depends on the demand of various varieties of pulses in the domestic market.

Statement

Improved varieties of pulse crops released during the period 1999-2001

Name of variety/hybrid	Year of release	Yield (q/ha)	Area of adaptation	Important characters
1	2	3	4	5
CHICKPEA				
GCP 101 (Gujarat Gram-1)	1999	18-22	South West Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Gujarat	Tolerant to wilt
Pusa 1003 (Kabuli)	1999	18-20	Eastern Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal and Orissa	Bold seeded, tolerant to wilt

1	2	3	4	5
BDG-72 (Pusa Pragati)	1999	20	South West Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Gujarat	Bold seeded, resistant to wilt and root rot, drought tolerant
BG 1053 (Pusa Chamatkar)	1999	20	Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, Delhi and Western Uttar Pradesh	Bold seeded and moderately resistant to root diseases
JG-11	1999	18-22	Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu	Tolerant to Fusarium wilt
KAK-2	1999	18	South West Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Gujarat	Extra bold seeded kabuli variety, moderately resistant to fusarium wilt
GCP-105	2000	18	Eastern Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal and Orissa	Moderately resistant to wilt
SAKI 9516	2000	18-20	South West Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Gujarat	Resistant to wilt and moderately resistant to collar rot, BGM and Stunt
PIGEONPEA				
MA-3 (Mahiya Vikalp)	1999	20-22	South West Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Gujarat	Moderately tolerant to wilt and pod fly
MUNGBEAN				
HUM-1	1999	8-9	South West Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu	Resistant to yellow mosaic virus
PBM 2	2000	6	Eastern Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal and Orissa	Resistant to yellow mosaic virus
Pusa 9531	2000	9	South West Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Gujarat	Resistant to yellow mosaic virus and tolerant to jassids and whitefly
Pusa Bold-1 (Vishal)	2000	11	Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, Delhi and Western Uttar Pradesh	Resistant to yellow mosaic virus and tolerant to jassids and whitefly
Ganga-8	2001	10.30	Punjab, Haryana, Delhi, Rajasthan and Western U.P. Suited for summer and kharif season, irrigated and unirrigated conditions and early and late sown conditions.	Drought tolerant, moderately resistant to YMV and white fly.
URDBEAN				
TU 94-2	1999	15	Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu	Resistant to yellow mosaic virus, moderately resistant to powdery mildew and for rabi season.

1	2	3	4	5
IPU 94-1 (Uttara)	1999	12	Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, Delhi and Western Uttar Pradesh, Eastern Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal and Orissa	Resistant to yellow mosaic virus
KU 92-1 (Azad Urd-1)	1999	10	Eastern Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal and Orissa	Resistant to yellow mosaic virus, suitable for spring season
RBV 38 (Barkha)	1999	12.5	South West Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Gujarat, Eastern Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal and Orissa	Bold seeded, resistant to Cercospora leaf spot
WBG 26	1999	9.5	Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu	Resistant to powdery mildew and yellow mosaic virus
Shekhar-2 (KU-300)	2001	11.30	Western U.P., Delhi, Haryana, Punjab, Jammu, Rajasthan and Northern Madhya Pradesh during spring season.	Resistant to YMV, leaf crinkle, root rot and CLS.
LENTIL				
JL 3	1999	14.5	South West Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Gujarat	Resistant to wilt
PIL 81 (Noori)	2000	12.5	South West Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Gujarat	Bold seeded, tolerant to rust
FIELDPEA				
HUDP 15 (Malviya Matar 15)	1999	23-24	Eastern Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal and Orissa	Resistant to powdery mildew
DDR 23	2000	15.5	Eastern Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal and Orissa	Resistant to powdery mildew
Pusa Panna (DDR-27)	2001	17.60	Punjab, Haryana, Western U.P., Rajasthan and Delhi	Resistant to powdery mildew
MOTHBEAN				
RMO-225	1999	5-5.5	Rajasthan, Gujarat and Maharashtra	Drought tolerant, early maturity
RMO-96	1999	5-6	All moth growing areas	Suitable for light alluvial to heavy soils and rainfed conditions
CAZRI Moth-1	1999	5.5-6.5	All moth growing areas	Drought tolerant, YMV resistant
HORSEGRAM				
AK-21	1999	8-8.5	Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, Delhi and Western Uttar Pradesh	Tolerant to anthracnose, early maturing suitable for rainfed areas
Paiyur-2	1999	8-8.5	Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu	Suitable for September-October rainfed situations in groundnut and gingelly sequences in South Zone

Strengthening/Upgradation of Agricultural Marketing Board

6888. SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken measures for strengthening, upgradation and extension of the Agricultural Marketing Board;

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

(c) the amount allocated during the current year for this purpose?

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

(a) The primary responsibility for Strengthening, upgradation and extension of Agricultural Marketing Boards vests with the State Governments and Union Territories Administrations as these are established under the respective State Agricultural Marketing Regulations Acts.

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

Rani Avantibai Sagar Project

6889. SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the work on the canal under the Rani Avantibai Sagar Project on Narmada river in Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh has started;

(b) if so, the provision of funds made for the purpose;

(c) the time by which the ranger is likely to be achieved;

(d) whether tributary irrigation canals are likely to be constructed along the main canal;

(e) if so, whether the quality of work being undertaken would be examined by the Central Vigilance Team; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (d) The execution of Right Bank Canal of Rani Avantibai Sagar Project (Bargi Diversion Project), an approved project, from its Headworks to 16 km. has been taken up by the Government of Madhya Pradesh with funds from NABARD. Government of India has provided Rs. 98.03 crore during 2001-2002 under

Fast Track Programme of Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) for construction of canal system including distributaries from 16 km. to 63 km. As per Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed between the State Government & the Union Government, the component under Fast Track Programme is to be completed in one year (two working seasons).

(e) and (f) The Central Water Commission has been directed to include quality control aspects also in the monitoring of AIBP projects.

[English]

Food Processing Parks

6890. SHRI J.S. BRAR: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposals from the State Governments and Union Territories for setting up of Food Processing Parks;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which these proposals are likely to be approved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (PROF. CHAMAN LAL GUPTA): (a) to (c) Ministry of Food Processing Industries, under its plan scheme, provides financial assistance in the form of grant-in-aid, *inter alia*, for setting up of common facilities in Food Parks to Public/Joint/ Assisted/Private Sector, Non Governmental Organizations/ Cooperatives. Only proposals complete in all respects and duly recommended by the concerned State Government/ Union Territory Administration or designated Nodal Agencies, are considered for grant of assistance. As on 31.03.2002, 29 proposals from different States have been approved for financial assistance by Ministry of Food Processing Industries.

Irrigation Project of Gujarat

6891. SHRI G.J. JAVIYA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Water Commission (CWC) had cleared certain fresh irrigation projects in Gujarat for getting World Bank loan;

(b) if so, the amount of loan sought; and

(c) the irrigation projects likely to be completed with the said loan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) No, Sir. Central Water Commission has not received any fresh irrigation project of Gujarat seeking World Bank assistance during the last one year.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Material Lying Unutilised In Store of NCL

6892. DR. BALI RAM: Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether unutilised material/goods worth Rs. 270 crores is lying unutilised in various stores of Northern Coalfields Limited (NCL), Singrauli (M.P.) for the last several years;

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

(c) the action being taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) It is not a fact that NCL is carrying useless inventory of Rs. 270 crores lying unutilised at different stores in CNL.

The inventory figures for the last 3 years in respect of NCL is as under:

Date	Total inventory (Rs. in crores)	Inventory in terms of months consumption
As on 31.3.2000	374.03	7.56
As on 31.3.2001	343.65	6.19
As on 31.3.2002	269.35	4.77

Out of Rs. 269.35 crores, Rs. 213.35 crores from the bulk of inventory which is an operative inventory required for operation and maintenance of equipment.

(c) Does not arise in view of reply given to parts (a) & (b) above.

[English]

Rajasthan's Share in Flood Water of Ganga River

6893. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received, any proposal from the Government of Rajasthan claiming its share in flood-water of Ganga which could be diverted to the arid areas of the State;

(b) if so, the present status of the proposal;

(c) whether despite long passage of time no final decision has been taken by the Union Government and as a result drought prone Rajasthan continue to reel under water scarcity; and

(d) if so, the time by which the Government would agree to supply 12 MAF of water from the surplus flood water of Ganga?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (d) Government of Rajasthan submitted a proposal in 1984 for diverting 1133 cumec of Ganga water ex-Hardwar and 566 cumec of Ganga water ex-Bijnor for 100 day during Monsoon. The study conducted by Central Water Commission (CWC) to explore the possibilities to divert flood waters of Ganga for use in Rajasthan revealed that sufficient water was not available in Ganga near these two places for more than 20-30 days in a year for diversion to Rajasthan. However, as a part of carrying out studies of National Perspective Plan, National Water Development Agency (NWDA) has completed the prefeasibility studies of Sarda-Yamuna Rajasthan link. As per the prefeasibility report prepared by NWDA, Yamuna-Rajasthan link envisages 2.44 lakh hectare of irrigation benefit to Rajasthan. Survey and investigation for preparation of detailed project report of the link have been taken up by NWDA and is programmed for completion by 2007.

Assistance to NGOs for Welfare of Animals

6894. SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are giving financial aid and assistance to Non-Governmental Organisations working for welfare of animals; and

(b) if so, the names of such organisations alongwith the details of aid/financial assistance provided to them during last three years and current year, State-wise?

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

assistance to NGOs is given under schemes namely, Scheme for provision of Shelter Home for animals; Scheme for provision of Ambulance Service for animals in distress; Scheme for Birth Control and Immunization of Stray Dogs; and Scheme for Relief to Animals during Natural Calamities and Unforeseen Circumstances.

(b) State-wise, scheme-wise and year-wise information containing the names of recipients alongwith the amount of financial assistance rendered to them during last three years and current year is given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

State-wise list of NGOs Granted Financial Aid

ANDHRA PRADESH

Year 1999-2000

S.No.	Name of NGO	Name of Scheme	Amount Sanctioned (Rs.)
1.	Blue Cross of Hyderabad	ABC	5,00,000.00
2.	Visakha SPCA, Visakhapatnam	ABC	2,00,000.00
3.	Blue Cross of Hyderabad	ABC	5,00,000.00
4.	Dri Gosanrakshan Punnya Ashram, Guntur	Shelter	4,70,250.00
5.	Friends of Snakes Club, Secunderabad	Shelter	4,50,000.00
6.	Visakha SPCA, Visakhapatnam	Ambulance	90,000.00
7.	International Animal & Birds Society, Guntur	Ambulance	3,50,000.00

Year 2000-2001

S.No.	Name of the NGO	Scheme	Amount Granted (In Rs.)
1	2	3	4
1.	Visakha SPCA, Visakhapatnam	ABC Scheme	4,81,740/-
2.	SPCA, Kakinada	Shelter Scheme	1,46,250/-
3.	Blue Cross of Hyderabad	Shelter Scheme	7,29,000/-
4.	Visakha SCPA, Visakhapatnam	Shelter Scheme	11,25,000/-
5.	Royal Unit for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, Uranakanda, Anantpur	Shelter Scheme	9,77,267/-
6.	Shri Gosanrakshan Puunyashram, Satterppolli, Guntur	Shelter Scheme	4,70,250/-

Year 2001-2002

1.	Visakha SPCA, Visakhapatnam	ABC Scheme	93,880/-
2.	Visakbha SPCA, Visakhapatnam	ABC Scheme	5,75,620/-
3.	Animal Care Land, Tirupati	ABC Scheme	85,000/-

1	2	3	4
4.	PFA, Secunderabad	ABC Scheme	2,50,000/-
5.	Sri Raghuvendra Samrakshan Sangam, Cuddapah	ABC Scheme	85,000/-
6.	Visakha SPA Visakhapatnam	ABC Scheme	5,75,620/-
7.	Visakha SPCA, Visakhapatnam	ABC Scheme	10,20,000/-
8.	Visakha SPCA, Visakhapatnam	Shelter Scheme	11,25,000/-
9.	SPCA, Kakinada	Shelter scheme	1,46,250/-
10.	Care for Animals, Secunderabad	Shelter Scheme	9,48,201/-
11.	Sri Raghuvendra Samrakshan Sangam, Cuddapah	Ambulance Scheme	3,99,600/-
12.	Visakha SPCA, Visakhapatnam	Ambulance Scheme	3,86,000/-
13.	Animal Care Land, Tirupati	Ambulance Scheme	4,08,060/-
14.	Green Mercy, Visakhapatnam	Ambulance Scheme	3,61,631/-

ASSAM

Year 1999-2000

S.No.	Name of NGO	Name of Scheme	Amount Sanctioned (Rs.)
1.	PFA, Assam	Shelter	11,25,000/-

Year 2001-2002

S.No.	Name of the NGO	Scheme	Amount Granted (In Rs.)
1.	Wildlife Trust of India, Kaziranga	Shelter Scheme	10,68,750/-
2.	PFA, Assam	Shelter Scheme	1,90,600/-
3.	Shri Guwahati Gaushala Trust, Guwahati	Shelter Scheme	10,68,750/-
4.	PFA, Assam	Ambulance Scheme	2,16,391/-
5.	Wildlife Trust of India	Ambulance Scheme	14,78,508/-

JHARKHAND

Year 1999-2000

S.No.	Name of NGO	Name of Scheme	Amount Sanctioned (Rs.)
1.	Maharishi Viswamitra Gaushala Parishad Nyas, Buxar	Shelter	11,25,000/-
2.	Tata Nagar Gushala, Jamshedpur	Shelter	5,26,500/-

Year 2000-2001

S.No.	Name of the NGO	Scheme	Amount Granted (In Rs.)
1.	Maharishi Vishwamitra Gauraksha Parishad Nyas, Buxar	Shelter Scheme	11,25,000/-

Year 2001-2002

1.	PFA, Ranchi	ABC Scheme	85,000/-
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DELHI

Year 1999-2000

S.No.	Name of the NGO	Scheme	Amount Sanctioned (Rs.)
1	2	3	4
1.	Friendicoes SECA, New Delhi	ABC	2,00,000.00
2.	Circle for Animal Lovers, New Delhi	ABC	2,00,000.00
3.	Ruth Cowell Foundation, New Delhi	Shelter	5,81,850.00
4.	Ruth Cowell Foundation (PFA Gaushala), New Delhi	Shelter	11,25,000.00
5.	Animal Farms, Maharani Bagh, New Delhi	Shelter	11,25,000.00
6.	PFA (Animal Hospital, Gurgaon), Maharani Bagh, New Delhi	Shelter	5,31,900.00
7.	Circle of Animal Lovers, New Delhi	Shelter	8,06,400.00
8.	Ruth Cowdell Foundation (PFA Gaushala, Bawana), New Delhi	Shelter	11,25,000.00
9.	Circle of Animal Lovers, New Delhi	Shelter	5,04,000.00
10.	Acharya Kakasaheb Kalelkar Loksewa, Delhi	Shelter	11,25,000.00
11.	Society for Animal Welfare Organisation, Delhi	Shelter	2,47,500.00
12.	Animal Farm, New Delhi	Shelter	11,25,000.00
13.	Wildlife Trust of India, Delhi	Shelter	10,68,750.00
14.	Acharya Sushil Gausadan, Delhi	Shelter	5,00,000.00
15.	Animal Farm, New Delhi	Ambulance	3,14,000.00
16.	PFA, Ashok Vihar, New Delhi	Ambulance	3,50,000.00
17.	Society for Animal Welfare Organisation, New Delhi	Ambulance	3,94,000.00

1	2	3	4
18.	Wildlife Trust of India, New Delhi	Ambulance	3,38,350.00
19.	Friendicoes-SECA, New Delhi	Ambulance	4,14,000.00
20.	Pet Animal Welfare Society, Vasant Kung, New Delhi	Ambulance	3,66,740.00
21.	Sonadi Charitable Trust, Delhi	Ambulance	4,01,893.00

Year 2000-2001

S.No.	Name of the NGO	Scheme	Amount Granted (In Rs.)
1	2	3	4
1.	Circle for Animal Lovers, New Delhi	ABC Scheme	2,00,000/-
2.	Pet Animal Welfare Society, New Delhi	ABC Scheme	85,000/-
3.	Ruth Cowell Foundation (Sanjay Gandhi Animal Care Centre), New Delhi	ABC Scheme	2,00,000/-
4.	Ruth Cowell Foundation (Sanjay Gandhi Animal Care Centre), New Delhi	ABC Scheme	2,47,500/-
5.	Friendicoes-SECA, New Delhi	ABC Scheme	5,44,000/-
6.	Circle for Animal Lovers, New Delhi	ABC Scheme	2,00,000/-
7.	World Wide Fund for Nature India, New Delhi	Shelter Scheme	2,79,000/-
8.	Friendicoes-SECA New Delhi	Shelter Scheme	11,25,000/-
9.	Manav Gau Sadan, Delhi	Shelter Scheme	11,25,000/-
10.	Wild Life S.O.S., New Delhi	Shelter Scheme	7,74,900/-
11.	Society for Animal Welfare Organization, Delhi	Shelter Scheme	2,47,500/-
12.	Circle for Animal Lovers, New Delhi	Shelter Scheme	11,25,000/-
13.	Manav Gau Sadan, Delhi	Shelter Scheme	11,25,000/-
14.	Sonadi Charitable Trust, Delhi	Shelter Scheme	11,20,500/-
15.	Ruth Cowell Foundation (Sanjay Gandhi Animal Care Centre), New Delhi	Shelter Scheme	7,76,250/-
16.	Dabar Hare Krishan Gaushala, Najafgarh	Shelter Scheme	10,68,750/-
17.	Jeev Ashram Foundation, New Delhi	Ambulance Scheme	4,49,000/-
18.	Manav Gau Sadan, Delhi	Ambulance Scheme	4,50,000/-
19.	Circle for Animal Lovers, New Delhi	Ambulance Scheme	3,50,000/-

1	2	3	4
20.	Ruth Cowell Foundation (Sanjay Gandhi Animal Care Centre), New Delhi	Ambulance Scheme	4,50,000/-
21.	Circle for Animal Lovers, New Delhi	Ambulance Scheme	81,518/-

Year 2001-2002

1.	Ruth Cowell Foundation (Sanjay Gandhi Animal Care Centre), New Delhi	ABC Scheme	2,47,500/-
2.	Circle of Animal Lovers, New Delhi	ABC Scheme	2,00,000/-
3.	Circle of Animal Lovers, New Delhi	ABC Scheme	2,00,000/-
4.	Friendicoes-SECA, New Delhi	ABC Scheme	5,44,000/-
5.	Pet Animal Welfare Society, New Delhi	ABC Scheme	85,000/-
6.	Sanjay Gandhi Animal Care, Raja Garden, New Delhi	ABC Scheme	4,08,000/-
7.	Sonadi Charitable Trust, Chitranjan Park, New Delhi	ABC Scheme	1,02,000/-
8.	Sonadi Charitable Trust, Chitranjan Park, New Delhi	Shelter Scheme	11,20,500/-
9.	Circle of Animal Lovers	Shelter Scheme	11,25,000/-
10.	PFA, Ashok Vihar, New Delhi	Shelter Scheme	11,25,000/-
11.	Dabar Hare Krishna Gaushala, New Delhi	Shelter Scheme	10,68,750/-
12.	PFA, Ashok Vihar, New Delhi	Shelter Scheme	11,25,000/-
13.	Sanjay Gandhi Animal Care Centre, Ruth Cowell Foundation, New Delhi	Shelter Scheme	7,76,250/-
14.	Wildlife S.O.S., New Delhi	Ambulance Scheme	4,50,000/-
15.	Animal Help Foundation, New Delhi	Ambulance Scheme	3,50,000/-

Year 2002-2003

1.	Circle of Animal Lovers	Shelter Scheme	1,65,500/-
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GOA

Year 1999-2000

S.No.	Name of the NGO	Scheme	Amount Sanctioned (In Rs.)
1	2	3	4
1.	International Animal Rescue, Goa	ABC	2,88,000.00
2.	Goa Animal Welfare Trust, Margao, Goa	ABC	1,53,000.00

1	2	3	4
3.	PFA, Goa, Panaji	ABC	98,079.00
4.	International Animal Rescue, Goa	ABC	7,87,500.00
5.	PFA, Goa	ABC	2,84,849.00
6.	PFA, Goa	Ambulance	3,07,000.00
7.	International Animal Rescue, Goa	Ambulance	4,50,000.00

Year 2000-2001

S.No.	Name of the NGO	Scheme	Amount Granted (In Rs.)
1.	PFA, Goa	ABC Scheme	2,00,000/-
2.	International Animal Rescue Goa	ABC Scheme	2,88,000/-
3.	PFA, Panaji	ABC Scheme	4,08,000/-
4.	Goa Animal Welfare Trust, Margao	ABC Scheme	1,53,000/-
5.	PFA, Goa	Shelter Scheme	3,82,928/-
6.	Green Cross, Mopusa	Ambulance Scheme	3,50,000/-
7.	Green Cross Goa	Ambulance Scheme	90,000/-
8.	PFA, Goa, Panaji	Ambulance Scheme	1,65,024/-
9.	Goa Animal Welfare Trust, Margao	Ambulance Scheme	4,00,500/-

Year 2001-2002

1.	PFA, Goa	ABC Scheme	4,08,000/-
2.	International Animal Rescue, Goa	ABC Scheme	3,17,910/-
3.	SPCA, Goa	Shelter Scheme	10,41,750/-
4.	International Animal Rescue, Goa	Shelter Scheme	7,87,500/-
5.	SPCA, Goa	Shelter Scheme	10,41,750/-

GUJARAT

Year 1999-2000

S.No.	Name of the NGO	Scheme	Amount Sanctioned (In Rs.)
1	2	3	4
1.	Vadodara SPCA, Baroda	ABC	1,70,000.00
2.	Shri Kutch Mundra Panjrapole & Gaushala, Mundra	Shelter	6,21,000.00

1	2	3	4
3.	Shri Vrindavan Gaushala Jivdaya Trust, Rajkot	Shelter	5,76,000.00
4.	Shri Gau Seva Panjrapole Trust, Rajkot	Shelter	6,42,157.00
5.	Shri Gadhada Mahajan Panjrapole & Gaushala Trust, Bhavnagar	Shelter	5,85,000.00
6.	Shree Botad Mahajan Panjrapole	Shelter	5,85,000.00
7.	Shri Dhrangadhra Panjrapole	Shelter	9,61,200.00
8.	Shri Bhavnagar Panjrapole, Bhavnagar	Shelter	2,74,500.00
9.	Rajkot Mahajan's Panjrapole, Rajkot	Shelter	5,85,000.00
10.	Bhavnagar Panjrapole, Bhavnagar	Ambulance	3,50,000.00
11.	Gau Seva Panjrapole Trust, Rajkot	Ambulance	3,01,000.00
12.	SPCA, Bhuj	Ambulance	3,50,000.00
13.	Vadodara SPCA, Vadodara	Ambulance	3,94,800.00
14.	Shree Kutch Mundra Panjrapole & Gaushala, Kutch	Ambulance	3,50,000.00
15.	Rajkot Mahajan's Panjrapole, Rajkot	Ambulance	4,33,810.00
16.	Shri Jeevdaya Jankalyan Parivar, Ahmedabad	Ambulance	3,59,000.00

Year 2000-2001

S.No.	Name of the NGO	Scheme	Amount Granted (In Rs.)
1	2	3	4
1.	Late Subash Batra Jeevdaya Trust, Ahmedabad	ABC Scheme	4,59,000/-
2.	SPCA, Ahmedabad	ABC Scheme	2,25,000/-
3.	Shri Jeevdaya Jankalyan Parivar, Ahmedabad	ABC Scheme	6,20,500/-
4.	Late Subash Batra jeevdaya Trust, Ahmedabad	ABC Scheme	4,59,000/-
5.	Andh Apang Gau Ashram Trust, Wanakner	Shelter Scheme	9,90,000/-
6.	Andh Apang Gau Ashram Trust, Wanakner	Shelter Scheme	9,90,000/-
7.	Shri Vrindavan Gaushala Jeevdaya Trust, Rajkot	Shelter Scheme	5,76,000/-
8.	Shri Ram Ratio Annakshetra Ashram, Wadhwan, Sundernagar	Shelter Scheme	9,33,750/-
9.	Sri Gau Seva Panjrapole Trust, Rajkot	Shelter Scheme	6,42,157/-
10.	Shri Kutch Mundra Panjrapole & Gaushala, Mundra, Kutch	Shelter Scheme	6,21,000/-
11.	Shri Tera Panjrapole, Tera, Kutch	Shelter Scheme	7,06,500/-
12.	Late Subash Batra Jeevdaya Trust, Ahmedabad	Ambulance Scheme	4,50,000/-

Year 2001-2002

1	2	3	4
1.	Late Subash Batra Jeevdaya Trust, Ahmedabad	ABC Scheme	1,70,000/-
2.	Late Subash Batra Jeevdaya Trust, Ahmedabad	ABC Scheme	6,20,000/-
3.	Animal Help Foundation	ABC Scheme	10,20,000/-
4.	Vadodara SPCA	ABC Scheme	1,70,000/-
5.	Shree Jivodaya Jankalyan Parivar, Ahmedabad	ABC Scheme	6,20,500/-
6.	Late Subhash Batra Jeevdaya Trust, Ahmedabad	ABC Scheme	5,10,000/-
7.	Shri Morbi Panjrapole, Morbi	Shelter Scheme	7,96,050/-
8.	Shri Dhanagadhra Panjrapole	Shelter Scheme	9,61,200/-
9.	Shri Gauvansh Panjrapole & Gaushala, Junagarh	Shelter Scheme	3,85,650/-
10.	Wnakaner Panjrapole Gaushala	Shelter Scheme	9,33,750/-
11.	Animal Saving Group, Valsad	Ambulance Scheme	3,95,000/-
12.	Gujarat SPCA, Vadodara	Ambulance Scheme	3,58,000/-

Year 2002-2003

1.	Vadodara SPCA	Shelter Scheme	4,03,711/-
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HARYANA

Year 1999-2000

S.No.	Name of the NGO	Name of Scheme	Amount Sanctioned (Rs.)
1.	Wildlife SOS, Defence Colony, New Delhi for Animal Rescue Centre, Gurgaon	Shelter	7,74,900.00
2.	Rashtriya Gaushala, Dharauli, Jind	Shelter	6,75,000.00
3.	Shri Gaushala Sala Dairy, Hissar	Shelter	4,46,400.00
4.	Shri Krishna Gaushala, Fatehah	Shelter	7,37,000.00
5.	Arsh Mahavidyalaya Gurukul Gaushala, Jind	Shelter	5,40,000.00
6.	Akhil Bhartiya Gaushala, Rohtak	Shelter	8,68,500.00
7.	Rashtriya Gaushala Jind	Ambulance	90,000.00
8.	Arsh Mahavidyalaya Gurukul Gaushala, Jind	Ambulance	89,000.00
9.	Shri Gaushala Sala Dairy, Hissar	Ambulance	3,50,000.00
10.	PFA, Rohtak	Ambulance	3,49,057.00
11.	Shri Krishna Gaushala, Tohana	Ambulance	3,10,500.00

Year 2000-2001

S.No.	Name of the NGO	Scheme	Amount Granted (In Rs.)
1.	Shri Krishan Gaushala, Samiti, Ambala	Shelter Scheme	4,55,850/-
2.	Shri Gaushala Baba Phullu, Jind	Shelter Scheme	5,34,346/-
3.	Shri Somnath Gaushala, Jind	Shelter Scheme	4,38,750/-
4.	Shri Gaushala Sala Dairy, Hissar	Shelter Scheme	4,46,400/-
5.	Shri Balaji Gaushala, Jind	Shelter Scheme	5,20,200/-
6.	Shri Swamy Gaurakshanand Gaushala, Julana, Jind	Shelter Scheme	6,28,110/-
7.	Adarsh Gaushala Ilaka Satnali, Mahendergarh	Shelter Scheme	6,39,000/-
8.	Akhil Bhartiya Gaushala, Rohtak	Shelter Scheme	8,68,500/-
9.	Shri Gopal Gaushala, Narnaul	Shelter Scheme	4,96,710/-
10.	Akhil Bhartiya Gaushala, Rohtak	Ambulance Scheme	91,667/-
11.	Shri Gaushala Sala Dairy, Hissar	Ambulance Scheme	1,00,000/-
12.	Sri Sri 1008 Baba Nihal Giri Gaushala, Karnal	Ambulance Scheme	4,50,000/-
13.	Shri Gaushala Society, Panipat	Ambulance Scheme	85,500/-
14.	Adarsh Gaushala Ilaka Satnali, Mahendergarh	Ambulance Scheme	3,50,000/-
15.	Adarsh Gaushala Ilaka Satnali, Mahendergarh	Ambulance Scheme	1,00,000/-

Year 2001-2002

1.	Shri Somnath Gaushala, Jind	Shelter Scheme	4,38,750/-
2.	Akhil Bhartiya Gaushala, Rohtak	Shelter Scheme	3,37,500/-
3.	Adarsh Gaushala Ilaka Sathnali	Shelter Scheme	6,39,000/-
4.	Rashtriya Gaushala, Dharauli	Shelter Scheme	9,00,000/-
5.	Shri Ladwa Gaushala, Ladwa, Hissar	Shelter Scheme	10,94,490/-
6.	Shri Swamy Gaurakshanand Gaushala, Jind	Shelter Scheme	6,28,110/-
7.	Shri Gaushala Baba Phulu sadh, Jind	Shelter Scheme	5,34,346/-
8.	Shri Gaushala, Khidwali	Shelter Scheme	6,50,250/-
9.	Akhil Bhartiya Maharishi Dayanand Gaushala, Rohtak	Shelter Scheme	7,98,750/-
10.	PFA, Sadhrana, Gurgaon (Animal Hospital)	Shelter Scheme	9,33,750/-
11.	Shri Gaushala, Khidwali, Rohtak	Shelter Scheme	6,50,250/-
12.	Shree Ladwa Gaushala, Ladwa, Hissar	Shelter Scheme	10,94,490/-
13.	Shri Gaushala, Khidwali, Rohtak	Ambulance Scheme	3,99,500/-
14.	PFA, Rohtak	Ambulance Scheme	3,87,500/-

J & K

Year 1999-2000

S.No.	Name of NGO	Name of Scheme	Amount Sanctioned (Rs.)
1.	SPCA, Jammu	Shelter	8,51,400.00
2.	SPCA, Jammu	Shelter	4,50,000.00

Year 2000-2001

S.No.	Name of NGO	Name of Scheme	Amount Granted (Rs.)
1.	Wildlife Protection Department, Government of Jammu & Kashmir, Deer Park Manda, Near Hotel Ashoka, Jammu	Shelter Scheme	9,87,750/-

Year 2001-2002

1.	Wildlife Protection Department, Government of Jammu & Kashmir, Deer Park Manda, Near Hotel Ashoka, Jammu	Shelter Scheme	9,87,750/-
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JHARKHAND

Year 1999-2000

S.No.	Name of NGO	Name of Scheme	Amount Sanctioned (Rs.)
1.	PFA, Ranchi	Ambulance	4,50,000.00

Year 2000-2001

S.No.	Name of NGO	Name of Scheme	Amount Granted (Rs.)
1.	Maharishi Vishwamitra Gauraksha Parishad Nyas,	Shelter Scheme	11,25,000/-

BUXAR

Year 2001-2002

1.	PFA, Ranchi	ABC Scheme	85,000/-
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KARNATAKA

Year 1999-2000

S.No.	Name of NGO	Name of Scheme	Amount Sanctioned (Rs.)
1	2	3	4
1.	Bangalore SPCA, Bangalore	ABC	1,36,000.00
2.	Animal Rights Fund, Bangalore	ABC	59,000.00

1	2	3	4
3.	Compassion Unlimited Plus Action, Bangalore	ABC	2,00,000.00
4.	Mysore Panjraple Society, Mysore	Shelter	11,25,000.00
5.	Compassionate Unlimited Plus Action, Bangalore	Shelter	11,25,000.00
6.	SPCA, Bangalore	Shelter	1,77,300.00
7.	PFA, Bangalore	Shelter	10,51,155.00
8.	PFA, Mysore	Ambulance	3,50,000.00
9.	PFA, Bangalore	Ambulance	4,50,000.00
10.	PFA, Mysore	Ambulance	1,00,000.00
11.	Animal Rights Fund, Bangalore	Ambulance	3,50,000.00

Year 2000-2001

S.No.	Name of NGO	Name of Scheme	Amount Granted (Rs.)
1	2	3	4
1.	Animal Rights Funds, Bangalore	ABC Scheme	59,000/-
2.	Wildlife Rescue & Rehabilitation Centre, Bangalore	Shelter Scheme	10,22,175/-
3.	Zoo Authority of Kamataka, Bangalore	Shelter Scheme	11,25,000/-
4.	Shri Swamy Sarvadharm Sharnalya Trust, Kolar	Shelter Scheme	5,19,750/-
5.	Indian Wildlife Protection Group, Bangalore	Ambulance Scheme	4,50,000/-
6.	Animal Rights Funds, Bangalore	Ambulance Scheme	90,000/-

Year 2001-2002

1.	Do it Yourself Activities (DIYA), Bangalore	ABC Scheme	1,70,000/-
2.	DIYA, Bangalore	ABC Scheme	1,70,000/-
3.	PFA, Mysore	ABC Scheme	2,04,000/-
4.	PFA, Bangalore	Shelter Scheme	10,51,155/-
5.	Zoo Authority of Kamataka, Bangalore	Shelter Scheme	11,25,000/-
6.	Save Our Wild Life (SOWL), Bangalore	Shelter Scheme	10,09,800/-
7.	Sri Swamy Sarvadharm Sharanaalaya Trust, Kolar	Shelter Scheme	5,19,750/-
8.	Wildlife Rescue & Rehabilitation Centre, Bangalore	Shelter Scheme	10,22,175/-

1	2	3	4
9.	DIYA, Bangalore	Ambulance Scheme	4,44,500/-
10.	Crusade for the Rights of Animals, Bangalore	Ambulance Scheme	2,94,650/-
11.	SOWL, Bangalore	Ambulance Scheme	3,28,024/-

Year 2002-2003

1.	Do it Yourself Activities (DIYA), Bangalore	ABC Scheme	6,80,000/-
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MADHYA PRADESH

Year 1999-2000

S.No.	Name of the NGO	Scheme	Amount Sanctioned (In Rs.)
1.	PFA, Gwalior	ABC	1,70,000.00
2.	PFA, Gwalior	ABC	1,70,000.00
3.	PFA, Gwalior	Shelter	5,00,000.00
4.	Shri Gopal Krishan Gaushala Vidisha Seva Nyas, Vidisha	Shelter	4,50,000.00
5.	PFA, Gwalior	Shelter	6,25,000.00
6.	Brijmohan Ramkali Gau Samrakshan, Bhopal	Ambulance	4,05,000.00
7.	Jeev Jantu Kalyan Sanghathan, Bhopal	Ambulance	4,05,000.00
8.	PFA, Bhilai	Ambulance	4,50,000.00
9.	Gau Samrakshan Seva Samiti, Vidisha	Ambulance	3,60,000.00

Year 2000-2001

S.No.	Name of the NGO	Scheme	Amount Granted (In Rs.)
1	2	3	4
1.	PFA, Gwalior	ABC Scheme	1,70,000/-
2.	Shri Gopal Itikhar Gaushala, Jaoru	Shelter Scheme	1,12,500/-
3.	Sant Shri Rotiramji Gaushala, Mandsaur	Shelter Scheme	3,48,300/-
4.	Brij Mohan Ramkali Gausamrakshan Kendra, Bhopal	Shelter Scheme	3,37,500/-
5.	Acharya Vidya Sagar Gau Samvardhan Kendra, Sagar	Shelter Scheme	7,20,000/-
6.	Shri Gopal Krishna Gaushala, Vidisha Sewa Nyas, Vidisha	Shelter Scheme	4,50,000/-

Year 2001-2002

1	2	3	4
1.	PFA, Gwalior	ABC Scheme	1,70,000/-
2.	Dayodaya Gauseva Jeeva Raksha & Paryavaran Sanrakshan Sansthan, Sagar	Shelter Scheme	7,20,000/-
3.	Sant Shri Rotiramji Gaushala	Shelter Scheme	3,48,300/-
4.	PFA, Gwalior	Shelter Scheme	3,17,000/-
5.	PFA, Morena	Ambulance Scheme	3,65,500/-
6.	PFA, Ujjain	Ambulance Scheme	4,14,900/-

MAHARASHTRA

Year 1999-2000

S.No.	Name of the NGO	Scheme	Amount Sanctioned (In Rs.)
1.	Blue Cross Society of Pune, Pune	ABC	2,00,000.00
2.	AHIMSA, Mumbai	ABC	2,50,000.00
3.	PFA, Mumbai	ABC	1,63,200.00
4.	Bombay, SPCA, Mumbai	ABC	2,00,000.00
5.	In Defence of Animals, Mumbai	ABC	1,20,700.00
6.	Blue Cross, Pune	ABC	4,00,000.00
7.	Blue Cross, Pune	Shelter	7,90,425.00
8.	Indian Herpetological Society, Pune	Shelter	11,25,000.00
9.	PFA, Chandrapur	Shelter	7,50,000.00
10.	Nagpur SPCA	Shelter	9,28,755.00
11.	Ujjawal Gau Rakshan Trust, Nagpur	Shelter	11,25,000.00
12.	Indian Herpetological Society, Pune	Ambulance	3,50,000.00
13.	PFA, Chandrapur	Ambulance	4,50,000.00
14.	All India Animal Welfare Association, Mumbai	Ambulance	94,087.00

Year 2000-2001

S.No.	Name of the NGO	Scheme	Amount Granted (In Rs.)
1	2	3	4
1.	All India Animal Welfare Association, Mumbai	ABC Scheme	2,00,000/-
2.	The Welfare of Stray Dogs, Mumbai	ABC Scheme	2,00,000/-

1	2	3	4
3.	Blue Cross of Society of Pune, Pune	ABC Scheme	4,00,000/-
4.	All India Animal Welfare Association, Mumbai	ABC Scheme	4,25,000/-
5.	Bombay SPCA, Mumbai	ABC Scheme	2,55,000/-
6.	In Defence of Animals, Mumbai	ABC Scheme	3,06,000/-
7.	Blue Cross of Society of Pune, Pune	Shelter Scheme	4,000/-
8.	Indian Herpetological Society, Pune	Shelter Scheme	11,25,000/-
9.	PFA, Chandrapur	Shelter Scheme	7,50,000/-
10.	Bombay SPCA	Ambulance Scheme	4,50,000/-
11.	Jalna SPCA, Jalna	Ambulance Scheme	4,46,000/-
Year 2001-2002			
1.	Animal Welfare Association, Navi Mumbai	ABC Scheme	2,44,800/-
2.	All India Animal Welfare Association, Mumbai	ABC Scheme	4,25,000/-
3.	Blue Cross of Society of Pune, Pune	ABC Scheme	3,15,360/-
4.	AHIMSA, Mumbai	ABC Scheme	2,50,000/-
5.	Blue Cross of Society of Pune, Pune	ABC Scheme	4,00,000/-
6.	In Defence of Animals, Bombay	ABC Scheme	3,06,000/-
7.	SPCA, Pune	ABC Scheme	1,02,000/-
8.	The Bombay SPCA, Bombay	ABC Scheme	2,55,000/-
9.	Voice of Animals in Distress, Navi Mumbai	ABC Scheme	3,40,000/-
10.	The Jalna SPCA, Jalna	ABC Scheme	1,72,800/-
11.	The Welfare of Stray Dogs, Colaba, Mumbai	ABC Scheme	2,00,000/-
12.	AIAWO, Mumbai	ABC Scheme	4,25,000/-
13.	The Bombay SPCA, Bombay	Shelter Scheme	2,98,350/-
14.	Indian Herpetological Society, Pune	Shelter Scheme	9,45,225/-
15.	Indian Herpetological Society, Pune	Shelter Scheme	5,85,000/-
16.	The Bombay Humanitarian, League, Mumbai	Shelter Scheme	5,85,000/-
17.	Shri Ramroti Annakshetra Ashram, Mumbai	Shelter Scheme	9,33,750/-

1	2	3	4
18.	Indian Herpetological Society, Pune	Shelter Scheme	5,85,000/-
19.	Indian Herpetological Society, Pune	Shelter Scheme	9,45,225/-
20.	Bombay SPCA, Bombay	Shelter Scheme	2,98,350/-
21.	Blue Cross Society, Pune	Shelter Scheme	3,90,425/-
22.	SPAN, Thane	Ambulance Scheme	3,37,498/-
23.	Blue Cross Pune	Ambulance Scheme	3,50,000/-
24.	The Plant & Animal Welfare Society (PAWS)	Ambulance Scheme	3,50,000/-
25.	Akhil Bharat Krishi Goseva Sangh, Mumbai	Natural Calamities Scheme	10,00,000/-

MANIPUR

Year 1999-2000

S.No.	Name of NGO	Name of Scheme	Amount Sanctioned (Rs.)
1.	Noadakhang Youth's Sporting & Cultural Assn. Bishnupur	Shelter	3,91,000.00
2.	Manipur State Animal Welfare Society, Imphal	Shelter	3,55,050.00
3.	Voluntary Animal Welfare Organisation, Thobal	Ambulance	1,84,000.00
4.	Manpur State Animal Welfare Society, Imphal	Ambulance	4,06,000.00
5.	Community Development Organisation, Bishanpur	Ambulance	3,92,441.00

Year 2000-2001

S.No.	Name of the NGO	Scheme	Amount Granted (In Rs.)
1.	Education & Technology Development Rural Services Organization, Nanzing	Shelter Scheme	1,57,500/-
2.	Voluntary Animal Welfare Organization, Thoubal	Shelter Scheme	4,95,000/-
3.	Noadakhang Youth's Sporting & Cultural Association, Bishnupur	Shelter Scheme	3,91,000/-
4.	Manipur State Animal Welfare Society, Imphal	Shelter Scheme	3,55,050/-

Year 2001-2002

1.	Education & Technology Development Rural Services Organization, Nanzing	Shelter Scheme	1,57,500/-
2.	PFA, Imphal	Shelter Scheme	9,57,575/-
8.	PFA, Thoubal	Shelter Scheme	10,42,921/-
4.	PFA, Imphal	Ambulance Scheme	2,18,226/-
5.	PFA, Chandel	Ambulance Scheme	3,15,000/-
6.	PFA, Thoubal	Ambulance Scheme	3,94,100/-

ORISSA

Year 1999-2000

S.No.	Name of NGO	Name of Scheme	Amount Sanctioned (Rs.)
1.	PFA, Bhubaneshwar	ABC	4,00,000.00
2.	PFA, Bhubaneshwar	Shelter	11,25,000.00
3.	Kalinga Animal Care, Bhubanashwar	Ambulance	3,70,000.00

Year 2000-2001

S.No.	Name of the NGO	Scheme	Amount Granted (In Rs.)
1.	Asureswar Gau Mangal Samiti, Cuttack	Shelter Scheme	5,00,000/-
2.	Kalinga Animal Care & Shelter, Bhubaneswar	Shelter Scheme	6,96,465/-
3.	Orissa State Council for Animal Welfare, Bhubaneswar	Ambulance Scheme	3,50,000/-
4.	PFA, Berhampur	Ambulance Scheme	4,50,000/-

Year 2001-2002

1.	PFA, Ganajan	Shelter Scheme	8,77,500/-
2.	PFA, Rourkela	Ambulance Scheme	4,23,000/-
3.	PFA, Bhubaneswar	Natural Calamity Scheme	4,00,000/-

PONDICHERRY

Year 1999-2000

S.No.	Name of NGO	Name of Scheme	Amount Sanctioned (Rs.)
1.	Pondicherry PCA & Welfare Association, Pondicherry	Shelter	3,15,000.00
2.	Pondicherry PCA & Welfare Association, Pondicherry	Ambulance	4,50,000.00

PUNJAB

Year 1999-2000

S.No.	Name of NGO	Name of Scheme	Amount Sanctioned (Rs.)
1	2	3	4
1.	SPCA, Amritsar	ABC	1,02,000.00
2.	SPCA, Amritsar	Shelter	8,67,150.00

1	2	3	4
3.	Shri Gau Shala Prabhandhak Committee, Sangroor	Shelter	6,14,250.00
4.	Mahavir Gau Shala, Malout	Shelter	8,77,500.00
5.	Baba Bohriwala Gau Shala Seva Samiti, Amritsar	Shelter	6,37,380.00
6.	PFA, Jalandhar	Ambulance	4,50,000.00
7.	SPCA, Amritsar	Ambulance	4,40,000.00
8.	SPCA, Jalandhar	Ambulance	4,05,000.00

Year 2000-2001

S.No.	Name of the NGO	Scheme	Amount Granted (In Rs.)
1.	Anath Gauashram Rampura Phull, Bhatinda	Shelter Scheme	2,72,250/-
2.	Mahavir Gaushala, Muktsar	Shelter Scheme	8,77,500/-
3.	Anath Gauashram Rampura Phull, Bhatinda	Ambulance Scheme	4,50,000/-

Year 2001-2002

1.	PFA, Ludhiana	ABC Scheme	51,000/-
2.	PFA, Ludhiana	Shelter Scheme	11,25,000/-
3.	Shri Gaushala Prabhandak Committee, Sangroor	Shelter Scheme	6,14,250/-
4.	Shri Gopal Gaushala, Patiala	Shelter Scheme	8,55,950/-
5.	Apahaj Gau Seva Ashram, Barnala	Shelter Scheme	8,04,250/-
6.	PFA, Ludhiana	Shelter Scheme	11,25,000/-

Year 2002-2003

S.No.	Name of the NGO	Scheme	Amount Granted (In Rs.)
1.	Anath Gauashram Rampura Phull, Bhatinda	Shelter Scheme	2,72,250/-
2.	PFA, Jalandhar	ABC Scheme	36,000/-

RAJASHAN

Year 1999-2000

S.No.	Name of the NGO	Scheme	Amount Sanctioned (In Rs.)
1	2	3	4
1.	Hlep-In-Suffering, Jaipur	ABC	2,00,000.00
2.	Shri Kalyan Bhoomi Gau Seva Sadan, Padampur	Shelter	2,29,815.00

1	2	3	4
3.	Shri Gopal Gau Sahal Barmer	Shelter	10,00,000.00
4.	Shri Bhagwan Mahavir Jain Gaushala Trust, Pali	Shelter	5,13,000.00
5.	Shri Ram Gaushala Seva Samiti, Jodhpur	Shelter	4,46,400.00
6.	Shri Ram Gaushala Trust, Ummednagar	Shelter	6,54,210.00
7.	Shri Brahamchari Ramkumarji Pannalalji Gaushala Dharmath Trust, Jodhpur	Shelter	8,34,750.00
8.	Shri Krishna Gaushala, Pali	Shelter	5,85,000.00
9.	Gauri Shankar Gaushala Seva Samiti, Jodhpur	Shelter	4,46,400.00
10.	PFA, Bnilwara	Ambulance	3,98,000.00
11.	Siwanchigate Gaushala, Jodhpur	Ambulance	4,04,000.00

Year 2000-2001

S.No.	Name of the NGO	Scheme	Amount Granted (In Rs.)
1	2	3	4
1.	Shri Jan Kalyan Gopal Gaushala, Nagaur	Shelter Scheme	4,71,330/-
2.	Shri Krishan Gopal Gausadan Samiti, Nagaur	Shelter Scheme	5,48,910/-
3.	Shri Gulab Gaushala Dharmarth Trust, Jodhpur	Shelter Scheme	7,53,750/-
4.	Shri Krishan Gopal Gaushala, Jaipur	Shelter Scheme	10,09,485/-
5.	Shri Krishan Gopal Gausadan Samiti, Nagaur	Shelter Scheme	5,48,910/-
6.	Shri Ram Gaushala Seva Samiti, Jodhpur	Shelter Scheme	4,46,400/-
7.	Shri Kalyan Bhoomi Gau Seva Sadan, Sriganganagar	Shelter Scheme	2,29,815/-
8.	Shri Ram Gaushala Seva Samiti, Jodhpur	Ambulance Scheme	3,28,177/-
9.	Shri Krishan Gopal Gausadan Samiti, Nagaur	Ambulance Scheme	4,38,580/-

Year 2001-2002

1.	Help in Suffering, Jaipur	ABC Scheme	6,12,000/-
2.	Shri Kapil Krishna Gaushala, Bikaner	Shelter Scheme	6,44,400/-
3.	Shri Brahamchari Ram Kumarji Panna Lalji Gaushala Dharmarth Trust, Jodhpur	Shelter Scheme	8,34,750/-
4.	Pujyapad Sant Shri Asaramji Gaushala Samiti, Tonk	Shelter Scheme	11,25,000/-

1	2	3	4
5.	Dushkal Gau Seva Samiti	Shelter Scheme	7,20,000/-
6.	Shri Krishan Gopal Gaushala, Jaipur	Shelter Scheme	10,09,485/-
7.	Shri Adinath Pashu Raksha Sanstha Gaushala, Udaipur	Shelter Scheme	3,40,050/-
8.	Shri Krishna Gopal Gausadan Samiti, Jaswantgarh	Shelter Scheme	4,50,000/-
9.	Shri Gopal Gaushala, Barmer	Shelter Scheme	10,00,000/-
10.	Sant shri Asaramji Samiti, Jaipur	Shelter Scheme	11,25,000/-
11.	Shri Girdhar Gauseva Samiti, Kota	Shelter Scheme	6,91,690/-
12.	Shri Gopal Gaushala Samiti, Jodhpur	Ambulance Scheme	4,40,000/-
13.	Sant Shri Asaramji Gaushala, Jaipur	Ambulance Scheme	4,50,000/-

Year 2002-2003

1.	Shri Bhagwan Mahavir Jain Gaushala Trust, Pali	Shelter Scheme	5,13,000/-
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TAMIL NADU

Year 1999-2000

S.No.	Name of the NGO	Scheme	Amount Sanctioned (In Rs.)
1.	PFA, Chennai	ABC	2,50,000.00
2.	Animal Welfare & Protection Trust, Chennai	ABC	2,00,000.00
3.	Blue Cross, Chennai	ABC	2,00,000.00
4.	PFA (Chennai) Charitable Trust	ABC	2,50,000.00
5.	Blue Cross of India, Chennai	ABC	5,00,000.00
6.	PFA, Chennai, Charitable Trust	Shelter	11,25,000.00
7.	Blue Cross of India, Chennai	Shelter	6,00,000.00
8.	Shri Marudhar Kesari Jain Gaushala, Chennai	Shelter	6,75,000.00
9.	Animal Welfare and Protection Trust Chennai	Ambulance	2,32,000.00
10.	PFA, Vellore	Ambulance	3,43,000.00
11.	PFA, Coimbatore	Ambulance	1,00,000.00
12.	Bullock Cart Workers Development Association, Villipuram	Ambulance	4,50,000.00
13.	Sanctuary for Animal Veterinary Excellence, Chennai	Ambulance	4,50,000.00
14.	Bhartiya Pranimitra Sangh, Chennai	Ambulance	3,51,000.00

Year 2000-2001

S.No.	Name of the NGO	Scheme	Amount Granted (In Rs.)
1	2	3	4
1.	Blue Cross of India, Chennai	ABC Scheme	5,00,000/-
2.	Blue Cross of India, Chennai	ABC Scheme	7,50,000/-
3.	Animal Welfare & Protection Trust, Chennai	ABC Scheme	2,25,000/-
4.	PFA (Chennai) Charitable Trust, Chennai	ABC Scheme	4,00,000/-
5.	Animal Welfare & Protection Trust, Chennai	ABC Scheme	2,25,000/-
6.	Blue Cross of India, Chennai	ABC Scheme	7,50,000/-
7.	PFA (Chennai) Charitable Trust, Chennai	ABC Scheme	4,00,000/-
8.	Goswami Madam, T. Nagar, Chennai	Shelter Scheme	3,17,236/-
9.	Sri Satyasai Praniseva Shelter, Chennai	Shelter Scheme	2,40,098/-
10.	Blue Cross of India, Chennai	Shelter Scheme	11,25,000/-
11.	Goswami Madam, T. Nagar, Chennai	Shelter Scheme	3,17,236/-
12.	Sri Satyasai Praniseva Shelter, Chennai	Shelter Scheme	2,40,098/-
13.	Sai Raghav Shelter for Animals, Chennai	Shelter Scheme	11,25,000/-

Year 2001-2002

1.	Animal Welfare Protection Trust, Chennai	ABC Scheme	3,00,000/-
2.	SPCA, Chennai	ABC Scheme	1,70,000/-
3.	Blue Cross of India, Chennai	ABC Scheme	6,12,000/-
4.	Blue Cross of India, Chennai	ABC Scheme	10,20,000/-
5.	PFA, Chennai	ABC Scheme	6,00,000/-
6.	SPCA, Kanchipuram	ABC Scheme	85,000/-
7.	Animal Welfare Protection Trust, Chennai	ABC Scheme	3,00,000/-
8.	Blue Cross of Chennai	ABC Scheme	10,20,000/-
9.	PFA, Chennai	ABC Scheme	6,00,000/-
10.	Blue Cross of India, Chennai	Shelter Scheme	9,45,000/-
11.	Blue Cross of India, Chennai	Shelter Scheme	9,45,000/-
12.	PFA Chennai Charitable Trust	Shelter Scheme	2,73,800/-

1	2	3	4
13.	Blue Cross of India, Chennai	Ambulance Scheme	3,50,000/-
14.	Sri Satyasai Praniseva Shelters, Chennai	Ambulance Scheme	3,03,209/-
15.	Blue Cross of India, Chennai	Ambulance Scheme	1,00,000/-
16.	Animal Welfare Board of India, Chennai	Natural Calamities Scheme	50,00,000/-

TRIPURA

Year 1999-2000

S.No.	Name of NGO	Name of Scheme	Amount Sanctioned (Rs.)
1.	PFA Agartala	Shelter	3,24,900.00
2.	PFA Agartala	Ambulance	3,81,000.00

Year 2001-2002

S.No.	Name of the NGO	Scheme	Amount Granted (In Rs.)
1.	Animal Rescue Development Department, Tripura	Shelter Scheme	11,25,000/-

UTTAR PRADESH

Year 1999-2000

S.No.	Name of NGO	Name of Scheme	Amount Sanctioned (Rs.)
1.	Shri Pinjrapole Gaushala Pilibhit	Shelter	7,30,750.00
2.	Karuna Gaushala Samiti, Gonda	Shelter	5,00,000.00
3.	PFA, Lucknow	Shelter	9,45,000.00
4.	Jai Shri Krishna Gaushala Samiti, Jhansi	Shelter	5,76,900.00
5.	Vinoba Seva Ashram Shahjanhanpur	Shelter	7,42,410.00
6.	Gorakhpur SPCA	Ambulance	90,000.00
7.	PFA, Meerut	Ambulance	3,32,000.00
8.	PFA, Ferozabad	Ambulance	4,50,000.00
9.	Dayodaya Pashu Gaurakshan Kendra, Lalitpur	Ambulance	3,50,000.00

Year 2000-2001

S.No.	Name of NGO	Name of Scheme	Amount Granted (Rs.)
1	2	3	4
1.	Shri Gaushala Kathar Jungle, Basti	Shelter Scheme	8,56,035/-
2.	Adarsh Gaushala Samiti Bhajjabal	Shelter Scheme	7,23,600/-

1	2	3	4
3.	Shri Krishna Gaushala, Kushinagar	Shelter Scheme	8,46,900/-
4.	Shri Panjrapole Gaushala, Pilibhit	Shelter Scheme	7,30,350/-
5.	Vinobha Seva Ashram, Shahjahanpur	Shelter Scheme	7,42,410/-
6.	PFA, Firozabad	Shelter Scheme	7,29,000/-
7.	PFA, Jyotiba Phule Nagar	Shelter Scheme	10,36,057/-
8.	PFA, Firozabad	Shelter Scheme	3,93,750/-
9.	SPCA, Pilibhit	Shelter Scheme	6,30,000/-
10.	PFA, J.P. Nagar	Ambulance Scheme	4,50,000/-
11.	PFA, Ghaziabad	Ambulance Scheme	3,52,500/-

Year 2001-2002

1.	Doctor's pets Creche Animal Welfare Trust, Lucknow	ABC Scheme	17,000/-
2.	SPCA, Gorakhpur	ABC Scheme	61,200/-
3.	Shri Gaushala Kathar Jungle, Basti	Shelter Scheme	8,56,035/-
4.	PFA, Agra	Shelter Scheme	11,16,000/-
5.	Kavi Pati Ram Shiksha Evam Vikas Samrit, Agra	Shelter Scheme	8,32,500/-
6.	PFA, J.P. Nagar	Shelter Scheme	10,36,058/-
7.	Animal Care Organization, Lucknow	Shelter Scheme	5,31,000/-
8.	Dayodaya Pashu Sanrakahan Kendra (Gaushala), Lalitpur	Shelter Scheme	7,20,000/-
9.	PFA, Dehradun	Shelter Scheme	9,19,165/-
10.	SPCA, Noida	Shelter Scheme	11,25,000/-
11.	Vinoba Seva Ashram, Shahjahanpur	Shelter Scheme	5,13,180/-
12.	PFA, Firozabad	Shelter Scheme	11,22,750/-
13.	PFA, Ghaziabad	Shelter Scheme	11,25,000/-
14.	Shri Krishna Gaushala, Kushinagar	Shelter Scheme	8,46,900/-
15.	PFA, Agra	Ambulance Scheme	3,95,000/-
16.	Doctor's Pets Animal Welfare Trust, Lucknow	Ambulance Scheme	3,85,573/-
17.	Vinoba Seva Ashram, Shahjahanpur	Ambulance Scheme	4,50,000/-

WEST BENGAL

Year 1999-2000

S.No.	Name of NGO	Name of Scheme	Amount Sanctioned (Rs.)
1.	SPCA, Calcutta (West Bengal)	ABC	2,20,000.00
2.	Love 'N' Care for Animal, Calcutta	ABC	45,000.00
3.	Animal & Bird Welfare Society, Howrah	ABC	4,00,000.00
4.	Compassionate Crusaders Trust, Calcutta	ABC	2,00,000.00
5.	PFA, Calcutta	ABC	2,00,000.00
6.	Burdwan Society for Animal Welfare	ABC	8,100.00
7.	Love 'N' Care for Animal, Calcutta	ABC	45,000.00
8.	Aniaml & Bird Welfare Society, Howrah	Shelter	8,28,450.00
9.	Aniaml & Bird Welfare Society, Howrah	Shelter	8,28,450.00
10.	Compassionate Crusaders Trust, Calcutta	Shelter	1,46,250.00
11.	PFA, Calcutta	Shelter	8,55,000.00
12.	Love 'N' Care for Animal, Calcutta	Shelter	8,18,100.00
13.	Aniaml & Bird Welfare Society, Howrah	Shelter	8,28,450.00
14.	Compassionate Crusaders Trust, Calcutta	Shelter	11,29,694.00
15.	Hetaljore Kishoribala Databya Chi Kitsalaya, Midnapore, Calcutta	Shelter	90,774.00
16.	Calcutta SPCA, Calcutta	Ambulance	3,50,000.00
17.	Howra Animal Welfare Organisation, Howrah	Ambulance	4,44,000.00
18.	South Calcutta Animal Society, Calcutta	Ambulance	3,76,000.00
19.	Love 'N' Care for Animal, Calcutta	Ambulance	1,00,000.00
20.	Calcutta SPCA, Calcutta	Ambulance	1,00,000.00
21.	Animal & Bird Welfare Society, Howrah	Ambulance	95,310.00
22.	Bhav Nagar Social Service Welfare, Calcutta	Ambulance	1,98,077.00

Year 2000-2001

S.No.	Name of NGO	Scheme	Amount Granted (Rs.)
1	2	3	4
1.	Love 'N' Care for Animals, Calcutta	ABC Scheme	1,02,000/-
2.	Calcutta SPCA, Calcutta	ABC Scheme	2,20,000/-

1	2	3	4
3.	Darjeeling Goodwill Animal Shelter, Darjeeling	ABC Scheme	1,63,200/-
4.	Burdwan Society for Animal Welfare	ABC Scheme	71,900/-
5.	Love 'N' Care for Animals, Calcutta	ABC Scheme	1,02,000/-
6.	PFA, Calcutta	Shelter Scheme	5,40,000/-

Year 2001-2002

1.	All Lovers of Animal Society, Calcutta	ABC Scheme	1,00,000/-
2.	Love 'N' Care for Animals, Calcutta	ABC Scheme	1,44,500/-
3.	Howrah Animal Welfare Organization, Howrah	ABC Scheme	85,000/-
4.	PFA, Hooghly	ABC Scheme	4,000/-
5.	PFA, Calcutta	ABC Scheme	2,00,000/-
6.	All Lovers of Animal Society, Calcutta	ABC Scheme	1,00,000/-
7.	Compassionate Crusaders Trust, Kolkata	ABC Scheme	2,53,000/-
8.	Love 'N' Care for Animals, Calcutta	ABC Scheme	1,44,500/-
9.	PFA, Hooghly	ABC Scheme	4,000/-
10.	Howrah, Animal Welfare Organization, Howrah	ABC Scheme	85,000/-
11.	Love 'N' Care for Animals, Calcutta	Shelter Scheme	8,18,100/-
12.	Vivekanand Adarsh Sevashram	Shelter Scheme	9,55,094/-
13.	All Lovers of Animal Society, Calcutta	Shelter Scheme	6,35,745/-
14.	Love 'N' Care for Animals, Calcutta	Ambulance Scheme	4,40,900/-

CHANDIGARH

Year 2001-2002

S.No.	Name of the NGO	Scheme	Amount Granted (In Rs.)
1.	SPCA, Chandigarh	ABC Scheme	57,000/-
2.	PFA, Chandigarh	ABC Scheme	1,63,200/-
3.	Chandigarh Animal Welfare & Eco-Development Society (CAWEDS)	Shelter Scheme	9,15,750/-
4.	PFA, Chandigarh	Ambulance Scheme	4,50,000/-

Year 2002-2003

S.No.	Name of the NGO	Scheme	Amount Granted (In Rs.)
1.	SPCA, Chandigarh	ABC Scheme	57,000/-

UTTARANCHAL

Year 2001-2002

S.No.	Name of the NGO	Scheme	Amount Granted (In Rs.)
1.	PFA, Dehradun	Ambulance Scheme	3,07,895/-
2.	PFA, Dehradun	Ambulance Scheme	1,00,000/-

NAGALAND

Year 2001-2002

S.No.	Name of the NGO	Scheme	Amount Granted (In Rs.)
1.	Naga, SPCA, Kohima	Shelter Scheme	9,67,500/-
2.	Naga, SPCA, Kohima	Ambulance Scheme	3,80,870/-

SIKKIM

Year 2001-2002

S.No.	Name of the NGO	Scheme	Amount Granted (In Rs.)
1.	Sikkim SPCA, Gangtok	ABC Scheme	34,000/-
2.	Sikkim SPCA	Shelter Scheme	11,25,000/-

ARUNACHAL PRADESH

Year 2000-2001

S.No.	Name of the NGO	Scheme	Amount Granted (In Rs.)
1.	Wildlife Trust of India	Shelter Scheme	10,46,250/-

KERALA

Year 2000-2001

S.No.	Name of the NGO	Scheme	Amount Granted (In Rs.)
1.	PFA, Thiruvananthapuram	Ambulance Scheme	4,50,000/-

**Transfer of Expertise on Golden
Rice and BT Rice**

6895. SHRI S. MURUGESAN:
SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA:
SHRI SHASHI KUMAR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka has granted its approval for a Memorandum of understanding between University of Agricultural Sciences, Hebbal and International Rice Research Institute, Manila, Philippines alongwith Swiss cooperation for transfer of expertise on Golden Rice and BT Rice;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the efforts being made to ensure that golden rice and BT rice is made available for consumption in two years time?

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

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) Scientifically it is not possible to have Golden rice and BT rice for commercial cultivation within a period of two year in India. However, efforts are on for transfer of the beta carotene trait from Japonica transgenic rice lines to Indica rices.

Similarly, efforts are also on to develop BT rices carrying more than one Cry genes and also Xa 21 genes in the background of IR 64, Karnal local and Pusa Basmati I and IR 72. These materials are being tested under the controlled conditions.

[Translation]

Bauxite Mines

6896. SHRI SOHAN POTAI: Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether bauxite mines are given on lease by the Government;

(b) whether the Government of Madhya Pradesh have reserved Bauxite reserves in 163 villages of Bastar district for M.P. State Mineral Corporation and thereafter requested the Union Government for their clearance;

(c) if so, whether the approval has since been accorded;

(d) whether Chhattisgarh Madhya Pradesh Mineral Corporation is neither doing any mining of Bauxite on its own nor is interested in doing so;

(e) whether said Corporation gave one mine Bastar district on contract for mining and sale which is beyond the jurisdiction of the Corporation;

(f) if so, whether the Contractor and said Corporation have indulged in illegal mining and three cases are going on in the court of Kankar in this regard; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) The State Governments can grant mining lease for bauxite in areas under their jurisdiction with previous approval of the Central Government.

(b) and (c) In 1998, the Government of Madhya Pradesh had approached the Central Government for approval of reservation of areas inter-alia, of Bastar District not already held under any prospecting licence or mining lease for bauxite mining by the Madhya Pradesh State Mineral Corporation. After Bastar District has become part of Chhattisgarh State, the State Government of Chhattisgarh is not pursuing this proposal.

(d) to (g) The State Government of Chhattisgarh has informed that Chhattisgarh Mineral Development Corporation Ltd. is doing mining on its own. Three cases of illegal mining were registered in the court of Collector Kanker and have been disposed of. In one case penalty has been imposed and also deposited by the concerned party. In other two cases appeal is pending in the court of Commissioner of Bastar division.

Allocation of Funds

6897. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the existing rules for purchase of spare parts, machinery and other materials in Coal India Limited (CIL) and its subsidiary companies;

(b) the funds allocated for purchase of spare parts and machinery in CIL and its each subsidiary company during each of the last three years and the current year;

(c) the amount spent for the purpose during the said period, subsidiary-wise;

(d) whether the Government have received and accepted some of the suggestions regarding purchase of spare parts;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

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

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

(a) Procurement of all materials including spare parts and machinery in CIL and its subsidiaries are being done as per Purchase Manual of September, 1986 and amendments issued from time to time. In terms of this Purchase Manual, the following rules/methods are followed:

(i) Calling of tenders (by advertisement, by limited tender enquiries or by single tender). Normally

all demands where the estimated value is Rs. 5 lakhs or more are advertised in leading newspapers. However, standard equipment/any other items, for which there are established manufacturers of proven quality and capabilities, are procured through limited tenders irrespective of the value of indent after taking approval of competent authority.

(ii) Operating DGS&D rate contract or rate/running contracts concluded by the subsidiary companies and Coal India Limited for revenue items or large demand and recurring nature.

(iii) Operating Depot Agreement entered into with leading heavy earth moving machinery manufacturers.

(b) Subsidiary-wise fund allocated for plant and machinery and spares for the last three years are as under:

(Rs. in crores)

Company	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02
ECL	163.47	200.65	216.16
BCCL	268.84	268.87	266.89
CCL	355.19	358.10	285.65
WCL	343.29	259.27	316.26
SECL	658.95	396.81	376.90
MCL	277.02	190.83	176.46
NCL	1218.60	1069.05	995.55
NEC	1.75	1.67	2.09
CMPDIL	4.16	4.76	4.06

(c) Amount spent on plant & machinery and spares by the subsidiaries of CIL for the last three years are as under:--

(Rs. in Crores)

Company	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02
1	2	3	4
ECL	151.47	168.28	192.31
BCCL	288.55	216.47	220.06
CCL	270.87	228.94	244.80

1	2	3	4
WCL	346.64	216.57	273.66
SECL	788.75	388.13	399.12
MCL	337.12	193.49	149.41
NCL	1282.24	476.77	389.70
NEC	1.54	1.27	1.54
CMPDIL	3.61	4.71	2.02

(d) to (f) No suggestion has been received in this Ministry from Coal India Limited regarding purchase of spare parts. CIL board is empowered to take the decisions regarding policies on procurement of spares for CIL and its subsidiaries.

Construction of Airports in Bihar

6898. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether various political organisations and public representatives of Bihar have made requests to the Union Government for setting up some more airports in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) and (b) Requests have been received for setting up an airport at Rajgir, Nalanda in Bihar.

(c) As per policy on airport infrastructure, no greenfield airport is normally allowed within aerial distance of 150 kms from an existing airport. Rajgir is only 75 kms from Patna and 50 kms from Gaya airports.

Educated Youth in Crime

6899. SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the educated youth is foraying into the world of crime due to unemployment;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to conduct a survey in the metropolitan cities to ascertain the facts in this regard and remedy the situation; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (c) Crimes are committed due to a number of reasons by various persons and not confined to educated unemployed youths only. It is a socio-economic fact that lack of employment drives educated youth to various activities, which include crime.

[English]

Advances with CPWD

6900. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether IARI has made advances of crores of rupees with the Central Public Works Department (CPWD) for execution of various works from time to time;

(b) if so, whether advances have been outstanding with CPWD for years;

(c) if so, the reasons for the IARI not getting its advances adjusted; and

(d) the steps taken in this behalf with interests on the money?

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

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The major and the minor works of IARI including its Regional Stations are carried out by the CPWD as

per the prescribed procedure on pre-deposit basis and adjustments are done on completion of work and on production of expenditure statement by the CPWD. The amount is deposited with CPWD in phase manner depending on progress of the work. As the major works involving construction and renovation of building are time consuming the advances remain unadjusted at any given point of time.

(d) During the last two years a good amount of pre-deposited advances are settled and efforts are further on to settle about Rs. 19.00 crores. However, as the transaction is between two Government departments no interest is chargeable in such cases.

Development of Tourism Circuits

6901. SHRI B.V.N. REDDY: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to throw open development of new tourism circuits in the country to foreigners;

(b) if so, the names of tourism circuits proposed to be given for development, location-wise; and

(c) the criteria laid down in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) to (c) No, Sir. During the 10th Five Year Plan the Department of Tourism, Government of India proposes to develop six travel circuits in the country on an annual basis. During the Annual Plan 2002-03, an amount of Rs. 41.50 crores has been earmarked for the integrated development of six circuits. These circuits are to be finalised and developed to international standards in close coordination and partnership with the State/UT Governments.

[*Translation*]

Coal Smuggling

6902. SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL: Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases of coal smuggling handed over to Central Bureau of Investigation during the last three years and till date, State-wise; and

(b) the steps being taken for preventing the coal smuggling?

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

(a) No case of smuggling has been handed over by CIL and its subsidiary companies to Central Bureau of Investigation during the last three years.

(b) The following steps are being taken by the Coal companies for prevention of smuggling:—

- (i) Collection of intelligence;
- (ii) Installation of check posts/check gates;
- (iii) Regular patrolling/surprise check by security personnel;
- (iv) Close liaison with state authorities.

Exploitation of Water Resources

6903. SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA:
SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the water resources of the country are being exploited due to subsidy being given on power and diesel;

(b) if so, whether the Government have formulated any efficacious scheme to combat this situation;

(c) if so, whether any meeting under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister was recently held to discuss the issue; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) Electricity supply to agriculture sector in the country is by and large subsidized. According to the report of the National Commission for Integrated Water Resources Development Plan, the subsidized rates of power coupled with the use of flat-rate pricing for electricity have prompted maximum pumpage of ground water leading to its over-exploitation. Water including ground water is a State subject and, as such, its planning development and management is the responsibility of the concerned State Government.

Government have taken several steps to control the over-exploitation of ground water, they include:—

- (i) Constitution of Central Ground Water Authority under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for regulation and control of ground water management and development.

- (ii) Circulation of a Model Bill to all the States/Union Territories to enable them to enact suitable legislation for regulation and control of ground water development.
- (iii) Circulation of Manual on artificial recharge of ground water to the States/Union Territories to enable them to formulate area specific artificial recharge schemes to check the declining trend in ground water levels.
- (iv) The Central Ground Water Board is implementing a Central Sector Scheme for Study of Recharge to Ground Water on "pilot basis". The scheme has been proposed to be extended in the X Five Year Plan to cover more critical and dark areas.

(c) and (d) The fifth meeting of the National Water Resources Council (NWRC), was held under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Prime Minister on 1st April, 2002 to consider the draft revised National Water Policy. The Revised National Water Policy, with certain modifications made in light of the views expressed and suggestions made by the members of the Council, was adopted and a Resolution to this effect was unanimously passed by the Council. The issue of subsidy to power was outside the scope of the discussion.

[English]

Study on Unemployment

6904. SHRI GEORGE EDEN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have conducted any study on the increase of unemployed in the country during the last three years; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) and (b) Nationwide detailed surveys on employment and unemployment are carried out by National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) once in five years. The last such survey was carried out during 1999-2000. The survey results show that the unemployment rate which was of the order of 1.90% during 1993-94 has gone up to 2.23% during 1999-2000.

Profitability in Agricultural Crops

6905. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a decline in profitability of various agricultural crops; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the remedial steps proposed to be taken in this regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) No, Sir. A statement showing Gross returns for Wheat, Paddy, Gram & Sugarcane in some of the States is enclosed.

Statement

Gross returns for Wheat, Paddy, Gram & Sugarcane in some of the States

(Rs./Ha.)

Crop	State	Years			
		1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
Wheat	Punjab	9473.24	7366.61	14909.71	11940.23
	Haryana	11152.23	11815.66	15549.11	15091.85
Paddy	Punjab	10936.99	9045.34	11282.80	13806.40
	Haryana	8811.91	N.A.	11394.68	11550.35
Gram	Haryana	6277.24	5689.40	9273.91	8033.86
	Rajasthan	5032.21	5281.39	5646.29	5669.35
S. Cana	U.P.	24924.98	21910.87	24285.65	30112.57
	Maharashtra	20671.15	19208.72	16485.75	25201.21

Agriculture Wholesale Markets

6906. DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the provisions available in the 73rd Amendment of the Constitution about Agriculture wholesale markets;

(b) the norms and standards prescribed for Wholesale Agriculture Produce Markets in the country;

(c) based on the above norms and standards, how many Agriculture produce wholesale markets of different sizes are required in the country;

(d) the manner in which the gap between the required and available markets would be fulfilled in the next five years;

(e) the details of components of large 'Agriculture Wholesale Markets';

(f) whether the Government propose to construct these markets from 2% levy, charged on Agriculture Produce in these markets; and

(g) if so, the details there about?

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

(a) The Constitution (Seventy Third Amendment) Act, 1992 provides under Article 243G that the Legislature of a State may, by law, endow the Panchayats with such powers and authority as may be necessary to enable them to function as institutions of self-government and such law may contain provisions for the devolution of powers and responsibilities upon Panchayats at the appropriate level with respect to:

(i) The preparation of plans for economic development and social justice;

(ii) The implementation of schemes for economic development and social justice as may be entrusted to them including those in relation to the matter listed in the Eleventh Schedule. "Markets and Fairs" are listed as item No. 22 of the Eleventh Schedule.

(b) to (d) There are no prescribed norms or standards fixed for wholesale agricultural markets in the country. Therefore, it is difficult to arrive at the exact number of such markets, which are required in the country. The responsibility for establishment of such markets, keeping in view the requirements, lies with the State Governments/UT Administrations.

(e) The components of agricultural wholesale markets are determined by the type and scale of commodities handled, the marketing practices followed and the number and kind of market users. The main components of a large agricultural wholesale market in general are the following:—

(i) Shops of traders/agents

(ii) Storage/ripening facilities

(iii) Producers' common auction platforms

(iv) Roads and parking

(v) Service lanes

(vi) Electrification

(vii) Drinking water facilities

(viii) Tea and snacks stalls

(ix) Toilet blocks

(x) Market Administration Office and

(xi) Banks/Post Office/telephones/offices.

(f) Matters relating to the imposition of levy in the markets and establishment and maintenance of agricultural wholesale markets come within the purview of the State Governments/UT Administrations. The Government of India has to present to proposal to construct wholesale agricultural markets.

(g) Question does not arise.

[Translation]

Pending Water Resource Projects

6907. DR. M.P. JAISWAL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether several projects relating to development of water resources are lying pending in anticipation of the consent of the Nepal Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for delay in according clearance; and

(c) the time by which the projects are likely to be cleared and completed?

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

CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (c) No such projects are pending for want of consent of the Nepal Government. However, regarding multipurpose projects on various rivers common to India and Nepal, the Detailed Project Report (DPR) for Pancheshwar Multipurpose Project is already under preparation jointly by India and Nepal. In respect of Sapta Kosi High Dam Multipurpose Project and Sun Kosi Storage cum diversion Scheme, the Inception report has been finalised paving the way for field investigations and preparation of DPR. Regarding Bagmati and Kamla Multipurpose Project, the joint effort of the Government of India and Nepal to sort out certain technical issues are under progress between the two countries.

[English]

Purchasing of ATF from Private Companies

6908. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Oil PSUs are charging high prices for their Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF);

(b) if so, whether Indian Airlines has explored the possibility of obtaining ATF from private companies rather than Oil PSUs;

(c) if so, whether India Airlines are offered a better price by private companies;

(d) the average quantity of ATF purchased by Indian Airlines in a year; and

(e) the total amount likely to be saved by the Indian Airlines by going in for cheaper ATF from private oil companies?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) The prices of Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) have been decontrolled w.e.f. 01.04.2001. Thus, the oil PSUs are charging the prices for this product as per market considerations.

(b) to (e) It is understood that M/s. Reliance Petroleum is the only private sector company which has so far been given the licence for supply of ATF and they will be taking a minimum of 6 to 9 months to build necessary infrastructure including storage, etc. The impact on ATF price as a result of entry of private suppliers and the competition arising thereof cannot therefore be assessed immediately.

Indian Airlines including Alliance Air uplifts about 5 lakhs kiloliters of ATF in a year from domestic airports at its current level of operations.

Forest Tourism

6909. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is vast scope to promote forest tourism in the country;

(b) if so, whether any proposal to promote forest tourism has been received by the State Governments;

(c) if so, whether any funds has been sought by the State Governments from the Union Government;

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

(e) the steps taken to promote forest tourism in the country?

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

(b) Union Ministry of Environment and Forests has informed that there is no scheme for granting assistance to State Government for development of forest tourism.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

(e) The Department of Tourism, Government of India have proposed a scheme namely "Forest for Tourism and Recreation and Conservation" in the Tenth Five Year Plan. The scheme is yet to be approved.

Accidents of Small Aircraft

6910. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether small aircraft and helicopters operating in India are more prone to accidents than the aeroplanes operated by the scheduled airlines as reported in 'The Hindustan Times' dated April 15, 2002 under the caption "small planes, choppers prone to mishap";

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

(c) whether out of 70 air accidents reported since 1992 small aircrafts and helicopters have been involved in 52;

(d) if so, the main factors attributed thereto;

(e) whether investigations reveal that most of the accidents were occurred due to poor quality of training; and

(f) if so, the steps taken or being taken by the Government for proper training of pilots and basic infrastructural facilities and to minimise the accidents of small aircraft?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) There were 70 accidents to Indian Civil Registered aircraft since 1992. Out of these, 52 accidents occurred to small fixed wing aircraft and helicopters.

(d) and (e) No, Sir. The analysis of causes of 48 accidents to small fixed wing aircraft/helicopter by investigating authorities, reveal that 33 accidents had resulted due to pilot handling and operational decision. Other causes were bad weather, engineering, Air Traffic Control and miscellaneous factors such as intrusion into active runway, inadvertent walking into rotating rotor blades causing air accidents.

(f) Government had constituted a Committee to undertake a comprehensive review of the systems and procedures for acquisition, maintenance and operation of small aircraft. The recommendations made by the Committee is applicable to airworthiness and safety of aircraft operations and cover surveillance checks, safety audit, training of pilots, flying training institutes, acquisition of aircraft, etc. The recommendations are in the process of implementation, which is an ongoing process.

[Translation]

Cancellation of Flights by Private Airlines

6911. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of flights cancelled by the private operators during the last three years;

(b) whether there are any rules laid down for the cancellations of the flights;

(c) if so, whether these rules are being violated by the private operators; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to check this malpractice?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) The number of flights

cancelled by Jet Airways and Sahara Airlines, during the last three years is as follows:—

Airline	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02
Jet Airways	1936	1032	2381
Sahara Airlines	740	1001	567

These cancellations were mainly due to bad weather conditions, technical snags, non-availability of aircraft, bandhs, airport closure, etc.

Jet Airways has informed that number of flights cancelled/combined during each year constitute only 2.5% of the total number of flights scheduled to be operated by them.

Sahara Airlines has informed that number of flights cancelled were 6.91%, 7.04% and 3.98% of the total number of flights scheduled to be operated by them during the years 1999-00, 2000-01 and 2001-02 respectively.

(b) to (d) As per the Route Dispersal Guidelines issued by the Government of India, all operators are required to deploy in Category II at least 10% of the capacity deployed by them on routes in Category I and of the capacity thus required to be deployed on Category II routes, at least 10% would be deployed on services or segments thereof operated exclusively within the North-Eastern region, Jammu & Kashmir, Andaman & Nicobar and Lakshadweep. The operator is also required to deploy in Category III, at least 50% of the capacity deployed on routes in Category I. All the operators are following the above order. Compliance of the Order is being Strictly monitored by Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) regularly. Whenever there is any cancellation/shortfall in operation of Category II, IIA and III routes, appropriate action is initiated.

[English]

Passenger Amenities at Thiruvananthapuram Airport

6912. SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item appeared in the 'Indian Express' dated April 19, 2002 captioned "Pray for passengers in God's own country";

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

(c) whether the passenger amenities at the Thiruvananthapuram International Airport are not up to the mark; and

(d) if so, the remedial measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The news-item mentions some problems in Thiruvananthapuram airport, related to conveyor belts, bunching of flights, snack bar facilities, toilets, internet facilities, prepaid taxi counters etc. Many of the passenger facilities have been improved, and are upto the mark. Baggage delivery has been improved by provision of two long conveyor belts. A minimum of 40 minutes gap is provided between arrival or departure of two flights. Snack bar and internet facilities are available. The toilets are in good working condition. Passengers can hire a prepaid taxi from the counter which is managed by the State traffic police.

(c) and (d) Improvement in passenger amenities is an ongoing process, and there are plans to expand international terminal with two aerobridges, commissioning of a new colour X-ray machines, renovation of toilets and provision of illuminated pictographs to improve signage.

Construction of Walls along Coastal Areas

6913. SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal for constructing walls along coastal areas to avoid inflow of saline water;

(b) if so, whether the Government have formulated any scheme in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (c) At present, there is no such proposal. However, there are two schemes under consideration of the Government of India for protection of vulnerable coastal reaches from sea and river erosion which include (i) National Coastal Protection Project (NCP) for protection of critical vulnerable coastal reaches from sea erosion in the maritime States/UTs which is under formulation. The proposals received from various States/UTs are under different stages for inclusion in National Coastal Protection Project, which will be finalized on receipt of modified proposals from States/UTs. (ii) A proposal for Centrally Sponsored Scheme for protection of critical reaches from sea erosion and anti river erosion works which is in the process of formulation.

Glacial Threat

6914. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have not conducted any study to assess the impending danger of flash flooding in the Himalayas as a result of fast melting glacial lakes as reported in the 'Pioneer' dated April 22, 2002;

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

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to arrest the catastrophe and to meet the disastrous flood situation?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Environment and Forests has not conducted any such study. However, some studies carried out by some other agencies have indicated that these glaciers are passing through a phase of recession. The recession of glaciers is a natural process sensitive to climate fluctuation wherein the rise in global average temperature (called global warming) results in melting of the glaciers in extents varying with their locations as well as seasons.

(c) The rate of recession in different climatic zones of the Himalayas is found to be different in different years. It has been estimated that during the coming ten years the rate of recession is not likely to reach an extent which could cause water scarcity. The measures taken to reduce the effect of human interference on glaciers include conservation activities such as afforestation, removal of garbage and promotion of sustainable eco-tourism.

Indian Airlines Flights to Hong Kong and Saudi Arabia

6915. SHRI GUNIPATI RAMAIAH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Airlines propose to start its services to Hong Kong and Saudi Arabia;

(b) if so, whether the Government have since accorded permission for these flights;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) to (d) Indian Airlines is not designated to operate services to Saudi Arabia. Although Indian Airlines has been designated for operating services to Hong Kong, they are yet to start operations. Air India is already operating to Hongkong.

Irregularities in Provident Fund Office of Coal Mines

6916. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn towards the irregularities prevalent in the Coal Mines Provident Fund office Nagpur;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have taken any action in the matter; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) No irregularities have been reported in respect of CMPF Office Nagpur in recent past.

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

Remittance of EPF Money

6917. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether 60 per cent of the EPF money deducted at source by the employers alongwith the matching contributions is not being remitted to the member's EPF account and lakhs of employees are not being issued contribution slips;

(b) if so, the details thereof at the end of March 31, 2001 and March 31, 2002; and

(c) the measures being taken by the Government to safeguard the workers interests?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) A comparative position of outstanding Provident Fund dues accumulated over the last 50 years and the

corpus as on 31st March, 2001 as on 31st March 2002 is given below:

(Rs. in crores)				
Year	Realisable Arrears	Total Unrealisable Arrears	Total Arrears	Total Corpus of EPFO
2000-2001	239	945	1,184	90,404
2001-2002	303	1,033	1,336	1,02,163

Unrealisable arrear is the amount of money which is locked up due to stay granted by various courts and the establishments registered with BIFR and hence recovery action cannot be taken against such amount. Therefore, the percentage of amount in arrear against realizable category with respect to the total corpus is only 0.26% and 0.29% only for the year 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 respectively. Even the total arrears works out to only 1.31% and 1.30% of the total corpus of investment.

Annual status of accounts slip issued to the subscribers for the last two years is given below.

Year	No. of Account Slips Issued
2000-01	338.17 lakhs
2001-02	374.84 lakhs

(c) A New IT assisted computerized tracking system has been developed and implemented throughout the country for a month-to-month detection of default and follow up action thereto. A special drive has also been launched for achieving compliance from all the covered establishments.

Aero-bridge facility at Kolkata and Delhi Airports

6918. DR. NITISH SENGUPTA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are no aero-bridge facilities at Dum-Dum International Airport, Kolkata and domestic airport in Delhi;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which the aero-bridge facility is likely to be provided at these airports?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) to (c) An aero-bridge is

under installation at the International Terminal of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International Airport, Kolkata to serve the requirements of both international departures and arrivals at this terminal. This will be made operational by the end of May, 2002. As far as the Domestic Terminal of the IGI Airport at Delhi is concerned it is not technically feasible to provide aero-bridge facility due to shortage of space on the air side and also since any extension of the building will pose obstruction to the taxiway of the Domestic Terminal.

Autonomy to CBT, EPF

6919. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Board of Trustees (CBT), EPF has no autonomy even in administrative and financial matters;

(b) if so, the initiatives taken to restructure and to give more autonomy to the CBT;

(c) the date on which the post of CPFC, CEO of EPFO was created and status of its level/rank in the Central Government Services;

(d) whether the post of CPFC has ever been upgraded; and

(e) if not, the time by which the post is likely to be upgraded?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) and (b) All administrative and financial matters of the EPFO are decided by the CBT (EPF), a tripartite body, having Central and State Govt. representatives and Employees' representatives. Appropriate administrative and financial delegations to be exercised by the Chairman, CBT, Chairman, Executive Committee and the EPF Organisation exist.

(c) Section 5D of the Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 provides for appointment of Central Provident Fund Commissioner. The post of CPFC is Grade 'A' Gazetted, Non Ministerial in the scale of Rs. 18,400-22,250.

(d) Yes, Sir. The post was upgraded from the rank of Director to that of Joint Secretary in 1991.

(e) In view of reply to (d) above, question does not arise.

Child Labour Free Villages

6920. DR. N. VENKATASWAMY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state the details of the villages which have been declared child labour free village in the country including Andhra Pradesh, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): Government of India has not declared any village in the country as "child labour free village". However, Government has taken steps for withdrawal and rehabilitation of child labour working in hazardous occupations to reduce the incidence of child labour in a particular district through the scheme of National Child Labour Projects (NCLPs). Under the Scheme of NCLP, special schools have been set up on child labour endemic districts with the provision for non-formal education, vocational training, nutrition, stipend, health care etc. So far 100 National Child Labour Projects have been sanctioned in 13 child labour endemic states for coverage of 2.11 lakh children. As per the information available 1.38 lakh children (approx) have already been mainstreamed into the formal school system.

[Translation]

Scarcity of Water

6921. SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of complaints received by the Government regarding the scarcity of water due to loss of forests as a result of irregularities committed by the Cement industry during the last few years; and

(b) the efforts being made by the Government to resolve the problem of scarcity of water?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) No such complaint has been received in the Ministry of Water Resources.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Exodus of Pilots from AI and IA

6922. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an exodus of pilots from Indian Airlines and Air India and other State owned Airlines to International Airlines;

(b) if so, the reasons for this exodus; and

(c) the remedial steps taken by the Government to stop the same?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) and (b) No Sir. Only two pilots of Indian Airlines and one pilot of Air India have resigned during the period from 2000 till date on personal grounds.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Promotion of Fisheries in Rajasthan

6923. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the programmes/schemes being implemented by the Government to promote the fisheries and the related industries in Rajasthan during the last four years i.e. April 1, 1998 onwards;

(b) the total financial assistance provided in the fishery training and extension units during the said period, project-wise;

(c) the achievements accrued therefrom;

(d) whether a survey of fishery potential has been conducted in the State;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) There are 3 Central Schemes on fisheries being implemented in Rajasthan namely:—

1. Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Freshwater Aquaculture
2. Central Sector Scheme on Development of Inland Fisheries Statistics
3. Central Sector Scheme on Fisheries Training and Extension

(b) The total Central financial assistance provided under the above three schemes to Rajasthan during the last 4 years are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) The action has been initiated for establishment of one awareness Centre at Jaipur. Training has been provided to 46 Progressive Fish Farmers.

(d) to (f) Action has been initiated for survey of Fisheries Potential in Rajasthan by Fisheries Research Station, Karnal (Government of India).

Statement

Year-wise releases made under various Centrally Sponsored/Central Sector Schemes on Fisheries to Rajasthan during last four years

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl. No.	Scheme	1998-1999	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002
1.	Central Sector Scheme on Fisheries Training and Extension	Nil	2.10	Nil	10.00
2.	Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Freshwater Aquaculture through Fish Farmers Development Agencies (FFDAs)	Nil	Nil	Nil	17.26
3.	Central Sector Scheme on Development of Inland Fisheries Statistics	7.00	8.00	6.75	8.40

[English]

**Statistical-cum-Demographic Survey
on Unorganised Sector**

6924. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have conducted any statistical-cum-demographic survey in respect of various categories of unorganised labourers for their socio-economic upliftment;

(b) if not, whether the Government propose to conduct such a survey now; and

(c) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (c) No specific survey has been conducted. The schemes and programmes for socio-economic upliftment of various categories of unorganized labour are generally based on data primarily obtained from the decennial Population Census and National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) periodically.

Bomb Disposal Squad at Airports

6925. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) has established bomb detection and disposal squad at important airports;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to provide such facility at Trivandrum and Cochin International airports;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) Yes, Sir. Bureau of Civil Aviation Security has set up Bomb Detection & Disposal Squads (BDDS) at Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai airports.

(b) Government has not taken any decision to set up BDDS at Trivandrum and Cochin International airports.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Report on Trials of BT Cotton

6926. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has not submitted its report on the field trials of BT Cotton;

(b) if so, the reasons for the delay;

(c) whether the ICAR has asked for additional time from the concerned Inter Ministerial Committee; and

(d) if so, the time by which the reports are likely to be filed by ICAR?

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

(b) Question does not arise, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Question does not arise, Sir.

Bidhanbeg unit of BALCO

6927. SHRI BIKASH CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of Bidhanbeg Unit of Bharat Aluminium Company Limited (BALCO) situated near Asansol, West Bengal;

(b) whether the Government had voluntarily agreed to close down the Bidhanbeg Unit of BALCO while handing over the Management of BALCO to the Sterlite Co.; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (c) Government sold 51 per cent of its equity in Bharat Aluminium Company Limited (BALCO) and handed over the management of the company to M/s. Sterlite Industries (India) Limited with effect from 2.3.2001. The present status of the Bidhanbag Unit of BALCO is that since it had consistently been making losses over the past several years, the new management of BALCO evaluated the resources available at Bidhanbag Unit and explored its viability. It came to the conclusion that in view of the outdated equipment at Bidhanbag as well as excess capacity in the country of modern facilities for

production of aluminium foil, it would not be economically viable or prudent to run the Bidhanbag Unit. As a consequence, production at Bidhanbag has been stopped since June, 2001 although the employees (476 as on 1.4.2002) are continuing to be paid their salaries.

Review of Inventory Management in ICAR

6928. SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the CAG in its Report 5 of 1998 has carried out a review of the inventory management in Institutes of Indian Council of Agricultural Research and brought out a number of glaring irregularities and shortcomings;

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

(c) the action taken thereon by the Government to set the irregularities and shortcomings rights;

(d) whether the institutes are now following the inventory and purchase properly; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. C&AG Report No. 5 of 1998 brought out observations on Inventory Management in respect of eleven ICAR Institutes namely IVRI, Izatnagar, NBAGR, Kamal, IGFRI, Jhansi, IASRI, New Delhi, IARI, New Delhi, IISR, Lucknow, CISH, Lucknow, NBPGR, New Delhi, DWR, Kamal, CIRB, Hissar and CSWRI, Avikanagar. The main issue raised in the C&AG Para in respect of all these Institutes related to the acquisition of stores; utilisation of stores; purchases without inviting open tenders; delays in installation of equipment; idle equipment; infrastructural facilities not ready; non-maintenance of Assets Registers and physical verification of stores unserviceable stores awaiting disposal; etc.

(c) The Institutes concerned, while furnishing the Action Taken Note in respect of above CAG para(s) justified that purchases were of urgent nature and hence were made through constitution of a committee. Institutes also informed that the audit observations regarding compliance of purchase procedure; utilisation of stores; delays in installations; idle equipments, etc. had been noted for strict future compliance. As regards physical verification and Non-maintenance of Assets register, the Institutes informed that the actions had been initiated/completed as per audit observations.

Further, in accordance with the procedure laid down by CAG/MoF regarding CAG Paras, the Action Taken Note indicating the factual position and remedial action taken were submitted to the office of the PDA (SD), New Delhi for vetting on 31.12.98. Audit Office vetted the above ATN vide their letter No. Report 6 (49)/ICAR/3-97/306-308 dated 19.12.2000. After that 40 copies of ATN alongwith vetting comments of PDA were furnished to Monitoring Cell of MoF, Deptt. of Expenditure on 28.2.2001.

(d) and (e) In view of the Audit Report, ICAR issued a d.o. letter to all the Unit heads in September, 1997 giving guidelines/General instructions on stores Purchases and emphasizing the need for adopting transparent procedures and following the Inventory & Purchase procedure in letter and spirit. The Principal Director of Audit (Scientific Departments) conducts the statutory audit of all the ICAR Institutes annually. In addition the Finance & Accounts Officer of the institute concerned and Inspection Unit of ICAR Headquarters also conduct inspection of Institutes periodically. The major irregularity in inventory management system when reported by the external as well as internal auditors is attended promptly and action is taken in accordance with rules/procedures.

Yields of Cotton in Irrigated Tracts

6929. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether declining yields of cotton have been noticed in the irrigated tracts of Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan which could damage to cotton growers and to the user industry; and

(b) if so, the factors responsible therefor and the steps contemplated by the Government to raise current low yield?

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

(a) and (b) Although the yield of cotton in the states of Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan during the last three years has not shown any significant variation, as will be seen from the table below there has been extensive damage to the cotton crop in the last season due to attack of pest & disease. In order to tackle the problem, under the Technology Mission on Cotton, assistance is being provided to the state governments of these states of promoting Integrated Pest Management (IPM) through demonstration and training of farmers etc.

(Kgs per hectare)

State	Year		
	1998-1999	1999-2000	2000-2001
Punjab	180	340	430
Haryana	255	408	424
Rajasthan	230	287	268

Welfare for the Labourers/Workers of Organised and Unorganised Sectors

6930. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:
SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI:
SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Employees Provident Fund Organisation has suggested certain welfare measures for the labourers/workers of organised and unorganised sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the total amount required for their welfare measures; and

(c) the reaction of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (c) The Employees Provident Fund & Miscellaneous Provision Act, 1952 and schemes thereunder provide for social security benefits of provident fund, pension and insurance to all eligible employees. The scheme are contributory in nature. Possibilities are also being explored by the Government for extending Social Security cover through Employees Provident Fund Organization to identifiable groups which are presently not covered.

Establishment of Fisheries Training and Extension Unit

6931. SHRI AMBAREESHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received proposals from coastal States particularly from Karnataka to establish fisheries training and extension unit;

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

(c) the extent of assistance sought by each of the States and the amount of assistance released to them for the purpose;

(d) the details of the proposals cleared and yet to be cleared, State-wise; and

(e) the time by which the remaining proposals are likely to be cleared?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Union Government had been assisting the States to set up Fish Farmers Training Centres and awareness centres under various Centrally Sponsored/ Central Sector Schemes such as (i) Development of Freshwater Aquaculture through Fish Farmers Development Agencies (FFDA), (ii) Brackishwater Fish Farmers Development Agencies (BFDA) and (iii) Fisheries Training and Extension. Besides these, two Training Centres were granted, one each for Orissa and West Bengal under the World Bank Assisted Programme. The State of Karnataka have been granted a total of 5 Training Units one each under FFDA and BFDA and 3 Units under Central Sector Scheme on Fisheries Training and Extension. The State-wise details of Training and Extension Units sanctioned under various schemes is furnished in the Statement enclosed.

(c) Under the main Central Sector Scheme on Fisheries Training and Extension, 80% of the cost of setting up of Training and Extension Units is granted by Centre. Besides Training and Extension Units, one awareness centre per State is also granted with 80% Central assistance. Under FFDA and BFDA, the Training Centres are established with one time funding pattern.

(d) Details of proposals cleared State-wise are furnished in the statement enclosed. There are no proposals pending to be cleared.

(e) Question does not arise.

Statement*Coastal State-wise List of Training Centres sanctioned for establishment/up-gradation under various Centrally Sponsored/Central Sector Schemes*

Sl. No.	State/UTs	Fresh Water Acquaculture	Brackish water acquaculture	Fisheries Training & Extension	World Bank Assisted Project	Total
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1	1	2	—	4
2.	Goa	—	1	1	—	2
3.	Gujarat	—	1	2	—	3
4.	Karnataka	1	1	3	—	5
5.	Kerala	1	1	1	—	3
6.	Maharashtra	1	1	—	—	2
7.	Orissa	1	1	—	1	3
8.	Tamil Nadu	1	1	4	—	6
9.	West Bengal	1	1	1	1	4
10.	A & N Islands	—	—	—	—	—
11.	Daman & Diu	—	—	—	—	—
12.	Lakshdweep	—	—	—	—	—
13.	Pondicherry	—	—	—	—	—
Total		7	9	14	2	32

Leasing of Tu-154 Aircraft

6932. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a high level inquiry initiated by the Ministry of fix the responsibility for the glaring lapses on the part of Indian Airlines pertaining to the non-maintenance of records while leasing out Tu-150 aircraft has since been completed; and

(b) if so, the outcome thereof and the follow-up action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The inquiry conducted, *prima facie*, held four officers of Indian Airlines responsible for dereliction of duties.

After more detailed examination, Indian Airlines came to the conclusion that no financial loss was suffered by them on account of the negotiated settlement with M/s Aeroflot. It was, therefore, recommended to counsel one officer to be more careful in future.

Keeping all factors in view, it had been decided to accept the recommendations of Indian Airlines in this regard and to treat the matter as closed.

[Translation]

Development of Rakumai Temple as Pilgrim Site

6933. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to develop Pandharpur as a pilgrim site in Maharashtra;

(b) whether the Government are aware that a large number of pilgrims come to Vithal Rakumai temple situated on Chandrabhaga river in Pandharpur but there are no basic civic amenities; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to develop it as a pilgrim site?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) to (c) Development and promotion of tourist centres/pilgrim centres is primarily undertaken by the State Governments/UT Administrations themselves.

However, Department of Tourism, Govt. of India provides funds for tourism-related projects identified in consultation with them every year. The project for development of Pandharpur as a pilgrim site in Maharashtra has not been prioritised for central financial assistance during 2001-2002.

[English]

Construction of Ring Wells

6934. SHRI BISHNU PADA RAY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ring Wells have been constructed in Andaman and Nicobar Islands;

(b) if so, the total expenditure incurred on construction of these Ring Wells; and

(c) the number of Ring Wells found to be suitable for providing safe drinking water?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (c) As per information collected from the Andaman & Nicobar Administration, Public Works Department of the Union Territory is constructing Ring Wells in the Islands for providing safe drinking water and that Department is not maintaining separate records for expenditure incurred on this activity. 919 Ring Wells constructed so far have been found suitable by the Public Works Department of the Union Territory Administration, for providing safe drinking water.

Income of AI and IA from Official Trips

6935. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the income generated by the Indian Airlines and Air India from the official trips/journeys made by MPs and Ministers of the Union Government during the last three years, year-wise; and

(b) the revenue earned by these airlines from the Air Journeys made by the Central Government officials for performing their official duty during the said period, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) and (b) All Airlines including Air India and Indian Airlines have vast sales and route network. The sale, refund and utilisation of air tickets is at present not segregated either in terms of official or

personal visit or by specific profile of passengers and hence the segregated figures are not available.

[Translation]

Research on Cultural Traditions

6936. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number and nature of applications received in regard to the published advertisement concerning research on cultural traditions in Eastern region;

(b) the composition of the Selection Board alongwith the details of experience and eligibility laid down for their selection;

(c) the number of persons selected and the basis on which they were selected/rejected;

(d) whether all the applicants were informed and if not, the reasons therefore; and

(e) the steps being taken to do away with such dubious selection process and to initiate fresh process of selection?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Construction of Staff Quarters

6937. SHRI ARUN KUMAR: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the CAG had pointed out in its Report No. 4 of 2000 (Civil) that construction of 185 Staff Quarters at a cost of Rs. 1.54 crore and 160 type-II staff quarters are still lying vacant since 1991;

(b) if so, whether his Ministry has conducted any enquiry into the matter; and

(c) if so, the outcome thereof and the action taken thereon?

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

(b) and (c) The ESI Corporation had purchased a piece of land at Vasna, Ahmedabad in November, 1968

for the construction of staff quarters for its employees based in Ahmedabad. To begin with, 52 staff quarters were constructed. On the request from employees, the necessity of construction of more staff quarters for them was reviewed in the year 1982 and 185 staff quarters (Type-I-8, Type II-160, Type III-8, Type IV-8 and Type V-I) were agreed to in principle. This additional requirement was worked out with reference to the staff in position at that time vis-a-vis the norms of construction of staff quarters formulated by ESI Corporation. The quarters were constructed keeping in view the requirements as well as norms. Therefore, no need was felt for conducting any enquiry into the matter of constructing these staff quarters. The decline in demand for staff quarters and as a consequence, non utilization of 160 Type II staff quarters was as a result of increase in payment of House Rent Allowance to the employees.

Accelerated Water Supply System in Angul

6938. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any request from the Government of Orissa to take up the accelerated water supply system in Angul District of the State during 2002-03;

(b) if so, the estimated cost of the project;

(c) the Government's share therein; and

(d) the time by which the project is likely to be commissioned?

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

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

Amendments to Laws on Agricultural Development

6939. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a high ranking delegation from China has visited India recently;

(b) if so, whether the Chinese delegation has expressed keenness to learn about the progress made by India in enacting laws for agricultural development during the past decades;

(c) if so, whether China had enacted a agricultural legislation in 1993;

(d) if so, whether the India is likely to draw from it for possible amendments to its own laws for better production and diversity; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The delegation informed that China had enacted an agricultural legislation in 1993.

(d) and (e) In India, agriculture is a State subject and most of the laws relating or agriculture are enacted by State Governments. Amendments in the State laws as well Central laws are made as per the requirement for the same from time to time. Presently there is no proposal to amend Indian laws on the basis of Chinese agricultural legislation of 1993.

Loss of Revenue

6940. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Asiatic Society without Examining the feasibility of accommodating the publication department in the proposed location at New Market of Kolkata Municipal Corporation acquired on lease the space in July, 1994 which remained unutilised for 72 month resulting into wasteful expenditure of Rs. 20.95 lakh besides loss of interest of Rs. 26.61 lakh;

(b) if so, whether the matter has been enquired into and any action taken against the persons found responsible for causing loss of revenue to the State;

(c) if so, whether the Government officials and consumer cooperative societies supply stationery and other items to Government offices indulging in undesirable activities thereby causing loss to the Government; and

(d) if so, whether the Government have fixed any responsibility in this regard, and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Security of Taj

6941. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn towards the news-item under caption "Unchatam Nayayalaye ne Taj ki Suraksha ka Khaka manga" appearing in 'Hindustan' (Hindi edition) dated April 10, 2002;

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

(c) whether the Government are contemplating to entrust the security of Taj to the Government agencies;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the type of the danger being posed to the security of the Taj about which the Supreme Court has asked for the details?

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

(b) to (e) The Uttar Pradesh Government had received an E-mail message threatening to destroy the Taj Mahal. The Supreme Court of India has subsequently issued instructions to the Central Government to submit the detailed contingency plan for the security of the Taj Mahal. In compliance with the directions of the Supreme Court of India, the security and safety of the Taj Mahal has been further intensified by deploying additional force of Central Industrial Security Force with effect from 1st May, 2002.

[English]

Per Capita availability of Water

6942. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the per capita annual availability of water;

(b) the lowest and the highest average availability of water in the country with locations/areas;

(c) the per capita availability of water according to international norms; and

(d) the regions/districts where water is considered to be scarce, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) As per the latest assessment (1933) made by the Central Water Commission (CWC), the average annual water availability in the river-systems of the country is assessed at 1869 Billion Cubic Metre (BCM). The per capita water availability in the year 2001 is 1820 cubic metre per year on a national level. The lowest per capita average availability of water in the country is estimated as 298 cubic metre annually in Sabarmati basin and the highest per capita average availability of water in the country is estimated as 16,990 cubic metre annually in Minor River Basins Draining into Bangladesh & Myanmar followed by 13,636 cubic metre annually in Brahmaputra-Barak Sub-basin.

(c) According to the international criteria, a situation of annual per capita availability of water of less than 1000 cubic metre is considered as scarcity condition.

(d) The availability of water is assessed river basin-wise. Accordingly, the per capita water availability in the Sabarmati basin; Area of Inland Drainage in Rajasthan Desert; East flowing rivers between Pennar and Kanyakumari; Pennar; West flowing rivers of Kutchh, Saurashtra including Luni; Cauvery basin; East flowing rivers between Mahanadi and Pennar; Tapi and Mahi river basins is less than 1000 cubic metre annually. The River basin-wise water availability & per capita availability is given in enclosed statement.

Statement

River Basin	Average Annual Surface Water Availability (Billion Cubic Metre)	Per Capita Water availability in the year 2001 (m3)
1	2	3
Area of Inland Drainage in Rajasthan Desert Sabarmati	Negl. 3.81	298

1	2	3
East Flowing Rivers between Pennar and Kanyakumari	16.46	301
Pennar	6.32	535
West Flowing Rivers of Kutchh, Saurashtra including Luni	15.1	562
Cauvery	21.36	599
East Flowing Rivers between Mahanadi and Pennar	22.52	784
Tapi	14.88	826
Mahi	11.02	863
Krishna	78.12	1056
Subarnarekha	12.37	1082
Ganga-Brahmaputra-Barak Basin		
(a) Ganga sub-basin	525.02	1202
(b) Brahmaputra & Barak sub-basin	585.60	13636
Indus	73.31	1438
Godavari	110.54	1683
Mahanadi	66.88	2067
Brahmani & Baitarni	28.48	2388
Narmada	45.64	2552
West Flowing Rivers from Tapi to Tedri	87.41	2785
West Flowing Rivers from Tadri to Kanyakumari	113.53	2862
Minor River Basins Draining into Bangladesh	31.00	16990
Total (National)	1869.35	1820

Note : Totals may not tally due to rounding off

[Translation]

Water shortage in Villages

6943. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that certain States have declared some of their villages as scarcity hit-areas due to acute scarcity of water;

(b) if so, whether the Government of Rajasthan has declared nearly four thousand villages affected by scarcity of water;

(c) if so, whether canals originating from Bharkha Dam are not getting sufficient water for Rajasthan and the department has decided not to release water from Indira Gandhi Canal for irrigation; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) Some of the State Governments have reported drought like situation in parts of the State due to deficient rainfall, during the period 2001-02.

(b) Government of Rajasthan, in February 2002, has declared 3940 villages in three districts as scarcity affected.

(c) According to Bhakra-Beas Management Board, Rajasthan has received less supplies out of Sutlej waters via Punjab and Haryana during the period 21.5.2001 to 30.4.2002 from the canal originating from Bhakra-Nangal dam.

Government of Rajasthan have reported that Indira Gandhi canal receiving Ravi Beas Waters is supplying only drinking water since 9.4.2002 as Rajasthan had already used its share of water for irrigation.

(d) According to Bhakra Beas Management Board, whenever short supplies are delivered to Rajasthan, the Board had been requesting Punjab and Haryana Irrigation Departments for delivering correct supplies to Rajasthan Beas Management Board in its Meeting held on 29.4.2002, had decided to restore water for irrigation in Indira Gandhi Canal from 21.5.2002.

[English]

Population of Livestock and availability of Fodder

6944. SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the population of livestock at present in the country, State-wise;

(b) the per capita availability of fodder as on date; and

(c) the growth rate of livestock viz-a-viz fodder available in the country particularly in Gujarat, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Statement-I showing comparative position of Livestock Population, State-wise, during the years 1992 & 1997 is enclosed.

(b) The per capita availability of fodder during the year 1997 was around 1.8 metric tonnes per annum.

(c) The growth rate of fodder production State-wise including Gujarat is given in enclosed Statement-II.

Statement I

Total Livestock in 1992 and 1997—Statewise

(million number)

S.No.	States/UTs	1992	1997 (P)	Annual Growth rate from 1992 to 1997 (in %)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	32.911	37.331	2.55
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.842	1.188	7.13
3.	Assam	16.062	13.753	-3.06
4.	Bihar#	47.930	38.389#	-4.34
5.	Goa	0.243	0.325	5.99
6.	Gujarat	18.598	20.969	2.43
7.	Haryana	9.143	11.062	3.88
8.	Himachal Pradesh	5.106	5.013	-0.37

1	2	3	4	5
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	8.703	9.609	2.00
10.	Karnataka	29.568	30.688	0.75
11.	Kerala	5.834	6.964	3.60
12.	Madhya Pradesh	46.744	48.918	0.91
13.	Maharashtra	36.404	39.638	1.72
14.	Manipur	1.290	1.199	-1.45
15.	Meghalaya	1.182	1.607	6.34
16.	Mizoram	0.203	0.256	4.75
17.	Nagaland	1.074	1.299	3.88
18.	Orissa	22.742	24.263	1.30
19.	Punjab	10.222	9.857	-0.72
20.	Rajasthan	48.441	56.348	3.07
21.	Sikkim	0.385	0.294	-5.25
22.	Tamil Nadu	25.007	25.939	0.73
23.	Tripura	1.591	2.251	7.19
24.	Uttar Pradesh	64.799	66.327	0.47
25.	West Bengal#	35.090	36.711#	0.91
26.	A & N Islands	0.154	0.218	7.20
27.	Chandigarh	0.031	0.044	0.00
28.	Dadra & N. Haveli#	0.071	0.043#	-9.54
29.	Daman & Diu	0.013	0.012	-1.59
30.	Delhi	0.315	0.393	4.52
31.	Lakshadweep	0.019	0.012	0.00
32.	Pondicherry	0.142	0.135	-1.01
	All India	470.9	491.1	0.84

Note : P - Provisional

- Projected

Statement-II**Total Fodder Production—Statewise**
(million metric tonnes)

S.No.	States/UTs	1992-93	1997-98	Annual Growth rate from 1992-93 to 1997-98 (in %)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	45.39	40.53	-2.24
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	8.18	8.20	0.05
3.	Assam	8.53	8.94	0.94
4.	Bihar	21.50	27.44	5.00
5.	Goa	0.43	0.45	0.91
6.	Gujarat	75.18	76.79	0.42
7.	Haryana	37.44	35.29	-1.18
8.	Himachal Pradesh	5.69	5.85	0.56
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	8.61	8.55	-0.14
10.	Karnataka	41.66	38.38	-1.63
11.	Kerala	3.35	2.99	-2.25
12.	Madhya Pradesh	98.66	98.73	0.01
13.	Maharashtra	94.12	84.86	-2.05
14.	Manipur	1.30	1.41	1.64
15.	Meghalaya	1.64	1.71	0.84
16.	Mizoram	2.15	2.90	6.17
17.	Nagaland	1.78	1.75	-0.34
18.	Orissa	17.94	19.09	1.25
19.	Punjab	55.11	56.61	0.54
20.	Rajasthan	153.82	144.38	-1.26
21.	Sikkim	0.70	0.71	0.28
22.	Tamil Nadu	35.60	34.61	-0.56
23.	Tripura	1.56	1.66	1.25
24.	Uttar Pradesh	128.87	140.16	1.69
25.	West Bengal	19.68	22.19	2.43
26.	A & N Islands	1.09	1.09	0.00

1	2	3	4	5
27.	Chandigarh.	0.08	0.08	0.00
28.	Dadra & N. Haveli	0.22	0.16	-6.17
29.	Daman & Diu	0.01	0.00	-17.72
30.	Delhi	0.24	0.09	-17.81
31.	Lakshadweep	0.00	0.00	0.00
32.	Pondicherry	0.16	0.13	-4.07
All India		870.69	865.72	-0.11

Note: 1. Green fodder production is estimated assuming an average yield per hectare of 1.5 tonnes from the forest areas, 0.75 tonnes from permanent pastures and grazing lands and 40 tonnes from cultivated areas.

2. For dry fodder, production of various crops are projected using growth trends and crop residue production is estimated using standard conversion ratios for cereals, pulses and oilseeds.

3. Total fodder is the sum of dry and green fodder production.

Losses to Aviation Industry

6945. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:
SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Aviation Sector Still in the Red" appearing in 'The Hindu' dated April 18, 2002;

(b) if so, the total losses suffered by the aviation industry since September 11, 2001 till April 30, 2002;

(c) whether the Pacific Asia Travel Association has prepared any joint action plan to overcome the fall in the traffic;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Indian Airlines and Sahara Airlines have estimated their losses as Rs. 140 Crores and Rs. 20 Crores respectively till end April, 2002. Air India suffered a net loss of 9.41 Crores during the period October, 2001 to January, 2002. Although losses in monetary terms have not been finalised by Jet Airways, they have reported drop in traffic and yield by 13.5% and 9% respectively during September-November, 2001.

Sub-Committee for Workers engaged in Sugar Industry

6946. SHRI JAIBHAN SINGH PAWAIYA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether a sub-committee has been constituted to fix National Wage Structure for the workers engaged in the sugar industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which the said committee is likely to submit its report;

(d) whether some important central labour unions have not been given representation in the said committee; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (c) The sub-committee to formulate guidelines for wage revision in sugar industry has constituted on 17.7.2000. The final meeting of the sub-committee was held on 31.01.2001. As no consensus could be arrived at regarding application of uniform guidelines for wage revision, the sub-committee

was wound up with the approval of its members representing workers and employers.

(d) and (e) The sub-committee was constituted on the recommendations of the Industrial Tripartite Committee on Sugar Industry. All the central labour unions represented in the Tripartite Committee were also members of the sub-committee.

[English]

Introduction of regulatory Mechanism

6947. DR. A.D.K. JAYASEELAN: Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce a regulatory mechanism for coal sector to monitor prices and competitive bidding procedures, etc.;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (c) In the context of Government's decision to open up the coal mining sector to private investment, it was decided in 1997 that an Independent Body may be set up to perform the functions of monitoring and processing the proposals for exploration of coal and lignite in the country and allotment of new coal and lignite blocks to Indian companies both in public and private sector, on the basis of competitive bidding. As the proposal was conceived in the context of the amendment to the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Amendment Bill, 2000 is enacted by the Parliament. A regulatory body to resolve coal price disputes between the producers and consumers, is felt to be inconsistent with the frame-work of the deregulated pricing.

Agricultural Labourers

6948. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of agricultural labourers in the country particularly in Jharkhand, Orissa and Chhattisgarh and the total percentage they constitute of the total population State-wise;

(b) the steps taken by the Government for their welfare at the State and Centre level separately; and

(c) the extent of work done in this regard during the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Western Coalfields Limited

6949. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 3405 on April 15, 2002 regarding Western Coalfields Limited and state:

(a) whether the production in almost all operational areas under the jurisdiction of the Western Coalfields Limited (WCL) has increased but the profit has declined sharply from Rs. 476.58 crores in 1998-99 to Rs. 28.23 crores in 2000-2001;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the profit earned and loss suffered by WCL during 2001-2002;

(d) whether the Government have set up any inquiry Committee to look into the matter and fix responsibility;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir. Coal production in Western Coalfields Limited (WCL) has increased from 317.45 lakh tonnes in 1998-99 to 352.00 lakh tonnes in 2000-01. The profit have declined from Rs. 476.58 crores in 1998-99 to Rs. 28.23 crores in 2000-01.

(b) The reduction in profit in 1999-2000 and 2000-01 is mainly on account of provision for wage arrears under National Coal Wage Agreement-VI with effect from 1.7.96 for non-executives and pay revision with effect from 1.1.97 for executives. The provision made for the wage arrears were of the order of Rs. 80 crores in 1999-2000 and Rs. 375 crores in 2000-01.

(c) The annual accounts of WCL for 2001-02 are under finalisation. However, the firm figures for the profit and loss of WCL will be available after its accounts are audited and adopted in the Annual General Meeting. The provisional profit as per quick estimate report for WCL during the year 2001-02 is Rs. 315 crores.

(d) to (f) Coal India Limited (CIL) and its subsidiaries including WCL have well defined accounting policies,

which are in compliance with the accounting standards and commonly accepted accounting practice, relying on which the financial statement and the annual report of CIL and its subsidiaries are prepared.

Financial statement forming part of annual accounts of CIL and its subsidiaries are regularly audited by the statutory auditor as per the Companies Act, and followed up by supplementary audit by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India as required under Section 619 of the Companies Act, 1956. Therefore, the question of setting up of any inquiry committee by the Government does not arise.

Bharat Coking Coal Limited

6950. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 180 dated November, 19, 2001 regarding Bharat Coking Coal Limited and state:

(a) the latest position of the application submitted before BIFR on the award of 137 persons of Damoda Colliery of Bharat Coking Coal Limited;

(b) whether application before BIFR in the case of 39 persons of CISF was dismissed as early as August 28, 2001; and

(c) if so, the reaction of the Government there to?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) As reported by the Coal India Limited, the application before Bureau of Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) on the award of 137 persons of Damoda Colliery of Bharat Coking Coal Limited is still pending.

(b) No, Sir. The case of Security Followers of Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) involving 39 persons has not been dismissed by the BIFR.

(c) Does not arise in view of reply given to part (b) above.

Rationalisation of Labour Laws

6951. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering to rationalise the labour laws for ensuring a minimum level of protection of the workers in both organised and unorganised sector;

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

(c) whether the Government are also considering to set up an independent regulatory authority to control skill standards, programme and accreditation of training; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) and (b) The Government has set up the Second National Commission on Labour to suggest (i) rationalisation of existing laws relating to labour in the organised sector; and (ii) to suggest an umbrella legislation for ensuring a minimum level of protection to the workers in the unorganised sectors. The Commission is expected to submit its report to Government by 15.06.2002.

(c) and (d) As of now, there is no such proposal under consideration of the Government.

Semi-Arid Crops

6952. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a new research is being conducted for improving semi-arid crops in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are considering to lay down a policy for research and development of pulses; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) The research on semi-arid crops is being conducted for developing high yielding varieties and technologies for rainfed situations, enhancing productivity through better management, crop sequencing, inter-cropping and development of efficient methods for conservation, storage and use of rain water. Integrated nutrient, pest and weed management are also being taken up for efficient management of resources and control of insect pests and diseases.

(c) and (d) The research on pulse crops is being conducted through Institute of Pulse Research, Kanpur and four "All India Coordinated Research Improvement Projects" i.e. on Chickpea, Pigeonpea, MULLARP (Mungbean, Urdbean, Lathyrus, Lentil, Rajmah, Pea) and

Arid Legumes. Major focus of research is on development of superior varieties and hybrids (pigeonpea) having resistance/tolerance to important pests, use of biotechnological tools in crop improvement, strengthening of programme on plant genetic resources, developing technology for management of biotic and abiotic stresses, integrated nutrient and pest management. The technology development for different intercropping systems and non-traditional areas are also intensified. Research on pulses was brought under the technology mission to facilitate better results in a targeted time frame.

The long-term objective of research in pulse crops is to achieve self-sufficiency through increasing productivity of different pulse crops under different situations and agro-climatic conditions.

Fishery Development Projects

6953. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state the name of States where World Bank aided fishery development projects are being implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): At present no World bank aided projects exclusively for fishery development are being implemented. However, fisheries is one of the components of the ongoing World Bank Project viz. Assam Rural Infrastructure & Agricultural Services Project which is being implemented in the State of Assam.

Mapping of Rice Genome

6954. SHRI Y.V. RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a team of scientists has been working to map the rice genome;

(b) if so, the success made so far;

(c) whether any breakthrough has been achieved;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the extent to which the scientists in India are geared to exploit the information?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir. The Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India has taken action to become a partner of consortium

named as International Rice Genome Sequencing Programme (IRGSP). This consortium has ten other member countries besides India which are committed to sequence the entire genome of rice by the year 2003. The Indian initiative for rice genome sequencing is being implemented at the Department of Plant Molecular Biology, University of Delhi, South Campus and National Research Centre for Plant Biotechnology, Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi.

(b) The Indian scientists have already contributed to the preparation of a genetically anchored physical map of rice genome. By performing more than 100,000 sequencing reactions, data for 4.5 million bases have been generated and 3.2 million bases have already been submitted to the international data base after assembly. The data being generated worldwide including Indian data are being exploited by our scientists for gene discovery and crop improvement.

(c) to (e) A physical map of the region i.e. long arm of the chromosome 11 (57.3 anti Morgan (cM) to 110.1 CM) has been constructed. A complete sequence of rice genome will represent an enormous pool of information for rice improvement through marker-aided selection or genetic transformation. Many new genes have been identified. These genes are to be assigned functions of agricultural importance. For full application of this wealth of information, we have to understand the biological functions encoded by the sequenced DNA.

Minimum Support Price for Wheat

6955. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have raised the Minimum Support Price for wheat overriding the recommendation of Commission on Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP); and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Keeping in view the increase in the cost of production and providing incentive of the farmers for increasing production and productivity of wheat, the Government has fixed the Minimum Support Price (MSP) of Wheat of 2001-02 crop to be marketed in 2002-03 season at Rs. 620 per quintal as against Rs. 610 per quintal recommended by the CACP.

Excavation of Dinosaur in Madhya Pradesh

6956. SHRI J.S. BRAR: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the fossils of dinosaur are excavated by unscrupulous people in Madhya Pradesh and sent to foreign countries on a regular basis over the year;

(b) if so, the reasons for this unchecked illegal excavation; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to prevent such illegal excavation and preserve valuable heritage of the country?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) and (b) The Geological Survey of India (GSI), which *inter alia* undertakes palaeontological studies on the fossils of old fauna and flora, has informed that it is not aware of any excavation of dinosaur fossils being exported by unscrupulous people of Madhya Pradesh to foreign countries. Nor does DIG (CID), Bhopal have any knowledge of such activity.

(c) GSI has no law, at present, under which it can provide protection to geological sites and prevent excavation as well as movement of fossils. However, in 1995, the Government of Gujarat had declared the dinosaur fossil site at Rahioli, Distt. Kheda as 'prohibited area for illegal digging, sale and theft of dinosaur fossils' under the Bombay Police Act 1951.

[Translation]

Jayant Project of NCL

6957. DR. BALIRAM: Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Rs. 50 crore have been spent on O.I.T.D.S. in Jayant Project of Northern Coalfields Limited;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether O.I.T.D.S. is operating in any other project of Coal India Limited;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether utility and availability of machines have been adversely affected as a result of O.I.T.D.S.;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) the details of the levels and the number of the officers trained for operating O.I.T.D.S.; and

(h) the number of VIPs who have visited to see O.I.T.D.S. and the amount spent on their visit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Till date NCL has spent Rs. 5.20 crores on account of Operator Independent Truck Dispatch System (OITDS) against estimated cost of Rs. 6.01 crores.

(c) and (d) OITDS is not operating in any other project of CIL except Jayant project of NCL.

This system is under trial run.

(e) and (f) At present OITDS is under trial run at Jayant project of NCL and it is expected to give good results.

(g) Twenty one officers have been trained for operating OITDS. The details are as follows:

No. of officers	Place of work	Level	Grade
6	East Section	Shift In-charge for operation & maintenance	E3/E4/ E5
6	West Section	-do-	-do-
1	General Shift West Section	SOM	E5
1	General Shift East Section	SOM	E5
1	Dumper Maintenance West Field Workshop	Engineer Inc.	E5
1	Dumper Maintenance East Field Workshop	Engineer Inc.	E3
1.	Dumper Maintenance Base Workshop	Engineer Inc.	E5
2	Shovel Maintenance East & West Section	Engineer Inc.	E4
2	Overall Monitoring of OITDS	System Co-ordinator	E4/E5

(h) VIPs who visit Jayant, are shown the operation of OITDS if they so desire. No extra expenditure is incurred on this account.

[English]

Decline in Ground Water Level in Rajasthan

6958. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of sharp decline/shrinking of ground water table in some of the States, especially in Rajasthan;

(b) if so, whether the Government have launched any comprehensive plan to fill the ground water artificially to avoid severe water crisis in drought prone areas of Rajasthan;

(c) if so, the funds earmarked for implementation of artificial Ground Water Development Schemes in various States including Rajasthan; and

(d) the funds allocated to Rajasthan during the last two years and likely to be released during 2002-2003?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) Yes, Sir. There are gradual decline in the levels of ground water in some parts of the country including the State of Rajasthan. Water levels have declined to the extent of less than 2 metres to more than 20 metres in parts of Churu, Western part of Jhunjhunu. Southern part of Bikaner, Northern part of Jodhpur, Southern part of Barmer, Pali and Sirohi districts of Rajasthan.

(b) Water being a State subject, it is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Governments to plan, finance and execute schemes for augmenting water resources. The Central Ground Water Board approved 18 pilot projects for roof top rain water harvesting and recharge in various parts of Rajasthan under its Central Sector Scheme for Study of Recharge to Ground Water on "pilot basis" during the IX Five Year Plan.

(c) The State-wise position of funds allocated for recharging works under the Central Ground Water Board's scheme for Study of Recharge to Ground Water on "pilot basis" is given in the enclosed Statement.

(d) During the last two years funds provided for completion of projects under the scheme in Rajasthan was Rs. 73.26 lakh. An amount of Rs. 31.08 lakh is

likely to be provided to the State during 2002-03 for completion of ongoing projects under the scheme.

Statement

Funds Allocated to various States/Union Territories under the Central Ground Water Board's Scheme for Study of Recharge to Ground Water on Pilot Basis during IX Plan

Sl.No.	State/UTs	Amount (in Lakh)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	54.55
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	20.00
3.	Assam	50.00
4.	Bihar	9.84
5.	Chandigarh	64.23
6.	Delhi	87
7.	Gujarat	20.05
8.	Haryana	72.96
9.	Himachal Pradesh	81.65
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	78.96
11.	Jharkhand	25.73
12.	Karnataka	28.75
13.	Kerala	75.43
14.	Madhya Pradesh	53.85
15.	Maharashtra	81.63
16.	Meghalaya	20.32
17.	Mizoram	28
18.	Nagaland	90.96
19.	Orissa	679.50
20.	Punjab	272.94
21.	Rajasthan	81.72
22.	Tamil Nadu	145.55
23.	Uttar Pradesh	75.97
24.	Uttaranchal	2.00
25.	West Bengal	130.27
26.	Lakshadweep	8.00
27.	Andaman & Nicobar	8.39
Total		2348.15

*[Translation]***Industry Status to Agriculture**

6959. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Agriculture has not been accorded the status of industry so far;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action taken to accord industry status to agriculture?

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

(a) to (c) The Government, seeks to bestow on the agriculture sector in as many respects as possible benefits similar to those obtaining in the manufacturing sector, such as easy availability of credit and other inputs and infrastructure facilities for development of agri-business industries and development of effective delivery systems and freeing movement of agro produce.

*[English]***Development of Horticulture In Rajasthan**

6960. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of schemes formulated for Rajasthan for development of horticulture;

(b) the present status of each scheme; and

(c) the further steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

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

(a) to (c) The Government is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Macro management in Agriculture Supplementation/Complementation of State Efforts through Work Plans with effect from October 2000. Under this scheme assistance is being provided to the State Governments including Rajasthan for the development of horticulture. The scheme is being continued during 2002-2003 and as per the Work Plan submitted by the Government of Rajasthan an outlay of Rs. 5.75 crores have been earmarked for the development of horticulture. Under this scheme the State Government can prioritize their activities as per the felt needs and requirement.

Besides, a Central Sector Scheme on Human Resource Development in Horticulture was implemented during the Ninth Plan Under which an assistance of Rs. 2.00 lakhs was provided to the State Government for conducting training programme for the Departmental Staff engaged in Horticulture Development and an amount of Rs. 17.56 lakhs was provided to Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Chomu (Jaipur) for conducting Supervisor level training programme.

Installation of Water Harvesting System

6961. SHRI RAMSHEETH THAKUR:
SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:
SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Deadline for installing rainwater harvesting system expires" appearing in the "Times of India" dated April 2, 2002;

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

(c) the action the Government propose to take against those property owners of South and South-West Delhi which have failed to instal rainwater harvesting system in their buildings;

(d) whether any financial assistance is proposed to be given under the said programme; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) The reported news-item deals with some of the issues related to implementation of the notifications issued by the Central Ground Water Authority advising installation of rain water harvesting system in buildings in South and South-West Delhi by 31st May, 2001 which was subsequently extended upto 31st March, 2002.

(c) The last date of installation of rain water harvesting system in South and South-West Delhi has been further extended.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Mechanised Fishing Boat Operators

6962. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had received a representation from the Andhra Pradesh Mechanised Fishing Boat Operators for enhancing the reimbursement of Central Excise Duty on diesel consumed by the operators, reducing the monthly berthing rates charged from them and checking of foreign fishing vessels from entry into Indian Exclusive Maritime Zone in September, 2001;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A representation from the Andhra Pradesh Mechanised Fishing Boat Operators' Association, Visakhapatnam was received in September, 2001 which contained the following issues:

- (i) It was demanded to enhance the reimbursement of Central excise Duty on diesel consumed by small mechanised fishing boats below 20 meter length to Rs. 2.25 as against Rs. 0.35 per litre.
- (ii) It was requested to reduce the monthly berthing rates charged from small mechanised fishing boat operators, which was increased to Rs. 2,069/- as against Rs. 230/- per fishing vessel.
- (iii) It was also requested to check poaching by foreign fishing vessels effectively through the Coast Guard and other enforcement agencies.

(c) Regarding (i) above, continuance of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of "Reimbursement of Central Excise Duty on HSD oil supplied to mechanised fishing vessels below 20m length" beyond 9th Five Year Plan has not been agreed to by the Government of India.

The issue at (ii) above has been taken up with the Chairman, Visakhapatnam Port Trust, Visakhapatnam.

On (iii) above, no fresh licences or permits have been granted to the foreign fishing vessels since 1996 by the Government. Further, efforts have been initiated to evolve a national plan of action in consultation with all concerned including Ministry of Defence, External Affairs, Home Affairs and Coast Guard to deter illegal fishing within the Exclusive Economic Zone of the country.

International Flights from Madurai Airport

6963. SHRI S. MURUGESAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce international flights from Madurai to various destinations including Dubai and Sharjah etc.; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Extinction of Rare Animals and Birds

6964. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:
SHRI A.F. GOLAM OSMANI:

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

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Rare animals, birds facing extinction in NE" appearing in the "Hindu" dated April 15, 2002;

(b) if so, whether due to export of animal parts and consumption of meat of rare animals and birds, the said animals and birds are on brink of extinction;

(c) if so, whether the Government have taken up the matter with the concerned States in NE;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the plans formulated to check extinction of such rare animals and birds?

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

(b) Export of all wild animals and their products is banned under the Export Policy of India. Some instances of poaching and illegal trade in wildlife products are reported from time to time.

(c) to (e) Prime Minister of India has written a letter to the Chief Ministers of all the States regarding filling up of all the vacancies in the Forest Departments and to provide the field formation with better mobility, improved communication facilities and sophisticated weapons. Government of India has ear-marked funds under various

Centrally Sponsored Schemes for conservation and protection of wildlife for North Eastern states.

[*Translation*]

Violation of Labour Laws

6965. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether in proportion to profit earned by the factory owners and contractors of construction companies, the Government review the details of income and expenditure of concerned companies with a view to providing salary and other facilities to workers engaged therein as per the standards prescribed in labour laws;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some cases of violation of labour laws by the company owners have been detected;

(d) if so, the number of such cases detected during the last three years and the current year; and

(e) the action taken against the persons found guilty in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[*English*]

Degradation of Forests due to Mining Activity

6966. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the large scale degradation of forests in the country due to increasing mining activities;

(b) if so, the total forest land degraded in the country due to mining activities during the last five years, State-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by each public and private sector mining industry/company to undertake compensatory afforestation in and around the degraded areas, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Ministry of Environment & Forests

grants permission under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 only for such mining proposals which are site-specific. While granting such permission, conditions are imposed to ensure that impact of mining is minimal.

(b) A State-wise list showing the extent of forest land, which has been diverted for mining including renewal of existing mining leases, in respect of major proposal involving diversion of more than 20 hectare forest and received for forestry clearance under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 during the last five years i.e. 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000 and 2001 is enclosed as statement.

(c) Details of compensatory afforestation carried out by the public and private sector mining industries, in lieu of the forest land diverted for mining referred to in the enclosed statement is being collected and shall be laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

S.No.	State	No. of Proposals Approved	Area (Hectare)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	13	4549.6000
2.	Chhattisgarh	15	7415.1790
3.	Goa	1	36.3800
4.	Gujarat	1	31.2000
5.	Himachal Pradesh	3	345.5770
6.	Jharkhand	9	2253.7650
7.	Karnataka	12	770.9250
8.	Madhya Pradesh	15	2631.0940
9.	Maharashtra	7	2447.4400
10.	Orissa	18	4271.2281
11.	Rajasthan	30	5095.7666
12.	Tamil Nadu	1	177.9600
13.	West Bengal	1	296.0000
Total		126	30322.1147

[*Translation*]

Reduction in Employment Opportunities for Labourers

6967. SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the avenues of employment for labourers are constantly declining;

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

(c) the number of labourers working in the small scale industries and cottage industries sector during each of the last three years; and

(d) the reasons attributed to the decline in the avenues of employment for labourers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The estimated number of workers in small scale industries and cottage industries sector during the last three years i.e. 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 are 171.58 lakh, 178.50 lakh and 185.64 lakh respectively.

(d) Does not arise.

Destruction of Coconut Crop in Orissa

6968. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a new type of pest has totally destroyed the coconut crop in the coastal areas of Orissa;

(b) if so, whether the Government have conducted any survey in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any team of Agricultural Scientists have been sent there to control the disease; and

(e) if so, the details indicating the steps being taken by the Government to provide compensation to the coconut growers for the loss of their crop and to control the disease?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Survey was conducted to study the extent of damage caused by the coconut mite in the coastal districts of Orissa where incidence was found to be between the range of 20-30%.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Based on the research findings, control measures have been recommended to the farmers. An amount of Rs. 16.00 lakhs has been provided by the Coconut Development Board for the control of mite in Orissa for 2001-2002.

National Policy for Labourers

6969. SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to formulate a comprehensive National Policy during the Tenth Plan for ensuring safety and providing health facilities to labourers at work place;

(b) if so, the sectors to which special attention will be paid in this regard;

(c) the funds provided by the Government for the purpose; and

(d) the other related details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) and (b) A Working Group on Occupational Safety and Health was constituted by the Planning Commission under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Labour) for the Tenth Five Year Plan to review the existing set up for occupational safety and health in the work place, to assess weaknesses of the existing set up and suggest way to improve it and also to suggest ways to improve occupational safety standards in the large segments of work force not included so far etc.

The working group in its report recommended that a coherent National Policy on Occupational Safety and Health of workers employed in all sectors of the economy should be prepared through tripartite construction. The working group has recommended improvement of Occupational Safety and Health in the mines, Factories, Ports and Docks in the organized sector and to provide awareness and training to the Agriculture, construction, Beedi and Cigar manufacturing shops and establishments, home work, Eating places and waste management sectors in the unorganized sector during the plan period.

(c) and (d) Allocation for this area of activity have not yet been made under the Xth Plan.

*[English]***Survey on Geographical Area**

6970. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any directions have been issued to Forest Survey of India (FSI)/Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) to complete the faunistic survey of the geographical area by a given period of time for exploration and survey of faunal resources in the country;

(b) if so, whether the survey has since been completed;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) the money spent so far in this regard; and

(f) the further action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Yes, Sir. The Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) has been given set priorities for completion of Survey and taxonomic studies of faunal resources in the country. The domain of the Forest Survey of India (FSI) is assessment of forest cover and its activities are not related to faunistic survey.

(b) to (d) The Zoological Survey of India has completed survey, inventorisation and taxonomic studies as per schedule covering 12 ecosystems and several other conservation areas from different geographic zones except in Jammu and Kashmir and some North Eastern States due to law and other problems and paucity of trained manpower.

(e) and (f) During the Ninth Plan period an amount of Rs. 20.57 crores has been spent on salary, survey, infrastructure development etc. No separate accounting is maintained specifically for Survey work. The Government has initiated several steps including training and capacity building in taxonomy so as to cover the gap areas.

Cauvery Water to Southern States

6971. SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Water Commission has taken a final decision regarding distribution/releasing of Cauvery Water to Southern States during the summer season;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (c) Cauvery Water Dispute between the States of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala and Pondicherry was referred to the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal (CWDT) under the provisions of Inter-State Water Disputes (ISWD) Act, 1956, in June 1990. The Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal has passed an interim order on June 25, 1991. At present, the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal is holding regular hearings for adjudicating the dispute.

Awareness Camps

6972. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) has set up any awareness camps in the country during the last two years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the benefits accrued to the people therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) The Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) has organized 61 mass awareness programmes to various locations of the country during the last two years. State-wise locations where these programmes were organized by the Authority are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) The mass awareness programmes have helped the local people to understand various problems relating to ground water like decline in its levels, deterioration in quality and saline water ingress and also need for ground water conservation and protection for future.

Statement

State-wise locations where mass awareness programmes were organised by the Central Ground Water Authority during April, 2000 to March, 2002

Sl.No.	State/UTs	Location
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Midjil Mandal (Mehboobnagar district), Somala Mandal (Chittoor District), Hanumkonda (Warrangal District) Rajahmundry (East Godavari District)
2.	Assam	Guwahati, Tekelajum (Karbi Anglong District)
3.	Bihar	Fire Brigade Ground, Congress, Maidan Kadamkhar, Golpara and Bule Bird Society (Patna)
4.	Chhattisgarh	Raipur, Mal Kharoda, Dogargarh and Khairagarh
5.	Chandigarh	Chandigarh
6.	NCT of Delhi	Hauz Khas, Jamnagar House, Ashok Vihar and Kalkaji (Delhi)
7.	Goa	Goa
8.	Gujarat	Prantij, Sabarkantha district
9.	Haryana	Gurgaon, Faridabad and Panipat
10.	Himachal Pradesh	Hamirpur
11.	Jharkhand	Tisco Growth Centre (Jamshedpur) and Ranchi
12.	Jammu & Kashmir	Udhampur
13.	Karnataka	Dharwar and Gulburga
14.	Kerala	Kasargod, Emakulam and Kannanore
15.	Madhya Pradesh	Indore, Sehore and Ratlam
16.	Maharashtra	Nahavi Sandus (Pune), Warud (Amravati District), Chauhatta Bazar (Akola District) and Selu (Wardha District)
17.	Meghalaya	Shillong
18.	Orissa	Nilgiri, Puri, Raj Berhampur & Sajnagarh (Balasore District) and Bideipur (Bhadrak District)
19.	Rajasthan	Alwar, Pushkar (Ajmer District), Pali
20.	Tamil Nadu	Sanarpatti (Dindigul District), Marikaundu village (Theni District), Vanur (Villipuram) and Rasipuram (Nammakkal District)
21.	Uttar Pradesh	Nandpur Exploratory site (Pauri District) and Kalyanpur Block Compound (Kanpur District)
22.	Uttaranchal	Thano (Dehradun)
23.	West Bengal	Durgapur, Barasat (North 24 Parganas), Balagarh block (Hoogli District) and Raninagar-I Block (Murshidabad District)

Greenfield Airport Projects

6973. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have drawn any strategy to promote the setting up of greenfield airport projects in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to levy an advance development fee at the existing airports for their further developments;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the details of the greenfield airport projects under consideration of the Government at present?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) to (e) The policy of the Government to promote greenfield airports is laid down in the Policy on Airport Infrastructure, promulgated in December, 1997. The policy inter-alia provides for fiscal incentives to the infrastructure projects, such as construction of greenfield airports. Recently Government has also announced a package of concessions to encourage private sector participation in greenfield airports which, inter-alia, provides for exemption from levy of Inland Air Travel Tax (IATT) and Foreign Travel Tax (FTT) on departing passengers for projects located in States that charge sales tax on Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) at Central Sales Tax rate, levy of Advanced Development Fee (ADF) at existing airports to finance new airports, and levy of Users Development Fee at new airports.

(f) The Greenfield airports located at Shamshabad near Hyderabad and Devanahalli near Bangalore are being developed as Joint Ventures on Build Own Operate basis. The strategic partners from the private sector will hold 74% stake in the projects. The respective State Governments or their designated agencies shall hold 13% equity. Airports Authority of India (AAI) will hold 13% equity subject to a cap of Rs. 50 crores in each project. The preferred Bidder identified for the project at Shamshabad is a consortium led by GMR Vasavi and Malaysian Airport Holdings Berhad. For Devanahalli Project, the strategic joint venture partner is a consortium led by Siemens of Germany with Unique Zurich of Switzerland and Larsen and Toubro India Ltd. as the other members of the Consortia. The Shareholders Agreement has been signed on 23rd January, 2002 for

Devanahalli airport project. Further actions for signing of various agreements and achieving financial closure will be taken by the respective State Governments. The Government has also approved setting up of a new international airport at Mopa in Goa.

Construction of Fisheries Jetty

6974. SHRI BISHNU PADA RAY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a foundation stone for construction of a fisheries jetty at Dairy Farm Jungleeghat, Andaman was laid on April 06, 2002;

(b) if so, the present status of construction of the project and its expected date of completion; and

(c) the quantum of funds provided for this project?

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

(a) Yes, Sir. The foundation stone was laid on April 06, 2000 and not on April 06, 2002.

(b) No proposal for construction of fisheries jetty at Dairy Farm Jungleeghat, Andaman has yet been approved for central assistance by the Union Government.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Promotion of Tourism in Bihar

6975. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of schemes formulated by the Government for promoting tourism in Bihar during the last three years and the current year;

(b) the funds earmarked/released for the purpose during the said period; and

(c) the funds utilised by the State Governments out of the funds allocated?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) and (b) The Department of Tourism, Government of India provides financial assistance for tourism projects identified in consultation with them. During the last three years, 19 projects with Central financial component of Rs. 415.54 lakhs were sanctioned for the State of Bihar. Out of these 19 projects, 2 projects are

now in the jurisdiction of the State of Jharkhand. Projects for 2002-2003 has not been identified as yet.

(c) Utilisation Certificates for Rs. 3.85 lakhs in respect of 2 projects out of Rs. 129.57 lakhs released as first instalment for 19 projects during this period have been received.

[English]

Temples of Pallava Dynasty

6976. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR:
SHRI A.K. MOORTHY:

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

(a) whether out of the seven temples of the Pallava dynasty in Mahabalipuram six temples are sub-merged in the sea;

(b) if so, whether the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has made any efforts to discover the ruins of those six temples;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government propose to set up an Archaeological Research Centre at Chengalputtu which is famous for the arts and ancient sculptures of Pallavas; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) The said existence of seven temples (Pagodas) at Mahabilpuram is a local tradition recorded by the early European travellers and there is no conclusive evidence so far to prove submergence of six of the temples as claimed.

(b) and (c) The Archaeological Survey of India in collaboration with the Geological Survey of India had carried out a preliminary survey in 1996-97 followed by another conducted by the ASI alone in 2001-2002 when archaeological remains like pottery, brickbats etc. were documented. This available evidence is not sufficient to substantiate the legend regarding the submergence of six temples.

(d) There is no such proposal.

(e) Question does not arise.

Indian Airlines Package

6977. SHRI GUNIPATI RAMAIAH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Airlines has offered any package to the Government of Andhra Pradesh which will promote tourism;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reaction of State Government thereto; and

(d) the present status of the package?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Indian Airlines has already initiated the process with Department of Tourism, Government of Andhra Pradesh for signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The MOU will be signed shortly, after which the holiday packages will be launched jointly by Indian Airlines and Department of Tourism, Government of Andhra Pradesh for promotion of tourism.

[Translation]

Scam in Irrigation Department

6978. SHRI SUBODH ROY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the reported scam of Rs. 20 crores in the irrigation department of Ganga Naher;

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

(c) whether the Government propose to conduct CBI inquiry into the said scam; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (d) Irrigation being a State subject, the primary responsibility for planning, investigating, funding, executing, operating and maintaining irrigation projects, including drainage and flood control projects, rests with the State Governments. It is therefore for the State Governments to take appropriate action on irregularities, if any, in the execution of irrigation and flood control projects.

*[English]***Transfer of Assets and Liabilities**

6979. SHRI RAMSINH RATHWA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal has been received from the Ministry of Food, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution regarding transfer of the assets and liabilities of National Institute of Sugarcane and Sugar Technology, Mau;

(b) if so, whether his Ministry has accepted the proposal;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons for the delay in taking the decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (d) The proposal to transfer assets and liabilities of National Institute of Sugarcane and Sugar Technology (NISST), Mau to ICAR is under examination of ICAR in consultation with the Department of Food and Public Distribution.

Irregularities in purchase of Show Case

6980. SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Paanch hazar ka show case 75 hazar mein khareeda" appearing in 'Dainik Jagran' dated May 01, 2002;

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

(c) whether the Government propose to enquire into the matter;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the name of agency from which the purchase was made and procedure adopted for this purchase; and

(f) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure that such kind of purchase to be made only through open invitations of tenders in future?

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

were designed and fabricated by the manufacturer keeping in view the specific requirement of display for Coins Gallery. These showcases are made of first class teakwood with matching grain of all the 31 cases and includes display panels inside as well as hand woven silk, provision for lighting, special locks and security alarm.

(c) and (d) The matter has already been investigated.

(e) M/s. Astrolinks, New Delhi was entrusted based on tenders of five specialised firms who had tendered for showcases on limited tender basis.

(f) The National Museum has been directed to form a panel of approved contractors based on their financial capabilities and work experience, on the basis of open invitation.

*[Translation]***Corruption in National Museum**

6981. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that administration of the National Museum is violating the prescribed rules and instructions;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government against the persons found responsible therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) No specific instance of violation of prescribed rules and regulation has been brought to the notice of the Government.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

*[English]***Property Tax dues from Vijayawada and Hyderabad Airports**

6982. Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of property tax dues of Gannavaram Gram Pandhayat and Secunderabad Cantonment Board against Vijayawada and Hyderabad airports respectively;

(b) the time since when the dues are pending; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) to (c) There are no property tax dues to the Gannavaram Gram Panchayat in respect of Vijayawada airport. However, Secunderabad Cantonment Board (SCB) had raised a bill of Rs. 6.63 crores for Hyderabad (Begumpet) airport towards house tax, conservancy, lighting charges etc. for the period of 1995-2000. Airports Authority of India (AAI) had represented to the SCB for review of the tax. Since, the SCB did not agree to the plea of AAI, an appeal was filed in the City Civil Court and a writ petition in the Hon'ble High Court. The Hon'ble Court passed in interim stay order and directed the petitioner to deposit one-third of the bill within a period of four weeks. Accordingly AAI has paid SCB Rs. 2.43 crores. The matter is presently sub-judice.

Recognition of Rain Harvesting as Source of Water

6983. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have recognised rain water harvesting as a source of water;

(b) if so, the steps taken to encourage the same in the country; and

(c) the annual water harvesting potential in the country?

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

(b) With a view to encourage rain water harvesting in the country, the Central Ground Water Board under the Ministry of Resources has implemented a Central Sector Scheme for Study of Recharge to Ground Water on "pilot basis" during the IX Five Year Plan. 174 schemes were approved under this scheme in various parts of the country during IX Five Year Plan. This scheme is proposed to be extended during the X Five Year Plan. The Central Ground Water Authority is conducting mass awareness and training programmes all over the country to encourage rain water harvesting.

(c) As per estimate made by the Central Ground Water Board, 36453 million cubic metres of surplus monsoon rainwater can be stored annually in underground aquifers to recharge ground water.

Assistance from World Bank

6984. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of proposals received by the Union Government from the cyclone prone States seeking financial assistance from the World Bank, State-wise; and

(b) the present status thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) The information is being collected from the Ministry of Finance and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Agreement between AAI and Singapore Airport Authority

6985. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have sought the assistance and training facilities of Airports Authority of Singapore to assist Airports Authority of India (AAI) in improving its functioning and enhancing passenger facilities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the first batch of personnel of AAI has since received any training; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to utilise the experience of other countries also to improve airport management in the country?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) There is no plan to take direct assistance of any other country for providing new management system/ techniques to Airports Authority of India (AAI). However, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been signed between the AAI and the Airport De Paris to conduct training programmes in the areas of Airport Management and Airport Operations including safety and security.

World Bank Aided Forestry Projects in A.P.

6986. DR. N. VENKATASWAMY:
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:

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

(a) whether the Government are aware that there has been lapses in the World Bank aided forestry project in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether several forest officials in the State have spent public money on developing private lands in violation of the World Bank norms for afforestation;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government have since inquired into the matter;

(e) if so, the outcome of the inquiry indicating the amount of funds spent in violation of the norms and the area of land in various districts subjected to such afforestation; and

(f) the action taken against the persons held responsible for the said lapses alongwith the details of steps taken for proper utilization of the funds under the programmes for which these are sanctioned?

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

(b) to (f) Do not arise.

Ratio of Staff Strength in IARI

6987. SHRI ARUN KUMAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether ratio of staff strength is maintained among scientific, technical, administrative and supporting staff in IARI;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the same has not been maintained resulting in excess expenditure of crores of rupees on excess supporting staff ranging from 574 to 835 during 1995-2002;

(d) if so, the reasons for not maintaining that ratio;

(e) whether any responsibility has been fixed therefor;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (g) The present ratio of staff strength in four

categories viz.: Scientific, Technical, Administrative, and Supporting is 1 : 1.65 : 1.11 : 3.39.

The above ratio is not as per the prescribed norms as several Institutions of the Council have been carved out from the IARI in the past. This resulted in transfer of the scientific staff from the IARI to the new Institutes whereas the other categories of staff were retained in the IARI itself.

The IARI has already initiated steps to correct the imbalance in the staff ratio.

Third Advance Estimate on Agricultural Production

6988. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the third advance estimates on agricultural production for 2001-2002 predict all time record production of foodgrains and pulses for the Kharif season;

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

(c) whether this advantage would result in availability of foodgrains at affordable costs to the poor; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) and (b) According to the third Advance Estimates of Agricultural production for 2001-02, the production of kharif foodgrains, comprising cereals and pulses, is expected to reach an all-time high of 109.51 million tonnes. However, in respect of only kharif pulses, higher production than 5.50 million tonnes expected in 2001-02 has been recorded earlier. The main reasons of higher expected production are spatially well distributed rainfall; provision of flexibility to the States in implementation of Plan schemes under 'Macro Management' mode and better management of the sector.

(c) and (d) The expected increase in production is likely to result in ceteris paribus, better availability of the foodgrains to all including the poor. However, the Government are implementing several schemes to make foodgrains available to the poor at lower than market prices.

Welfare Schemes for Cashew Workers

6989. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to formulate any scheme for welfare of cashew workers in Kerala and other States;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (c) The Govt. of Kerala has set up a Cashew Workers Relief and Welfare Fund Board under the Kerala Cashew Workers Relief and Welfare Fund Act, 1979 (Act 19 of 1984) for the welfare of cashew workers in Kerala State. About 1.8 lakh employees have been registered under the Fund till July, 2001. The welfare schemes implemented by the Board for the benefit of the employees and their family members include pension, ex-gratia payment, maternity benefit scholarship for the education of their children, etc. Other State Governments are free to follow the Kerala model or formulate welfare schemes for Cashew workers as per their requirements.

Health and Environmental Safety to Workers

6990. SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN:
SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the health and environmental safety provided to the workers do not conform to world standard;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to provide such facilities as per WTO agreement; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) and (b) The International Labour Organization (ILO) is engaged in setting world

standards in the form of the Conventions, Recommendations, Code of Practice etc. in the fields of labour protection including safety and health of workers employed in different sectors/occupations all over the world. So far India has ratified 2 ILO Conventions in the field of Occupational Safety, Health and working environment.

(c) and (d) WTO Agreement does not deal with labour standards and does not mandate compliance with labour standards for Member countries.

World Bank Assistance to Karnataka Government

6991. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:
SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether various State Governments have sent proposals to the Union Government seeking World Bank assistance to ease water shortage in the States;

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

(c) the number of water projects running with the World Bank/Asian Development Bank assistance; and

(d) the assistance received by the Government for the purpose during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) The details of proposals received from various State Governments for World Bank assistance during last three years to ease water shortage in the states is enclosed as Statement-I.

(c) and (d) The details of projects under implementation with the World Bank/Asian Development Bank assistance and disbursement received during the last three years are given in Statement-II.

Statement I

S.No.	Name of the Project	Cost Rs. crore	Present status
1	2	3	4
BIHAR			
1.	Bihar Public Tubewells Project Phase II.	811.55	Under correspondence with State Govt.

1	2	3	4
2.	Participatory On Farm Development Project for Kosi Command Area-Bihar GUJARAT	324.90	Under correspondence with State Govt.
3.	Gujarat Water Resources Consolidation Project	724.00	Posed to the WB on 2.5.2000. The WB have expressed its inability to consider.
4.	Gujarat Salinity Prevention Project HARYANA	1160.00	Posed to the WB in January 2001. The WB have expressed its inability to consider.
5.	Haryana Water Resources Consolidation Project-II KARNATAKA	880.00	Concept paper forwarded to WB by DEA in February, 2002
6.	Karnataka Tank Improvement Project MAHARASHTRA	946.47	Project approved by the World Bank
7.	Maharashtra Water Service Improvement Project MADHYA PRADESH	1433.20	Posed to WB on 7.2.2002
8.	Sindh Project Phase-II, Madhya Pradesh PUNJAB	1074.40	Under correspondence with State Govt.
9.	Punjab Irrigation & Drainage Project-III. TAMIL NADU	1483.00	Under correspondence with State Govt.
10.	Tamil Nadu Water Resources Consolidation Project Phase-II TRIPURA	3915.00	Under correspondence with State Govt.
11.	Tripura Irrigation and Flood Management Works	475.65	Posed to World Bank on 7.3.2001

Statement II

S.No.	Name of Projects	Date of Agreement/ Completion	Assistance Amount/ Utilisation Million DC as on 31.3.2002	Disbursement received		
				1999-2000	2000-01 (In US\$ million)	2001-02
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh-III Irrigation projects	03.06.1997 31.01.2003	US\$ 325 Credit. US\$ 131.505 loan : nil.	13.71	27.10	23.14

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
2.	A.P. Economic restructuring project (Irrigation Component)	<u>30.01.1999</u> 31.03.2004	US\$ 142 US\$ 62.99	36.74	12.63	10.62
3.	Orissa Water Resource Consolidation Project	<u>05.01.1996</u> 30.09.2002	US\$ 290.90 US\$ 179.627	28.67	29.26	16.63
4.	Rajasthan Water Sector Restructuring Project	<u>27.3.2002</u> 31.3.2008	US \$ 143 US\$ 5.00	—	—	—
5.	UP Water Sector Restructuring Project	<u>22.3.2002</u> 31.10.2007	US\$ 149.2 US\$ 5.00	—	—	—
6.	Tamil Nadu Water Resource Consolidation Project	<u>22.09.1995</u> 31.03.2003	US\$ 282.90 US\$ 150.059	57.50	32.34	20.36
7.	*Haryana Water Resources Consolidation Project	<u>24.06.1994</u> 31.12.2001	US\$ 258 US\$ 258	32.93	41.50	52.93

*Project completed

International status to Kanyakumari Airport

6992. SHRI A.D.K. JAYASEELAN:
SHRI GUNIPATI RAMAIAH:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to give status of International airport to Kanyakumari and Dibrugarh airports; and

(b) if so, the time by which these airports are likely to be upgraded as International airports?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) and (b) There is no airport at Kanyakumari in Tamil Nadu. There is no proposal to upgrade Dibrugarh airport as international airport.

Forest Based Industries

6993. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have made any efforts to set up forest based industries in various States including Orissa, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) At present the setting up of new forest based industries is normally not feasible due to the general shortage of raw material i.e. forest produce in the country. Plantations on forest and non-forest lands are being carried out to increase the availability of raw material in future.

Labour strike against Labour Law

6994. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether over 10 million employees of the country's State-run companies staged a one day strike on April 16, 2002 virtually paralysing financial markets and ports;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the extent to which the work in various sectors was affected by this strike and the financial loss suffered;

(d) the demands of the employees and workers;

(e) their reaction of the Government thereto; and

(f) the measures taken by the Government to avert such strike in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (c) In the nation-wide strike called by the trade unions on 16.4.2002, approximately 10.5 lakh workers of the organized sector primarily from the financial institutions, coal and ports and docks participated. The financial loss suffered due to the strike has not been estimated.

(d) The strike was called to protest against the disinvestment of Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs), amendment in labour laws and downsizing and closure of PSUs.

(e) and (f) The Government has initiated the process of labour reforms to meet the challenges of privatization, liberalization and globalization. However, the Government is committed to safeguard and protect the interest of workers. The Second National Commission on Labour has been set up to suggest rationalization of the existing laws relating to labour in the organized sector and suggest an umbrella legislation for ensuring a minimum level of protection to the workers in the unorganized sector.

Agriculture Trade Reforms

6995. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a survey conducted by the National Council on Applied Economic Research has indicated that agricultural trade reforms are likely to push up prices of cereals as compared to other grains;

(b) if so, the other points made in the survey report;

(c) whether the Union Government have considered the survey report; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (d) National Council on Applied Economic Research (NCAER) has conducted a study on the likely impact of agriculture trade reforms on the consumption expenditure of the poor.

Based on the nominal protection or effective protection co-efficients used in a study published in 1998, one of the findings of the present study is that trade liberalization in agriculture may lead to increase in prices of cereals and decline in prices of pulse, edible oil and arhar.

However, the conclusions in the study are based on the following assumption:

1. Distribution of consumption expenditure across commodities is of the period 1994-95;
2. Nominal or effective protection co-efficients are taken from a study published in 1998; and
3. The result are based on partial equilibrium frame work which does not take into account income gains resulting from liberalization.

The other main finding of the survey is that the role of Public Distribution System (PDS) may become more important in this scenario.

As can be seen, this is a study constrained in its findings due to the overbearing assumptions.

The import of agricultural products is being closely monitored by the Government so that the trade liberalization do not cause any adverse impact either on consumers or on producers. The Government has been undertaking various schemes in order to increase the production of cereals, pulses and oilseeds.

Promotion of Sericulture

6996. SHRI J.S. BRAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey has been conducted to promote sericulture in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) No, Sir. No special survey has been conducted in the recent past to promote sericulture since areas with potential for sericulture are already known.

Setting up of Industrial units for making Milk Powder and Ghee

6997. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the major industrial units set up for making milk powder and ghee from milk in tribal and scheduled castes dominated areas of different States particularly in Maharashtra as on date, location-wise;

(b) the expenditure incurred thereon, State-wise;

(c) the installed production capacity of each unit;

(d) whether the Government propose to set up any new unit in Maharashtra to meet the shortage of milk and ghee;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(a) to (c) Government have not set up any industrial dairy unit for making milk powder and ghee in tribal and Scheduled Castes dominated areas including Maharashtra.

(d) to (f) No, Sir. Setting up of a new dairy unit depends on the availability of milk in that area for conversion into powder and ghee during the flush season. However no shortage of milk and ghee has been reported in Maharashtra.

CBI case against officials of AAI

6998. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the CBI has registered a case against certain officials of the Airports Authority of India (AAI) for leasing out AAI land in Bombay thereby causing loss to the exchequer;

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof; and

(c) the action proposed to be taken by the Government against the officials involved therein?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) to (c) In the recent past, CBI has not registered any case regarding leasing out of Airports Authority of India (AAI) land in Mumbai. However, CBI in the past had investigated the cases of leasing of

AAI land in Mumbai to (i) M/s. India Hotel Corporation Ltd. (ii) leasing of hanger space to M/s. MESCO Airlines, (iii) leasing of land to M/s. Regency Convention Centre and Hotel for construction of convention centre and five star hotel and (iv) a case of fraudulent sale of AAI's land in Mumbai. In the first case, CBI had recommended regular departmental action against the erring officers of AAI. In the second case, CBI found that no allegation were substantiated and recommended closure of the case. In the third case, the CBI has not yet concluded their investigation. In the fourth case, an Assistant Aerodrome Officer who was involved in the case has already been removed from service.

Assistance to Tamil Nadu for Construction of Dams

6999. SHRI S. MURUGESAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to provide adequate financial assistance to Tamil Nadu Government for constructing Kodaiyaru, Keeriyaru Dam, Alagar Dam in Virudunagar district and Therappanpatti Dam in Madurai district; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) Detailed Project Reports for techno-economic appraisal for Kodaiyaru, Keeriyaru Dam, Alagar Dam in Virudunagar district and Therappanpatti Dam in Madurai district have not been received in Central Water Commission from the Government of Tamil Nadu. The Central Loan Assistance (CLA) under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) is given to only such approved ongoing major/medium irrigation projects which fulfill the norms of this programme.

[Translation]

Botanical Gardens

7000. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an expert group has been set up for a providing assistance to the botanical gardens in the country;

(b) if so, whether every State of the country has sent a proposal to the Indian Botanical Garden and

concerned Departments after selecting botanical gardens and rare species of local plants;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the effective steps taken by the Government for promoting botanical gardens and protecting rare species of plants?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (d) In order to promote ex-situ conservation of rare endemic plants the Government has set up an Expert Group to advise and recommend suitable projects for financial assistance to existing Botanical Gardens to improve infrastructural facilities. Under the Scheme for Assistance to Botanical Gardens, proposals received from governmental and non-governmental organisations in various States of the country are considered by the Ministry of Environment and Forests for financial assistance. Botanical Survey of India has identified rare endemic plants from different phytogeographical regions for their conservation and propagation and assists in monitoring implementation of different projects operational in the country. As per the information received from Botanical Survey of India no proposal has been received for funding by Indian Botanic Garden.

[English]

Production of Fish

7001. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a sharp decline in the production of fish in some States during the last three years;

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

(c) the reasons attributed thereto;

(d) whether there is a vast scope to increase fish production in several States and particularly coastal States; and

(e) if so, the steps taken to increase fish production particularly in Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) As per the information available there is no sharp decline in the production of fish during 2000-01 over 1998-99. However, the minor decline in the production of fish has been observed in the States of

Orissa, Delhi, Madhya Pradesh and J&K in 2000-01 over 1998-99.

(d) and (e) Steps have been taken by the Government to increase production of fish and marine products as well as productivity of fishermen and fishing industry. Various schemes are being implemented for development of fisheries and aquaculture in the States including coastal states.

Mahanadi Coalfields Limited

7002. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of labourers engaged in Mahanadi Coal Fields Limited (MCL), Ib Valley and Talcher by various companies;

(b) whether these contract labourers are getting minimum statutory benefits such as Provident Fund, ESI etc.;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the steps taken by the Government to ensure minimum statutory benefits to the labourers engaged in various coal fields;

(e) the amount given by MCL for Local Areas Development Fund (LADF) to Sambalpur, Deogarh, Angul and Dhenkanal Districts of Orissa during the last three years;

(f) whether MCL follows certain coalfield rule for distribution of amount under LADF;

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

(h) the amount spent by MCL on advertisement, press and publicity during the last three years, year-wise; and

(i) the details of the rules followed by the MCL in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) The details of daily average deployment of labourers engaged in Mahanadi Coalfields Limited by various contractors are given as under:—

Ib Valley field.	3332
Talcher field-including MCL Head Quarters.	3422
MCL (Total)	6754

(b) Eligible employees of contractors are covered by the Coal Mines Provident Fund Act. Employees State Insurance Act is not applicable in these cases.

(c) Does not arise in view of reply given to part (b) above.

(d) Periodic inspections are being done by Government departments for ensuring compliance of

statutory provisions.

(e) Mines and headquarter of Mahanadi Coalfield Limited (MCL) are presently located in 4 (Four) districts of Orissa State namely Angul, Jharsuguda, Sundergarh and Sambalpur.

Total amount spent by MCL for Community Development in the above mentioned districts of Orissa during the last three years is given below:—

Year	Jharsuguda	Sundergarh	Angul	Sambalpur	Total
1999-00	12.94	76.66	164.26	36.06	289.92
2000-01	114.27	51.54	154.11	49.66	369.58
2001-02	88.06	27.59	104.79	40.18	260.59

Peripheral development works in Deogarh and Dhenkanal districts of Orissa are not taken up as these are not within a radius of 8 (eight) kilometers from the coal mines.

(f) and (g) On the basis of orders of the Government of Orissa, the allocation of funds for local area development work is now being done by committees consisting of the Revenue Divisional Commissioner (as chairman), local MPs and MLAs of the concerned area, District Collector and CMD MCL. The works mainly relate to water supply, arrangements like installation of hand pumps, construction/improvement of roads, construction of school buildings, construction of community hall etc. Peripheral development works are normally done within a radius of 8 kms from the coalfields (Hq) unit.

(h) Total money spent by Mahanadi Coal Field Ltd. (MCL) on advertisement, Press and publicity during the last three years, year-wise are given as under:

Year	Expenditure on Advertisement	Expenditure on Press & Publicity
1999-00	244.94	39.54
2000-01	192.22	48.55
2001-02	221.41	26.53

(i) Depending on amount involved in work to be awarded publicity is given in newspapers as follows:

Value of work	Type of Newspaper
Rs. 5.00 to Rs. 50.00 Lakhs	One Local, One Regional and One Hindi
Rs. 50.00 to Rs. 1 Crore	One Local, One Regional, One Hindi and One National Newspaper from any Metropolitan City
Rs.1 Crore and above	One Local, One Regional, One Hindi and One National Newspaper from New Delhi, Kolkata and Mumbai and Chennai and weekly magazine.

For Global Tender, in addition to above newspapers advertisement is given in Indian Trade Journal also.

Setting up of a National Institute on Organic Farming

7003. SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to set up a National Institute on Organic Farming in the country;

(b) if so, the details with its salient features;

(c) whether such Institutes are already established by various Universities in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the techniques presently available are for sustainable agriculture; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(a) and (b) No Sir. However, a National Organic Agricultural Board is proposed to be set up during Xth Plan for promotion and development of organic farming in the country envisaging formulation of national standards of organic agriculture, its accreditation, inspection and regulations.

(c) No Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Yes Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

Promotion of Folk Dance of Orissa

7004. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the popularity of the puppet dances of Orissa particularly of Dhenkenal;

(b) if so, whether the puppeteers of that State are facing a great hardship due to lack of proper support from the Government; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to promote folk dance of Orissa, particularly puppet dances of Dhenkenal?

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

(b) and (c) The Sangeet Natak Akademi provides support to traditional forms of puppetry through grant of financial assistance to groups/institutions of puppetry, organising festivals and workshops, documentation, training programmes, publications, grant of Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards, etc. The shadow puppetry form "Ravan Chhaya" of Dhenkenal, has been represented in different festivals and events of the Akademi and the East Zone Culture Centre, Kolkata. Two eminent puppeteers of Orissa have been honoured with the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award.

Space for Visa on arrival Desk at IGI Airport

7005. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Airport Authority of India has provided suitable space for the "Visa on Arrival" Desk for foreign passengers at airports;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether AAI has allotted massive space to shops for food and beverages at Indira Gandhi International Airport; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken to ensure that AAI reviews its decision which are not making Indira Gandhi International Airport passenger-friendly?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) and (b) Visa on Arrival scheme has been kept in abeyance for the time being due to existing security scenario in the sub-continent.

(c) and (d) AAI has allotted space for setting up of various catering facilities such as restaurants, snack bar, tea/coffee vending machines and cold drink vending machines for convenience of passengers. Passenger facilities are regularly upgraded to make IGI Airport passenger friendly.

Cane Growers

7006. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether lack of availability of manufacturing prototypes and technical know-how, improper field and crop conditions the cane growers have not been able to achieve better results of their produce;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to impart necessary training to the farmers on these aspects;

(c) whether the sugar industry's involvement in the matter has also been examined; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) to (d) There are various factors which determine the economic returns to the cane growers. Agricultural equipment for tillage, inter-culture, plant protection and irrigation operations are commercially available in the country for the use of farmers including sugarcane

growers. Subsidy is also available to the farmers for the purchase of agricultural equipment under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Macro-Management of Agriculture. Specialized equipment for planting and stubble shaving have also been developed. Two projects under Mission Mode of the National Agricultural Technology Project, namely, Prototype manufacturing of Agricultural Implements and Mechanization of Intensive Irrigated Agriculture for Sugarcane Production have been approved. These projects are in operation in different parts of the country. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research have informed that they have developed linkages with the sugar industry. Training is also being arranged to the farmers in the selection, operation, maintenance and management of various kinds of agricultural machinery. Some of the sugar mills have imported sugarcane harvesters for the purpose of trials, evaluation and introduction in the country.

Promotion of Tourism

7007. SHRI SAIDUZZAMA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Reviving tourism the British way" appearing in the 'Economic Times' dated April 16, 2002;

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

(c) whether the Government propose to adopt the British way to push ahead tourism as has been done by Kerala and Rajasthan in India and by Singapore, Thailand and Malaysia in Asia Pacific; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) to (d) Promotion of India Tourism Product in the Overseas market is a continuous process which is done through advertising in the print and electronic media, participation in fairs and exhibitions, organising of seminars and departments store promotions, advertising support, inviting of media and trade representatives under the Hospitality Programme, dissemination of information through website and brochures etc. Presently, the marketing strategy is to position India's various tourism product vis-a-vis the demographic profile and the needs of each market. The Government also has developed a Crisis Management Plan, to address unforeseen events which may hamper tourist arrivals to India.

[Translation]

Upgradation of Basic Facilities at Airports

7008. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated/cleared any proposal in regard to upgradation of basic facilities at various airports in order to meet the future requirements of passenger and cargo traffic;

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

(c) the time by which the above upgradation work is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) to (c) Development and upgradation of various facilities at airports to meet the future requirements of passenger and cargo is a continuous process and is taken up in a phased manner based on the traffic demand, type of aircraft used, availability of land and financial resources. With regard to infrastructural facilities. AAI has taken up major initiatives such as construction of new international and domestic terminal buildings, cargo terminals, new Technical Block and control Tower, expansion and modification of existing terminal buildings strengthening and extension of runways, installation of aerobridges, modern area surveillance radars, provision of conveyor belts, baggage check X-Ray machines, improved signages, renovation of toilets, CCTV monitors, wherever considered necessary, at major airports. This will increase the peak hour handling capacity. Some of the works are at planning stage and the date of start and completion will have to be worked out after preparation and sanction of the project/feasibility report.

Construction of Runway at Nagpur Airport

7009. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the runway of the Nagpur Airport is being upgraded to bear the weight of Boeing 747 aircraft;

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

(c) the time by which international flights are likely to be started from this airport and the countries proposed to be linked therewith?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) The present runway at Nagpur airport is suitable for operation of Boeing 747 type of aircraft. However, the apron and the taxi track are being strengthened for handling B-747 type of aircraft.

(b) All these works are likely to be completed by August, 2002.

(c) Airlines plan their operations on the basis of their judgement on commercial and operational viability. At present, no airline has projected the requirement to operate their international flights through Nagpur Airport.

[English]

Rehabilitation of Almatti Dam Oustees

7010. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of people who lost their land due to the construction of Almatti Dam Project in Karnataka;

(b) whether the land oustees have since been rehabilitated;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the steps taken to complete the rehabilitation process?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (c) As per the information received from Government of Karnataka, 154100 persons have lost their land due to the construction of Almatti Dam. There are two dams in the project. In the case of Narayanpur Dam where water was stored from 1982 onwards, about 40,000 people were affected. They have been shifted and rehabilitated in the Rehabilitation Centers. For Almatti Dam which is being raised in phases, out of the 100 villages affected, 65 have been totally shifted and rehabilitated in the Rehabilitation Centers, 35 Villages are likely to be affected in September, 2002 for which all arrangements for Rehabilitation and Resettlement have been made. All the entitlements have been distributed one year back.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Objections on Commercialisation of BT Cotton

7011. SHRI SUBODH ROY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the farmers and experts have demanded immediate withdrawal of the permission of the Union Government for allowing commercial use of BT cotton;

(b) if so, whether this proposal is likely to dislodge small farmers and benefit multi-national companies including corporate sectors;

(c) if so, the details of objections raised by farmers and experts; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (d) No, Sir. The conditional approval for commercial cultivation of BT cotton by Maharashtra Hybrid Seed Company (MAHYCO) has been by and large welcomed by various interest groups, including the farmers' organizations, because of the improved economic benefits of cultivation of Bt. cotton resulting from reduced use of insecticides, control of target insect pests and improved yield.

[English]

Diversion of Funds

7012. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE) received a sum of Rs. 84.58 crore during 1992-97 from foreign agencies out of which Rs. 21.25 crore were diverted to meet the normal expenditure of ICFRE;

(b) if so, whether the ICFRE received less funds for expenditure which necessitated diversion of funds meant for forestry research education and extension project;

(c) if so, the details of amount received from foreign agencies from 1992 till date indicating the purpose and manner in which it has been expended; and

(d) the measures taken to ensure the spending of the foreign money for the purpose for which it was received?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (d) The Indian Council of Forestry Research & Education (ICFRE) was set up in 1987 with the major objective to undertake, aid, promote and coordinate Forestry Education, Research and its application. The Council was granted autonomy in June,

1991 and presently functions through its eight institutes and three centres located at different geographical locations in the country. The Council depends on the budgetary support from the Government of India for carrying out its research and other normal activities.

The Council implemented a World Bank assisted Project known as "Forestry Research Education and Extension (FREE)" Project at a cost of Rs. 181.04 crore. The implementation of the Project started in September, 1994 and was completed in December, 2001. The funds were spent on Plant Establishment, Research Grant Funds, Planting Stock Improvement Programme, Extension Services, Trainings, Consultancies, Civil Works, Equipment, Vehicles, and Recurring Expenditure, etc. During 1991-92 to 1997-98, the expenditure of ICFRE on Plan activities were higher by Rs. 18.96 crore than the grants received by it in the year i.e. 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96. During the period 1992-93 to 1996-97, ICFRE had received an assistance, related to World Bank Project, of Rs. 80.00 crore in respect of FREE Project and the expenditure was Rs. 54.52 crore. There has been no shortfall in allocation of funds to various works under the Project during the project period. The Project has been completed in all respects by the ICFRE to the satisfaction of the World Bank.

Construction of Glass Houses

7013. SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain glass houses were to be constructed in the country but the same have not yet been constructed despite funds being made available;

(b) if so, the reasons for the inordinate delay in the construction of the glass houses; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to construct the glass houses and the time by which those are likely to be constructed?

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

(a) to (c) The Government has no specific programme for the construction of glass houses by the Ministry of Agriculture. However, the Government has been providing assistance to the farmers since the Eighth Five Year Plan for the construction of green houses under the Centrally sponsored Scheme on Use of Plastics in Agriculture. Till 1999-2000, an area of 497 ha. have been covered under green houses. The scheme was implemented till October 2000. Thereafter the above Scheme was subsumed under the Centrally sponsored

Scheme on Macro Management in Agriculture-Supplementation/Complementation of State Efforts through Work Plans. Under this scheme the State Governments have been given the flexibility to take up programmes as per their felt needs and requirement.

[Translation]

Indira Gandhi Centre for National Art

7014. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indira Gandhi Centre for National Art is engaged in creating historical and cultural confusion as reported in 'Rashtriya Sahara' dated March 26, 2002;

(b) if so, the whether there are a number of misleading informations in the recently published issue of Institute's New letter "Vihangam";

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of the action taken by the Government to check such confessions?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) to (d) An article entitled "Rare Atharvaveda Manuscript returns home in CD-ROM" was published in the January-February volume of the Vihangama, the newsletter of Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts. According to the IGNCA, as mention has been made in the article about the date of the origin of the manuscript of a certain recession of Atharvaveda, as 900 B.C. The date mentioned in fact refers to the original date of composition of the Atharvaveda and not the date of origin of the physical manuscript.

The matter has been taken note of by the authorities in IGNCA and a clarification is being issued in the forthcoming issue of Vihangama.

The Rashtriya Sahara who reported the matter on 26.3.2002 has also published a clarification issued by IGNCA on 25th April, 2002.

[Translation]

Complaints Forms at Airports

7015. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Airports Authority of India (AAI) make complaint forms available to passengers at Airports;

(b) the number of complaints received by the AAI in 2001-2002 alongwith the action taken thereon;

(c) whether such complaints are registered by the AAI and replies given; and

(d) if not, there reasons therefor and the steps proposed to examine the utility of receiving complaints at various airports?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) Yes, Sir. Complaint/ Suggestion forms/book are available at complaint/ suggestion boxes, placed at various locations in the terminal and in the office of the Duty Airport Manager respectively.

(b) During the year 2001-2002, 434 complaints have been received and action has been taken wherever Airports authority of India is concerned. In other cases, the complaints are forwarded to the concerned agencies/ departments for necessary action.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. These complaints are normally registered and replied to, by the Airports Authority of India, which has also received 56 appreciation letters during this period.

Shrimps Breeding

7016. DR. N. VENKATASWAMY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether disease prone banned shrimps like American white shrimps are being bred in the East Coast of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken against the breeders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Only Unconfirmed reports of illegal introduction of the exotic variety of shrimp, viz, *Penaeus vannamei* (American white shrimp) by some shrimp hatcheries in Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu have been received.

(c) State Government of Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh have been asked to ascertain the authenticity of the reports and to take immediate measures to destroy the brood stock of the variety if found, upon inspection of the hatcheries.

High Premium Rate under NAIS

7017. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the farmers are finding the premium rate of crop insurance under National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) higher;

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal to reduce the said rate;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(a) No Sir, for food and oilseeds crops flat-rates of premium ranging between 1.5% to 3.5% are charged. These rates are much lower than the commercial rates of premium. However, some representations for charging higher premium rates for annual commercial/horticultural crops in respect of which commercial rates are charged have been received.

(b) to (d) No Sir, actuarial/commercial rates of premium for annual commercial/horticultural crops are worked out on the basis of Standard Methodology namely Principles of Normal Distribution/Central Limit Theorem. Under this technique the pure risk premium is estimated by considering variability in yield of past 10 years. The rates of premium so calculated cannot be changed arbitrarily.

Agricultural Imports

7018. DR. A.D.K. JAYASEELAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to the latest Economic Survey the value of agricultural imports has declined in the last year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have come across any shortcoming in use of the credit cards by 5 million farmers, who have availed this facility; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps initiated to remedy the situation?

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

(a) and (b) As per the latest Economic Survey, the total import of agricultural products has declined from US \$ 2919 million in 1998-99 to US \$ 2858 million in 1999-2000 and further to US \$ 1858 in the year 2000-01. The share of agricultural imports in the total imports of the country has also declined from 6.9% in 1998-99 to 3.7% in 2000-01. The decline is mainly a result of decrease in import of cereals and sugar.

(c) and (d) The Kisan Credit Card Scheme is a hassle free mechanism for dispensation of crop loans with a validity of 3 years. The Scheme has found wide acceptability among the users. No specific shortcoming in the implementation of scheme has been reported. However, some constraints were observed in implementation of KCC Scheme. The constraints and the steps taken to remedy the same are as follows:

- Some banks, particularly cooperative banks have not been extending the facility of frequent drawals to the cardholders, thus curtailing the very basic facility extended under the KCC. NABARD immediately brought to the notice of the concerned authorities, wherever such instances were reported, to rectify the shortcomings.
- Some of the State Governments are reportedly levying stamp duty for loans under KCC and not for normal crop loans. The matter has been taken up with the concerned State Government through State level bankers' committee.
- In some of the places it has been reported that banks have been insisting for collateral security for issuing KCC. NABARD has advised the banks to strictly adhere to Reserve Bank of India (RBI) guidelines in this regard.

Airbus Service on Nagpur-Mumbai-Nagpur Route

7019. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to deploy Airbus 300 or 320 on Nagpur-Mumbai-Nagpur sector by replacing Boeing 737;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) to (c) Indian Airlines/Alliance Air is at present operating daily A-320 service on the

sectors Mumbai-Nagpur-Mumbai in the evening hours and a daily B-737 service in the morning hours.

Renovation of Tourist Destinations/Monuments

7020. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have undertaken a major renovation programme 81 tourist destinations including ancient monuments and archaeological sites in the country;

(b) if so, the total cost of expenditure to be involved in the project alongwith the names of States where these are likely to be implemented;

(c) whether the State Governments have agreed to provide all help and assistance in implementing this project;

(d) if so, whether the Union Government has also provided sufficient funds to the States to develop tourist sites; and

(e) if so, the amount allocated by the Union Government to States for the purpose during each of the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Government have undertaken major renovation and developmental works programmes at 84 tourist destinations of ancient Jain monuments and archaeological sites in the country. The total cost of expenditure involved is Rs. 3406.92 lakhs. States where these projects will be implemented are as under:

Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Punjab, Karnataka, Delhi, Bihar, Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Orissa, Tamil Nadu & West Bengal.

(d) All the projects are being executed through the central agencies, namely Archaeological Survey of India & MPWD, except for two where the execution is being done through Orissa State Government and INTACH (NGO).

(e) The Government has taken up developmental works around various important historical Jain Temples, Teerthsthalis in India as a part of celebration of 2600th Janam Kaiyanak of Bhagwan Mahavir celebrated for a period of one year from 6th April 2001 to 6th April 2002. Only the State Government of Orissa has been sanctioned funds amounting to Rs. 28.00 lakhs during 2001-2002.

Establishment of Colleges of Fisheries*[Translation]*

7021. SHRI J.S. BRAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of States which have established colleges of fisheries at present; and

(b) the States/Union Territories (UTs) which are likely to establish colleges of fisheries during 2002-2003?

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

(a) Assam, Tripura, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Uttaranchal, Gujarat, Kerala, Orissa, Bihar, Karnataka, West Bengal.

(b) Establishment of institutions under Agricultural Sciences is a State subject. The Council is not aware of if any other State is establishing Fishery College in 2002-03.

Mineral Reserves in Tribal Areas

7022. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are adequate reserves of minerals in the tribal areas of the country;

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

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken for the exploration of said minerals in the said areas particularly in Gujarat?

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

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The details of minerals available in tribal districts of various States of the Country are as follows:

State/District	Mineral
1	2
1. Andhra Pradesh	
Adilabad	Manganese Ore, Coal, Cement grade Limestone
East Godawari	Coal, Graphite
West Godwari	Ball Clay, Coal, Cement Grade Limestone, Graphite
Khammam	Ores of Copper, Lead, Coal, Graphite, Granite
Shrikakulam	Graphite
Vishakapatnam	Appetite, Manganese Ore, Graphite
Warangal	Coal, Graphite
2. Arunachal Pradesh	
Kameng East & Kameng West	Copper, Gold & Pyrite, Dolomite
Lohit	Limestone, Graphite
Subansiri Lower	Copper, Gold, Pyrite, Graphite
Subansiri Upper	
3. Assam	
Goalgora	Magnetite, Quartzite
Kamrup	Magnetite, Quartzite
Karbi	Limestone, Kaolin Silimanite
Anlong	Limestone, Kaolin, Silimanite
Lakhimpur	Coal, Petroleum and Natural Gas, Limestone, Kaolin
Naogaon	Limestone
North Cachar Hill	Coal, Limestone
Sibsagar	Coal, Petroleum and Natural Gas, Limestone

1	2
4. Gujarat	
Bharuch	Agate, Lignite, Silicas and
Sabarkantha	Kaolin
Vadodara	Fluorite, Chalk
Valsad	Fire Clay
5. Karnataka	
Chickmangalur	Bauxite, Iron Ore
Dakshin Kannad	Bauxite
Mysore	Cement Grade Limestone, Black Granite
6. Kerala	
Kozhikode	Limeshell, Ilmenite, Monozite, Beachsand, Iron Ore
Ernakulam	Glass and Limeshell
Mallappuram	Limeshell, Ilmenite & Monozite Beachsand, Iron Ore
Palghat	Limestone, Limeshell, Iron Ore
Thiruvananthapuram	ChinaClya, Ilmenite & Monozite Beachsand
7. Madhya Pradesh	
Balaghat	Copper, Dolomite, Manganese Ore
Betul	Coal, Kaolin
Chindwara	Coal, Dolomite, Manganese Ore
Dhar	limestone, Stealite, Ochre
Jabalpur	Bauxite, Dolomite, Kaoline, Limestone, Steatite, Ochre
Mandla	Bauxite, Dolomite, Ochre
Jhabuwa	Dolomite
Murena	Limestone
Sahadol	Coal, Bauxite, Limestone, Ochre
Seoni	Dolomite
Sidhi	Coal, Bauxite, Kaklin
8. Maharashtra	
Chandrapur	Coal, Limestone, Dolomite, Wolframite, Scheelite
Nanded	Limestone, Dolomite
Yeotmal	Coal, Limestone, Dolomite
9. Manipur	
Chandel	Chromite
Ukhrral	Chromite
10. Meghalaya	
Jayantis	Cement Grade Limestone, Chemical Grade Limestone
East & West Gora Hill	Cement Grade Limestone
East Khasi Hill	
West Kashi Hill	Sillimanite

1	2
11. Jharkhand	
Palamau	Barytes, Bauxite, Dolomite, Felsper, Fireclay, Graphite, Manetite, Quartz, Silica Sand, Talc, Steatite, Rock Phosphate, Andalusite
Ranchi	China clay, Fire Clay, Limestone Quartz, Silica and, Ilmenite/Rutile
Singhbhum	Apatite, Asbestos, Barytes, China Clay, Chromite, Copper, Fireclay, Gold ore, Gramite, Hematite, Kyonite, Limestone, Manganese Ore, Quartz/Silica sand, Talc/Steate, Quartzite, Cobalt, Nickel
12. Nagaland	
Mon	Coal
Phek	Limestone
Tuensang	Nickeliferrous Chromite
13. Orissa	
Baleshwar	Vanadiferrous magnetite
Ganjam	Beachsand
Kalahandi	Bauxite, Graphite
Keonjhar	Bauxite, Chromite, Iron Ore, Manganese Ore, Vandiferrous Magnetite
Koraput	Bauxite, Limestone, Dolomite, Iron Ore, Manganese Ore
Mayurbhanj	Iron Ore, Nickel Ore, Vanadiferrous magnetite, Sillimanite
Phulbani	Bauxite, Chromite, Graphite
Sambalpur	Bauxite, Coal, Limestone, Dolomite, Graphite, Sillimanite
Sundergarh	Bauxite, Limestone, Dolomite, Iron Ore, Manganese Ore, Lead Ore, Sillimanite
14. Rajasthan	
Banswara	Phosphorite, Streatite
Chittorgarh	Kaolin, Limestone, Copper ore
Dungarpur	Asbestos, Fluorspar, Phosphorite, Steatitite, Copper ore
Sirohi	Calcite, Flourspar, Limestone, Copper ore
Udaipur	Asbesto, Calcite, Kaolin, Lead-zinc ore, Limestone, Mica, Phosphorite, Pyrophyllite, Steatite, Copper ore
15. Sikkim	
South District	Coal
East District	Copper, Lead Zinc
West District	Dolomite, Sillimanite, Magnesite, Talc, Rock Phosphate, Graphite Quartzite
16. Tamil Nadu	
North Arcot	Graphite Vermaculite
South Arcot	Lignite
Salem	Bauxite, Limestone, Magnesite

1	2
17. Tripura	
North, South and West Tripura	Glass and, Plastic Clay, Shale, Ordinary sand
18. West Bengal	
Bankura	Coal, Tungsten
Darjeeling	Coal
Jalpaiguri	Coal, Dolomite
Purulia	Coal, Apatite
19. Andaman & Nicobar Islands	Diatomaceous Earth, Gold, Limestone, Nickel, Selenite & Sulphur

(c) Survey and exploration is a continuous process. The agencies undertaking exploration are Geological Survey of India (GSI), Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited (MECL), Directorates of Mining and Geology of the States and various Public Sector Organisations. The National Mineral Policy, 1993 has thrown open the mineral sector for private investment, both domestic and foreign. Two prospecting licences were granted in Gujarat for copper, lead, zinc, gold and other associated minerals in favour of M/s Metmin Finance and Holding Ltd.

[English]

Setting up of Coal Mine

7023. SHRI S. MURUGESAN: Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government propose to set up a coal mine at Jayamkandam in Tamil Nadu;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) The Jayamkondam lignite mining-cum-power project is proposed to be promoted by M/s Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation Limited, a Government of Tamil Nadu enterprise through a consortium of private

sector companies. The project is likely to have a mining capacity of 3.5 Millions tonnes of lignite and power generation capacity of 500 MW per annum in the first phase.

- (c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Amount Spent by CIL

7024. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of expenditure made by the Coal India Limited (CIL) and its subsidiary companies on education, health and environmental protection during each of the last three years and till-date;
- (b) the existing rule in this regard;
- (c) whether the Government have issued instructions recently to the subsidiary companies to keep life saving drugs with them; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) as informed by Coal India Limited (CIL) the details of expenditure made by subsidiaries of Coal India (CIL) during the last 3 years on Education, Medical and Environment are given below:

Company*	1999-2000			2000-01			2001-02		
	Educa- tion	Medi- cal	Environ- ment	Educa- tion	Medi- cal	Environ- ment	Educa- tion	Medi- cal	Environ- ment
ECL	1.16	9.63	0.37	0.66	11.72	0.54	1.45	11.35	1.74
BCCL	2.82	12.39	0.50	1.14	11.30	0.50	2.28	12.84	0.18
CCL	3.45	9.99	1.91	4.20	9.65	2.25	4.58	8.91	1.88
WCL	3.08	12.55	6.19	3.21	14.49	4.60	3.55	11.88	3.38
SECL	7.36	15.70	4.25	7.17	17.33	4.00	7.95	18.02	4.50
MCL	3.64	4.17	1.35	2.88	5.29	4.95	2.70	4.42	1.79
NCL	3.93	10.74	7.24	4.36	13.66	13.22	3.85	13.15	14.98

*ECL Eastern Coalfields Limited
 BCCL Bharat Coking Coal Limited
 CCL Central Coalfields Limited
 WCL Western Coalfields Limited
 SECL South Eastern Coalfields Limited
 MCL Mahanadi Coalfields Limited
 NCL Northern Coalfields Limited

(b) The subsidiary companies of Coal India Limited (CIL) incur expenditure on the above heads according to the budget provisions made in this regard.

(c) and (d) Coal India Limited (CIL) has reported that they are not aware of any such instruction issued in this regard. However, CIL has reported that all the subsidiaries of CIL are keeping stock of life saving drugs at their hospitals/dispensaries.

Misusing of Airport Identity Cards by IB Officials

7025. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the officers of Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) have recently found during the course of their inspection that some officers/employees of Intelligence Bureau posted at various airports are misusing their airport identity cards;

(b) if so, the number of such cases which have come to light; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to check such misuse?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Social Security Scheme

7026. SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the names of 50 districts in the country selected for the Social Security Scheme namely Krishi Shramik Samajik Suraksha Yojana-2001 for Agricultural workers; and

(b) the names of districts from where over one lakh Agricultural workers have been covered under the said scheme by March 31, 2002?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) A statement is enclosed.

(b) The Krishi Shramik Samajik Suraksha Yojana-2001 is being implemented in selected 50 districts intending to cover 10 lakh agricultural workers @ 20000 per district over a span of three years. As per reports received over 1.01 lakh agricultural workers have been covered under the scheme in 34 districts upto 31.3.2002.

Statement

Names of 50 Districts selected for the Social Security Scheme' Krishi Shramik Samajik Suraksha Yojana—2001 for Agricultural Workers

Sl No.	Name of the District
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1	2
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- | | |
|-----|--------------------------|
| 1. | East Godavari |
| 2. | West Godavari |
| 3. | Guntur |
| 4. | Krishna |
| 5. | East Siang |
| 6. | Nagaon |
| 7. | Saharsa |
| 8. | Madhepura |
| 9. | Gaya |
| 10. | Bilaspur |
| 11. | Raipur |
| 12. | North Goa |
| 13. | Kheda |
| 14. | Surat |
| 15. | Hissar |
| 16. | Kangara |
| 17. | Jammu |
| 18. | Singhbhum West |
| 19. | Palamau |
| 20. | Raichur |
| 21. | Dharwad |
| 22. | Palakkad |
| 23. | Ujjain |
| 24. | Jabalpur |
| 25. | West Nimar
(Khargaon) |
| 26. | Solapur |
| 27. | Jalgaon |

1	2
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- | | |
|-----|------------------|
| 28. | Yavatmal |
| 29. | Dhule |
| 30. | Imphal |
| 31. | East Khasi Hills |
| 32. | Aizawal |
| 33. | Kohima |
| 34. | Koraput |
| 35. | Sambalpur |
| 36. | Amritsar |
| 37. | Udaipur |
| 38. | Sriganganagar |
| 39. | Sikkim East |
| 40. | Trichirappali |
| 41. | Cuddalore |
| 42. | Tanjavur |
| 43. | Madurai |
| 44. | West Tripura |
| 45. | Allahabad |
| 46. | Badaun |
| 47. | Nainital |
| 48. | Dehradun |
| 49. | West Medinipur |
| 50. | Bardhawan |

Labour Forum

7027. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are running a "Labour Forum" from Shimla and Chandigarh;

(b) if so, the role and functions of this Forum;

(c) whether the Labour Forum fulfills the same functions as the National Labour Institute; and

(d) if not, its role and status in the era of liberalisation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) and (b) Labour Bureau with its Headquarters both at Shimla and Chandigarh is an attached office of the Ministry. The Bureau is engaged in collection, compilation, analysis and dissemination of statistics on various aspects of labour. It also compiled Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers and Agricultural/Rural Labourers.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. The V.V. Giri National Labour Institute an autonomous organization of the Ministry, is entrusted with the work of research, training and education in the area of labour.

Upgradation of Facilities in Aircraft

7028. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to upgrade the facilities provided by Air India in its aircraft Boeing 747-400 operating on London, New York and Chicago sectors; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) and (b) Air India has taken

a decision to replace first class seats by 180 degrees sleeper seats with portable DVD player in all B747-400 aircraft in Air India's fleet. This type of aircraft operates to London, New York and Chicago sectors also.

Production of Jute

7029. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a sharp decline in the production of jute in Orissa;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to increase the production of jute during the Tenth Five Year Plan period; and

(d) if so, the incentives/schemes proposed to be extended to the jute growers in the country particularly in Orissa during the said period?

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

(a) The production of jute in Orissa has fallen from 1998-99 to 2000-01 as is evident from the data given in the table below:

	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-2001
Production (‘000 bales of 180 Kgs. each)	41.6	39.2	36.7
Area (‘000 ha.)	5.3	4.1	3.9
Yield Rate (Kg./ha.)	1413	1721	1694

(b) This fall in production is because of the fall in the area coverage under jute in the State.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) To increase the production and improve the quality of jute fibre, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Special Jute Development Programme with 100% Central assistance had been in operation in jute growing States including Orissa. Under this scheme, assistance was given to the farmers in the form of distribution of seed/planting material, implements, post harvest technology (Kutchu/Pucca retting tank, fungal culture packets, decorticator, degumming unit). Farmers training and technology demonstration etc., were also organized.

From October 2000, the Special Jute Development programme has been subsumed under the Macro Management Scheme which gives more flexibility to the States to address their respective specific problems depending on local requirements, which is expected to boost production of Jute.

Retirement Benefits to Employees of Indian Airlines

7030. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of employees of the Indian Airlines retired on February 29, 2000 as a result

of the reduction of the retirement age from 60 years to 58 years;

(b) if so, whether payments of arrears and pension to these employees have not been made so far;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the salary revision as per the recommendations of the Justice Mohan Singh Committee, is being delayed intentionally to avoid payment of arrears and revised pension by implementing from a later date; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) 823 employees of Indian Airlines retired on 29th February, 2000 as a result of rollingback of retirement age from 60 years to 58 years.

(b) and (c) It was agreed with Unions/Association in the wage agreements that arrears arising out of the settlement will be paid in suitable instalments, subject to availability of funds. Accordingly, serving as well as the retired employees are being paid arrears in instalments depending upon the cash position of the company. The Pension Scheme in Indian Airlines is a self contributing Scheme managed by a Trust with Indian Airlines contribution being limited to Rs. 100/- per annum for all employees. Though, the scheme was introduced w.e.f. 1st April, 1994, the monthly contribution from the employees commenced in May, 1998. At the time of the commencement of the Scheme, the members' contribution was around Rs. 1 crore per month and there were more than 1550 retired employees eligible for pension. The estimated amount required for buying annuities for all these employees was around Rs. 55 crores. Therefore, it was decided by the Trust that the pension be offered to the retirees in phases, subject to the accumulation of funds.

Annuities have been purchased in respect of employees who have retired upto April, 1998 and have complied with all requirements.

With the increase in cost of annuity by LIC w.e.f. July, 2000 and the precarious funds position with the Trust, the Trustees decided that no further annuity be purchased till amendments are made in the Scheme to make it viable. Accordingly, certain amendments were made in the Scheme and the same have been sent to the Income Tax Department for approval.

The Board of Directors of Indian Airlines had also constituted a Committee to work out a long term solution for the viability of the Scheme. The Committee has given certain suggestions which are under consideration.

(d) and (e) The recommendations of Justice Mohan Committee Report are under consideration in Indian Airlines.

New Extraction Process for Neem

7031. SHRI SAIDUZZAMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) has discovered a new extraction process for Neem;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the quantity manufactured and total sales made including the exports so far;

(c) whether the IARI propose to share their findings with farmers and non-profit Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs);

(d) if so, whether the IARI has undertaken any field trials; and

(e) if so, the details and results of these trials?

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

(b) The process has been licensed recently for commercialization. The production is yet to start.

(c) and (d) The IARI has a mechanism in place to share their findings. For large scale production, a pilot plant and large scale field trials are required before commercialization.

(e) Question does not arise.

[Translation]

Procurement of Pulse Crops from Bihar

7032. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government are procuring pulse crops from Bihar;

(b) if so, the quantum of pulses procured during the last year and the current year till date; and

(c) the details of the steps taken by the Government to attract the farmers towards cultivation of pulses?

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

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) In order to motivate the farmers to take up cultivation of pulses, the Government is implementing Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National Pulses Development Project (NPDP) on 75:25 pattern of financial assistance between Central Government and the States in 350 districts of 30 States/UTs in the Country. Under the Scheme, the incentives like distribution of certified seeds, mini kits, rhizobium culture, micro nutrients, sprinkler sets, improved farm implements, Plant Protection Equipment etc. are provided to the farmers. In addition, field demonstration and training to farmers are also organized.

Theft of Coal, Iron and other Goods

7033. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT: Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether after closing of Valani and Pipla coal mines in sub-area of Sillavada in Maharashtra incidents of theft/bungling of coal, iron and other technical goods are taking place;

(b) if so, whether this theft/misappropriation is reportedly being done with the connivance of officials;

(c) if so, the losses suffered by the Government as a result thereof;

(d) whether the Government have conducted or propose to conduct any inquiry into the matter or transfer the case to CBI; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) After closing of Walni Mine on 19.5.2000, there has been no incident of theft/bungling of coal, iron and other goods from the place. Pipla Mine of Silewara sub-area (Nagpur Area) of WCL is still in operation.

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

[English]

Assistance for Nehru Loka

7034. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to revive the proposal for the creation of a fairy land named as Nehru Loka at the foot of Chamundi Hills at Mysore to attract domestic/foreign tourists;

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

(c) the financial assistance proposed to be provided for the implementation of the said Plan?

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

(c) Does not arise.

Irrigation Projects in Andhra Pradesh

7035. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of on-going irrigation projects in Andhra Pradesh at present;

(b) whether Central Water Commission (CWC) had cleared certain fresh irrigation projects in Andhra Pradesh for getting World Bank loan;

(c) if so, the amount of loan sought; and

(d) the details of irrigation projects to be financed with this loan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) At present 12 major, 19 medium and 5 Extension, Renovation and Modernisation irrigation projects are under implementation in Andhra Pradesh.

(b) Central Water Commission has not received any fresh irrigation project of Andhra Pradesh seeking World Bank assistance during the last one year.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Implementation of Murari Committee Report

7036. DR. N. VENKATASWAMY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have implemented Murari Committee Report on the Marine Fishing Regulation Act;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

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

(a) A Committee to review the Deep Sea Fishing Policy headed by Shri P. Murari, submitted its report to the Government in February, 1996. The report does not contain any specific recommendation on Marine Fishing Regulation Act (MFRA).

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Delay In Excavations Report by ASI

7037. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:
SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI:

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

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Ministry digs into ASI delays" appearing in the *Times of India* dated April 17, 2002;

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

(c) the specific reasons for which the archaeologists do not complete their reports about the excavations conducted and submit it to the Central Advisory Board on Archaeology;

(d) the amount so far spent by the Government on the excavations work in respect of which no report has been received from the archaeologists and the action taken in the matter; and

(e) the remedial measures taken by the Government in this regard?

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

(b) to (e) The information is being collected and will be placed on the table of House.

Profit to CIL

7038. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:
SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA:
SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:

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

(a) whether the Coal India Limited (CIL) suffered Rs. 1414 crores loss during the year 2000-01;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the CIL has earned profit of Rs. 1400 crores during 2001-02;

(d) if so, whether the Government has made any study in regard to amazing profit earned by the CIL:

(e) if so, whether the Government have any plan to encourage the factors responsible for remarkable profit and growth in the coal sector; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) Yes, Sir. Coal India Limited (CIL) had suffered a loss of Rs. 1414.47 crore during the year 2000-2001.

(b) Loss incurred during the year 2000-2001 was on account of massive impact of wage revision with its arrear liability under National Coal Wage Agreement-VI, with effect from 1.7.96 for non-executives and pay revision with effect from 1.1.97 for executives. The provision made for the wage arrears in 2000-2001 was Rs. 3031.66 crore.

(c) to (f) Yes, Sir. CIL has earned a profit of Rs. 1400 crore approximately during 2001-02 (This is a provisional figure. Firm figure will be available only after the accounts of CIL and its subsidiaries are audited and adopted in the Annual General Meeting). The year 2001-02 also witnessed increased production, off take and productivity. The Government is committed to speed up growth and all round development in the coal sector.

A prior period adjustment in wage arrears under National Coal Wage Agreement-VI made in the year 2000-01 of Rs. 2,300 crores was not needed to be made in the year 2001-02. Besides, overall coal production also increased in 2001-02 by over 11 million tonnes compared to production in 2000-01. This directly contributed Rs. 460 crores towards the profit of 2001-02. Both these

were the major contributing factors in the profits for 2001-02, apart from improvements in the functioning of the coal companies. Overall, after taking into account the above factors and also account for the increase in expenditure and provisions etc. in 2001-02, the provisional profit has been arrived at Rs. 1400 crores.

[Translation]

Funds for Developmental Projects and Canals

7039. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the funds allocated by the Union Government to various State Governments including Maharashtra for developmental projects and canals during each of the last three years;

(b) the details of works undertaken so far and the funds spent thereon State-wise; and

(c) the time by which the work on these projects is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) The details of funds released under Command Area Development Programme (CADP) and Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) during the last three years to various State Governments including State of Maharashtra is given in the enclosed statement. Under the CADP, funds are reimbursed after expenditure is incurred by the State Governments while in the case of AIBP, the next instalment of CLA is released only when the amount released earlier along with the State's share has been utilized.

Under CADP, 15.34 mha, Field channels, 1.05 mha under Field Drains, 9.92 mha under Warabandi and 2.17 mha under land levelling/shaping has been covered. Under AIBP the State Governments have reported creation of additional irrigation potential of 1.09 mha from 149 major/medium irrigation project upto March, 2001.

(c) The time for completion of projects is linked to adequate budgetary outlays by the State Governments and availability of funds under the two programmes and the ceiling for AIBP fixed by the Planning Commission.

Statement

(Rs. in crores)

S.No.	State	CLA Released under AIBP during			Central Releases under CADP during		
		1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	65.015	95.020	104.990	0.000	0.00	0.000
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	7.500	7.500	15.000	0.100	0.040	0.350
3.	Assam	14.540	24.077	14.521	0.000	0.340	0.350
4.	Bihar	129.695	148.440	3.420	0.000	0.000	3.000
5.	Chhattisgarh	10.520	13.930	48.200	—	—	0.460
6.	Goa	3.500	61.650	58.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
7.	Gujarat	272.700	421.850	487.690	6.500	0.190	0.000
8.	Haryana	0.000	0.000	0.000	8.420	5.030	23.220
9.	Himachal Pradesh	11.047	18.015	3.244	0.160	0.680	1.560
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	4.680	10.460	11.070	2.490	1.650	1.710
11.	Jharkhand	14.345	9.050	10.820	—	—	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
12.	Karnataka	157.140	171.000	492.500	8.850	18.640	34.240
13.	Kerala	0.000	22.400	11.275	7.880	7.460	5.080
14.	Madhya Pradesh	95.325	151.328	117.380	1.670	1.230	0.160
15.	Maharashtra	49.875	97.020	39.100	6.600	4.610	7.440
16.	Manipur	21.810	1.500	9.360	1.280	1.130	0.000
17.	Meghalaya	2.694	5.512	4.470	0.180	0.000	0.000
18.	Mizoram	1.433	1.433	2.000	0.000	0.050	0.070
19.	Nagaland	2.730	5.000	5.000	0.150	0.000	1.330
20.	Orissa	90.250	100.320	104.045	3.650	10.360	5.050
21.	Punjab	42.000	55.620	113.690	33.520	21.340	0.000
22.	Rajasthan	106.665	78.467	96.315	27.000	15.920	26.550
23.	Tripura	34.653	13.883	21.063	0.000	0.000	0.000
24.	Tamil Nadu	0.000	0.000	0.000	23.370	16.770	13.360
25.	Uttar Pradesh	286.000	315.900	314.960	28.050	32.470	22.740
26.	Uttaranchal	0.000	0.000	0.000	—	—	—
27.	West Bengal	25.000	26.825	38.608	3.060	4.250	0.000
28.	Sikkim	1.360	0.000	2.400	—	—	0.000
Total		1450.477	1856.200	2129.121	162.930	142.160	146.780
				472.86			
G. Total				2601.981			

In addition to Rs. 2129.12 crore, an amount of Rs. 472.86 crore has been released for 13 major/medium Projects under Fast Track programme during 2001-02.

[English]

Buckingham Canal Project

7040. SHRI S. MURUGESAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to implement Buckingham Canal Project in Chennai; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Water Resources have no proposal to implement the Buckingham Canal Project in Chennai. However, as per information received from Ministry of Surface Transport, Techno-economic feasibility study has been conducted for integrated waterway system connecting Kakinada in Andhra Pradesh with Marcaunam in Tamil Nadu comprising of Kakinada Canal, Elur Canal, Commamur Canal and Buckingham Canal and Godavari and Krishna Rivers.

Diversification and Investment in Agriculture Sector

7041. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of the huge food stocks available in the country, the farmers have resorted to diversification in agriculture from food crops to cash crops and other allied activities like livestock and fisheries etc.;

(b) if so, whether the production of cereals and pulses has fallen and that of fruits and vegetables have increased as a result thereof;

(c) whether the investment in agriculture sector has also fallen;

(d) if so, the details thereof during the last two years; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government to ensure that the diversification and the low investment in agriculture sector does not affect the production of foodgrains in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) The Government consciously put thrust on crop diversification in the larger interests of the farmers and agriculture sector. There is a long term upward trend in the production of foodgrains, fruits and vegetables as also of milk, eggs and wool etc.

(c) and (d) The gross capital formation in agriculture sector during 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 (Quick Estimates) is estimated to be Rs. 26111 crores and Rs. 27038 crores respectively which does not show a declining trend.

(e) To increase agricultural production and productivity of various crops including foodgrains, the Government have launched various new initiatives such as promotion of watershed development programmes, emphasis on developing and promoting new technologies, measures for increasing availability of agricultural credit, Market Information Network and National Agriculture Insurance Scheme etc. Besides, the Government also encourage farmers to increase production through price policy which includes implementation of Minimum Support Price, Procurement by public agencies. Apart from these, the Government have also switched over from the conventional schematic approach to macro-management mode from November, 2000 for providing assistance to the States. The Macro-Management Scheme integrates 27 scheme into one for supplementing and complementing the efforts of State Governments through work plans. This gives flexibility to States to address their respective specific problems faced by them depending on local requirements, avoid overlapping in the contents of different schemes and aim at all-round development of agriculture.

Preservation of Historical Monuments in Karnataka

7042. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have identified the ancient monuments in Karnataka which are in a dilapidated and pitiable condition;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of steps taken or proposed to be taken to renovate and preserve these ancient monuments?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): (a) to (c) Under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act of 1958, the ASI has 508 centrally protected monuments in Karnataka. These monuments are maintained as per archaeological norms and are in a good state of preservation. Maintenance and conservation of the protected monuments is a continuous process. The Government is not aware about the state of other monuments, not under its control.

Helicopter Services to Kanyakumari

7043. DR. A.D.K. JAYASEELAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to start helicopter service in Kanyakumari in order to harness the potential of tourism in the area;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Operation of helicopter services is costlier as compared to operation by fixed wing aircraft. However, it is upto the airlines/helicopter operators to provide air services to specific places depending upon the traffic demands and commercial viability.

Setting up of Welfare Fund for Farmers

7044. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up welfare fund for farmers in the country;

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

(c) whether the State Governments particularly Karnataka has sent any proposal for seeking Central assistance for farmers welfare fund; and

(d) if so, the response of the Union Government thereto?

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

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Technical Posts

7045. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of technical posts which are lying vacant in the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying; and

(b) the time by which the said posts are likely to be filled-up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV):
(a) The details of technical posts lying vacant in the Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying at present are as under:—

Category	No. of vacant posts
Group 'A'	25
Group 'B'	08

(b) Group 'A' and Group 'B' technical posts are required to be filled up through Union Public Service Commission or Staff Selection Commission, as per the provisions of the Recruitment Rules. As such, it is difficult to lay down a time-frame for filling them up. Action is in hand to fill up the vacant technical posts in the Department as expeditiously as possible.

Hindustan Copper Limited

7046. SHRI Y.V. RAO: Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had decided to merge two units of Hindustan Copper Limited into a separate company;

(b) if so, whether the Government have rescinded its earlier decision; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD):
(a) to (c) In 1999, the Government decided to disinvest Hindustan Copper Limited in two phases. In the first phase of disinvestment, formation of a separate company by including Khetri Copper Complex in Rajasthan and Taloja Copper Project in Maharashtra was decided. The first phase of disinvestment did not succeed because the interest of qualified interested parties declined after their assessment of the business prospects of the proposed new company. The Government has now decided to divest its entire shareholding in Hindustan Copper Limited to an interested buyer through a sale.

Irregularities in Relief Work in Orissa

7047. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware about the irregularities pointed out by Comptroller and Auditor General in its report for the year ending March, 2001 in relief and rehabilitation work in the cyclone hit area of Orissa; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to remove the irregularities?

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

(b) As distribution of relief on the ground is the responsibility of the State Government, the Government of Orissa have been requested to take remedial action on the observations of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India.

Provident Fund lying In Corpus

7048. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the total Corpus of Central Provident Fund alongwith unclaimed fund lying in the corpus;

(b) whether arbitrary investment of corpus amount over-riding the decision of Central Provident Fund Trust has resulted in reduction of interest rate;

(c) the contribution of the Government towards EPF scheme per annum; and

(d) whether the Government propose to implement the decisions of Indian Labour Conference and decisions of Central Provident Fund Trust in this regard;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) The total amount of Employees' Provident Fund corpus as on 31.03.2002 is Rs. 59,988.44 crore and the total unclaimed amount as on 31.03.2001 is Rs. 351.62 crore.

(b) to (f) As far as investment of Provident Fund corpus is concerned investment is made in accordance with the financial pattern notified by the Government. As per the provisions of paragraph 60 of the Employees Provident Fund Scheme, 1952 the rate of interest on Employees' Provident Fund is determined by the Central Government in consultation with the Central Board of Trustees (EPF). The Government does not contribute to the P.F. Fund.

Decrease In Air Fare

7049. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Embassy of India at Qatar and other Gulf countries have received representations for decrease in air fares from Gulf sector to India by National Air Carriers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) and (b) Indian Missions in Qatar, Kuwait and United Arab Emirates have received representations regarding high fares charged by Air India and Indian Airlines on India-Gulf sectors.

(c) International Air Transport Association (IATA) holds Tariff Coordination Conferences for determining airfares for different sectors, which are attended by representatives airlines. These fares are unanimously agreed to by all airlines operating on the concerned route. However, market dynamics and product features like frequency,

timing, direct/indirect operation, nature of traffic and seasonability etc. also influence airfares. The fares being changed by Air India and Indian Airlines on India-Gulf sectors are therefore very competitive.

12.00 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) issued under sub-sections (1) and (3) of section 3 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986:—
 - (i) S.O. 16 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th January, 2002 constituting an authority to be known as the Gujarat State Coastal Zone Management Authority for a period of three years, with effect from the 4th January, 2002.
 - (ii) S.O. 17 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th January, 2002 constituting an authority to be known as the Daman and Diu Coastal Zone Management Authority for a period of three years, with effect from the 4th January, 2002.
 - (iii) S.O. 18 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th January, 2002 constituting an authority to be known as the Maharashtra State Coastal Zone Management Authority for a period of three years, with effect from the 4th January, 2002.
 - (iv) S.O. 19 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th January, 2002 constituting an authority to be known as the Goa State Coastal Zone Management Authority for a period of three years, with effect from the 4th January, 2002.
 - (v) S.O. 20 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th January, 2002 constituting an authority to be known as the Kerala State Coastal Zone Management Authority for a period of three years, with effect from the 4th January, 2002.
 - (vi) S.O. 21 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th January, 2002 constituting an authority to be known as the Karnataka State Coastal Zone Management Authority for a period of three years, with effect from the 4th January, 2002.

- (vii) S.O. 22 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th January, 2002 constituting an authority to be known as the Pondicherry Coastal Zone Management Authority for a period of three years, with effect from the 4th January, 2002.
- (viii) S.O. 23 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th January, 2002 constituting an authority to be known as the Tamil Nadu State Coastal Zone Management Authority for a period of three years, with effect from the 4th January, 2002.
- (ix) S.O. 24 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th January, 2002 constituting an authority to be known as the Orissa State Coastal Zone Management Authority for a period of three years, with effect from the 4th January, 2002.
- (x) S.O. 25 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th January, 2002 constituting an authority to be known as the West Bengal State Coastal Zone Management Authority for a period of three years, with effect from the 4th January, 2002.
- (xi) S.O. 26 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th January, 2002 constituting an authority to be known as the Lakshadweep Coastal Zone Management Authority for a period of three years, with effect from the 4th January, 2002.
- (xii) S.O. 27 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th January, 2002 constituting an authority to be known as the Andhra Pradesh State Coastal Zone Management Authority for a period of three years, with effect from the 4th January, 2002.
- (xiii) S.O. 28 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th January, 2002 constituting an authority to be known as the Andaman and Nicobar Coastal Zone Management Authority for a period of three years, with effect from the 4th January, 2002.
- (xiv) S.O. 163 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 5th February, 2002 making certain amendments in the notification No. S.O. 88 (E) dated the 6th February, 1997.
- (xv) S.O. 988 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 3rd October, 2001 making certain amendments in the notification No. S.O. 114 (E) dated the 19th February, 1991.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 5668/2002]

- (2) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Pollution Control Board, Delhi, for the year 2000-2001, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 5669/2002]

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Asiatic Society, Kolkata, for the year 2000-2001, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Asiatic Society, Kolkata, for the year 2000-2001.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 5670/2002]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Allahabad Museum, Allahabad, for the year 2000-2001, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Allahabad Museum, Allahabad, for the year 2000-2001.
- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 5671/2002]

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN SETHI): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) Copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—
 - (i) Review by the Government of the working of the National Projects Construction Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2000-2001.

- (ii) Annual Report of the National Projects Construction Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2000-2001, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 5672/2002]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the statement (Hindi and English versions) explaining reasons for not laying the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the Central Instructional Media Institute, Chennai, for the years 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 within the stipulated period of nine months after the close of Accounting years.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 5673/2002]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHNAKAR PRASAD): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions):—
 - (i) Memorandum of Understanding between the Neyveli Lignite Corporation Limited and the Department of Coal, Ministry of Coal and Mines for the year 2002-2003.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 5674/2002]

- (ii) Memorandum of Understanding between the National Aluminium Company Limited and the Department of Mines, Ministry of Coal and Mines for the year 2002-2003.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 5675/2002]

- (iii) Memorandum of Understanding between the Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited and the Department of Mines, Ministry of Coal and Mines for the year 2002-2003.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 5676/2002]

- (iv) Memorandum of Understanding between the Coal India Limited and the Department of Coal, Ministry of Coal and Mines for the year 2002-2003.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 5677/2002]

[*Translation*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. 236 (E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th March, 2002 declaring Fertilizer (Control) Order, 1985 as a special order for the purpose of trial of offences committed in violation of the provisions of the said Order in a summary way in the Special Courts under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 issued under section 12A of the said Act.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 5678/2002]

- (2) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

- (a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Tamil Nadu Agro Industries Development Corporation Limited, Chennai, for the year 2000-2001.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Tamil Nadu Agro Industries Development Corporation Limited, Chennai for the year 2000-2001, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 5679/2002]

- (b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Himachal Pradesh Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Shimla, for the year 2000-2001.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Himachal Pradesh Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Shimla, for the year 2000-2001, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 5680/2002]

- (c) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Andhra Pradesh State Agro Industries Development Corporation Limited, Hyderabad, for the year 1999-2000.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Andhra Pradesh State Agro Industries Development Corporation Limited, Hyderabad, for the year 1999-2000, along with

Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 5681/2002]

- (d) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Karnataka Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Bangalore, for the year 2000-2001.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Karnataka Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Bangalore, for the year 2000-2001, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 5682/2002]

- (e) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Kashmir State Agro Industries Development Corporation Limited, Srinagar, for the year 1985-86.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Jammu and Kashmir State Agro Industries Development Corporation Limited, Srinagar, for the year 1985-86, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
- (3) Five statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 5683/2002]

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: We now go to the 'Zero Hour'.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Sir, an hon. Member from the principal Opposition party has given a notice on a very important issue. ...(Interruptions) Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal has given a notice on a very important matter. Let him be heard. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh): Sir, I may kindly be allowed to speak. I have given a notice regarding a very important matter. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, I have also given a notice on a very important issue. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, it is a very important matter, which is of concern to the entire country. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: All the notices are on very important issues. I will take them up one by one. If all of you co-operate, everyone would get an opportunity.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, it is a very important issue. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (Miryalguda): Sir, you should permit Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal to speak. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to speak regarding Delhi-Patna bound Shramjivi Express train. ...(Interruptions)

PROF. S.P. SINGH BAGHEL (Jalesar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw your attention towards the disease caused by use of contaminated ground water by the villagers across hundreds of villages in my Parliamentary constituency. The people living in Mahapur, Arai, Rajapur, Kutubpur, Nangalpar, Sikanderpur, Chilasani, Ramgarh, Umargarh, Bharkana, Kailashpur villages of my district Etah and Milak, Kaitha, Nangla-Bansi, Nangla-Akhai, Nagla Nanji etc. villages of Tundla Assembly segment under Firozabad district are suffering from this problem. I mean to say that ground water in hundreds of villages under all the five Tehsils in my Constituency namely, Admadpur, Tundla, Jalesar, Sadabad and Nidholi Kalan is totally contaminated. The ratio of ore, chemicals, minerals in water has become disproportionate. It contains too much quantity of Floride that even if a young person of 35 years uses it regularly his teeth will fall. It has become a very serious matter. The situation has become such that people in some of the villages drinking this water have become hunch-backed. You will be surprised to know that if a bird drinks that water it dies. You can judge by this that how harmful that water may be. People using that water have to pass stool five times a day. Therefore, my submission is that Ground Water Survey Department or any other concerned department should conduct survey and identify source of Safe drinking water and construct tanks and make arrangement for supply of safe drinking water. The State Government do not have any facility of this kind. ...(Interruptions) Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to tell that during summer season people send their animals to their relatives and bring them back during rainy season. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, I do not want to raise matters that are not important. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, the principal Opposition party must get priority. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: You have expressed your views before every one. Now Shri G.N. Singh will speak.

PROF. S.P. SINGH BAGHEL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in my area people send their animals to their relatives i.e. the migration of animals is taking place. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You have told everything, now you may sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. S.P. SINGH BAGHEL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, they are called back with on set of rainy season. It is a serious matter. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri C.N. Singh, if you do not speak I will call the next Member.

...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. S.P. SINGH BAGHEL: The blood is cheaper than water there. People resort to quarrel, murder for water. Sources of safe drinking water should be identified there. A Central Team should rush to the affected area immediately so that arrangement for water can be made. Milk is sold at Rs. 8 a kg. It is so cheaper that there is not scope of mixing water in it. ...*(Interruptions)* Water is available for Rs. 10-15 a litre.

MR. SPEAKER: You have expressed your point. You sit down.

PROF. S.P. SINGH BAGHEL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would conclude with this couplet which contains agony of the people.

Khoon is daure garari main bahoot sasta hai,

Raat phir gaon main ek Katl hua Pani par.

My submission is that arrangement should be made for drinking water. If any state or Central Government are unable to provide drinking water to the people, it has no right to remain in power.

[English]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, please give me a chance. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Allegatory matters cannot be raised. But still I am going to permit you.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, on an issue which is a burning one in the country, we have a right to raise it in this House, in the 'Zero Hour'. ...*(Interruptions)* It is not a matter of *sub judice*. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: You cannot say anything containing allegation during zero hour.

[English]

But still I am going to permit you.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, it is an allegation against the Minister of Finance. He has a right to raise it in the House. How can you deny him?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, I am sorry about your observation. ...*(Interruptions)* This is unfair. ...*(Interruptions)* Sir, please do not create a precedent. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I am going to permit him. I have already permitted Shri C.N. Singh.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal and Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunshi, I have already told you that I am going to allow your matter. As a matter of fact, it is an allegatory matter.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER. Please let met complete.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal, please listen to me. In the normal course, in the 'Zero Hour', if

[Mr. Speaker]

you want to raise this matter, you have to give a notice, and notice to the person against whom the allegation is to be made, if it is according to the rules. Let me complete. Still I thought that you would be permitted to do it, but you cannot say that 'give us priority' because the priority is to be decided by the Chair. The Chair has already decided the priority. So, please wait. I am going to give you permission.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI VAIKO (Sivakasi): Sir, today is the 50th anniversary of the Indian Parliament. At least, today, please show some respect for democratic principles....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI C.N. SINGH (Machhlishahar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, 13 bogies of Shramjivi Express got derailed near Manihalt in Khetasarai-Mehraon Section in Jaunpur district killing 12 people and injuring one hundred. The Minister of Railways, Shri Nitish Kumar visited the accident site and he said that the involvement of saboteurs in this accident cannot be ruled out. It is a major accident.

[English]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Sir, you are our hon. Speaker. We are also senior Members here. The point I am making is.(Interruptions)

SHRI VAIKO: Sir, if you are allowing him, then please give me a chance.(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Nobody can stop our voice.(Interruptions) It cannot be dictated by the Treasury Benches.(Interruptions)

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, I am on a point of order.(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: There is no point of order during 'Zero Hour'.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, there is an alliance between the Government and those persons with dubious character.(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except what Shri C.N. Singh says. Please make it a point.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The practice is that during 'Zero Hour', there is no point of order. That is the convention. Therefore, I would request you not to raise a point of order during 'Zero Hour'. I have decided to allow you. When your name is called, you can have your say. I have no objection to that.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri C.N. Singh, you complete your submission.

[Translation]

SHRI C.N. SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, many-many thanks, Swami Chinmayanandji is telling that it is his constituency. But Jaunpur is my district also. Shri Nitish Kumar and Chairman, Railway Board had visited the accident site. They said that the involvement of Saboteurs in this accident cannot be ruled out. It is so serious matter that the track has been damaged by chaotic elements than none of the Indian is safe to travel in train. If the track has been damaged by Chaotic elements then hon. Minister of Railways should have been present here to make a statement on such an important issue and should have apprised the House.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): Mr. Speaker Sir, I have got intimation from hon. Minister of Railways that he would make a statement in this connection today at 2 O'clock. Today morning only he had come from there and he would make a statement only after authentication of facts. As such, he would make a statement before the House at 2 O'clock.

SHRI C.N. SINGH: Mr. Speaker Sir, 12 people died and over 100 injured in this accident. We could see on T.V. that the people in Delhi, Lucknow and Patna and other parts of the country were so much worried and perturbed to know as to what happened to their families. They were not able to know whether the member of their family had died, injured or escaped unhurt. No Railway Official was available to furnish the exact details. There was no proper arrangement. There was none to attend telephone. Family members of the passengers of ill-fated train were perturbed. Such mismanagement was not seen anywhere earlier. There has been grave negligence on the part of the Government.

MR. SPEAKER: You would know when hon. Member makes a statement.

SHRI C.N. SINGH: Mr. Speaker Sir, Late Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri had resigned on the same issue but now hon. Minister is telling that he would not resign. The train accident may have been caused because of sabotage by anarchic elements or the budge might have been weak and railway officials may not have given proper attention to that.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have given a notice for Adjournment Motion on this issue.

SHRI C.N. SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, sub-standard material was supplied by the suppliers. The budge had gone too weak, to sustain the train running at the speed of 20 kmph and the track was already damaged. The officers were already told that the track was in bad-shape, that's why the train was running at the speed of 20 kmph. Occurrence of such a major accident is a matter of shame for the Government. The Government should announce that it would suspend the officers immediately whose negligence caused this accident. Action should be taken against such officers and they should not be allowed to retain there even for a minute. It is my submission. ...*(Interruptions)* Mr. Speaker, Sir, further, I submit that dependant of the each deceased should be given compensation of Rs. 10 lakh each and full expenditure on treatment of injured be borne by the Government and they should be compensated commensurate to their injury. And officers responsible for the accident....*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my Adjournment Motion was concerning train accident. In the beginning, you had said that you would give me an opportunity. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI C.N. SINGH: My submission is that hon. Minister should assure the House that to keep railway tracks intact in future. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my Adjournment Motion should be taken up. I have given a notice. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Raghuvansh Prasad ji, please sit down.

SHRI C.N. SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like hon. Minister to tell the House what steps the Government propose to take to safeguard rail tracks from anarchical elements in future so that no sabotage can be

done. Passenger are experiencing a lot of inconveniences because of frequent accidents.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: I have given notice for Adjournment Motion.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Raghuvansh ji, I would like to tell you that I have disallowed your Adjournment Motion Notice, but you can speak on this issue now.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker Sir, its clearly the failure of the Government. It is a recent accident and a matter of public importance. Fulfilling all the condition for admissibility of Adjournment Motion, I have given the Notice to that effect. Therefore, it should be reconsidered and I should be given a chance to speak on that. All those, who have died in this accident, are from our area, Patna. They were going to Patna from Delhi by 'Shramjivi Express'. People from our region have died in this accident. The route of the train was changed and it was running on the route where the bridge was dilapidated. The bridge was recommended to be repaired as per the report furnished in 1989. Therefore, after inquiry, it is revealed that it was the failure of the Government. It is a recent and specific incident relating to public importance. My notice fulfills all the four conditions for admitting it as an Adjournment Notice. Therefore, it should be reconsidered and admitted. Shri Nitish Kumar ji had earlier resigned owning moral responsibility for a train accident keeping in view the ensuing elections to be held then. Now, since the elections are far off, he is not resigning. Why he does not want to resign? I demand for his resignation in the House.

MR. SPEAKER: Chinmayanad Swamiji, you can associate with him since you too, have given notice on the same issue.

SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI (Jaunpur): Mr. Speaker Sir, this accident took place in my constituency. Usually, 'Shramjivi Express' ran from Lucknow via Sultanpur-Jaunpur. But derailment of a goods train forced route diversion of this train and it was taken via Faizabad. Manikala halt lies after Shahganj and this accident occurred at 3.35 a.m. in the night between Mehrawan and Khatsarai stations. A train had just passed prior to it and nothing happened to that train. However, when this train passed fish plates were found to be dislodged and the train derailed where fish plates were removed. As far as the speed of train is concerned, this train was passing from that route for the first time. Thus it is difficult to say what its precise speed was. People suspect some miscreants may have sabotaged the tracks. I think it is an act of anti-national elements, since the whole area is

[Shri Chinmayanand Swami]

quite sensitive. Earlier, too, people printing fake currency note of Rs. 500 were arrested in this area. People having links with Dawood were also arrested there. It is highly sensitive area. Therefore, my submission is that it should be inquired by some high level agency and not by any railway security agency. 12 people died in this accident. Dependants of each dead person have been provided with compensation of Rs. 1 lakh each which is inadequate....(Interruptions)

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA (Delhi Sadar): Rs. four lakh have been provided to each.

SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI: As per the latest information, next of kin to the deceased has been provided Rs. 1 lakh each.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: It has been broadcast by radio that Rs. 25 thousand to each injured persons have been provided.

SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI: My submission is that the dependant of each person died in the accident should be granted Rs. 5 lakh. If now they have enhanced it to Rs. four lakh that is other thing. Persons with major injury be provided Rs. 25,000 each and the person with minor injuries be provided Rs. 5,000 each. Injured persons are under treatment at Shahganj, Jaunpur and Banaras hospitals. All affected persons have been identified. First aid was made available within four hours of the accident from Lucknow. The doctors also had reached. Even hon. Minister visited the accident site within 12 hours. The Chairman of Railway Board also reached there. So, it is baseless to say that negligence of the Government caused accident. But it is a very sensitive incident and may have taken place because of sabotage by anti-national elements. Therefore, my submission is that it should be inquired into at high level.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Suresh Ramrao Jadhav.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Sir, if you permit, can I make a submission?

MR. SPEAKER: After he completes, I will permit you.

[Translation]

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV (Parbhani): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak. I am raising a very sensitive issue during the Zero Hour.

Delhi Development Authority had given land to private hospitals at throwaway prices on the condition that the poor will be treated free of cost in these hospitals. If we go through the editorial of 'Dainik Jagran' dated 10th May, 2002, it can easily be gauged how such private hospitals are exploiting the poor people. So much so that a poor woman of Ballabgarh was not handed over the dead body of her daughter, because she could not clear the bill of Appollo hospital wherein the girl was being treated. The officers of this hospital even went to the residence of that woman at Ballabgarh to realise the money. On top of it a complaint was lodged at the Police Post regarding the realisation of money. Through you, I would like to submit to the Government that action should immediately be taken against the inhuman and harsh treatment and the breach of promise by these hospitals, and the land given to them at throwaway prices should be taken back by cancelling their licences.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Shri S. Jaipal Reddy, you wanted to make a submission.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Sir, I would normally hate to make submissions on procedure to a learned Speaker like you, but I feel obliged on this occasion. Sir, I would like to bring the conventions of this House to your notice. Soon after the Question Hour, the notice for adjournment motion takes priority. Next to adjournment motion, the notice of privilege takes priority. Next to that is a 'Zero Hour' mention. A 'Zero Hour' mention, just because some allegation is referred to and no allegation is made, cannot be dismissed out of hand. Therefore, Sir, I request the hon. Speaker not to dismiss the notice given by Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal as one allegatory in nature. It is a 'Zero Hour' mention. He is trying to draw the attention of the House to a particular issue where the Government's clarification is absolutely urgently necessary.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri S. Jaipal Reddy, I have gone through Rule No. 353, but I am not taking the advantage of that rule since both the hon. Members have requested me. After some time, I am going to permit them. But if I strictly go according to Rule No. 353, it may be difficult to allow this notice.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am not going into it because I thought that this is an important matter. I will permit them, but they should have some patience and listen to me. I have accepted your submission.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Just one Minute. I have not completed. I have accepted your submission and I will definitely allow them to speak.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Sir, but why may he not be allowed now?

MR. SPEAKER: In that case, the provision is quite clear in the rules that it is for the presiding authority to decide as to when it is to be permitted.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Sir, where a definitive allegation is made backed by documentary, substantive evidence, that rule comes into play. Where a clarification is to be sought in regard to a news item which may entail an allegation, that rule is not attracted. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I will make my point within the much time. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Reddy, there are two or three other rules also by which it can be rejected, but I have decided to permit it.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: May I tell you, Mr. Speaker, Sir, in that case 'Zero Hour' will really be reduced to zeroes?...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, I may submit with all humility at my command, with all your guidance and direction, in this House, there is no rule for 'Zero Hour'. Sir, 'Zero Hour' is not regulated by any rule; 'Zero Hour' is regulated by a Convention. There is no rule in any part of the rules book which explains what is called 'Zero Hour'. Therefore, Sir, I respectfully submit that the convention is that issues of a very important nature raised by any Member of the House, including the Opposition, are heard by the Government and then, the Government responds. Nothing more than that is there. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI VAIKO: We are asked to give the notices to raise matters during 'Zero Hour'. For what purpose are the Members requested to give the notices if this is the procedure we are following?...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Dasmunsi, I agree with you, but at the same time, for every Member, his issue is important. Let me dispose of some important issues and then, I will permit him.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (*Firozabad*): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the situation in Gujarat. ...(*Interruptions*) Swamiji you have got a lot of work to do. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Sumanji, I request you to speak on the specific subject given by you. Please do not generalise it.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Shri K.P.S. Gill as has been appointed as the Chief Security Advisor to the Chief Minister of Gujarat to normalise the situation in the State. Confusion prevails in the country in regard to whom he would be accountable. As Shri Gill is the Security Advisor to the Chief Minister, he should be accountable to the Chief Minister. However, confusion has been prevailing in the country that he is accountable to the Government of India. I do not think that there should be any hotch-potch in it. The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is sitting here, but the hon. Home Minister should have been here.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Why should the Home Minister be here?

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Pramod Mahajan should tell us as to whom Shri Gill is accountable? Is the Security Advisor to the Chief Minister, accountable to the Gujarat Government or Government of India? Recently, Shri Gill had asked for 1000 jawans from Punjab. He did not get even those. Through you, I would like to know as to what rights and privilege have been conferred on the Shri K.P.S. Gill and what is his sphere of influence and accountability. Further, whether his sphere of accountability is confined to the Chief Minister of Gujarat or it extends to the Government of India?...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Tell us about his accountability under Rule 355?

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to know from hon. Pramod Mahajan as to whom he is accountable under Rule 355?...(*Interruptions*)

Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Minister is present. The Government should clarify. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Sumanji, you are a very senior Member. You know that the Government will reply if and when it considers necessary. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Shri Pramod Mahajan is your supporter. If you ask he will certainly reply. I personally know that you were his first choice....(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, you are our Speaker also.

[Translation]

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: I am a Rajya Sabha Member. So, how can I endorse the candidature to the post of Speaker. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajanj, Bihar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, time and again, movements for the setting up of an organisation for the development of Bhojpuri language and inclusion of Bhojpuri language in Eighth Schedule of the Constitution have been organised all over the country. The number of Bhojpuri speaking persons is large in Patna.

Sir, since 3rd April, 2002, 'Chaupal' the most popular programme being broadcast in Bhojpuri language has been stopped as per the order of Director of Patna Akashvani Kendra. The news to this effect was published in all the leading newspapers of Patna on 8th April, 2002 and all the political parties and social organisations announced launching of an agitation against the decision to remove Bhojpuri language from the Chaupal Programme. The Trade Unions also demanded inquiry by CBI.

Looking in view of the gravity of the matter, Director, Akashvani Kendra tried to arrange for the announcements in Bhojpuri language through non-Bhojpuri speaking persons and the casual announcers associated with the programme of Bhojpuri language 'Chaupal' were dispensed with the programme due to his biased approach. Action should be taken against the Director, Assistant Director and the Executive Officer of Patna Akashvani Kendra for acting arbitrarily and against the public interest and 10 minute news bulletin should be broadcast each day from Akashvani Kendra, Patna.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to submit that the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Shri Pramod Mahajanji is sitting here. I would like to bring to his notice that the 'Chaupal' programme is being broadcast for a long time, but this programme was suddenly stopped from 3rd April, 2002. A feeling of resentment and anger is prevailing among the Bhojpuri speaking persons due to it and the

people are extremely agitated. I would like that the Government take it with all seriousness and instruct the Director, Patna Akashvani Kendra to resume the 'Chaupal' Programme in its old format and also that 10 minute news bulletin be broadcast in Bhojpuri language each day. This is what I demand from the Government.

SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I associate myself with the subject raised by Shri Prabhunath Singh.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, we, on behalf of the Congress Party, have been requesting you that the Members who have given notices from our Party be heard first and then you can call other Members of our party in whatever manner you like. We cannot question that. I explained to you about the urgency of this matter in your Chamber also.

MR. SPEAKER: All right. I will permit you after Shri Kirit Somaiya.

Shri Saiduzzama, you have lost your chance.

[Translation]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA (Mumbai North East): Mr. Chairman, Sir, first of all I express my gratitude towards the Chair for addressing me 'Kirit Somaiya' instead of 'Kirit Somaiya'. You also hail from Mumbai, Maharashtra. And that is why you know that more than Rs. 600 crore have been lost in the Cooperative Bank Scam in Mumbai and rest of Maharashtra for the last few days. Mr. Sanjay Aggarwal of the 'Home Trade' was not arrested by the Maharashtra Government for 14 days. Not only this, Director of the Reserve Bank and the Director of State co-operative Ministry had issued notices to various banks including the District Co-operative Bank and Osmanabad Co-operative Bank that these Boards may be dissolved and then the Board and its officers asked about the rule in this regard.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to submit that 14 separate agencies are conducting enquiry in this regard. These are Reserve Bank of India, NABARD, SEBI, Provident Fund Commissioner, Labour Ministry, Economic Offences of Gujarat Government, Economic Offences of Maharashtra Government, Gujarat Government, Mumbai Stock Exchange, Pune Stock Exchange etc. But no investigation is going on. I urge upon the Government that CBI should be entrusted with the enquiry. The Reserve Bank of India has Technical Expert knowledge

and therefore it should co-ordinate the investigation. There are upto one lakh depositors and their deposit is secured under the Insurance Corporation. The Government, RBI and Ministry of Finance must make such declaration. Sir, through you, I would also like to submit that so far the names of 19 banks have come to light but there are hundreds of such co-operative societies in Maharashtra which have made investments in Government securities. No enquiry has so far been conducted to that effect. Today we have come to know that a Public Sector Bank has also deposited its money through the Home trade. The Provident Fund Commissioner has informed that Rs. 92 crore are lost in the Home Trade Scam.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I request the Government to hold talks with the Maharashtra Government and direct them to hand over all the documents to the CBI for investigation. I am of the view that there are more than 24 lakh depositors who are deeply worried about the fate of their deposits. Immediate action should, therefore, be taken for the security and safety of their deposits.

[*English*]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the news about the infamous Flex Industries having printed and supplied election material worth lakhs of rupees to the hon. Finance Minister, Shri Yashwant Sinha, has come to light. It is so disturbing that it raises a threatening question mark against the ability of the Government, against the will of the Government and even against an honest endeavour by the Government to prosecute Government officials, like Shri Someshwar Mishra, the then Chief Excise Commissioner of New Delhi, who was caught red-handed for accepting bribe from the Chairman-cum-Managing Director of Flex Industries. Thereafter, a case was registered against all those people. It is also pertinent to mention here that even Shri Prabhat Kumar, who was the Governor of Jharkhand, had to resign because what came to light was that the same man, the Chairman-cum-Managing Director of Flex Industries, had paid for the bills of various parties hostel at the residence of Shri Prabhat Kumar when he was the Cabinet Secretary.

Sir, this matter, that has come to light, has, in fact, the potential of exposing a real stinking quagmire of corruption and the association between the hon. men in the Government and businessmen of dubious character.

Sir, what has been evidenced is that it was somewhere in the month of August the Chairman-cum-Managing Director of Flex Industries had visited the official

residence of Shri Yashwant Sinha, who was then also the Finance Minister, and supplied him important....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Do you have materials to authenticate what you are saying?

MR. SPEAKER: Will you authenticate it?

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Yes, Sir, I will authenticate it.

The Newspaper has the photocopies of the Bills. If what I am saying is incorrect, I take the responsibility for that. ...(*Interruptions*)... I am taking the responsibility.

Sir, '*The Indian Express*' has gone to the extent of going to the Railway Stations at New Delhi and Old Delhi and culled out the materials from there. They found that the election material was booked by the personal assistant or somebody else working in the office of Shri Yashwant Sinha in the name of somebody where election was being fought, and that material was received there.

As to whether it was used or to what extent it was used, is not what I am saying. But it is disturbing. It is not really my concern if somebody has printed some material for somebody. Now, here is the question. The very conduct of the CMD of Flex Industries is under question.

Sir, two pertinent questions arise in this context. When that case was registered, one Mr. Kailash Sethi who was the number two man in the Central Excise Intelligence Bureau was suddenly eased out. The allegation against him was that he was overstepping his jurisdiction in tapping certain telephones from where he could gather some information about the linkages between the businessmen and officials. For the reason, he was eased out. That time, we did not take it seriously. But today this acquires that seriousness. It is because at that stage the hon. Finance Minister declined to re-instate Mr. Sethi.

The second point was that the request from the Department for Mr. M.S. Bali, the chief of the CBI's Delhi unit who was handling this case relating to the Flex Industries, to stay on till the investigation was over, was turned down by the hon. Minister.

Sir, on these two matters, we certainly expect that when a matter of this gigantic proportion is raised, if any one of us—and most of all—if any person in the Government of India had any association whatsoever with that person, it was upto him to rise clean of that, to

[Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal]

stand up and say "well, at one point of time, this man also entered my life." But he has done nothing of that sort. Rather, we find the Government sitting tight over the files and the investigations are taking inordinately long.

Those are the matters which now have a cumulative effect. It casts doubts and shadows on the very functioning of the Government. It puts the Government in dock whether the Government is really willing to prosecute those people who were involved in matters relating to Mr. Chaturvedi, CMD of Flex Industries. In this context, this revelation, which involves the Finance Minister, acquires greater urgency.

When the Governor could resign; when action could be taken against him, we immediately except that the hon. Minister should come to the House and make a detailed statement about this and hand himself over to the Agency. The Agency should question him. His role during that period should be questioned by the Agency inquiring into the matter relating to the Flex Industries.

MR. SPEAKER: Have you finished? It is because after you finish, I would ask the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs to say, if he wants to say.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, last of all, most importantly, when we talk of cleansing the public life and of probity in public life, the minimum the hon. Finance Minister should do now is that he should resign on moral grounds.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Sir, I would like to make only three very small points. I am not going into the details which the newspaper had said.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Nobody has stood up for him....(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Sir, when I stand up for somebody, I do not need anybody to stand up for me. I am competent enough and I do not need any support.

Sir, the first thing one must appreciate is that the action against the Flex Industries has been initiated by this Government.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: He was caught during your time. I do not know why you are taking credit for that!

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Do you want to take the credit?

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: No. Not at all.

MR. SPEAKER: No cross talk, please.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Secondly, Sir, I assure the House that the action taken against Flex Industries; investigation and prosecution will go to its logical end.

I was also naturally disturbed when I saw that news item in the newspaper yesterday, as was Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal. As I said, it is very difficult for me at this juncture—to go to the Railway Station on Sunday—to find out all those things. I have requested the hon. Finance Minister to come to this House and make a statement on this issue. Time is needed for him also to get the relevant papers, etc. The Election Commission is also involved. So, I requested him to come on the 15th, that is, day after tomorrow and make a statement.

Whether it will be a detailed one or a short one, depends on him. But he will make a statement on the 15th, at a suitable time, which will hopefully answer the question raised by Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL (Latur): Certain points have been made by the hon. Member while putting this matter before the House. Let those points be replied to.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: I do not draft the statement. ...(Interruptions) The best I could do is this. Copy of the 'The Indian Express' is available with everybody. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: You can convey what Shri Bansal has said. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Let me complete.

Whatever Shri Bansal has said is on record. But to facilitate the Minister and Shri Bansal both, I will send a copy of what he said in the House now, to the hon. Finance Minister with your request. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Let it be replied. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: He is very accommodative today because it looks like the Minister is going....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL (Balaghat): Mr. Speaker Sir, I am raising a matter related to the Police Officers. The process of deciding the cadre of IPS officers after the division of the state of Madhya Pradesh was

started just one and a half years back. The list released earlier, was revised and it was then sent to the Ministry of Home Affairs, but the provision of reservation was not fulfilled, as a result of which a list of 40 IPS officers was released last week and they were served 'Show Cause' Notice'. The IPS officers have now filed a petition in the CAT against all this. There are two serious points here—that due to the Naxalite violence in Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh, they are discouraged and their fate is uncertain. The second situation arising out of this is that due to the petition filed by these IPS officers in the CAT, if a new decision is taken then changes shall have to be made in the list for the fourth time.

Sir, through you, I request that such uncertainty looming before the IPS officers in the Naxalite prone states of Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh must be done away with and their fate should be decided. The list released deliberately by the Madhya Pradesh Government, not complying with the rules should be changed again for the fifth time. I request the Government to take immediate action on the list and rectify it.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have a small question which is above the party lines. I request that Army is deployed for a long time on the Indo-Pak border. The same condition is in Rajasthan which is a big state where both the Indian and Pakistani Armies are deployed at the border. Big trenches have been dug and tunnels have been dug and big tankers for launching offensive have been stationed there, which have ruined the land of the farmers. The Government have not paid compensation for the crops of farmers. Such complaints have been received from many places where still people are living despite destruction of crops, digging of trenches and digging of tunnels, so these people may kindly be given appropriate compensation. And this compensation may be given either by the Collector or Member of Parliament or some elected representative or some Army Personnel, but it should not be given by the workers of any political party because if Congress Party people go there and give compensation, then I feel that it would be publicity of the party itself. So compensation should be given to the aforesaid persons at the earliest by either the people's representatives, non political persons or Government functionaries.

SHRI SAIDUZZAMA (Muzaffarnagar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank you for having given me a chance to speak. The situation in the entire country especially Uttar Pradesh is really critical. On 7th incident of abduction took place in Muzaffarnagar. The people protested there for immediate action. At the time when these people were agitating the police without any warning or exploring other

means to disperse people started firing on the people. As a result of which four persons were killed and 40-50 persons sustained injuries. All these were innocent and unnamed people. No treatment is being given to the injured persons and even no FIR has been registered against the guilty police personnel. The Government and Police are adopting a partisan attitude. The S.S.P. there, who had already handed over the charge, was suspended. But no action had been taken against the police personnel who resorted to firing and killed innocent people. The said S.S.P. was at that time posted in Saharanpur and had got the BSP office vacated and so was suspended due to this grudge, although the concerned S.S.P. had already relinquished the charge. No compensation has yet been paid to the family members of the deceased persons. I request the Government to immediately intervene in this matter and pay Rs. 10 lakh as compensation to families of each of the persons killed.

Action be taken against the police personnels who indulged in firing by registering FIR against them. The hon. Home Minister should immediately intervene in it so that the people there could get justice.

PROF. S.P. SINGH BAGHEL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I associate myself and my party with it. I also went there. Whatever hon. Member has said is true. A twelve years old child who was the only brother among seven sisters has also been killed. A 12 year child can not be a culprit.

[English]

SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE (Udupi): Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir, for your kind permission. I would like to say that there is a persistent demand from a large number of population living in *Dakshin Kannada* region, parts of *Kodagu* tract and parts of *Kasargod* district of Kerala, for due recognition of Tulu language spoken by them and for its inclusion in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution of India.

Tulu is rich in classical lore and is the long-used medium for art, music and theater in the region like *Yakshagana*. It is truly called a heritage treasure of the region. Tulu needs to be promoted and given recognition by the Centre by including it in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution of India. Even languages like Sindhi, Nepali and Manipuri, spoken by much less number of people, have found their way into the Eighth Schedule.

According to 2001 census, Tulu speaking population has crossed the 35-lakh mark and thus needs due recognition by the Centre.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, the MICA Trading Corporation was merged with MMTC in 1994 by an order of BIFR. Sir, the order of BIFR was that the employees and the workers of MICA Trading Corporation after merger would not get less than half of what they used to get in 1994. Since 1987, the pay scales of the employees and the workers of MICA division of MMTC have not been revised.

Sir, you will be surprised to know that the workers of Mica industry at Giridir as well as at Koderma are getting only Rs. 300. The contention of the Ministry of Finance is that unless this is clarified by the Ministry of Law the pay scale of the workers and employees of MICA Division of MMTC cannot be revised. Sir, before MITCO was merged with MMTC, the pay scales of the MICA workers were at par with the employees of MMTC but after MITCO became one of the divisions of MMTC, it has refused to revise the pay scales of the workers and employees of its Mica Division. Sir, in the present day, with only Rs. 300 how can the workers of Mica industry maintain their family?

Sir, I demand that as the pay scales of the employees and workers of MICA Division of MMTC has not been revised since 1987, the Ministry of Commerce should take action forthwith so that the pay scales of the workers and employees of MICA Division of MMTC are revised and they are brought at par with the employees of MMTC.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, a news item has been published in the famous Indian Newspaper 'Jansatta' under the caption 'Singhal Aur Dalmiya Do Kore Rupaye Hajan Kar Gaye: Dharamdas' Who is this Dharamdas? The Chief Mahant of the Ramjanambhoomi Trust had demanded to disband Vishwa Hindu Parishad by accusing it of misusing the treasury of the trust. He said that whereabouts of the two crore rupees withdrawn from the trust treasury by Ashok Singhal and Vishnuhari Dalmiya for the Shiladan programme are not known. Most dangerously Mahant Baba Dharamdas also accused the VHP leaders of raising the temple issue for their own political advantage. He said that they want the outbreak of riots in the name of temple to derive political mileage out of it. He also said that the riots in name of religion cannot be justified in anyway. The same Baba Dharamdas who has made such a sensational revelation that a rupee is being offered at the Siladan ceremony has also said that large scale bungling has taken place in it and VHP wants to start riots. I would

like to draw the attention to hold a probe into that the VHP is involved in large scale bungling of money in the name of temple and it wants the outbreak of riots and put the entire country on fire. Blanket ban should be imposed against it and stringent action should be taken against it by holding a probe into it. Baba Dharamdas is talking about the religion, hence I want a reply from the Government and when I am raising this issue here, the representative of the Government have taken on their heels and not a single Minister is present here...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Look, here they are sitting...(Interruptions)

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: The riots which VHP wants to start, Baba Dharamdas says...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY (Berhampore, West Bengal): Sir, we cannot but remain indifferent to the political development across Palk Strait given the geo-strategic implication of that Island nation. Sir, for years together, they are conspiring to destabilise the Indian Government as also our society.

Sir, recently under the aegis of Norwegian Government, a peace initiative has been set up ostensibly to bring about peace and tranquillity in that Island nation. However, we cannot forget the fateful day of 21st May, 1991. On that day, the impeccable and noble soul of India, or beloved leader, and former Prime Minister, late Rajiv Gandhi was blown to pieces. Shri Rajiv Gandhi was assassinated by a conspiracy hatched in the Jaffna Peninsula. Shri Prabhakaran has been declared as a proclaimed offender. He was very much involved in this assassination. We cannot accept him as an apostle of peace.

Therefore, I would urge upon this House to pass a resolution demanding the extradition of Shri Prabhakaran. What Ms. Jayalalithaa can do, can we not do? It is a shame that till now the Government is playing hide and seek with the people of India. The Government should come out with a clear statement of what is its stand insofar as the extradition of Shri Prabhakaran is concerned.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): I would like to draw the attention of the House to a tragic matter which has become a daily occurrence. When we see the morning newspaper daily we come across

reporting of a number of road accidents in which entire families are lost.

In Kerala it has become a daily occurrence. We lose all the members of a family a road accident everyday, especially in NH-47 and NH-17. These roads are not properly maintained. There is no traffic regulation or traffic laws being implemented properly. The net result is that many very highly placed persons are becoming victims of these accidents. Many Ministers are involved. An ex-Minister is lying in the hospital unconscious. We are losing so many precious lives everyday.

I would request the Central Government to take immediate action for maintaining the roads properly, National Highways in particular. Otherwise we cannot go through the newspapers in the morning. Dozens of people are losing their lives for no fault of theirs for the simple reason that they travel in a car or in some other vehicle on a road and meet with accidents. We see ex-MLAs, Ministers, and other high dignitaries involved in these accidents. This is a very serious issue and I request the Central Government to see that roads are properly maintained and traffic rules are strictly adhered to. Otherwise, there is no end of the matter. The hon. Minister is sitting on our left side today!

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: On this issue people should keep left!

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: I think he is with the Left. The Left is also very much afraid of him!

I request him to take a serious view of the matter and see to it that whatever is possible is done, so that the number of accidents is reduced.

[Translation]

SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL (Sangli): Sir, Sanchayani Investment and Leasing Company has started a money collection programme in 200 districts of India and has appointed 1200 persons in each district as agent of the company. They have collected Rs. 350 crore from the public. This company is not returning Rs. 6 crore matured in Sangli, Kolhapur and Ratnagiri districts. This way a big fraud has taken place against the investors. It should be investigated and the Finance Ministry should also take step in this regard and also till about the restrictions of Reserve Bank.

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA (Chandrapur) Sir, I associate myself with this subject also.

13.00 hrs.

[English]

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI (Salem): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of this august House with regard to the step-motherly treatment meted out to the State of Tamil Nadu.

Sir, because of the pick and choose policy of this Government on disinvestment and privatisation, many public sector units in the State of Tamil Nadu are being disinvested mercilessly and ruthlessly without any basis. The Burn Standard Company of Salem, which you are aware of Sir, is a profit-making industry manufacturing refractory bricks for the purpose of steel industries. This is a profit-making unit which has almost 4000 employees and assets worth about several thousand crores of rupees. Though it is a profit-making industry, we are surprised to note that this industry is also under privatisation, under the clutches of disinvestment.

There is another industry, the Salem Steel Plant, worth several thousand crores of rupees which is also situated in Salem, Tamil Nadu. The Minister who visited there recently has declared that this industry is also going to be privatised. The Tamil Nadu Assembly has unanimously passed a Resolution urging the Government of India to refrain from going in for privatisation. The Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, our beloved leader, Dr. Puratchi Thalaivi has also written to the Government of India to refrain from handing over this unit to the private sector.

There is another institution which is a very strategic industry in Udagamandalam, the Hindustan Photofilms. About 5000 tribals who are employed in this industry are producing aerial films, X-rays and several processed films which are important for the defence sector of our country. If this unit producing aerial films of strategic nature is privatised, then the entire industry will be in the hands of the monopoly of private individuals and defence will have to be at the mercy of those private individuals.

Another industry which is attempted to be disinvested is the Neyveli Lignite Corporation. By the unanimous voice of the Members from Tamil Nadu, the Government has graciously come out that it would not privatise it. But we do not know what would happen in future. This is also a profit-making industry.

I demand the Government to have a clear-cut policy as all the public sector units in the State of Tamil Nadu

[Shri T.M. Selvaganpathi]

are attempted to be privatised. I want the reaction of the Government to the Resolution passed unanimously by the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly regarding Salem Steel Plant and Burn Standard Company. Therefore, I want the reaction of the Government to the letter written by our leader, the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Dr. Puratchi Thalaivi.

MR. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet at 2 p.m.

13.03 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till Fourteen of the Clock.

14.03 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at Three Minutes past Fourteen of the Clock

[SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA in the Chair]

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Accident of Shramjeevi Express between Khetasarai and Mehrawan Stations on Faizabad-Zafrabad Section of Lucknow Division

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, Statement to be made by the hon. Railway Minister Shri Nitish Kumar.

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): Sir, I am pained to apprise the House of an unfortunate accident of 2402 DN New Delhi-Patna Shramjeevi Express on Faizabad-Zafrabad section of Lucknow Division on Northern Railway at about 3.35 hours on 12.5.2002. The train, consisting of 24 coaches hauled by double locomotives, was on its journey from New Delhi to Patna in Down direction. The rear locomotive of double-locomotives and thirteen coaches next to it derailed between Khetasarai and Mehrawan stations on Faizabad-Zafrabad single-line section blocking through communication. From Lucknow onwards, the train was running on diverted route via Lucknow-Faizabad-Jaunpur-Varanasi due to a goods train derailment on its original

route of Lucknow-Sultanpur-Varanasi section at 16.45 hours on 11.5.2002.

As a result of the above accident, 11 persons have lost their lives and 44 persons suffered injuries including 14 grievous and 30 simple injuries. Some of the injured passengers were discharged after First Aid. Injured persons were admitted in Civil Hospital of Jaunpur and Sadar Hospital of Shahganj. Some of the injured persons were later on shifted to Heritage Hospital at Varanasi. The injured are being given the best possible medical treatment.

Medical Relief trains were rushed to the site from Varanasi, Mughalsarai and Faizabad along with senior Railway Officials. I visited the accident site along with Chairman and other Members of Railway Board. The traffic is likely to be resorted by late night on date.

I have announced enhancement of *ex-gratia* payments to the tune of Rs. 1 lakh to the next of kin of the deceased persons, Rs. 15,000 for grievously injured, and Rs. 5000 to those having simple injuries and the payments are being made. In addition to the *ex-gratia* payments, directions have already been given to Railway officials to help injured passengers in filling up claim forms so that they could get the compensation from the Railway Claims Tribunal expeditiously.

A Statutory Inquiry into the cause of accident by the Commissioner of Railway Safety (CRS) has been ordered. The CRS, Northern Circle, has already reached the site of accident and has started on the spot investigations. On receipt of inquiry report from the CRS, regarding the cause of the accident, prompt action would be taken against the persons responsible and remedial steps will be taken to prevent recurrence of such accidents. He will commence his detailed inquiry at Jaunpur on 15.5.2002.

Regarding *prima facie* cause of the accident, there is a difference of opinion between Railway Officers and the State Government officials. While the Railway Officials suspect sabotage as the *prima facie* cause, the State Government officials attribute it to collapse of a bridge.

I would also like to make a mention here and convey my appreciation and thanks to the local public, social and religious NGOs and other philanthropic organizations as well as local police and civil administration who rendered valuable assistance in providing timely succour and relief and facilitating the rescue operations. On behalf of Railways and myself, I express deep condolences to the bereaved families and also express sincere sympathies

to the injured. I trust the House will join me in extending heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families.

[*Translation*]

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the allegations of sabotage has been levelled here. Hence instead of holding departmental inquiry high level probe be held in this regard.

SHRI C.N. SINGH (Macchalishahar): We had raised this issue in Zero Hour, if you permit I want your clarification on it...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Clarification is not allowed in the House after making statement. It cannot be permitted under the Rules.

SHRI C.N. SINGH: Sir, it is a very important matter. You give the permission for clarification.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The debate on it will take place later on.

SHRI C.N. SINGH: It is not a matter of debate. I thank the hon. Minister that he reached on time. The matter raised here was whether the family of deceased have been given one lakh or five lakh rupees. I demand that the family member of each of the deceased be given five lakh rupees.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: I would like to clarify it here that it is in addition to the ex-gratia payment. A deceased gets rupees four lakhs as compensation through the Railway Tribunal. Railway provides this compensation. The amount being talked about here is in addition to that amount to be paid as ex-gratia payment. Generally 15 thousand rupees are provided but we have raised it to one lakh rupees and there is a provision of providing Rs. 15 thousand in grievous injury. We have raised it to 15 thousand and there is a provision of providing five hundred for simple injury which we have raised to five thousand. Besides, the facility for availing free medical treatment has been given. To cite an example the order for providing artificial limbs to those have been given who have their limbs amputated. The expences for their regular or permanent treatment shall be borne by the Railways.

14.09 hrs.

REFUGEE RELIEF TAXES (ABOLITION) REPEAL BILL*

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Item No. 8—Shri Ginge N. Ramachandran, to introduce the Bill.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to repeal the Refugee Relief Taxes (Abolition) Act, 1973.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to repeal the Refugee Relief Taxes (Abolition) Act, 1973."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

14.10 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now we take up Matters under Rule 377.

(i) Need to open a Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya in Sakri Tehsil of Dhule district, Maharashtra

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAMDAS RUPALA GAVIT (Dhule): Sir, my Parlimanetary Constituency, Dhule in Maharashtra is a backward and Adivasi region and there is a dearth of central educational institutions. Earlier when Dhule and Nandurbar district were unified, a Jawahar Navodya Vidyalay was situated here in Akkat Kuan tehsil but now this Jawahar Navodya Vidalya has gone out of Dhule district after the formation of Nandurbar as a new district. Sakari legislative constituency which is also a tehsil also comes under my Parliamentary Constituency and it has approximately 100 villages in its proximity wherein majority

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of the people belong to tribal society. There is no Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya for the education of these people here due to which their children have to face problem.

Hence, through you, I would like to submit to the hon. Minister of Human Resource Development that appropriate action be taken to set up a Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya in the Sakri Tehsil Legislative Assembly constituency under my Parliamentary Constituency.

(ii) Need to stop deportation of Hindu Bengali settlers in Malkangiri and Nowrangpur districts of Orissa to Bangladesh

SHRI ANADI SAHU (Berhampur, Orissa): Sir, in the aftermath of prosecution of Hindus in East Bengal of Pakistan, there was large-scale exodus of Hindus to India. Between 1960 and 1971 some of them were rehabilitated in Malkangiri sub-division and Nowrangpur sub-division of the erstwhile Koraput district of Orissa.

However, on technical reasons, Government of Orissa has issued notice of deportation to 540 families of Malkangiri district and 510 families of Nowrangpur district belonging to the second generation settlers. Twenty one families were physically taken to Bangladesh border and deported. Others are apprehensive that they may be deported without being given an opportunity to explain their lineage, stay and citizenship of India.

There is widespread discontentment among the genuine Hindu Bengali settlers in Malkangiri and Nowrangpur districts of Orissa. Government of India may intervene in the matter and direct Government of Orissa to refrain from such deportation.

(iii) Need to open Sitabuldi Fort area in Nagpur for the tourists and develop its adjoining areas

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR (Nagpur): Sir, the tercentenary year of Nagpur city which completed its 300 years in January, 2002 is being celebrated as an important occasion. Many important projects have been decided to be taken up on this occasion. One of the proposals made is to keep the Sitabuldi, situated in the heart of the city where the Army of Bhonsala's fought the Britishers, open to the tourists and to develop its adjoining areas lying idle, to a Rock Garden, making provisions for Children Park, walking tracks, plantation of trees, creation of fountains etc., so as to give it a beautiful look. The light and sound programme reflecting the historical importance could add further charm to the tourists.

Many social organisations have proposed to develop this open area through their own financial resources. The Members of Parliament are also willing to release funds out of their MPLADS.

I would, therefore, urge upon the Ministry of Defence to agree to open the fort area to the tourists and for the development and beautification of the surrounding areas jointly by the Territorial Army and social organisations.

SHRI RASHID ALVI (Amroha): Sir, I am on a point of order. There is no quorum in the House. The Minister of Home Affairs is sitting here. Is it possible?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The bell is being rung.

Now, there is quorum. The hon. Member, Shri Dip Gogoi may speak.

(iv) Need to take adequate measures to increase production of foodgrains in North Eastern India

SHRI DIP GOGOI (Kaliabor): Mr. Chairman, Sir, though India is much smaller in size than China, luckily, we have more land for cultivation. Our cultivable land covers an area of 140 million hectares whereas China has 100 million hectares. But the sad reality is that we produce 205 million tonnes of foodgrains in comparison to Chinese 420 million tonnes. That is more than double of our production per hectare. This has been made possible in China by intensive irrigation facilities, use of fertilisers and through the introduction of hybrid varieties of rice. East India, including North-East, is lacking in irrigation facilities—far behind the rest of India. In Assam at Jorhat, we have a Rice Research Centre for East India. But due to paucity of funds, it could not deliver the results as it was expected.

So, I urge upon the Government to give enough funds and, at the same time, realise the fact that there is a silver lining for production of more foodgrains in the near future in the background of growing population in this part of the country.

(v) Need to arrange for live telecast of all the World Cup Football Matches, 2002 through National Network

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia): The count down of the World Cup Football started. But, we still do not know whether the lakhs of Indian viewers, especially in

the rural area will be able to view the games. Sir, the people all over the country play this game. They wait for four years to see this wonder game in the World Cup.

Some private TV channels will show the games, which will be available in the urban areas where cable TV is available and the vast rural area is not covered by cable connections. It will be depressing for those crores of people in the countryside who will be deprived of viewing such a great event.

As Doordarshan covers almost the entire country, it is the only source to the rural viewers. The people are very eager to know about it. Under the circumstances, I would urge upon the Government to arrange for live telecast of all the matches of World Cup Football-2002 through National Network and announce the same immediately.

(vi) Need for proper maintenance of National Highway No. 7 in Buldana Parliamentary Constituency and adjoining areas in Maharashtra

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL (Buldana): This is to bring to the kind notice of the Government about the demand from the residents of my Parliamentary Constituency—Buldana and also the residents of Nagpur and nearby areas, in Maharashtra for undertaking repairing works on the NH No. 7 between Mumbai and Kolkata via Nagpur. This particular stretch in Maharashtra is mainly used by the heavy vehicles of the industries situated around for transporting their produce. However, because of its damaged condition, lot of accidents are happening there. Moreover, due to the damaged condition of this stretch the movement of heavy vehicle traffic becomes slow and there is enormous delay in delivering their goods. As this will hamper the economic growth of this area, immediate attention of the Government is needed in the matter.

(vii) Need to provide 100 per cent financial assistance for construction of underground sewerage system at Tirunelveli in Tamil Nadu

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN (Tirunelveli): Tirunelveli Municipal Corporation which is situated in my Parliamentary constituency, was formed in the year 1994 after amalgamating three Municipalities, one Township and 15 village Panchayats. The total population of this Municipal Corporation is 4,25,000. The main income of the Corporation is only House Tax. With the present financial crisis the Corporation is not in a position to

provide basic amenities such as road, drinking water, electricity and drainage facilities. In order to prevent the pollution of the Tamiravaruni River which is the main source of drinking water supply to Tirunelveli as well as Tuticorin, it is proposed to have an underground sewerage system in this city. The total estimated cost of the above project along with basic amenities is Rs. 66 crore. In order to have underground sewerage and to provide basic amenities to this Corporation the Government should come forward with 100 per cent financial assistance to Government of Tamil Nadu through the Ministry of Urban Development.

(viii) Need to expedite reconstruction of school buildings collapsed due to super cyclone in Orissa

SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY (Kendrapara): As many as 11,960 primary school and 3,779 high school buildings have completely collapsed due to super cyclone in Orissa on 29th October 1999. The money was then released from the Prime Minister's Relief Fund to reconstruct the damaged school buildings. It was decided to reconstruct primary school and high school buildings at a cost of Rs. 3,20,000 and Rs. 8,40,000 each respectively. In the process, 168 primary school and 69 high school buildings were proposed to be reconstructed in Kendrapara district. The Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL) was entrusted reconstruction work of the school buildings in Kendrapara District. But only 10 per cent of the total school buildings have been hardly reconstructed so far and the pace of progress of construction of the remaining school buildings in that district is very slow.

Unless immediate steps are taken to undertake the construction work on turnkey basis and the construction work is monitored from the Prime Minister's Office, the construction work would be further delayed. As such, I request the Central Government that the construction work should be taken up expeditiously and monitored by PMO and completed before the commencement of the monsoon.

(ix) Need to provide financial assistance to Government of Bihar for providing compensation to the people whose crops have been damaged due to hailstorm in North Bihar

[Translation]

SHRI RAMCHANDRA PASWAN (Roseraj): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Government has not provided any assistance and undertake any relief work to compensate

the heavy losses suffered in the form of damage to the Rabi Crop and heavy damage of the that thatched houses and huts of the poor people caused by the hailstorm on 21.4.2002 in the Samastipur, Darbhanga, Madhubani, Khagaria, Saharsa, Purnia, Madhepura, Begusarai and other district of North Bihar in the Bihar State. I demand from the Government the action to compensate the losses suffered due to hailstorm be taken without delay and the State Government be given the approximate financial assistance for it.

(x) Need to incorporate Copper and Brass Industry in Jagadhari Nagar in Haryana under the cottage and small scale Industries

SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA (Ambala): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of this august House towards the world famous brass industry of Jagadhari Nagar in my Parliamentary Constituency which is facing lot of problems today because it has not been brought under the category of small scale industries. The Ministry of Finance has done a laudable work by providing rebate of Rs. 1 crore to small scale units in the matter of central excise duty. But small industries of Copper and Brass sheet manufacturing have been deprived of these benefits.

I, therefore, request the hon. Minister that relief should be provided to copper and brass sheet manufacturing industry of Jagadhari Nagar by bringing it under SSI.

14.28 hrs.

**MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA
AND
BILL AS PASSED BY RAJYA SABHA—Laid**

[English]

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I have to report the following message received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha:—

"In accordance with the provisions of rule 111 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to enclose a copy of the Patents (Amendment) Bill, 2002 which has been passed by the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 9th May, 2002."

2. Sir, I lay on the Table of the Patents (Amendment) Bill, 2002, as passed by Rajya Sabha on the 9th May, 2002.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR (Ballia, U.P.): Mr. Chairman, Sir, with your permission I would like to draw the attention of the Minister of Law, Justice and Company Affairs towards a problem. Some social workers of Faizabad in Uttar Pradesh had sought permission of U.P. Government for taking out a peace march. Local officers granted permission for the purpose but later on that permission was withdrawn and the people who gathered there for peace march were arrested. I do not know the exact figure but I was told that around 200 persons were arrested and sent to jail for 14 days. Imprisonment for 14 days under section 144 does not sound good. I hope that hon. Minister of Law will use his good offices and issue the instruction to the U.P. Government in this regard. Sir, through you, I would like to request the U.P. Government that it would be better if occurrence of such incidents are checked otherwise these may cause unnecessary problem and resentment.

14.29 hrs.

**CODE OF CIVIL PROCEDURE
(AMENDMENT) BILL**

[English]

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The Civil Procedure Code Bill was legislated in the year 1908. Extensive amendments were carried out in the year 1976. Thereafter, a comprehensive amendment Bill was introduced in the year 1997, which was approved by the hon. House in the year 1999. After it has been approved by both Houses of Parliament and Presidential Assent obtained, certain provisions of the Bill were objected to by members of the Bar, and my predecessor, the hon. Shri Ram Jethmalani, made a statement in the

other House that the Bill would not be notified till consultations are held with the Bar Association and Bar Council and thereafter if some provisions required reconsideration, the same would be brought back before this hon. House.

I had the opportunity of having extensive discussions with the representatives of the Bar, the Law Commission and also with the representatives of political parties with regard to the amendments that were brought about in the year 1999. Thereafter, the present Bill was introduced. The Standing Committee had considered each one of these amendments and had approved most of them. It has given some suggestions and we have tried to accommodate some amendments, which the Standing Committee had suggested, in the official amendments that we have brought about.

I would just indicate in a nutshell what the present amendments really deal with. There are some significant changes, or, if I may, 'improvements' on the Bill of 1999, which we had brought about in consultation with the Bar. Under our system of jurisprudence, cases go on indefinitely and take a very long time. They have no restriction on the extent to which even arguments could be addressed. A special provision has been introduced, as exists in jurisdictions all over the world, that Judges would be entitled to allocate time at the commencement of the hearing and if there is anything left, with the permission of the Judge, it could also be supplemented in writing. This is one change that we have brought about.

The second significant change is that a specific time limit of 30 days ordinarily, which might be extended only for reasons given in writing, has been introduced. The third change is not part of the original Bill. Acting on the recommendations of the Law Commission, in relation to execution of decrees, two changes have been brought about. The courts are not empowered to direct attachment of properties outside their jurisdiction. There was some ambiguity and there were some conflicting judgements. The Law Commission wanted those ambiguities to be removed. It also relates to transfers that had taken place prior to attachment. A clarificatory amendment has been brought about now.

There is one significant provision, which had been objected to and on which the Law Commission had also supported the suggestion of the Bar. In writ jurisdictions, when there is decision by a single Judge, at least one statutory right of appeal should be granted. Under our system of jurisprudence, if there is an error a judgement that falls into error, there should be at least one right of

appeal. That right of appeal had been taken away by the 1999 amendment. So, for purposes of jurisdiction under article 226 and article 227, one statutory right of appeal has been given.

One area in which we have tried to improve upon the 1999 Bill relates to serving of summons. Serving of summons from courts takes unduly long time. So, various methodologies of services have been added including fax, e-mail, etc. A very large part of India still does not have access to these electronic equipment but now there is another parallel postal service in the shape of courier service. There is another clause that we have amended to provide for parallel approved courier agents who would be allowed to serve court summons through courier agencies. That has also been permitted.

There was considerable objection from the Bar over the rigid time limit of 30 days given for filing of replies, which under no circumstances could be extended. They said that there could be exceptional cases where a person would be unwell or would be in a village unable to send his reply on time or unable to collect financial resources or documents. In those cases, even the Judge would be powerless in granting him even one day's extension after 30 days. After extensive discussions, we accepted that ordinarily the time for filing of replies in cases would 30 days but it could be extended by another 60 days if there were special reasons to the Judge's satisfaction, which he would record himself.

Another important change that has been brought about is a very radical departure from our past jurisprudence on recording of evidence. In civil cases, recording of evidence takes years and years. In High Courts, sometimes, the next date of hearing granted for recording of evidence is after a few years. Normally, before a High Court, the recording of evidence would take anywhere between five and ten years. In the case of trial courts and subordinate courts, it still takes a few years before this is done. It is the longest stage of a case. We have now decided, by virtue of these amendments, that recording of evidence would be a delegatable function and discretion would be given to a Judge, where he could delegate it to a commissioner, normally a member of the Bar. If he thinks that the subject matter is such where the function itself could be delegated. If he feels that the evidence is to be recorded by himself, it is a matter of judicial disposal and he could record it himself. We have also said that once he delegates this function, the Lawyer-Commissioners could actually record evidence on day-to-day basis. Judges have a lot of pressure on their calendars and they give dates after months and years in some cases but lawyers can do it almost on a day-to-day basis or on a week to week

[Shri Arun Jaitley]

basis. So, if five hearings are required for recording of evidence, before a court it may take years; before a Commissioner, it may actually take two to three weeks. We have said that ordinarily the Commissioner will return the record of evidence in a period of 60 days, unless the subject matter is such that the judge decides to extend the time.

Sir, these are some of the broad amendments, which we have brought out. There were some objections in which the Bar had the power to amend the pleading, which was completely taken away. The lawyers that represented in the Law Commission also supported that view-point in the meetings that there may be exceptional situations where new facts coming to existence, subsequent facts coming to existence, which in the interest of justice are required to be brought on record by way of an amendment.

Now, to eliminate the power of amendment altogether may actually cause hardship because people will have to withdraw their cases and file new cases altogether. So, some power of amendment also has been restored back.

Sir, if I look at the larger picture about the CPC, we have had extensive discussions with the Bar, with the Law Commission and other concerned persons. We have tried to compress in a time-frame every stage of the case. We have tried to explore the service of summons. We have tried to make even powers to record evidence delegatable. We have tried even to fix a time-limit, as happens in almost every other democratic country, which the judges can allot to the extent, to which arguments are to be addressed. This has really been done so that the pressure on the courts' calendar actually comes down and we are able, through these procedural changes, to expedite the whole process of disposal of cases.

Sir, with these few comments, I commend to the hon. House to take up this Bill for consideration and passing.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Motion moved:

"That the Bill further to amend the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh): Sir, my name is not there. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal was with me in every consultation that I had with the Bar and with the Law Commission. So, he is almost a part.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal, the Chief Whip of your Party has given your name.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I support the Bill.

Sir, the primary aim of amending the Civil Procedure Code is to take care of the difficulties that we experienced for the last so many years. We know that there are cases in the civil courts which are pending for decades. They have not been decided so far. Any civil case can be delayed somehow or other. And by filing a petition, a case can be delayed for a number of years. I know that there are cases, which are as old as 50 years. So far the final decision has not been taken. This is the situation in the country. There were several attempts in the past to modify the situation. Amendments were brought to the CPC of the 1998, but the amendments subsequently made did not serve any useful purpose. The delay is continued without any hesitation.

Now, we have come to stage that delays must be prevented. But I have my own doubts with regard to the number of days given in this case.

Sir, I am referring to Section 4—No further appeal in certain cases. I quote:

"....no further appeal shall lie from the judgment and decree of such single Judge."

I think, there would be much criticism and controversy regarding this provision. A single Judge may commit error at any time. Giving his verdict a finality is always dangerous. So, I am of the view that there must be a provision for an appeal in certain cases, not in all cases. Clause 4 says:

"Notwithstanding anything contained in any Letters Patent for any High Court or in any instrument having the force of law or in any other law for the time being in force where any appeal from an original or appellate decree or order is heard and decided by a single Judge of a High Court, no further appeal shall lie from the judgement and decree of such single Judge."

I cannot subscribe to this view because we know that in a number of cases there were single Judge judgements which have been revised in the Division Benches. We cannot take a position that the judgement of a single judge will always be correct. So, I strongly plead for amending this provision and giving the powers of appeal, not in all cases but in cases where an important question of law is involved. Otherwise, we will be denying justice. So, that is my first suggestion regarding Clause 4. "No amendment shall lie" will have to be modified in such a way that when a question of law is involved, an appeal shall be provided.

There are a good number of cases where a single Judge judgement is revised by a Division Bench. Almost all interlocutory orders of single Judge are being stayed or withdrawn or rejected by a Division bench. We have a bitter experience in everyday life. So, considering all these aspects, my submission is that this provision will have to be amended in such a way that an appeal shall be allowed in matters where the question of law involved. Suppose a decree is passed against a person who is residing beyond the jurisdiction of a court. Of course, I can understand that a decree has been given with regard to property. If the property is beyond the jurisdiction of a court, that is all right. But there are decrees against persons for recovery of money or recovery of some other movables in the possession of a person who is residing beyond the jurisdiction of a court. How could it be enforced? If the property is within the jurisdiction of the court, definitely there should not be any objection to imposing a decree. But when there are cases where movables will have to be attached or a decree will have to be enforced against the movables owned by a person who is a debtor, in such cases I think the hon. Minister will clarify my position and he will definitely remove my doubt with regard to that position.

The other thing is with regard to the period of 90 days provided in Clause 6. It says... "It shall not be later than 90 days from the date of service of the summons". Why should it not be 60 days? Why should the period be extended? 30 days for summons is agreed. Suppose, on any ground the summons could not be served within a period of 30 days, an extended period of 30 days will do. But why should the aggregate period be 90 days? I am making this point in order to avoid delay in deciding the cases. My view is that 90 days is too much; it has to be reduced to 60 days. That is amendment of Order-V as enunciated in Clause 6 of the Amendment Bill.

With regard to serving of summons, I fully agree. I have no dispute with regard to that position. It is quite essential and we will have to use all the modern facilities available for serving the summons. Even the FAX service also can be accepted because so much delay is caused because of the service of summons.

Almost all disputes arise because of the delay in serving the summons and there are concerted efforts by the defendants to avoid the summons.

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA (*Contai*): Also, some corruption is associated in it. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Yes, corruption is also there. ...(*Interruptions*) The official server of the court, even without serving the summons, puts in a 'summon acceptance' report before the court. So many such cases are taking place. So, in order to avoid such a situation, it is well and good that the modern facilities should be used in the matter of serving the summons. Also, it is much more important and good that the court will decide or the court will have to publish a list of persons who are competent to serve the summons. The courier services and other modes of service are also quite welcome.

I now refer to Section 9. Here also the period of 90 days which is given is too much. A written statement can be filed within 30 days. A period of 30 days is sufficient. But, if on any ground this period of 30 days is not sufficient and in exceptional cases where the court decides that there are reasonable grounds believing that the written statement could not be filed within the prescribed time of 30 days, then another period of 30 days can be given from that date. Why should it be 90 days from the date of summons? It can be 60 days from the date of summons. The period of 90 days is too much. I am always for preventing delays. It must be within 60 days. I request the hon. Minister to kindly explain as to why such a situation has arisen where they have not accepted the period of 60 days. I am subject to correction.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Let the outer limit be 90 days.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: I also agree with the provision with regard to filing of written arguments which is very good. Some lawyers are in the habit of taking number of days for arguing civil matters. I have seen that even in simple cases there would be lengthy arguments, reading depositions and then reading of law books etc. and sometimes the cases will be heard for

[Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan]

months together by a *Munsif* or a judge. So, in such a situation, it is well and good that a written statement can be filed by way of arguments. Both the oral arguments as well as the written arguments are allowed by the courts as per this new amendment. The filing of written argument is quite well and good and it can form part and parcel of the case records also.

Now, regarding taking up of evidence by affidavit, instead of having the examination-in-chief before the presiding officer, along with the plaintiff can file an affidavit by the concerned witness. An affidavit can be filed along with it. Now after filing of that affidavit, it forms part of the examination-in-chief as I understand it. Now, the process of cross-examination can be in two ways. The presiding officer himself can take the evidence in his presence using typewriter or his computer. Computers can be used in taking evidence. But it must be in the presence of the Judge or the *Munsif*.

Regarding the commissioners, there are so many difficulties in this. I fully agree with the view that it must be referred to commissioners. But the commissioners cannot be believed as it is. There may be difficulties. The commissioners are lawyers. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha): Can the lawyers not be believed?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: In taking evidence, the court can appoint a lawyer to be a commissioner. If I am wrong, you may please correct me. There is no bar for a lawyer to become a commissioner. The only bar is he should not be connected with the case. He should not be a lawyer appearing for either side. Anybody in the court, any lawyer practising in the court can be appointed as a commissioner. It is a paying business also for the lawyer. He will get something as commission fees. Those young people who are new lawyers may get a chance of becoming a commissioner. They will have to take evidence in their office or at some other place which is convenient to them.

Sir, after completion of the process it would be returned to the courts and if on any ground a further re-examination is required, then that would be decided by the courts. But what I fear is that if no safeguards are put, then the lawyers might misuse the provisions of the Act. I belong to the lawyers' community and I have a bitter experience with lawyers. They are good people. But they have a tendency to misuse the provisions of Acts as well. ...*(Interruptions)* I did not practice law after

some time because I got elected as an MLA. But before that I always used to practice law...*(Interruptions)*

Sir, the appointment of Commissioners would have to be done as per guidelines. The courts would have to evolve guidelines under which Commissioners could be appointed and evidence could be taken by the Commissioners.

Sir, the other point is about pronouncement of judgements. I know about *Munsifs* and Judges who have not pronounced their judgement after hearing of the case was complete. There have been cases where years after hearing of a case was complete and when the gentleman, who filed the case, was about to retire, judgement on his case was not pronounced by *Munsifs* or Judges till the person concerned superannuated from his service.

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA: It was only said 'order reserved'.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Yes. That is the situation that is prevailing in most of the courts in the country. I fully agree with the provisions of this section but I would still like to get enlightened on certain points. At the first instance the court has been given a 30 days time for pronouncement of judgement on a case. But then, why should they be given 60 days afterwards? Why should a *Munsif* or a Judge be given 60 days time when only 30 days time has been given at the first instance?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Radhakrishnan, please conclude now.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: I would like to quote the relevant section in this regard. It says:

"the judgements are to be pronounced within definite time-frame after a case has been heard. The general rule proposed is that a judgement is to be pronounced at once and where it is not practicable to do so, the Court shall make an endeavour to pronounce judgement within thirty days from the date on which hearing of the case was concluded."

Sir, thirty days is enough time for this. If on account of any extraordinary situation the Judge is not in a position to deliver the judgement, why should he be given a further extension up to 60 days? That is not necessary. It must be reduced to 30 days only. We are fighting for early disposal of cases.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Radhakrishnan, please conclude now.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Sir, I would abide by your ruling. But these are some of the issues on which I would like a further clarification from the hon. Minister. On the whole, I fully support this amending Bill. It is a very important amendment. When the Bill on Civil Procedure Code and Criminal Procedure Code was introduced in this august House by the then Law Minister, Shri Ram Jethmalani, I strongly opposed it. He found fault with me and he did not agree with me. I told him then that he was really doing injustice to the criminal law administration in the country and that if he proceeded with this amendment to the Criminal Procedure Code, then the entire lawyer community would turn against him. These were the words that I used when he introduced that Bill in the House. What was the outcome? The Bill was passed but the provisions of the Act has not been implemented till date. It has not been notified. The entire lawyer community came out on the streets protesting against it.

They were on a war path. The ultimate result was that the Government was forced not to implement or not to notify the Criminal Procedure Code (Amendment) Bill.

Whereas there is a consensus of opinion between the lawyers community, the thinking of the Law Commission is not always good. They are not living with the times. They may recommend many things which are quite impractical. At the same time, maybe, we have to turn them out. I do not agree with the recommendations of the Law Commission.

But the lawyers community has the practical experience. There is consensus. I fully support the Bill. It has to be passed. It will bring in a very important change in the Civil law administration, and the civil controversies that are pending for a long time will be decided without any further delay.

With these few words, I support the Bill.

SHRI VIJAYENDRA PAL SINGH BADNORE (Bhilwara): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise here to support this very important piece of legislation to amend the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908.

Let me start with the remark that 'justice delayed is justice denied.' And, this Bill definitely looked into it. The intention of the hon. Law Minister is very clear. He wants to expedite the entire legal system and process so that

justice is not delayed. Having said that, let me also say that there are a lot of provisions which have been introduced in this Bill which will hasten the process of justice. But why I want to really congratulate the hon. Minister is the consensus that he has got. He has got consensus not only from this House but also from the Bar and from the general public.

Sir, this Bill was introduced before also but there were stalemates. Here, the hon. Law Minister has really tried to go and talk to the people. Now there can be two views on that as to why to go to them when we are doing something for them, for the people, in general. But the general feeling among the public is that this Bill should have come much earlier. I think, we must hasten to pass this Bill.

Sir, there are some provisions which I would like to mention. There was a provision to injunction. This injunction was being used by the party rather to misuse it. I think, something has been done about it so that it is not misused. I hope, the hon. Minister will explain exactly as to how he has tried to do it so that this injunction is not misused.

There used to be an Arbitration Act till 1940. Most of the countries in the world today have gone ahead of this arbitration.

14.58 hrs.

[SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV *in the Chair*]

We had this Arbitration Act here. We had heard stories regarding the Arbitration act because it was not in the interest of the people. Arbitration Act means that something is done outside the court and there is no delay in getting justice. But when this Arbitration Act was introduced, I think, it was all right. But it went astray and there were problems in it.

Sir in this Bill, there is the question of court summons. The court summons should be there. Now, with the change of times, we have got the electronic media; we have got other services which are better than postal services which were in effect; and we have the courier system which can also be used for the court summons.

15.00 hrs.

There is another provision in this Bill that there is no second appeal in case of recovery upto Rs. 25,000. There used to be a time when valuation upto Rs. 20,000 could

[Shri Vijayendra Pal Singh Badnore]

go all the way up to the Supreme Court. But now, the value for that amount is nothing, and hence, this provision. So, this Bill addresses that problem also.

I also want to know from the Minister something about commissioners. There is a lot of skepticism about Commissioners—who are going to be the Commissioners, how are they going to appoint Commissioners, will they misuse the system of oral arguments, etc. This must be explained to us because Commissioners can also misuse; and we may not have or the people or party might not really have any reliability or even people may be skeptical about who are being appointed as Commissioners.

I will also like to say that something should be done about Criminal Procedure Code also. This Bill deals only with the Civil Procedure Code and Criminal Procedure Code is out of purview of this Bill. So, I would like to request the hon. Minister to do something about Criminal Procedure Code also, as he has done in the case of Civil Procedure Code. We have had horrid stories and people were getting away with murders, etc. So, I would request him to please see that Criminal Procedure Code also given the same effect.

With these words, I support the Bill and I thank you very much.

SHRI A.C. JOS (Trichur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I generally welcome the very important amendment that is brought forward by the hon. Minister of Law.

At the time of passing the Bill in 1999, we had some apprehension that Bill would be in trouble, when enacted. That Bill sought to circumvent delay in legal proceedings and put a lot of restrictions with which even lawyers did not agree. Lawyers are the pillars in the delivery of the system and so, they should have some facilities in doing it.

Anyway, I am happy that—considering all those things—the hon. Law Minister has brought forward a much more comprehensive and a flexible Bill. As I mentioned earlier, I am in agreement with the Bill generally. But I have very serious objections to Section 100A wherein he has debarred appeal of the decision of a single Judge. That will be a dangerous provision. Of course, the intention is good. It is in order not to cause any delay and we understand it. But in many cases, the decisions of the single Judge were revoked in appeals or re-examined in appeals, and justice was done in such cases. So, irrespective of whether there is Delay or not, we shall not restrict the 'appellate right' of a citizen, especially

under articles 226 and 277 of the Indian Constitution, which he has stated in that provision.

Section 100A says:

"Notwithstanding anything contained in any Letters Patent for any High Court or in any other instrument having the force of law or in any other law for the time being in force,—

(b) where any writ, direction or order is issued or made on an application under article 226 or article 227 of the Constitution, by a single Judge of a High Court, no further appeal shall lie from the judgement, decision or order of such single Judge."

Articles 226 and 227 of the Indian Constitution are supposed to be the real test for fundamental rights and powers of the courts. Article 226 only expanded the very vistas of the Constitution. During the days of Constituent Assembly, it was Heavens for lawyers; that apart, article 226 used to be there. In all High Courts, decision of the single Judge matters much. So, unless we have some safeguards whereby an appeal can be made on the orders of the single Judge, it will be difficult.

I would now like to suggest about Section 102. At present, an appeal cannot be made upto Rs. 25,000. I would plead that amount may be raised, if possible, to Rs. 50,000 because Rs. 25,000, nowadays, have no value. I am not very strongly pleading for that but the hon. Law Minister has to look into it.

Regarding the issue of summons, I think we have to adopt a new method. I am totally in agreement with the hon. Law Minister but pleading also is absolutely necessary. It is a common practice in legal parlance. During the pleading stage, new facts are coming up. Even now it is being done but it should be amended. I think, permission should be given to amend it.

With regard to having evidence by the Commission, I am very glad that my learned friend has suggested it. I am not very clear but at the same time we are having the Commissions to inspect the property by the junior lawyers. The witness is allowed to sit back. They are permitting the Commission to go there. There is nothing wrong in it. Could you not have a condition that the lawyer who has put in ten years of practice, or something like that, could be appointed in the Commission? The Law Minister is aware of the lacunae in the appointment of Commissions. When a judge listens to the witness, he comes to some conclusion based on the way he deposes

or uses the word, especially in criminal law. It is very important to arrive at inference by the presiding officer or by the judge. The Commission cannot do that. The Commission cannot write that his body language is such. That is also a fact. He cannot do that. It is an intangible thing.

Quite junior people are there in the Commission of Inspection. In this case, the Commissioner or a lawyer of a particular seniority shall alone be chosen. I think he should be involved in it. I think you have to give a serious thinking to it. No doubt, I am totally in agreement that the judgements are pronounced in two years and they go on like this. The Apex Court is also not away from that. In High Courts, there are cases, where in their own fancy they will say 're-hear' or 'witness may again be called'. This disease is more in the High Courts. So, that should be strongly enforced. As hon. Radhakrishnan has suggested, why should we have 60 days. We need only 30 days because delivery of justice could be done immediately after the examination of witnesses and documents. This is one of the very important Sections. Judgement has to be delivered in time so that the calendar could be set accordingly.

Sir, as my learned colleague has mentioned, the Civil Procedure Code and the civil procedure in our judicial system are tolerably good. But we have to have some very serious thinking about Criminal Procedure where we need a lot of changes. Even now, many criminal cases are pending in each court.

So, I think that a lawyer like our Law Minister would give a serious consideration for revamping and re-looking into the Criminal Procedure Code and criminal legal system and would bring a comprehensive Bill.

With these words, I generally welcome this Bill.

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY (Sriperumbudur): Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak on this Bill. Sir, on behalf of my Party, DMK, and on my own behalf, I welcome this Bill.

Sir, this Bill has been brought to avoid delays. I appreciate the Minister as he has brought the Bill at the right time. Sir, when this Bill was introduced by the then Minister, there was a hue and cry outside Parliament. The advocates were agitated against this Bill. Now, the hon. Minister has brought this Bill after a great effort and after consultations with all the advocates and Bar Association.

Sir, the Bill seeks to amend the procedure of serving the summons. It says that the job of serving the summons

would be handed over to the courier service. Sir, I am against this view because when a process server or a postman serves the summon, it will reach the litigant properly. If the summons do not reach properly, we can take action against these persons as they are Government employees. We know about our advocates and litigants. They could pay something to the process server and employ delay tactics. Therefore, the hon. Minister have to re-think about amending the procedure of serving the summons.

Sir, the Bill also says that after obtaining the injunction, the litigant should give surety for this. This type of procedure is there in the Criminal Procedure Code because the person who is accused rushes for taking the bail. That is why, he is required to give surety. I do not understand why the litigant should give surety in civil cases also. I think the hon. Minister would enlighten us about it. The poor man cannot get injunction in the court as he would have to spend more for giving surety. I think the hon. Minister would re-think about it.

Sir, the hon. Minister has also said that to avoid delays, the Commissioners would conduct the examination. I think the Commissioners will be able to do their job. But in the criminal courts, the special *Tehsildar* will record whatever is said by the witnesses. Whatever is said by the advocate, that would be recorded. But we can easily induce them. Even the litigants do not have any fear while appearing before them. They will not depose properly. So, I think this provision should not be introduced. So, only *Munsif* Court should record the examination of the subject. Then only we can get justice.

In Chief Examinations, affidavit system has been introduced. I do not know how it is possible. Advocates are going to file the affidavits with or without the knowledge of their clients. He can record therein anything he wants. When Examination-in-Chief is taken, on the same day Cross Examination also should be taken. That will help the court. Secondly, for filing an affidavit, no time limit is stipulated. I feel that the affidavit should be filed along with the plaintiff. But there is no such thing in this amendment.

I appreciate this Bill in general because to avoid the delay you have brought this Bill at right time. There is no second appeal for amounts not exceeding Rs. 25,000. This is a very good amendment because today in many suites they do not approach the Court. Probably at the *Panchayat* level they are deciding the matter because they do not have faith in the court. Therefore, this is a very good move.

On behalf of the DMK Party, I welcome and support this Bill.

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN (Tirunelveli): Mr. Chairman Sir, I would like to present my views on the Code of Civil Procedure (Amendment) Bill, 2002. I read the speech of the Law Minister made in the other House wherein he stated that he had addressed a letter to all the Chief Justices of High Courts to intimate to him about the number of cases in arrears. Some High Courts have given a positive response; some High Courts said under the principle of independence of judiciary they are not in a position to disclose the information to him.

I would like to initiate my speech on these lines. Under the 44th amendment to the Constitution, the Supreme Court declared that the Constitution is supreme. They do not say Parliament is supreme. For what purpose they have said it, I do not know. The Law Minister may know this and he should tell us because he is accountable to this House.

As per the Austin's theory of sovereignty, Supreme Court and High Courts must be reminded that they have to disclose all the details about the arrears of cases pending before them. If they determine human as superior, they should not be in the habit of placing their obedience in a book. There should be habitual obedience for the bulk of the society as people are sovereign. In turn, this House is sovereign as it represents the will of the people. This is the letter and spirit of the Constitution. They say the book is supreme; but I say the House is supreme. So, it is high time the Government had moved the Supreme Court to uphold the sovereignty of the Parliament over this Constitution.

The Law Minister claims that the position of arrears is better because the number of cases pending before the Supreme Court has been reduced from 1.2 lakhs to just over 20,000. How has it become possible? I would demonstrate it through a simple example. Three persons were sentenced to life by Madras High Court and it was confirmed. They filed an appeal before the Supreme Court under SLP. But, that was dismissed *in limine*. This is the way arrears have been reduced. Even at the doorstep of the Supreme Court they are dismissing it, asking the petitioner to get out. When the Supreme Court is not in a position to hear a life appeal, how can one say that justice is available equally to all? You admit it, hear it for a day and then take a decision. But, they are not in a position to do so. That is why the Law Minister received a response saying that they are not in a position to give him the statistics. The existence of the Higher Judiciary,

the existence of the Constitutional Courts should be felt by the common man. When three persons have been denied a right to enter the Supreme Court through their appeal papers, it is not going to be useful to the nation.

Article 145 of the Constitution says:

"Subject to the provisions of any law made by Parliament, the Supreme Court may from time to time, with the approval of the President, make rules for regulating generally the practice and procedure of the Court including..."

Then there are Clauses on how to grant bail and how to grant stay. We debated this point in the Committee. Shri Anadi Sahu is here. We debated on whether the rules framed made by the Supreme Court have been laid on the Table of the House right from the inception of the Constitution. And Shri Anadi Sahu also made a point there.

The Executive is independent and the Parliament is independent. But in certain cases, we have a flexible Constitution. We flow into each other's sphere. The Parliament enters into the arena of the Judiciary under article 124. You make appointments to go on with the impeachment proceedings, and under article 124 of the Constitution, the Executive also is taken into account while appointing judges in the matter of verification. So, we have a flexible inflow into each other's sphere and we are mutually co-existing. I would say that this is high time that the Law Minister should confer the Chief Justice of all the High Courts and the Supreme Court to evolve a process as to how we can deliver justice to common man.

Lok adalat was started but it got the approval of Parliament only in 1987. Prior to that, without any Parliament approval, it was functioning. There was no parliamentary approval prior to 1987.

Coming to the provision of Commissioner, while examining a witness—a plaintiff or a defendant—if a judge wants to impeach the credit, he has to see eye-to-eye. While writing the judgement, he must have the knowledge of the trial. He must have the proceedings before hand as to what happened between the plaintiff and the defendant in the box. Here, the Commissioners are there to take evidence. There cannot be a proper application of mind by the presiding judge while writing a judgement. You want to cut it short. It is a welcome procedure. But

by cutting it short, do not cut short justice. You should not cut short justice.

As regards articles 226 and 227, I would like to ask the hon. Law Minister on one point. I think this was excluded. There is a provision for appeal. Writ appeal is there...(*Interruptions*) It is under the guise of PIL...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Now, Shri Jos has also raised this question. The copy which has been circulated has the present amendment as also the 1999 amendment. So, what he was referring to and what you are referring to is Clause 100A of 1999. If you see Clause 4 of 2000, the position becomes clear. ...(*Interruptions*) The present provision reads like this:

"Notwithstanding anything contained in any Letters Patent for any High Court or in any instrument having the force of law or in any other law for the time being in force, where any appeal from an original or appeal decree or order is heard and decided by a single judge of a High Court, no further appeal shall lie from the judgement and decree of such single judge."

So, if a single judge decides, under his appellate jurisdiction, no second appeal lies to the Division Bench. You go straight to the Supreme Court. Currently what is happening is, a civil judge decides, then you go to the District judge and appeal, and then you go to the High Court and appeal. Now, we are not going to provide the fourth appeal to a Division Bench and fifth to the Supreme Court. In any system, which has four and five appeals, the litigant will be crushed under the burden and it will not be to his benefit. So, we have said that if the single Judge is deciding the matter in his original jurisdiction, that is, under articles 226 and 227 of the Constitution, then, of course, one appeal has to be provided. The appeal goes to the Division Bench. But if the single Judge is deciding the appellate jurisdiction matters, no further appeal to the Division Bench is possible...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN: So, from the judgement on Writ Jurisdiction, you have a writ appeal.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (*Calcutta South*): After a single Judge Bench's verdict, he can go to the Supreme Court. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: That is about writ appeal. We have taken away an appeal to a Division Bench from a single Judge only where the single Judge exercises the

appellate jurisdiction. The writ jurisdiction remains. ...(*Interruptions*) The reason is that writ is not an appeal.

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN: I think the provision of writ appeal is there.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Writ is not an appeal.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Writ is not an appeal. If a single Judge hears a writ petition, we have to provide, at least, one right of appeal because if it is a wrong judgement, then, litigants from all over the country cannot come only to the Supreme Court. Under the present scheme, a Division Bench appeal will lie. But if the single Judge is hearing a case under his appeal jurisdiction—that is, a subordinate Judge has heard it, a single Judge has heard an appeal, and in some cases, a single Judge may hear it as a second appeal—then, we are not providing scope for a Division Bench appeal as a second appeal or a third appeal. You may have remedy under article 136 of the Constitution. But that ends the matter...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN: I thank the hon. Law Minister for providing for a writ appeal, for not taking away the writ appeal...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: How can he take it away?

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN: He has not taken away the writ jurisdiction. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: You cannot have an appeal in pursuance to the appellate power which a single Judge exercises. You cannot have a second appeal against that.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: I think there is no bar going to the Supreme Court.

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN: You can choose your jurisdiction.

Without meaning disrespect to any of the members of the Judiciary, I would like to mention that the Chief Justice, before his retirement last month, had said that 20 per cent of the Judges were corrupt. I did not say it. It came in all the newspapers. What is the Government going to do about it? Mr. Minister, did you talk to the Chief Justice? He has said it.

[Shri P.H. Pandian]

Now, I come to the PIL. The PIL is a parallel to the Executive action. The PIL is a parallel administration. We debated the BALCO issue for one day under Rule 184. That motion was defeated. Then, somebody took it up to the Supreme Court under PIL. The Supreme Court said: "It is a policy decision. We cannot entertain it. We cannot go into the PIL." What I mean is that the court should be consistent. If there is consistency, if there is certainty under article 141 of the Constitution, that should be ensured. To cite an example, regarding the CNG matter, it has reserved its own policy decision. About the PIL cases, I would submit that there must be some guidelines to the evolved under article 145 of the Constitution. Subject to the provisions of the Constitution, the Parliament is functioning. Subject to the provisions of the Constitution, the Executive is accountable to this Parliament. So, I would request the hon. Law Minister to have a dialogue with the Judiciary. If we have a dialogue, it is not going to be termed as an interference with the Judiciary. One should have a dialogue. In a democracy, all the three wings should be functioning. All the three bodies should be functioning in a harmonious matter. So, would I request the hon. Law Minister to do that.

Finally, I would like to say that I welcome this Bill. The lawyers were agitating as far as the previous Bill was concerned. Now, I think, that section of the society, the legal fraternity, will accept this. So, I welcome this Bill.

With this, I conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV (Parbhani): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I on my behalf and on behalf of my party whole heartedly support the Code of Civil Procedure (Amendment) Bill, 2002 brought by the Law Minister. This Bill was pending since long and now at an appropriate time, it has been brought. Judicial reforms are essential for delivering justice properly and for making the procedure simple and easily accessible.

This year on the occasion of Independence day while delivering speech from the historical Red Fort the hon. Prime Minister promised to introduce reforms in judicial procedure at the earliest. The hon. Prime Minister also made a commitment that justice will be made easily accessible with the simple procedure to the poor, neglected and illiterate people.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, ours is a vast democratic country with a population of about 103 crore and large borders.

Most of the people of our country are poor and illiterate. Today judicial process is complex and costly affair. Thus the Amendment moved by the Law Minister is an appropriate amendment. In his speech hon. Prime Minister stated that NDA Government is committed to provide justice to poor, illiterate and common man at the earliest. Along with this he had also announced that 1700 fast track courts would be set up in the country but so far only Rs. 1703 crore have been allocated for this purpose and only 1433 fast track courts could be set up so far. The remaining amount should be allocated at the earliest for setting up more fast track courts so that the promise of hon. Prime Minister regarding providing timely justice to people could be fulfilled. Section 39 (a) of the Indian Constitution provides that Justice should be available to every citizen and none should be denied of justice due to poverty. But a big percentage of our population live below the poverty line. Procedure of justice is more difficult and complex for the people living below poverty line. The judicial process is quite complex and due to reply and counter reply of complainant, defendant, witnesses, amendments, adjournment of courts, absence of lawyers, judges etc. it takes at least five years in original court itself. After such a long process when judgement is given then there are appeals, counter appeals in High Court, Supreme Court and sometimes the cases are reviewed. There is a saying in our area that even the son does not get judgement in a case for which his father started litigation. Judicial procedure of court is quite complex. I am grateful to the Law Minister for bringing this Amendment Bill at appropriate time. Lok Adalats are working efficiently. At present around 22047 cases are pending before the Supreme Court and 35.16 lakh cases are pending before high courts and more than 2 crore cases are pending in Session Courts. How people will get justice? There are a total of 13,000 judicial officers and judges. More than 2 crore cases are pending in Session Courts and cases are also pending in High Courts and Supreme Court. If justice has to be provided in these cases, the posts of judges have to be increased accordingly. Recently there was an agitation by lawyers in Patna. There is a saying that 'justice delayed is justice denied'. I, therefore, appeal to the Law Minister for providing simple and easily accessible justice to poor people and for this required amendment is being made in section 39 and 64 of Civil Procedure Code. Similarly, amendments are also required in Criminal Code. This is the commitment of hon. Prime Minister and NDA Government to provide timely, simple and easily accessible justice to people otherwise it will a cause resentment among people. With this I support the Bill.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (*Vaishali*): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Minister has claimed that there is a lot of delay in administering justice and this Bill would provide for quick and speedy justice. He has also brought in some additional amendments. One Bill was introduced in the year 1999, a discussion was held thereon and that was also passed. But this was followed by widespread resentment and the passed Bill remained passed only. Now this Bill has been introduced after deliberations with the advocates, Bar Association, Commission, etc. I do not understand whether the earlier Bill provided for speedy justice or the present one with improvements, would provide for quick justice. The Chairman of Law Commission Shri Jeevan Reddy had threatened that if any improvement would be made in this Bill, he would tender his resignation. The Government should understand this fact too. There are four aspects of justice in a legal process—first is the Law itself, second is the judge, third is the Advocate and fourth is the client. Besides, the fifth one is the hon. Minister of Law. Mr. Jadhav was giving figures but 180 posts are still lying vacant out of the sanctioned 647 posts of judges in the High Court. I had prior information in this regard. Mere enactment of laws for quick and speedy justice cannot do the trick because if the judges are not there then how can we get speedy justice. Besides, two crore cases are pending in the Lower Court out of which 34-35 lakh cases in High Court and 25-26 thousand cases in Supreme Court. It is the age of Information Technology, we should get immediate information regarding pendency of cases in each court. Bihar has already started this. While going through the report, I came to know about the number of cases pending in Hajipur Court, Sitamarhi Court and Muzaffarpur Court. Situation would improve only when judges would be appointed. Now comes the question of advocates. This Bill has been prepared after having consultations with the advocates, they organised a large procession in this regard from Tis Hazari Court to Patiala House Court. They are of the view that the provisions of this Bill would be detrimental to their interests. They are six lakh in number but what is their condition? Some advocates are having the status similar to the hon. Minister and they get a fee of Rs. Five-six lakhs and they do not even dispose off their cases. Some advocates are capable of earning their livelihood but some do not even have proper place to sit. One would come to know if he visits the Court that the advocates there have locked their tables and chairs with chains. They buy and eat food made by street hawkers.

[*English*]

This is what Prof. N.L. Mitra, Director, National Law School of India Says:

"When I asked one agitated young lawyer in Delhi during the recent agitation about his views, his angry retort was like this:

[*Translation*]

They are depriving us of our livelihood. They would lead our children to starvation.

[*English*]

It implies that the grassroots lawyer community will starve if the amendments were put into practice in letter and spirit."

[*Translation*]

This is his feeling but the hon. Minister has introduced this Bill to provide speedy justice. This is the statement of the Director of National Law School.

[*English*]

".....The major changes introduced in the civil court are the following:"

[*Translation*]

What have they changed? First thing is that it takes time to issue notice. Conventionally notice is issued or sent through registered post. He did not meet the person who brought the registered post. He wrote that he did not meet him. Thereafter the peon of the Court once again went to meet him. But despite searching for him here and there, he too comes back empty handed. He again goes and after not finding him there, he put the notice on the board that he came there but did not find him. Now it should also be taken into consideration in the court whether the notice was complied with or not, which should be done within six months or in one year. Now we have fax and courier facilities too. While making the Law, the objective should be to deliver speedy justice. When the notice is issued the presence of the concerned party must be ensured. The notice is also published in the newspapers. If the Gazette is published in the newspaper, everyone would come to know about it. Then it is possible through fax and other means, but even then we have observed that so many litigations are there. In the process of improvement in Law, litigations would

[Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh]

increase. A provision is there that within 30 days of the issuance of notice, objections could be raised. But, if one receives the notice on the 28th day then how could one file objections within the next two days. How could the evidence be produced. Some improvements have been made, but a clear law should be there and that too, precise. Infact delay in disposal of litigation leads to extra expenditure and that is why justice is 'expensive' in India. Due to heavy cost, poor man cannot get justice. The hon. Minister has not taken any step in this regard.

The hon. Minister has claimed that he has taken the report of the Commission and has discussed with the Bar Association and others and then accepted,

[English]

Justice delayed is justice denied.

[Translation]

And, therefore it should be immediately enforced and people may get justice, but what is the hon. Minister doing for expensive 'justice'. The actual point is delay in justice leads to denial of course, but it is also more expensive. All advocates say that they are the sufferers because it is they who have to plead the case and make arguments. They also say that speedy justice would lead them to starvation. So, the first point in the said Bill is regarding notice. Second point is that as the court or the judge take a lot of time in taking evidences or noting, so a Commissioner should be appointed. I feel that such advocates would restore Commissioners. What are their qualifications, what would they write. Their statement would be filed in the Court. I would like to ask the Minister what is the meaning of justice? When the person gives evidence in the Court, questions are asked by the lawyer as also the Judge and arguments take place. Evidences would make impact on the mind of the Judge and he writes the notes. How can the Judge do justice after merely reading the written statement taken by the Commissioner or any other person. One should take care that while providing speedy justice, one may not actually deny the justice. How can the Judge feel from his heart and brain if he only reads the written statement of the witness to the Commissioner or advocate. How could the Judge reach conclusion whether the witness is right or wrong...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Raghuvansh ji, please give some concrete suggestions for resolving this problem.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: I am doing the same. He has claimed that he is restoring Commissioners for providing speedy justice. But whether the Commissioner taking written statement would feel the same thing as the Judge would feel. When witness would have given evidence before him. I feel that 'second hand' statements cannot serve the purpose and truth of the evidence can be revealed before the Judge only, this would definitely lead to disparity in judgement. I apprehend whether justice may not convert into injustice. Second thing is that it has been observed that one case takes 24-25 years to get disposed off. The Judge listens to the argument but does not give discussion even one long year, and then gets retired. Then the new Judge comes and listens to the case and in this way, it is again delayed. This problem can be solved if the hon. Minister of Law also writes here that the case would be disposed off in a fixed period of time. I would like to give an example of the election-petition. It is mentioned in the 'Peoples Representation Act' that a case with regard to election—petition should be disposed off within 6 months. Whether any case, throughout India, has been disposed in six months or one year or even in two-three years. It has never happened. Five or six years are taken in one case and the case becomes infructuous. Justice cannot be done by the bureaucratic deeds of a Commissioner. Therefore, please keep in mind the cost effectiveness of the case, ensure that the poors are able to get justice and their expenses are reduced.

Some legislation should be enacted to govern the fees commanded by the high profile lawyers. They charge fees up to Rs. one lakh, two lakh, five lakh, there is no law for it. In such a state of competition the liberal advocates may find it difficult to survive. It should also be kept in mind.

Lastly, I would like to submit about the matter of PIL. Executive is very much interested in power. Many cases have come in PIL but the root of the problem is that everybody wants that their views are printed. Besides, delay is also caused by the tendency of the courts to keep officials engaged for the whole day in the court. Hon. Minister is an intelligent person. He would have earned a fortune if he had devoted similar amount of time in court arguing a case. I just would like to say that poors should get justice quick and at low cost. I hope my views will be kept in mind by the hon. Minister.

[English]

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA (Canara): Kumari Mamata Banerjee, if you allow me, I just want to ask a

question. I am not making a speech. Hon. Minister, I just want to point out what has just been said about the election petition. In my own constituency, our MLA was shot dead two months after the election. An election petition is pending for the last two-and-a-half years. It is continuing. There is no elected representative. The people have no MLA.

Day to day hearing, which is required, is never done. Even after the hearing, the judgement is reserved. I do not understand how the people's representatives are going to be elected. The Election Commission says that it cannot interfere till the judgement is given. I would like to know whether anything could be done or not with all these amendments. You will have to do something about this.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: I will give an answer to this when I reply to the debate.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Calcutta South): Thank you very much for giving me this opportunity.

I rise to support the Code of Civil Procedure (Amendment) Bill, 2000. Earlier, in its 163rd report, the Law Commission dealt with these amendments; and in 1999, the Government had introduced this Bill. Now, Shri Arun Jaitley, as Law Minister, has come before this House for the amendment of this Act. I appreciate the Law Minister. He is from the legal field and knows better than all of us because of his practical experience of what is going on nowadays in the name of law.

As common citizens, we cannot criticise the Judiciary outside the House because it would amount to contempt of court but if we do not criticise even inside the House, where would the people get justice? This is the real forum where, at least, we can express our views in the interest of the people. This is a fact...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN: You can criticise any judgement but you cannot impute motive. You can criticise any judgement anywhere and publicly issue statements. That is not contempt. ...*(Interruptions)*

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: That is not my question. My question is very clear. We cannot criticise the Judiciary, according to the constitutional norms. This is the system. Otherwise, we would be attracting contempt of court. We can criticise the politicians, the journalists or the bureaucrats but we cannot criticise the Judiciary. That is why, on one side, in the name of law, a supremo is working in this country.

I am sorry to say this. Shri Arun Jaitley is trying to bring about social justice but how would justice work in

the country? When you start from the appointment of judges, who are appointing the judges? It is the Chief Minister and the Chief Justice of the High Court who recommend the names of the judges. After that, through the Law Ministry, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court finalises the list. I come from West Bengal where the High Court is Calcutta High Court. We have seen there that all the appointments are political appointments. So, how could the people get justice? Everywhere in the country, because of this reason, the common people are not getting justice.

15.57 hrs.

[DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH in the Chair]

You are trying for *lok adalats*. You are trying for common people to get justice but how would they get justice when corruption starts from the level of appointments, at the level of the appointing authority? We have to review the situation.

The population is increasing and so our attitude has to change. The problem is that our outlook, our action and our vision are so poor that we have to change the judicial system, we have to change the political system and we have to change the electoral system. Otherwise, this country cannot develop. You are a young person; you are a brilliant person. If you want to do one good deed in the best interests of the country, you should first bring the Judicial Reforms Bill, where you could categorically say that if politicians were not above the law, the Judiciary would also not be above the law. Until and unless this is done, they would not care for the people.

There is a proverb, which says: "Good money will keep the good law; good money will give good justice; and good money will give good barristers." This proverb is not heard nowadays. This is why my request to the hon. Minister is to bring in judicial reforms first. It is all right to have the Code of Civil Procedure (Amendment) Bill passed but it hardly matters because we want cases to be simplified.

I want to quote some figures that I have got from you. I have seen that in every High Court and subordinate court they do not maintain figures of cases. The Government has no figures. We do not know how many lakhs of cases are pending.

[Kumari Mamata Banerjee]

16.00 hrs.

But I have seen it up to 1999. Whatever may be the figures that are available with the Government, more than five lakh cases are pending only in the High Court. What will be the result? I am telling you one thing. In the year 1990....(Interruptions)

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: As of today, in the High Courts 35 lakh cases are pending taken together in the country.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: That is why I am telling you. I am quoting only 1999, whatever we have got from your reply. That is the authentic reply. Now, you are saying that 35 lakh cases are pending. What is the need for this judiciary? I would plead the Government to start new judiciary and give justice to the people.

Sir, the main problem with this judiciary is that some judges take advantage from the State Governments when they go to different States. They take all sorts of advantages from the State Governments including their sons' and daughters' medical admission, accommodation, their promotion, etc. After that, when they retire, then they will get one Commission of Inquiry or something. So, this is their promotion. After retirement also, five or six years later, their livelihood will be very good. This system should be stopped. After the retirement, no judge should be appointed anywhere. At least, from the Government level, stop this corruption, otherwise I do not know what will be the future of the country.

Sir, court cases have become very expensive. Even sometimes when the court sends the summon, the poor people do not know how to go to the court. Earlier, there was a provision that the Government has set up their own Legal aid Cell, Women Grievances Cell and so many other cells, which were set up. But if you just give a surprise visit to any private grievance cell, the Government Grievances cell, the Women Grievances Cell or the Legal-aid Cell, you will see that nobody is working. They are just taking the Government money, but they are not helping the poor people.

Sir, I appreciate that some lawyers are there in this country, who are brave and who try to give justice to the people. They do not take money even from the common people. But they do help in getting justice. I know so many lawyers.

Sir, I am telling you that even in my office, every Sunday, I have a legal cell. That legal cell gives help in getting justice to the people. Where else will the common

people go? Every Sunday from 12 to 1 O'clock, I have a legal cell where the common people are coming and they give the information to them. but I am telling you that there is no justice in this country.

Sir, in my case I am telling you-it is my personal experience and I am not asking you justice because I am asking justice for the people. In the year 1990 on 16th August, I have been beaten in broad daylight and I was about to die. I was hospitalised for about three months. ...(Interruptions) Even Rajya Sabha was adjourned because I was about to die. ...(Interruptions) Now, I am telling you that I do not know what is the fate of the case. If it can happen to me, what will happen to the common people? Even after that also, they attacked me three or four times, but nobody was arrested. There was no case and there was nothing. I do not know what is going on in the name of justice.

Sir, now I come to the transfer policy. You have a transfer policy. But have you found out from all the High Courts as to how many persons are working for more than 15 to 20 years?

[Translation]

In bangla, we say that he is the king of Ghughu.

[English]

It is a heaven of corruption. They are working there for the last ten to twenty years. There is a Government policy that after five years these judges will be transferred, but nothing is there. The same thing is going on and the same tradition is going on. I think, this transfer policy has to be strictly followed so that nobody can set up a heaven of corruption anywhere.

Sir, my other point is that even regarding the Supreme Court what it said about PIL is all right. But, at the same time, the PIL also has to come through the High Court. So, SLP has to be filed. Shall I tell you one example? There was one employee by name Bhikahari Paswan. He was missing and he had been murdered. After that, we went to the High Court. The High Court passed an order for CBI. Then the State Government went to the Supreme Court. We even filed the writ of Habeas Corpus and SLP. Now the CBI is handling this case. They are the poor people. They do not know about the law. Now, after four years of hearing, this case has been transferred from High Court to the local court. So, this is the situation. He was saying, from grass-root you go to the sky, but they are saying, from sky you go to

the grass-root. Where is the balance? There is no balance, nothing. I do not know whether any monitoring system is working in this way, whether any vigilance is working in this way. I cannot understand this. When I see these poor people suffering, I feel bad about it because they cannot remember the date, they cannot remember what happened actually. If you ask me what happened in 1990, I may not remember. Of course, since I have written a book, that is why I can remember. But even after 12 years, I do not know when this case will be decided. Nobody knows anything about it. So, these things have been going on. Total corruption is going on. I feel that more and more Supreme Court Benches should be set up because the poor people from different parts of the country cannot come to the Supreme Court because it is very expensive. You try to set up some Supreme Court Benches also somewhere in the country, say, South, North, East and West. Similarly, High Court. So, let the main High Court be there but you can set up High Court Benches for 4-5 districts because it is very difficult for the people to come to far off places like the High Courts and the Supreme Court. For that, there should be more Circuit benches so that people can come to the High Court and the Supreme Court for justice.

Dr. Raghunvansh Prasad Singh also said that poor people do not get justice. I think, just like the *Lok Adalats*, the Government have to strengthen their local machinery also. Suppose, now you say that at the *Panchayat* level, they will settle the case if there is no party *Panchayat*. If there is a political *Panchayat*, they will victimise the Opposition. They would not give justice to the Opposition. If there is a *Panchayat* where there is no party affiliation, then, of course, the local matters can be sorted out through *Panchayats*, through *Lok Adalats*. *Lok Adalats* we do appreciate, but, at the same time, I feel that the Government also to review the situation and the Government has to think that more stringent action is taken against the culprits and others. There is a rule that within three months you have to file the charge-sheet. But in Calcutta, I have seen the Khadim case, the kidnapping case. They arrested the persons also. But if they are the party people, there will be no charge-sheet against them within three months. But if a person belong to us, then first they arrest him in Midnapore district court. When he is released from the Midnapore court, then the warrant comes from the Bankura district because it is the adjacent district. Then he is sent to Bankura court. When he is released from the Bankura court, then the warrant comes from the Hooghly court. But there is a Minister in West Bengal. I do not want to mention his name, I am just giving his code name. Several murder cases, rape cases and other cases are there against

him. Our party has already given a written petition to the hon. Governor. When a warrant is issued against a person, the law says that his property has to be booked. Police says he is absconding. I do not know how he is absconding? Every time he is going to the Cabinet meetings. He is attending all the functions also. But nothing is being done against him. So, this type of things are going on. Those who have the influence, they will get the relief and those who do not have influence, they would not get any relief or anything.

In the case of appointment of a Commission, you know about the retainership. I am also a lawyer, Sir. Sometime I fought human rights case also.

There are some judges who have very good relations and very good rapport with some lawyers. They appoint them as commissioners. You have to see that in the name of getting appointed as commissioners, they should not get away with the commission, they should not behave like middlemen. They should behave as a common man's representative so that the problems can be sorted out. Otherwise, they will get more and more commissions and nothing else.

Last but not least, I would request you to please bring out a comprehensive Bill on judicial reforms which can restore the morale of the country and which can combat with these forces of corruption and which can combat with the present dirty situation of the country. If judiciary is a saleable commodity, then what would be the remedy? It will destroy the pillars of the country and it will destroy the systems, the ethics and everything else of the country. Therefore, I would request the hon. Minister to first bring forward a comprehensive Bill on judicial reforms. Before doing that you can take the Bar Councils and the Bar Associations into confidence so that they can also give good examples to you.

With these words I conclude and I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity. I hope that the hon. Minister will bring out a Bill on judicial reforms as early as possible.

[Translation]

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA (Kheri): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am obliged to you for giving me opportunity to speak on the Civil Procedure Code (Amendment) Bill, 2002. As a number of Members here have pointed out that goal of economic reforms cannot be achieved unless we have judicial and administrative reforms. Government have indeed taken one step in the direction of judicial

[Shri Ravi Prakash Verma]

reforms but what is unintelligible is the problem as well as its objective. Hon. Minister just told us that about 35 lakh cases are pending in High Court. So are we being driven by the need of justice or by the burden of huge number of cases. Today, they are affecting the entire system and have become a huge challenge for us. What is the aim of the proposed reforms?

It has been repeatedly said that the proposed reforms may help us in reducing the burden of huge number of cases as well as in expediting disposal of cases. The opportunities of appeal are being reduced but it is also a reality that the number of civil cases in India is abounding. Do we not need to consider their sources?

Mr. Chairman, Sir, you are aware that in our country police stations, tehsils, districts and district level officials can be and are sold. But the root of the problem is, as told by the earlier Speaker that postings are arranged through payment of money. It is doubtful that justice can be done only with making some procedural changes and reducing the number of cases.

Most important thing is that society cannot survive in the absence of justice. I do not want to give a long speech. I would like to quote one example which I have seen with my own eyes. About two years ago, I saw a 21 year old girl weeping in a district court. It was already dusk. The girl appeared troubled. She had a child with her. I was curious. I went to her. Some other people also came there. There was an aged advocate there too. When I asked the girl about the reason of her weeping, she narrated a painful story. She told that a neighbouring farmer of her village got tempted on her land which measured 7-8 acres. The girl was illiterate. Her husband was falsely accused of possessing opium and was imprisoned. A case was lodged in tehsil under section 129B. After three four hearings, the land was registered in another farmers's name. It was the cause of the trouble of the girl. She was thinking that she has no other way but to commit suicide. After hearing her story, the advocate the others went to the magistrate where a celebration was going on. The party, which had won the case, had arranged for wine and chicken and the second class magistrate was having a feast. It angered the girl. She took out her slipper and started beating him. Rumour spread throughout tehsil that magistrate has been assaulted. It become an issue. It was then revealed how, through a conspiracy, her land was seized. The whole machinery was involved in that.

I say time and again that if we want to reduce the number of cases, then we will also have to look at the

reasons for increase in civil cases. I would like to repeat that the aim of the Government, through this amendment, is only to reduce the number and expedite the disposal of cases and not the justice.

Members prior to me, have spoken on a number of points but I would only like to say that PIL has become a fashion and it is used by everyone desirous of highlighting an issue. Whether it is not the truth that alongwith the PIL cases, our administrative failures are also being exposed? Whether Government have any objective to implement comprehensive administrative reforms? I do not think that the problem is being seen in the right perspective. Things have come to such a pass that our state assemblies work for only 20-25 days in a year. Parliament works for 240 days a year. When Legislative Assemblies work for only 20 days in a year, then who will supervise the administrators, who will ensure their accountability? We are witness to all that is happening. The recourse to PIL is being taken to expose our administrative failure. Through you, I would like to ask the hon. Minister to look at the source of the problem of increasing number of civil cases.

Speaking prior to me, Kumari Mamata Banerjee was telling that not only in civil but in criminal procedure also, middlemen have developed vested interests to make the procedure as lengthy as possible. It is a sad truth that the civil cases take not two to four years but even hundred years for disposal. You may be aware that several civil cases are pending for as long as hundred years. Whether procedural changes would help attain justice?

Another thing is that corruption is rampant in judiciary. It may not be all pervading but a considerable section of judiciary are corrupt. Situation have come to such a pass that judges have developed a political bias. Ill impact of a case of great importance is being borne by the whole country as well as the Parliament. Many Governments have fallen, a number of riots have taken place and even today its impact is visible. In the current scenario, when the judiciary is no longer unbiased, we have to find ways to maintain or restore the unbiased nature of justice delivery system through administrative reforms. Whether it is not a truth that judges wishing to get the favour of the Government, have given judgements as per the wishes of the Government, even in the dead of the night. But where justice is really needed for the sake of humanity judgement gets delayed for years. What do we think? Whether your current judicial reforms would alter the situation-never? If we are sincere about giving justice, making justice delivery central to our social system—then

we can introduce a number of reforms. On the other hand, if we are interested only in lightening our burden through judicial reforms, then I am not sure whither we will reach. We cannot expect much from the judiciary and the judges who want, after retirement, to be deputed in a commission, their services to be extended for another term. I only want to say that as on today, judicial reforms and administrative reforms alongwith the economic reforms are the basic requirement of our country. The welfare of the country can only be ensured if the reforms are introduced consistent with our spirit and objective, otherwise there is no hope.

[*English*]

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI (Kutch): Sir, I rise to support the Code of Civil Procedure (Amendment) Bill, 2002. The Code of Civil Procedure is a very important law in the procedural matters concerning the civil litigation throughout the country. Before making any amendment in this law, it was very much necessary to consult the Bar Council of India, various Bar Associations. I congratulate the hon. Minister for having thorough consultations with these Associations before bringing this amendment.

Sir, these matters were thoroughly examined and discussed in the Standing Committee also. The main criticism against our judiciary is that our procedures are awfully slow. It is so sad because 'Justice delayed is justice denied'. At present, there is no time limit on the delivery of judgments by the court. Through the amendment of Order XX, in Rule 1, time limit for giving the judgement has been fixed, that is, 30 days from the date on which the hearing of the case was concluded, and it cannot be extended beyond a period of 60 days. This is a very good amendment, and I welcome it.

Secondly, there were conflicting judgements of various High Courts as to whether a court can execute a decree outside its jurisdiction. On the basis of 144th Report of the Law Commission, it has been clarified by proposing the amendment of section 39 of the Code of Civil Procedure that a court cannot execute a decree outside its jurisdiction.

Sir, this Amendment Bill is intended to remove a possible confusion on account of the Report of the Law Commission that if any attachment order is passed by a court and transfer of property takes place subsequent to the attachment, then this transfer of property itself will become void, but it will not affect the transfer, which has already taken place before the attachment.

Sir, against the Code of Civil Procedure (Amendment) Act, 1999, there was general criticism that by that amendment, the right to appeal was taken away against the order passed by a single Judge of the High Court, particularly orders passed under articles 226 and 227. That right of appeal has been restored, but that right of appeal would be there to correct an error which a single Judge could have committed by mistake, but where any appeal from an original or appellate decree or order is heard and decided by a single Judge of a High Court, the second right of appeal before a Division Bench is not provided.

It is the general experience of litigants that there is an unbearable and considerable delay in the procedure followed in civil litigations, and the main delay takes place in the service of summons. For that, some progressive amendments were made in 1999, which allowed various methods of services other than the traditional methods, like serving the summons through process servers of the court, by registered post acknowledgment due, including fax message or electronic mail service. Now, it has been envisaged to take the advantage of the courier services, which are, being run across the country. Therefore, this amendment proposing to serve the summons through a courier service, of course, there would be a panel of approved courier service companies, is really a welcome amendment.

Sir, there is a delay in disposal of civil suits because many a time written statements are not filed even after a lapse of many years. They are even consuming a long time. Therefore, it was felt necessary to have the time limit fixed for filing of the written statement. In this amendment, a time limit of 30 days for filing of writing statement has been provided.

For consultation with the Bar Council and Bar Association and other representatives, a further time limit has been given, but in any case, not beyond 90 days.

All these amendments are very welcome. They will shorten the time that is being consumed by the procedural matters. So, all these will certainly curtail the time.

I congratulate the hon. Minister for bringing forward this amendment and I support this Bill.

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY (Basirhat): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am not opposing this Bill, but rather I am supporting it. I also share the views of the hon. Minister.

[Shri Ajoy Chakraborty]

He has told the House that he has brought forward this Bill after due consultations, and an elaborate and comprehensive discussion with various sections of the society, including the lawyers' community.

Delay defeats law. Civil Procedure Code, till now, follows a very hazardous process. Civil cases are very long pending, which you know and everybody knows. If a persons 'A' has any grouse against another person 'B', he can go to the Munsif Court, can purchase a court fee for Rs. 2 and can file a suit. Nobody knows when the case will be disposed of and when the final judgement will be passed. It will continue for decades and decades, and from generation to generation. Some cases go from the Munsif Court to the High Court, Single Bench to Division Bench, and some cases may even go to the hon. Supreme Court. This is the position of the civil cases in our country. So, there should be some process by which we get quick disposal of civil cases pending in different courts.

While I support this Bill, I have some reservations also. I draw the attention of the hon. Minister to them, and I have some suggestions or modifications in some clauses. One of them is in Clause 4, substitution of New Section for Section 100A. It says:

"Notwithstanding anything contained in any Letters Patent for any High Court or in any other instrument having the force of law or in any other law for the time being in force, where any appeal from an original or appellate decree or order is heard and decided by a single Judge of a High Court, no further appeal shall lie from the judgment and decree of such single Judge."

I have a reservation on this point. Suppose a judge has passed a wrong judgement, there is no scope for such appeals. So, there should be a provision for that. If a persons or party is aggrieved of the judgement of a single Judge, he has to go before the Division Bench also. This is my view.

I also would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister and also of the House to the amendment of Order V, clause 6. It says:

"Provided further that where the defendant fails to file the written statement within the said period of thirty days, he shall be allowed to file the same on such other days as may be specified by the Court,

for reasons to be recorded in writing, but which shall not be later than ninety days from the date of service of summons."

Why should it be 90 days? My suggestion is that there should be a maximum of 60 days only.

Another point is this. The Minister also told about this point and many hon. Members also said about this in this House. It is regarding service of summons. The process of service of summons in our country is very much corrupt; malpractice takes place and manipulation is also being done. It is not a recent happening, but it started from the very inception of the courts in our country. It is a very old system and this practice is going on from the very inception of courts. Suppose a person or an employee of the court goes for service of summons; when he returns, he writes that such and such person is not available. There is also a provision to hang the summons, the presence of some witness, on the main gate. In legal lexicon, that is called the main gate entry. On his return, he writes in the records that no witness was available at the time of pasting the summons on the gate of the house. There is also a system of sending the summons through the post office. The postman goes to the spot and returns to the court saying that no person was available. This kind of malpractice in serving summons is an age-old practice. It is not something new. There is also a provision of sending electronic mail, courier service or Fax. I would like to say that not only in rural areas but also in urban and semi-urban areas the devices like electronic mail, Fax or courier services are not available. Some flexible or easier methods should be adopted so that the summons is served as early as possible. One of the reasons for the delay in deciding the cases in the non-serving of summons. Until and unless the accused person receives the summons, the case cannot start. This is the position.

I am sorry to say that law in our country is a purchasable commodity. Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Yadav has said that the lawyers of the lower courts or the junior lawyers are facing starvation. Their position is very much bad. There should be a law to limit the fees of all the reputed lawyers of the High Court. Suppose 'A' person is a rich man. He rushes to the High Court and engages a reputed lawyer by paying a huge amount as his fees. 'B' person is financially not sound to appoint a lawyer of the same standard as appointed by 'A' for himself and hence he appoints a junior lawyer who is a newcomer. No court will hear or take cognisance of the submissions made by that new comer lawyer. So, I would suggest that there should be a procedure by which the fees of

the lawyers of the High Courts or the Supreme Court are fixed, otherwise nobody will be able to appoint the lawyers. A provision should be there for the appointment of lawyers so that cheap legal aid is available to the common people.

Another question is with regard to the appointment of the Lawyer Commission. There is a provision in the Civil Procedure Code that the Lawyer Commissioner will go to the house of the sick or the injured person and take his evidence. The court can appoint a Lawyer Commissioner to visit the field and submit a report to the Court. The Court should appoint such Lawyer Commissioners cautiously and carefully. I would say that no junior lawyer should be appointed as the Lawyer Commissioner. Only senior lawyers, who have to their credit some 10 to 15 years of practice, should be appointed as the Lawyer Commissioners. He should take the evidence and hear the party in the presence of lawyers of both the parties and then submit the report. There should be no scope for any deviation.

With these words I support the Bill. I know the Law Minister is a prudent lawyer. I urge upon the Minister to bring forward a Judicial Commission Bill to rectify all the errors and delays in the Civil Procedure Code as well as Criminal Procedure Code. The Minister should bring a Judicial Commission Bill before the House for discussion and passing.

SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR (Akola): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Sir, for giving me time to speak. The Minister while replying to the clarifications regarding appeals has said that any appeal from an original or appellate order is decided by a single Judge. I have a specific question to him. There are certain matters which are in the set up of the country. There are certain matters which come up from lower courts. I will give you an example from the Charity Commissioner's matter. The first appeal is referred to the city civil court and from the city civil court, the second appeal is referred to the High Court. You have clearly mentioned, it is going to be a single judge bench. I have not applied my mind to it but it seems that there is not going to be a Division Bench at the High Court. If there is not going to be a Division Bench, then let us see who is going to hear those appeals from the city civil courts. Will they have to come direct to the Supreme Court? Or, you will think of a medium in which they can be heard by the High Courts. This is one issue which I have.

Secondly, you have mentioned that on the matters which are being heard, the judgements will have to be delivered. We are aware of the practice and the procedure of the High Courts where the assignment changes after one or one and a half-month. The matters do not carry along with him. If the matter is not carried along with the judge who is hearing the matter, how is he going to give a judgement? Are you going to specify or are you going to assure this House that the judge hearing the matter will have to give the judgement? Is it the interpretation of the new section that you have introduced? Are they have to give judgement not matter how long it takes? These are two specific issues which have not been clarified. I think there is going to be ambiguity in the whole aspect.

Secondly, the Minister has pointed out that there are nearly 45 lakh cases pending in the High Courts. The State Legislatures have been passing new Bills which are now encroaching upon the Constitution. The appeals against such enactment are pending in the High Courts. The judgements would come after three-five years. The enactment that are passed by the Assemblies may be struck down but by that time certain actions would have been taken by the Government. Some of them may relate to the State Government and some may relate to individuals. May I know from the Minister whether he is going to make any kind of distinction between the matters which are of individual or personal nature and the matters which come in the category of encroachment upon the Constitutional rights? I may point out one specific case where I am also waiting for the High Court to hear the case. It is regarding Enron where the State Government has given a guarantee. As you are quite well aware, the guarantees are given under certain conditions where the annuities are there. A blanket guarantee cannot be given. But this matter is pending for a long time with the High Court. I do not go to the court for the matters which are pending. But where there are nearly about 20,000 matters pending to be admitted, I do not expect that the judge will have time to hear these kinds of matters. But are you going to adopt some new methodology to see that the matters which concern the nation, the system, the attitude or the confidence of masses, are heard in preference to other matters? I think, somewhere this kind of preferential treatment will have to be evolved if the confidence in the judiciary has to remain. It is because it is a matter which concerns a large number of people.

Lastly, you have thought of appointing Commissioners as a methodology for getting over time factor. I do not know how far it will be effective. Having worked with the trade unions where Commissioners are appointed, I know the manner in which they function.

[Shri Prakash Yashwant Ambedkar]

Without specifying their qualifications, it is left to the sweet will of the judiciary as to who should be appointed as a Commissioner and I do not know what kind of commissioners are going to be appointed. But, I have a suggestion here.

Last time when I raised this issue, another Minister was here. It is regarding setting up of an All India Judicial Service. It is one of the mandatory provisions for any Government to have an All India Judicial Service. But, for the last fifty years we have not thought about it. One of the reasons may be that since there will be an entry point, the question of reservation will come and therefore let us not follow it. It might be that case. But this is a haphazard manner in which the whole system is functioning without anything being controlled. May I ask the Minister whether he is going to think of an All India Judicial Service, whereby instead of allowing the judiciary to appoint the commissioners, he will have persons readily available with him who could be appointed as commissioners?

Lastly, I will come to an issue from where issues are arising day by day. As the Minister has mentioned, a security has to be given. In the Bill it is not specified as to what it is. In a majority of cases, what is stated is that *status quo* has to be maintained. Nobody knows what is that *status quo*. To get a clarification about the *status quo*, you will have to file an application again. May I ask the Minister, who must know it, as to what it means? We will ask the judiciary to stop this process of stating that *status quo* is to be maintained and instead specify what is to be maintained in the injunction. I think that will stop of a lot of litigations and will lessen a lot of burden over the petitioner and the defendant.

These are some of the suggestions that I have and I hope that the Minister would pay attention to them.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha): Mr. Chairman Sir, it is a common dictum that 'Justice delayed is justice denied'. It is also a common dictum that 'Justice hurried is justice buried'. I am happy that this second dictum is also taken into account in this Bill. Therefore, I find that it is a beautiful combination of the spirits of these two dictums.

The Law Minister has done a good thing in consulting all the concerned people. The process of striking a balance between these two has been maintained. In the matter of service of summons within a short period, some new course has been stipulated. The rigid rule of not

giving any time for anything under any circumstance is spared and is dealt with accordingly. Therefore, in the case of written statements, taking of evidence, hearing of pleading, framing of issues and not allowing a further appeal on the judgement of a High Court Judge who is already sitting on an appeal are all matters relating to this change. I congratulate the Minister for having brought all these changes. I do not have much to say on these things.

The fact that 35 lakh case are pending is really a disturbing factor. Justice can be seen to be given only when it goes up to the lower strata of our society and the poor man is able to get justice in the normal course. I think that the Legal Aid System which we have should be strengthened.

As regards appointment of commissioners, I think it is a welcome step. There is nothing to say that the lawyers who will be appointed as commissioners may not be acting in good faith. I think the wordings given in Section 12 are "may have some implications that the general powers are all given to the court, provided that the court may, while appointing a Commissioner under this sub-rule, consider taking into account such relevant factors as it thinks fit." I think this has to be elaborated. Otherwise, when the rules are framed, I do not know how this matter, "as it thinks fit" is going to be dealt with. I think some more elaboration is necessary and some more direction needs to be given in the Act itself. The only thing, I am afraid, is who will bear the expenses for the Commissioner. A normal litigant who may not need or who would rather prefer the judge himself to hear may be put to a loss by asking him to go and pay for the Commissioner. I would suggest that a general fund of some nature can be thought of for giving remuneration to the Commissioner. I think there is nothing wrong even if junior lawyers also come into this because we cannot brush aside all the junior lawyers and say that only senior lawyers with certain experience should come into it. After all, it is only recording of evidence. They are not going to decide it. You have provided for even the demeanour to be taken into account.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Junior lawyers are better than senior lawyers.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: They are sometimes better. So, I would think that these things may be taken into account. Though I am not directly connected with these things, at one point, I think we should have some kind of decentralisation with regard to matters in the Supreme Court. There are people who are not able to go upto the Supreme Court, get a good lawyer, argue the case and

get justice from the Supreme Court. Even for small things, for prestige sake and only because one party is going to the Supreme Court, the other party is also going up. The other party may not get justice and if he is a poor person, he will find it so difficult. So, in a federal State like ours, you have to decentralise this by way of either giving Supreme Court Benches to every State or confine the jurisdiction in the State itself. You may further give an appellate body from the High Court also. I do not mind it. But it has to be confined to the State itself so that final appeal is decided there itself in small cases. Let the Supreme Court decide on constitutional matters, matters relating to inter-State issues and issues of such large implications where the question of law has to be interpreted. Otherwise, let one-to-one case where a decision can be made be confined to the State itself. In cases where probably decision cannot be made, finally by a High Court, an appeal has to be provided. I would suggest that we have to find another way to have an appellate body, say a federal court in the sense a final court, in the State itself. Therefore, we will have the final judicial verdict in the State itself.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Sir, I congratulate the Law Minister for bringing forward some amendments in the Civil Procedure Code which address some major concerns, though not all. I am not going to repeat all those concerns like the amendment of petitions, recording of evidence, filing of reply or service of summons.

I have only three or four suggestions to make. Firstly, the Government of India is the number one litigant in this country. The Government always files appeals against its own employees. So, my appeal to the hon. Minister is that, just to reduce the number of cases, he should see to it that the Government does not go and appeal against its own employees on very small matters like promotions, increments and so on.

Secondly, what about the reduction in the number of adjournments? I am not a lawyer. But I would just like to say that a rich person goes on getting adjournment after adjournment. Can he do anything about this matter so that the number of adjournments can be limited?

My third suggestion is with regard to the appointment of Public Prosecutors in the states. In these days, it is a political appointment. Whenever there is a new Government, its own party people are only appointed. So, the rate of conviction is abysmally very low. Most of the time, there is some compromise with their professional ethics. The Public Prosecutors are not answerable to

anybody. Can we have a law so that there could be a permanent cadre of Public Prosecutors? If that is done, they will become Government employees and they will be responsible to the Superintendent of Police of the district. There will be better coordination and there will be more convictions from the Government side.

Last but not least, what about the pre-trial negotiations? In so many countries of the world, the pre-trial negotiations have been given a statutory authority. So, can we give something like this?

With these suggestions, I conclude. Thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to speak.

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to say only that the Minister of Law has brought these amendments after taking in view opinion of Commission, all parties and the submission of report of Standing Committee, in view of this all of us should respect his feeling.

It is true, that if a case is filed in Supreme Court by a man, that case is fought by his great grandsons. We should respect the amendments brought by him. The hon'ble Minister has fixed time limit at every level. The defendant has to give his name within 30 days, whose decree it would be, second appeal would not be permissible, all these things have been mentioned in it. They said, summon could be send through registered letter, speed post and courier. This is the new provision made by him. Earlier, lot of problem existed in the process of serving summons. Our person was sent to serve summons, the decision was taken, but two evidences were not required. They have tried to adopt right procedure in serving the summons. I understand, it is a commendable act. If that person denies, then there is a provision that after fixation of date, summon could be given to plaintiff. In such a situation, he can get summon issued to defendant. There is a provision to reissue the summon. If something lacks in the claim, he can file it within 14 days. There is a provision to provide copy of it to every defendant. It would be mandatory to give a type-written copy of it within seven days to all defendants. An effort has been made to impose time restriction in this regard and the time limit to give reply has been set 30 days. The defendant will have to apply within 90 days. The hon'ble Minister has distributed time properly. If a person does not deposit fees for issuing summons within the set time limit. Then his case would be dismissed, but if his lawyer give appropriate reasons on right time, then

[Shri Girdhari Lal Bhargava]

the court will not issue orders for it. If oral discussion is held, it is good, but all things should be recorded in written.

There is a mention of constituting commission for it, because court do not have spare time for it. If an evidence is recorded in front of commission, then time till not be wasted in repeating the statement in court. Commission will give its report within 4 days. The people from High Court and District Court selected in Commission panel, would be appointed in it. The plaintiff has to pay fees from his pocket. It has been said that Court will give its decision within 30 days. If any type of problem persists, then also it will not take more than 60 days.

Election Petition has also been mentioned it. In his reply, the hon'ble Minister should also tell that the verdict would be given within 6 months otherwise if a person wins election petition by hook or by crook. Once he has own election, he should be declared as winner. The hon'ble Minister may also tell as to what will be the eligibility for the appointment of commissioner and what will be their fee.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, today many cases are lying pending in the courts and posts of judges are also lying vacant. You yourself have admitted that 35 lakh cases are pending in the courts. Hon'ble Minister, I understand, that your intentions are good. I and my party respect your feelings. We hope that a law would be enacted which would hope to settle the cases pending in civil courts for many years and vacancies of judges lying vacant in High Courts will also be filled.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): Sir, I am extremely grateful to the hon. Members who have spoken on this Bill. All most all the Members have supported the Bill, and raised some very relevant issues. If I understand the issues, they broadly relate to two objectives. The first is that there must be fairness in the system of judicial trial. As Shri P.C. Thomas, who is one of the latest speakers, said justice must not be buried merely because we are going in for speed. At the same time, a number of Members felt that when the process is very slow, delay itself defeats the cause of justice. Through this particular Bill, we are trying to find a middle path and reconciliation between speed in the judicial process on the one hand,

and following the rules of due process of law, on the other hand.

Sir, this is necessary. We are in jurisprudence or we are in a society where the norms of a civil society require that disputes between individuals should not be resorted and resolved merely by use of force but must be resolved and adjudicated by a judicial tribunal. That is the requirement of the society which is governed by the rule of law.

The second factor is that delay in the judicial process or the high cost of the judicial service itself should not be such that it dissuade people from going to court and taking the law into their own hands and resolving the disputes by extra constitutional methods. We have tried to find, therefore, the middle course, as I said, between speed, between fairness and between the process of law. The concern really arises. Hon. Member, Kumari Mamata Banerjee mentioned the concern when she was speaking. In the High Court, there are about 35 lakh cases pending. In the lower courts, as far as the whole country is concerned, the figure is little more than two crores. Out of these two crore cases, about one-third are civil cases and two-third are criminal cases.

Shri V.P. Singh Badnore when he was speaking raised a question as to what are we going to do about the Criminal Procedure Code because that has a much larger bearing as far as the rules of civil society are concerned. If people who commit offence cannot be punished, then there are serious concerns as to what really happens to our society. I may just respond to a suggestion that the hon. Member had given. We have appointed a Committee last year headed by retired Judge, Justice Mallimath. I would request the hon. Members also if they have any views, they should send it to me or to that Committee as to what changes are required in our Criminal Procedure System. When we do this, we must keep in mind the serious fact that in a serious crime, not in any ordinary crimes like challans or other small offences, the conviction rate in this country has come down to little over six per cent. Ninety-three to ninety-four per cent of the people who are charged for criminal or serious offences managed to get acquitted. Therefore, there is a serious cause for introspection that when crime becomes a very low risk area, and that you commit a crime, you profiteer from crime and the risk of getting convicted is going to be very low. Then, this itself is going to have a serious impact on the rule of law and the rule of civil society. Criminals and *mafias* will hold the society at ransom. Therefore, we have to seriously

introspect as to what really is wrong with our criminal law system.

That Committee is now going round the country. It is meeting police officers, human rights groups, political persons, judges, lawyers, etc. They had about four seminars all over the country. I had an occasion to interact with them on three questions. Very fundamental issues are now going to arise which the world is dealing with.

17.00 hrs.

What do we do with the problem of hostile witnesses because criminal jurisprudence is being governed by this institution of hostile witnesses? The ordinary citizens are not coming to depose where this should be justified as the truth in courts. We have followed a norm which is a constitutional guarantee that the accused has a complete right to silence. Now, with 6 or 6½ per cent conviction rate, how do we reconcile this? The Law Commission is also seriously examining this issue. The police and prosecuting agencies have one view on this issue because we have very serious questions on which again I have to take the view of the society as to how we manage our criminal law jurisprudence systems in the society. In every case, should the onus of proof be entirely on the prosecutor? Should the accused merely use the right of silence and get away? These are fundamental questions. I am not giving an answer to any one of them because these are very difficult to answer. But, I think, it is time that this House, as the law making authority of this country, should seriously start considering these issues.

Sir, there is an Expert Group going into these questions. When we get its report we will place it before this hon. House also for a discussion because that one issue is going to make an impact on law and order, public order, norms of civil society and rule of law as far as India is concerned. This is my response to what the hon. Member has said. We are expecting the report of that group some time at the end of this year. These are not changes that we should make in a hurry or as a knee-jerk reaction. But they should all be very well considered.

The hon. Member who spoke first, Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan had raised the question about the issue of the appeal and I tried to clarify in an intervention. We have to really choose between two systems. One is that even in a judicial forum, it is quite possible that there may be errors which may be committed and, therefore, a citizen should have a right to make an appeal against that error. But how many appeals do we allow against

one order? The basic principle that there must, at least, be one appeal, in addition to the constitutional right to go to the Supreme Court under article 136, is very well established. There should be no order which should not be appealable at all. But at the same time, to have four or five appeals against one order itself may create a complicated situation. So, in this Civil Procedure Code (Amendment) Bill we have tried to reconcile that. When single judges of the High Court decide an issue in their original jurisdiction under article 226 of the Constitution or under any other power, there will be a right to appeal to the Division Bench. But single judges are hearing appeals against lower court orders, then there will be no right to appeal.

Shri Prakash Yashwant Ambedkar wanted to know whether appeals can directly go to the Division Benches also. He also wanted to know whether this is being forbidden. These are all governed by separate rules which the High Courts frame for themselves. There are High Courts which permit appeals being filed against the District Judge's orders. There are others which permit appeals being filed to the Division Benches. Then there are some High Courts which allow appeal being filed before a single judge. These are all matters which are governed by the High Court procedures themselves.

Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan wanted to know as to what was the need to bring this amendment which is of a clarificatory nature to the effect that a civil judge cannot execute a decree outside his jurisdiction. If properties are located outside his jurisdiction, then obviously properties outside the jurisdiction will have to be attached. He is very correct. The provision under Section 39 of the Code of Civil Procedure is, a person can get a transfer order of the decree and go to the judge under whose jurisdiction he is located. This is the existing provision. But some conflicting judgements have come. So, the Law Commission, in its 144th Report, advised that this confusion created by conflicting views should be removed and a clarificatory amendment should be brought. Therefore, this amendment is only a clarificatory amendment which reaffirms the present view.

Sir, a question has been raised by some hon. Members as to how much time should be given to file a written statement. The Bill which we had passed in 1999 simply said that it should be within 30 days and not a day more. Even the Judge will not have the power to give a day more. This was one provision against which a lot of protest had taken place. Finally, when we had discussions with the Bar Council of India and with various Bar Associations, I had even requested some lawyer—

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Members of this House to come and participate in the discussions. Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal was with me in all those meetings. When we discussed this issue with them, the Chairman and the Members of the Law Commission were there, the Attorney General was there, and we discussed this issue threadbare. Not it sounds very reasonable to say that we should give only 30 days to file an appeal, not a day more. This was the provision in the Bill which was passed in 1999.

There were many issues which were thrown at us, if I may say so, during those discussions. We have a large section of people who are very poor. Even before they go to engage a lawyer, they may have to raise money. Then, there are people who are illiterate, who do not know where their documents are and they may have to go to the Registrar and get documents as far as the office of the Registrar is concerned. Similarly, somebody may be unwell. In large commercial disputes, the litigation may be in India, but the client may be outside the country. So, do you want the rule of thumb '30 days and not a day more' and not give the powers to the Judge?

There was some element of discussion as to what should be the reasonable time. After considerable discussion, keeping all these factors, he said: "The ordinary rule is 30 days. This rule of 30 days can be breached only if the Judge is convinced that there are sufficient reasons that it should be breached. But the outer limit, in any case, will not be more than 90 days, that is, 30 days plus 60 days." This is the outer limit. In fact, I may tell that at one stage even my initial view was that '30 plus 30' would be appropriate. But there are lawyers, particularly those practicing in the subordinate courts. They deal with clients who have very little paying capacity and whose capacity to actually get hold of their documents is also limited. He may be very poor. You may have a farmer who may be busy in the fields. But they raise all kinds of problems. We felt, particularly, when we had the discussions. The hon. Vice-Chairman had said: "In some areas, you did try to accommodate the viewpoint of the lawyers." Yes, we did. This is one area.

Of the two areas where we accommodated their viewpoint, one was that some flexibility was to be given, but with an outer limit, which is 90 days.

The second area where are accommodated their view was that the Bill of 1999 stated that there would be no power of amendment of a pleading at all. Now whatever

case is going on and something happens after the filing of the case, a decision is necessary for that case. Several examples are there. This happens every day.

So, for subsequent events, you have to give a limited power of amendment. We accommodated their viewpoint. But we also persuaded them to agree to our viewpoint. What they agreed on was much more. For example, there is the right of a Judge to stop these endless arguments which go on. Now these endless arguments can go on for days. For injunction applications, the arguments can go on for days and months together. It cost the litigant. It cost the court its timing. This does not happen anywhere else in the world.

Recently, the Vice-President of the Chinese Supreme Court was here. I asked him a question: "How long does it take in your country for a case to be disposed of?" He was very apologetic and said: "Earlier, it was very quick. Now, it is delayed a little." I said: "How much is the timing?" He said: "Earlier, it was about two weeks. Now, it can take up four to six weeks." He was apologetic about a case taking four to six weeks.

I gave a comparison in the other House. In the United States, probably last year, the most important case the world heard was the election case filed by Mr. Al Gore against Mr. Bush to decide who the President of USA will be. The total time taken in the US Supreme Court was one-and-a-half hours. They allocate the time and say: "Whatever else you have to say, you please give it in writing." Nobody has said that those legal systems are defective or that they suffer because the timings are rationed and you are not allowed to argue for days indefinitely. Here in India, a system had actually existed when the Judge looked at his watch said: "How much more time will you take?" We tell him: "Please look at the calendar and not your watch because we have to tell your how many days we will take to complete this."

Now, with this kind of a discipline, how do we balance between a due process and speed? Therefore, we have said and the Bar agreed: "All right, restrict the timing as far as arguments are concerned but to compress the life of a case." For an original trial in the Mumbai High Court or the Delhi High Court, the average life is 15-20 years. In the lower courts, it can be anything between three and five years.

The recording of evidence takes place. In the High Court it takes indefinite number of years. In the lower courts also, it can take some years. Now, there are cases of all kinds. We have not said that all cases will go to

the Commission. Hon. Member, Shri P.C. Thomas, said: "How will the litigant be able to pay?" Well, the Judge will keep this in mind. If there is a poor litigant, he will record the evidence himself and not refer it to a Commission.

But let me give you another example. I recently associated with a function. Every day, we raise this issue in the 'Question Hour' or the 'Zero Hour'. Shri Rupchand Pal raises it about the non-performing assets of banks and financial institutions. We have constituted Debt Recovery Tribunals all over the country. Banks have filed cases for recovery. Are we aware of the total amount of claims? The total size of India's Budget is Rs. 4-1/2 lakh crore. The bank claims before the DRT today are for Rs. 1,10,000 crore. There are individuals, companies and others who have taken money. But the creditor has to chase the debtor. Nowhere in the world does it happen. Now, in such a case all you have to do on those forums is that you have to record evidence. The bank is not a poor litigant; please appoint a Commissioner because there are bank documents which are to be proved. Why should such a case take ten years to be disposed of? There are cases relating to property, there are cases relating to family where litigation can be mentally very disturbing. All these factors will be taken into consideration whether the Commissioner's cost is shared or the richer litigant will bear this. These are the matters of judge's discretion. We have said in the law.

A question was raised, who will appoint the Commissioner? An apprehension is expressed that somebody may favour some advocates. We have said, "No. The High Court or the District Judge shall prepare a panel of Commissioners." After all, you are leaving this power to the Chief Justice of the High Court. He will say in the High Courts, so and so and a District Judge will say these are the 50 advocates, I am convinced; they are up to the standard; these other kinds of people I am still not satisfied; so I will not put them. How much money will they charge? The Judge has no power to award any money. "...The court may, by general or special order, fix the amount to be paid as remuneration." So, there will be a scale. Now, this one factor is accompanied by a factor which the bars substantially agreed to because there were some who had reservations that the Commissioner records evidence and ordinarily what takes five or ten years in the High Court, three to four years in the lower court, within 60 days, he files the record of the evidence before the court, unless the subject matter is such that the judge decides to extend the time.

SHRI A.C. JOS: What about stipulating a seniority for a lawyer to be a Commissioner?

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: I think, Shri Jos should consider it in a larger subject. Some issues were raised. There may be a subject matter where a very senior lawyer may be expected to be there. Let me give a practical illustration as the hon. Member without referring to the case mentioned to it. We have discussed every day in this House, outside in the media that the case in Uttar Pradesh which creates a problem every day has been going on for some fifty years. Why does it take 50 years for a civil case? Finally, what is the solution that the judge has found? We can only hear it on some days, when we cannot hear it we will have a Commissioner. So, they thought that the Commissioner must be some retired High Court judge because this is an important case. In a small dispute he may find that even an ordinary young man is very enthusiastic. In an important matter he may feel somebody senior enough is there. After all we are delegating the power by legislation not to every magistrate in the country or every civil judge, we are delegating this power to the Chief Justice or the District Judge.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: The hon. Minister can explain it by his own experience. We are not competent that way. It has also been observed that there are frequent adjournments on flimsy grounds. The other side is ready but the senior lawyer is busy. That is why it cannot be taken up. Now, this way, you see how many hours have been destroyed. What will the hon. Minister do with that?

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: I am very grateful to the hon. Member. Shri Swain also raised the same question.

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY: Advocate Commissioners have already been appointed, but they do not submit their reports within three months. The concept of Advocate Commissioner is already in existence.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: The Advocate Commissioner gets normally appointed when both sides consent. Now, you are giving a power even without consent. For instance, I gave an example of a bank. The man who has to pay Rs. 1,10,000 crore to those people, is not going to agree to a Commissioner being appointed and a decree against him in three months' time. So, he will try and delay the case. In these cases, if Commissioners do not submit their report, I am sure the Chief Justice will see to it that the defaulting Commissioner will be out of the list.

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Let us not be in perpetual distrust of high constitutional authority to whom we are giving the power. If some commissioner is going not to perform his obligation or duty, this is the power how to manage the court discipline. On every small point we need not have to legislate, we can leave some factors even so are as judges are concerned.

A question was raised as to what happens in the case of repeated adjournments? Litigants go to court, and not only this in the High Courts they come from far flung districts; and in the Supreme Court they come from far flung areas in the country. When these litigants go to these places, and they are told that the lawyer is not available or there is a strike or some such problem has taken place, I may point out that in the 1999 amendment—though there are some areas we have improved upon, some areas we have made it more flexible—there were some very good areas. And one of the areas in that amendment under Order 17 Rule (i) was that in any given case in the entire life a case there will be not more than three adjournments.

That amendment because of the whole a agitation was not put into force, but once this particular Bill that we pass today is put into force, then the 1999 amendments, to the extent we amend them by the provision today, will all be incorporated into one. And after the Presidential Assent, we will put them into force. So, the net cumulative effect of the amendments will be that at least, we, by law, give the legislative intention. After all what can the Legislature do? We can only legislate. We can give the legislative intention but the principal players are the lawyers and the judges. Once the Legislature has said, they will also have to realize their responsibilities. If you look at the big picture of what the Civil Procedure Code looks like, you have 30 days to file your written statement. Instead of one year for service of summons, we have said dozens of different methods by which you can serve summons. Service of summons through courier in a district also takes two or three days and not more. You have to file your written statement in 30 days with exception only in cases where it can be extended. Evidence to delegate the functions is within 60 days. Argument to allocate the time and judgement to deliver is done within 30 days. Sir, 30 days is the rule. Some comment was made on this. But in some cases, the subject matter may be so large that we have said this could be extended for reasons to be recorded in writing as to why the judgement could not be delivered for another period of 30 days.

Sir, if you permit me, I may just narrate an incident. Somebody in this House had asked the question how

many judgments are pending undelivered for more than one year. I wrote a letter to the Chief Justice of every High Court that I have been asked this information and I have to provide this information. So, this information may be given. Some people gave the information. Some people said this is the issue relating to independence of judiciary and we cannot tell you. I was helpless because I could not give effective answer to the House because I did not have the figure. So, I kept corresponding and persuading them to give me the figures. Some newspaper Reporter somehow got to know of it. One newspaper published an article that this controversy has started.

Last summer I had gone to England for some Conference. I called on the Lord Chancellor who is their Law Minister and Head of the Judicial System also. A brief was put up to him about India. From the Internet, they must have got all this information. This amusing news article was also before him. So, he asked me a question and said, "I am told you are also having this problem in India where your judges are not telling you how many judgements are pending". I said: "Why do you use the word 'also'?" He said: "Because I also have it here." So, I said: "How did you deal with it?" and he used a very beautiful cryptic sentence and said: "Well, I told my judges you must be independent, but independence cannot be used to camouflage inefficiency." The two are entirely different and they operate in a different domain. Now, therefore, in this Civil Procedure Code, from day one to the last day, we have given the legislative guideline, and the legislative guideline is that judgements must be delivered quickly. Evidence must be recorded easily and quickly. Arguments must be short and crisp. Replies must be filed quickly, and in time. But if somebody still decided not to obey the mandate of law, I am sure the higher echelons of the judicial institution will also take care of this.

Sir, several important issues have been raised. Hon. Chairman speaking as a Member raised the issue how do you make it cheaper. This is the question that Kumari Mamata Banerjee also had raised. How do we make litigation cheaper in this Country? It is because it is indeed very costly. On Friday only, we cleared a very important piece of legislation, the Legal Services Authority Act. I had given one figure in that act that today barring two of the three new States which we created, it is almost in the process of completion. In Uttaranchal and Jharkhand also, I am told now it is taking place. Every State in India, we have a State-level Legal Services Authority. Right up to the district level, we have a district-level Legal Services Authority. We are funding those Authorities. Those Authorities are expected to make sure that no

litigant who comes to them, who deserves legal aid because he has inadequacy of income, goes unrepresented by a lawyer merely because he has no money. I gave the figure that day that those district-level authorities have been able to give legal aid so far to about over 40 lakh people. Sir, 40 lakh litigants have come.

We have, then, tried to create *Lok Adalat* system in the whole country. Through that *Lok Adalat* system, in the last 12 years, we have been able to sort out at that level—the figure of two crore cases looks very large—1,36,00,000 cases.

We have now amended that Act in the Lok Sabha. I am having it taken to the Rajya Sabha and having it approved there, if possible, in this Session.

Shri Kharabela Swain had raised the point that in every public utility service like Municipality, housing board, telephone companies and electricity companies, it is now compulsory at all levels in the Centre and States to have *Lok Adalats*. We have discussed on Friday alternative routes available to a litigant. He need not go to the court. He could go to the tribunals and *Lok Adalats* and try to resolve small issues without spending any money.

Shri Vijayendra Pal Singh Badnore had raised an important question. We had an Arbitration Act of 1940 and it became almost a virtue under our system to see that once arbitrations were held and awards were given, we would invent new methods of challenging those awards. Arbitration is a process where we would not go to court, we would select our own private judge and whatever the judge decides—it is like a *panch*—we would abide by it. Judges are always told that they have great powers. This is one more reason why they think that they have power to interfere in arbitration awards. So, we made arbitration a costlier and longer procedure than a normal case. Thus, our Act became totally unworkable and useless. Therefore, in 1996, following a model law that various countries in the world have adopted, we enacted something close to that law. There are still some drawbacks in that law that we are examining. The Law Commission has given me a report and very soon I would be coming back for changes.

We have a very good arbitration law but excessive judicial intervention. We have arbitrators of international standards. If you ask any Indian company, they would tell you that their foreign collaborators have now started insisting that in the event of a dispute, it would be a foreign arbitration or a foreign venue. The reason why

they insist on a foreign arbitration or a foreign venue is that in our country courts interfere too much and it takes too much time. So, those Indian partners who need that investment have no option but to sign on the dotted line. When they go in for arbitration abroad, as it happened in the Enron case, Indian companies find the cost to be unbearable. Therefore, in the interest of our own companies, if we have to have an arbitration practice system in India in terms of quality arbitration with least judicial intervention, something which the best international benchmark, so that we could tell the foreign investors that India itself is a very appropriate venue for arbitration and they have nothing to worry about.

There were several other question raised. Shri A.C. Jos mentioned that the limit of Rs. 25,000 could be raised. We have said that in cases where the amount of money is Rs. 25,000, there would be no second appeal. The original 1999 amendment provided 'where the subject matter is Rs. 25,000'. Now, there is a difference between 'where the amount of money is Rs. 25,000' and 'where the subject matter is Rs. 25,000'. For instance, in most agricultural properties or properties in villages and smaller areas, valuations are done as per traditional valuation methods. They do not value properties very highly. In all those cases, if there were property disputes, the right of appeal would be lost. So, we have kept it at Rs. 25,000 but we have put a restriction on the right of appeal.

An hon. Member asked about the need for giving surety in the matter of injunctions. One of the question raised was, in matters of injunctions, why should we have vague *status quo* orders, etc. As far as the terms of the orders are concerned, it is a judicial discretion. This provision of surety exists already under order 39, rule 2. The proposal was to bring it under order 39, rule 1, in the same identical language. When it went to the Standing Committee, the Standing Committee said, 'There is no special reason where anything has happened since 1976 that we have felt the necessity of bringing this provision.' We have respected the opinion of the Committee. Therefore, in the official amendment that I have circulated, there is no provision for surety...*(Interruptions)* We have put off that provision after the Standing Committee opined that there was no need for it. This is the official amendment that I have moved.

Shri P.H. Pandian and Kumari Mamata Banerjee had raised some questions on two or three areas. They raised a question about PIL. Another question was about how to tackle corruption in judicial institutions. The third was with regard to appointment of judges. India is a country where, by judicial interpretation and not by the original

[Shri Arun Jaitley]

language of the Constitution, instead of the Executive it is the judges who appoint judges and the Government merely notifies them. All these vacancies which exist—the High Court figure is about 155—are slowly coming down. The lower court figure is about 1800. We have been taking it up with the judicial institutions. But I must just mention and I would not make a detailed comment on this. Most political parties in their electoral agenda or manifestos have spoken in favour of a National Judicial Commission. The Commission which we have set up headed by Justice Venkatachalaiah to review the functioning of the Constitution also has made a recommendation. I have already addressed letters to the President of every political party—Centre and State political parties—inviting their comments on that part of the recommendation of the Justice Venkatachalaiah Commission. And as soon as I get back those opinions of political parties—and I will be grateful if the hon. Members could also make sure that the parties to which they belong also could make response to this—I will see if there is a broader consensus because the Constitution Amendment is involved and I will come out with an appropriate Constitution Amendment which can take place only with the larger consensus as far as this House is concerned.

Sir, a question was raised as to how do we tackle judicial corruption. I must clarify it. I have checked up this issue in person also and several questions had come. The former Chief Justice who retired recently never said that 20 per cent of the judges were corrupt. He said to the contrary that, to my knowledge, at least, 80 per cent of the judges are very hard working and honest. So, we have presumed what he did not say. Even in those works, he had not mentioned this thing. The question is as to who to deal with this issue of judicial corruption. It is still easier to deal with it at the lower levels because the lower court judges are all under the disciplinary control of the High Court. Therefore, there is an Authority. But as far as higher judiciary is concerned, hardly there is a disciplinary control.

SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR (Akola): About four applications have been made by some of the litigants which have been set free by the Supreme Court also, and that in their matters corruption has taken place at the judges level. They have asked permission from the Department to prosecute them. I would like to know whether you would give this permission or not.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: In the States, the judiciary is not with the High Court, but it is with the State Government now.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Whenever we get these applications, within the parameters of law, we consider them. There is a legislation of Parliament—the Judges Protection Act—which has certain restrictions on permission of this kind. We must keep the law also in mind. The arguments in support of the judges will always mean that there should be an in-house mechanism within the judicial institutions to correct whatever misdemeanour takes place. Therefore, the Executive really should not be intervening in this. This has been the traditional argument given.

Now, how far the in-house mechanism has been successful? They appoint PR Committees at times and there have been several cases. In fact, only one case came to this House about six or seven years ago. But there have been several cases where factors have come to light. Media reporting has come to light. But eventually this question, if I may very honestly submit, remained even today unanswered. Every misdemeanour is not misdemeanour, which asks for an impeachment. There may be misconduct of a nature, which does not warrant an impeachment. Impeachment is a very difficult, rarest of rare remedies or near impossible remedy. How do we deal with those situations? This is an unaddressed question. And the point of view in favour of the judiciary has been that there must be an in-house mechanism in the judiciary. But, so far, we have not seen an effective in-house mechanism. I think, one of the recommendations of the Justice Venkatachalaiah Commission has been that the National Judicial Commission would also go into these questions in the case of such misconduct which is of a nature where this does not warrant any impeachment proceedings. I think, we must all take that recommendation from an academic point of view also a little seriously.

SHRI A.C. JOS: The Apex court can formulate an in-house mechanism to deal with the corruption and allegation against the judges in the High Court and the Higher Courts. Even now it can be done without any constitutional amendment.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: May I say one more thing? I am just flagging the issue for consideration of this House at an appropriate time since we ourselves have already initiated a discussion both on the appointment procedure and on the disciplinary procedure emanating from Justice Venkatachalaiah Commission Report.

The Report has been put on the Web. Even suggestions from Members of Parliament would be welcome on this. I am trying to get the recommendations published as a book so that we can make it available to everybody.

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA: In the known case of impeachment in this House, our experience was not very happy.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Sir, the last question raised by Kumari Mamata Banerjee was about the Benches of the Supreme Court. This is also a very difficult question. The Government's stand has also been, and the Parliamentary Standing Committee has also taken a view, that Benches must be created, at least in some parts of the country. North-East is one area where there is a very strong case for creating a Bench because of their economy...(*Interruptions*) There is a very strong demand which has been coming from the South because of the distance the people have to travel, the cost which they have to incur and so on.

SHRI A.C. JOS: There is a suggestion to subsidise the travelling expenses of the clients coming to the Supreme Court in Delhi from the South because it is very expensive for them to come to Delhi.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: There is a provision in the Constitution. Article 130 says that the Supreme Court will create Benches at such places...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The 'Half-an-Hour' discussion was to be held at 5.30 pm., with the consent of Hon'ble Minister and Members it is postponed till tomorrow.

[*English*]

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Sir, this is the last point I am dealing with...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: The Hon'ble Minister, please tell about the constitution of Judicial Service Commission.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: It is not concerned with this discussion.

[*English*]

That is a separate subject under consideration. Article 130 says:

"The Supreme Court shall sit in Delhi or in such other place or places, as the Chief Justice of India

may, with the approval of the President, from time to time, appoint."

So, the original Constitution itself envisages that the Supreme Court will sit in Delhi or in such other places which the Chief Justice, after approval of the President, that is, the Government of India, will decide. So, the Chief Justice has to initiate and the Government has to approve while, on the contrary, the Government has been writing to the Supreme Court that we, now, feel that there is time to consider creation of Benches. But even recently, the full Bench of the Supreme Court decided that they felt that the time had not yet come for creation of this particular Bench and the issue remains an issue where the Government and the Parliament, on the one hand—because the Standing Committee has also expressed that opinion—and the court, on the other hand, have a different perception.

I may just wind up and say that this is an amendment which has been supported by all sections. The object really has been to expedite the hearing of a case, to compress every stage of a case, and this is one step which we are taking among several others in order to make litigation quicker as far as the litigation is concerned.

I commend to this House that this Bill be adopted by this House.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House will now take up clause by clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

"That clauses 2 to 16 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 to 16 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed"

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed"

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now we shall go to item No. 11-
the Bill further to amend the Insurance Act, 1938.

17.35 hrs.

INSURANCE (AMENDMENT) BILL

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF
FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): Sir, on
behalf of Shri Yashwant Sinha, I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Insurance Act,
1938, be taken into consideration."

Sir, this august House would recall that the hon.
Minister of Finance had introduced the Insurance
(Amendment) Bill, 2001 in this House on 16th August,
2001. This Bill was referred to the Standing Committee
on Finance for examination and report by the hon.
Speaker. The Standing Committee has considered the
Bill and I am glad to note that the Committee has
approved the Bill for enactment by the Parliament without
any modification/amendment.

Initially I would like to give a brief account of the
past events before giving the details of the contents of
the Bill. The Parliament had passed the Insurance
Regulatory and Development Authority Act, 1999 in
December, 1999 and this Act was made effective in April,
2000 with the establishment of the statutory Authority.
The Authority has already made regulations in all major
areas of operations in the insurance industry and matters
connected therewith. The regulations notified by the
Authority which have already been laid in the House,
cover the subjects of appointment of actuaries, licensing
of insurance agents, registration of insurance companies,
assets and solvency margins, re-insurance, investment,
obligations of insurers to rural or social sectors,
preparation of financial statements and reports etc.

The IRDA started inviting applications from new Indian
insurance companies with effect from 15th August, 2002.
So far, certificates of registration have been issued to 17
new private companies and all of them have commenced
their business.

The House would recall that the IRDA Act, 1999
contained three Schedules relating to amendments to
Insurance Act, 1938, LIC Act, 1956 and General Insurance
Business (Nationalisation) Act, 1972. The amendments to
LIC Act, 1956 and GIBNA, 1972 ceased the exclusive
privilege of the nationalised insurance companies to
transact insurance business. Through the amendment to
the Insurance Act, only Indian insurance companies
registered under the Companies Act, 1956 have been
allowed to transact insurance business in India. Several
representations have been received to allow entry of
cooperatives into insurance sector. The Malhotra
Committee, in its report, had also recommended entry of
cooperative societies in insurance sector.

We have considered the matter and the proposals to
amend the Insurance Act, 1938 contain the provisions to
allow the entry of cooperatives in the insurance sector. It
is expected that the entry of cooperatives in the insurance
sector would increase the insurance coverage, especially
in the rural areas.

The IRDA Act, 1999 has recognised insurance
intermediaries. However, there is no provision in the
Insurance Act, 1938 for the payment of commission/
remuneration or fee to the intermediaries. Therefore, it is
necessary to make suitable provision in the Insurance
Act in this regard.

According to the present provision in the Insurance
Act, the insurance premium is payable only by cash or
cheque. It is necessary to allow payment of insurance
premium through other forms like credit cards, smart
cards, transaction over the Internet etc. Therefore, it is
proposed to amend the relevant section in the Insurance
Act to enable the IRDA to specify other modes of payment
of premium through regulations.

In addition to the above changes required in the
Insurance Act, the IRDA has brought to the notice of the
Government that some further amendments to the
Insurance Act are required for the smooth functioning of
the opened up insurance sector. Therefore, the present
Bill, the Insurance (Amendment) Bill, 2001 contains such
consequential amendments which are consequential to
the enactment of IRDA Act and would enable the smooth
functioning of the insurance sector.

As I mentioned above, the Bill has been thoroughly scrutinised by the Standing Committee, which has approved the provisions contained therein without any modifications. I have noted the recommendations made by the Committee regarding the insurance agents and insurance intermediaries. The IRDA has already notified the regulations relating to the Agents. The provisions relating to educational qualifications, training etc. have not been made applicable to existing agents. The IRDA is yet to notify the regulations relating to insurance intermediaries. The recommendation made by the Committee has been forwarded to the IRDA for taking necessary action.

I would request the august House to consider the Insurance (Amendment) Bill for passing. During the course of the consideration of the Bill, I would explain to the hon. Members any clarifications which are required in the contents of the Bill. With these words I would take leave of the House to move that the Bill to further amend the Insurance Act, 1938 be taken into consideration.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Motion moved:

"That the Bill further to amend the Insurance Act, 1938, be taken into consideration."

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY (Berhampore, West Bengal): Sir, the hon. Minister, just a few minutes earlier, has moved the Insurance (Amendment) Bill, 2001. Sir, the name insurance and its concomitant reforms are fitted to be entangled with controversies whatsoever since its embryonic stage. The reasons is that it involves a considerable segment of our society.

Sir, I must extend my nod to this Bill, provided the interests of seven and a half lakhs of agents, who have been eking out their livelihood from this sector for years, are taken care of. Actually, the fact is that the agents are in a state of fear and apprehension. I know that the Bill is of a consequential nature. However, the Government should dispel the fear and apprehension arising out of this amendment Bill. Those agents are really beset with confusion assuming that their areas are being encroached upon by corporate agents because the Bill, by inserting a new Section 42E, is providing a provision in the law to make payment of commission and fees to those insurance intermediaries. Sir, the corporate broker channel is allowed. Brokers, risk management consultants, and intermediaries, will ingress upon this area. These are the reasons which have stirred up a hornet's nest.

Sir, one requires to have a mitotic wisdom to discover the terminological variations inherent in this Bill. Sir, for long, we are accustomed to this concept that agents are to be envisaged as employees of the insurance company who are to be paid commissions and fees under some terms and conditions. Therefore, a sense of security has been developed among the agents, but now a new tribe of corporate agents, under various nomenclatures of insurance intermediaries, is now pouring into this sector which has been creating confusion among the common agents. Sir, Clause 10 of the Bill reads:

"In section 42A of the principal Act, after sub-section (8), the following sub-section shall be inserted at the end, namely:—

(9) No insurer shall, on or after the commencement of the Insurance (Amendment) Act, 2001, appoint or transact any insurance business in India through any principal agent, chief agent or special agent."

It means that these managing agents are to be abolished. We know that the Bill is said to have adopted the recommendations of the Malhotra Committee. The Malhotra Committee was constituted to address the question of how to revamp the financial sector, specially the insurance sector, just as the Narasimhan Committee was constituted to revamp the banking sector.

The Malhotra Committee's recommendations were to make it more vibrant by increasing productivity, reducing the transaction costs and further to open up wider options to the customers.

Sir, we know that in consonance with the WTO General Agreement on Trade in Services, the Government has started structural reforms in the financial sector, but I think, the time is ripe to have introspection into the achievement after the reform. Already, IRDA has been constituted by an Act of Parliament. We should not forget the observation of the Supreme Court of the USA that insurance is a business linked with the public interest. A regulator is to not only ponder over the interest of the companies, but also it is incumbent upon the regulator to look after the other social objectives because in principle, there is a distinction between the regulator and the Government, but in practice, the distinction gets blurred.

Our performance, what we have achieved after the reform of insurance sector, insofar as coverage is concerned, is very dismal. In Singapore, 45 per cent to 50 per cent of population stands covered. In America, 80 per cent to 85 per cent of population has been covered.

[Shri Adhir Chowdhary]

In Japan, they have covered 100 per cent of population. However, India is a country which has a vast potential, so far as insurance coverage is concerned, and it is estimated that four hundred million rupees can be extracted by this insurance sector.

Sir, life in premium as a percentage of GDP in India is at its lowest ebb. It is hovering around 1.7 per cent to two per cent. In contrast, in South Korea, it is 12.3 per cent. India ranks 23rd in terms of total business premiums in the world. So far as insurance density is concerned, India ranks 82nd in the world and insofar as penetration of insurance business is concerned, India ranks 51st in the world. Insurance in the non-life sector also has registered a sluggish growth.

Sir, as can be seen from the Objects and Reasons, certificates of registration have been issued to 12 new private companies and, not all of them, some of them have already commenced insurance business. Again, out of these 12 new private companies not everybody is interested in carrying on insurance business here. But still the Government, in every Session, chooses to bring forward an amending Bill on insurance business. But I would like to congratulate the insurance sector, especially, the Life Insurance Corporation for having taken the bull by its horn. They have equipped themselves well to compete with the private sector in this field. At present, 2048 branches of the Life Insurance Corporation of India are offering desired services including on line and offline services.

Sir, having said that my appreciation is also due to the Government for their having taken a prudent step insofar as the co-operative societies are concerned. They are, now, being given the status of an insurer. Now, the co-operative societies would be able to conduct their business like that is done by the corporates. It is because we have adopted the peer approach in India. All regulators are separate and as far as penetration of insurance business in rural areas is concerned, it is really deplorable. Now, that the co-operative societies have been allowed entry into the insurance sector and with the help of more than five lakh co-operative societies, that would now act as insurance agents, it would help in bringing all those people living in the far-flung areas of our country under the ambit of insurance.

Sir, I would also like to seize this opportunity to highlight a few points. In India, people are spending huge sums of money on health accounts. It is estimated that the expenditure on health is nearly six per cent of our GDP.

But health insurance coverage is very much poor.

As far the telephone regulations are concerned, they have been mandated to serve the non-remunerative areas. Similar is the case in regard to airlines also. It is the same for other regulations also.

So, I would request the hon. Minister to make it mandatory for the private insurers to extend the health insurance service to the common people of India. It is because health is accessible only to the affluent classes. Accordingly, Mediclaim is also entrusted upon those upper strata of our society. Only domiciliary hospitalisation has been brought by the Mediclaim services. Therefore, this sector must be seriously looked into.

Sir, same is the situation in regard to agriculture sector. Agriculture is the mainstay of our country. It is the backbone of the economy of our country. Therefore, this sector is also to be provided with the insurance cover.

Sir, I do not find any substantial argument to oppose the Bill. However, I would like to refer to a few lines of the Standing Committee in this regard. The Standing Committee had stated: "The institution of insurance intermediaries should be introduced with specific safeguards and checks for a period of two years."

So, I would request the hon. Minister to kindly consider this point because it is our moral and social obligation to look after 7.5 lakhs agents and their family members. I believe that the hon. Minister is acquainted with the concept of society which teaches 'each for all and also all for each.'

Sir, the Alagh Committee had already recommended to give the cooperative sector the company status. We should not do anything whereby the concept of cooperative could be diluted. With these few words, I conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA (Mumbai North-East): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Golden Jubilee celebrations of Parliament are beginning today at 6 p.m., therefore, the House will adjourn at 6 p.m.

Sir, I agree that this is the next step taken by the Government in the process of development of insurance sector.

[English]

The competition is certainly going to help the total economic growth.

[Translation]

I am trying to go through some figures. Two years ago, we were discussing in this very House whether private companies should be brought in the life insurance sector or not. At that time many Members had expressed apprehensions. We had invited private companies in this sector and approximately 18 companies have submitted their applications and some different products were also launched. I was just going through figures which show that during last 25-30 years, LIC growth was just 15-16 percent, and due to private companies it has increased up to 63 percent in the year 2000-2001 and 2001-2002.

Sometimes it appears that we are getting benefit of competition and liberalisation and opening of economy. Sometimes apprehensions arouse but it is evident that not only private companies are getting its benefit, but Government companies are also becoming more efficient.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The speech of Shri Kirit Somaiya will continue.

The House now stands adjourned till Eleven the, Clock on Tuesday, 14, May 2002.

18.00 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, May 14, 2002/Vaisakha 24, 1924 (Saka)

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