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Monday, August 16, 2004
Sravana 25, 1926 (Saka)

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Second Session
(Fourteenth Lok Sabha)



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LOK SABHA

Monday, August 16, 2004/Sravana 25, 1926 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

OBITUARY REFERENCES

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I have to inform the House of the sad demise of four of our former colleagues, namely, Shri M.R. Krishna, Dr. K. Venkatagiri Gowda, Shri Abdul Ghafoor and Shri Hirendra Nath Mukerjee.

Shri M.R. Krishna was a Member of the First to Fourth Lok Sabhas from 1952 to 1970, representing the Karimnagar Parliamentary Constituency of Andhra Pradesh in the First and Second Lok Sabhas; and the Peddapalli Parliamentary Constituency of the same State in the Third and Fourth Lok Sabhas.

Shri Krishna was also a Member of Rajya Sabha from 1972 to 1982.

A well-known freedom fighter, Shri Krishna participated in the Quit India Movement in 1942.

His administrative capabilities came to the fore when he served as the Union Deputy Minister, Defence, from November, 1967 to June, 1970 and as Deputy Minister, Industrial Development and Internal Trade, from June, 1970 to March, 1971. Earlier, he also served as Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Education in 1962. An active parliamentarian, Shri Krishna was a Member of the Estimates Committee and the Public Accounts Committee.

A devoted social worker, he was associated with various social welfare organisations. He established Jai Jawahar Colony and the Gandhi Memorial Multipurpose Higher Secondary School at Alwal, Secunderabad. He actively worked for the betterment of the lot of the poor and the underprivileged. He was the General Secretary of the All India States Scheduled Castes Federation; the Hyderabad State Scheduled Castes Federation; and the All India Depressed Classes League.

A sports enthusiast, he was Chairman, National Institute of Sports; and Member, All India Council of Sports.

Shri M.R. Krishna passed away on 12th May, 2004 at Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh, at the age of about 80, after a brief illness.

Dr. K. Venkatagiri Gowda was a Member of the Tenth Lok Sabha from 1991 to 1996, representing the Bangalore South Parliamentary Constituency of Karnataka.

An able parliamentarian, Dr. Gowda served as a Member of the Committee on Environment and Forests during 1991-92 and the Committee on Human Resource Development from 1993 to 1996.

Dr. Gowda who had pursued his higher education at Mysore and London Universities was an erudite scholar and teacher of repute. He authored many books which include *'Perestroika and Glasnost for India', 'Fiscal Revolution in India', 'Euro-Dollar Flows and International Monetary Stability' and 'inflation-Appreciation of the Indian Rupee'.*

In his demise, we have lost a learned Parliamentarian and renowned economist.

Dr. K. Venkatagiri Gowda passed away on 5th July, 2004 at Bangalore at the age of 81 after a brief illness.

Shri Abdul Ghafoor was a member of the Eighth, Tenth and Twelfth Lok Sabhas from 1984 to 1989, 1991 to 1996 and 1998 to 1999. He represented the Siwan Parliamentary Constituency of Bihar during the Eighth Lok Sabha and the Gopalganj Constituency of the same State in the Tenth and Twelfth Lok Sabhas.

He participated in the freedom struggle and suffered imprisonment during the 'Quit India Movement' in 1942.

An able administrator, he served as the Union Cabinet Minister of Works and Housing from 1984 to 1985 and Minister of Urban Development from 1985 to 1986.

Earlier, Shri Ghafoor was a Member of the Bihar Legislative Assembly from 1952 to 1967 and from 1973 to 1984. He was a Member of the Bihar Legislative Council from 1968 to 1973 and he also held the office of its Chairman during 1972-73. He served as Deputy Minister in the State Government and held different portfolios. He rose to become the Chief Minister of Bihar, which office he held from 1973 to 1975.

An active parliamentarian, Shri Ghafoor was a Member of the Committee on Home Affairs and the Consultative Committee, Ministry of Communications during 1998-99. He was also Member, Joint Parliamentary Committee on the functioning of Wakf Boards in 1999.

Shri Abdul Ghafoor passed away on 10th July, 2004 at Patna, Bihar, at the age of 86.

Shri Hirendra Nath Mukerjee was a Member of the First of Fifth Lok Sabhas. He represented the Calcutta North-East Parliamentary Constituency of West Bengal in the First, Fourth and Fifth Lok Sabhas from 1952 to 1957 and again from 1967 to 1977; and the Calcutta Central Parliamentary Constituency in the Second and Third Lok Sabhas from 1957 to 1967. He was the Deputy Leader of the Communist Party of India in Lok Sabha from 1952 to 1964 and 1967 to 1971 and was its Leader from 1964 to 1967.

Shri Mukerjee was educated at the Presidency College, Calcutta and St. Chatherine's, Oxford University and Lincoln's Inn, London from where he became a Barrister. He had a uniformly outstanding record as a student. He stood first in the Intermediate Arts Examination, stood First Class First in B.A. History Honours, in his M.A. Examination he stood First Class First from Calcutta University.

He was the winner of Duff, Ishan, Gwalior, Burdwan and many other scholarships, medals and prizes. He was the Government of Bengal Scholar at St. Catherine's Oxford. Prof. Mukerjee was a Lecturer of History and Political Philosophy at Andhra University during 1934-35 and later at the University at Calcutta from 1940 to 1944. He was Head of the Department of History at Surendranath College, Calcutta from 1936 to 1962. He joined the Calcutta High Court as a Barrister but did not continue there long. While in England, he was drawn to Communism and joined the Communist Party of India in 1936. Following the 'popular front' policy of the party, he was elected member of All-India Congress Committee in 1938-1939. He was an elected member of the National Council of the Communist Party of India in 1958. He was arrested twice for political reasons in 1940 and 1941 and again detained without trial in 1948 and 1949.

A versatile genius, Shri Mukerjee belonged to a genre of people who revered parliamentary democracy. One of the most distinguished parliamentarians of India, Shri Mukerjee was highly respected in parliamentary circles for his enlightening contributions to the deliberations of the House. He was known for his respect for and mastery over the rules of procedure and also for his vast knowledge, brilliant and spellbinding speeches, incisive and logical arguments and legendary oratorical skills. The gamut of issue raised by Shri Mukerjee within and outside the House had a holistic perspective. Through his speeches, he unfailingly articulated a national vision.

During his long parliamentary career, he served on various parliamentary committees. He guided the deliberations of the Public Accounts Committee, as its Chairman, during 1976-77.

He also served with distinction as the First Honorary Advisor to the Bureau of Parliamentary Studies and Training of the Lok Sabha Secretariat.

His indefatigable zeal for pubic service led him also a serve causes other than political. An ardent social activist and educationist, he was associated with various organisations in different capacities. He served as President, Bengal Provincial Students' Conference; All-India Students' Conference, Nagpur; and Bengal Motion Pictures Employees' Union; and as Vice-President, Bengal Provincial Trade Union Congress. He was the Founder Member of the All-India Progressive Writers' Association and of Friends of Soviet Union.

He was also a member of the Central Advisory Board of Archaeology from 1952 to 1955; 1957 to 1960 and 1972 to 1975. He was member, Education Panel, Planning Commission; National Integration Council, 1962; and Central Advisory Board of Education from 1972 to 1975. He served as a member of the Senate of Calcutta University from 1953 to 1961; and Samsad (Court) of the Visva Bharati from 1972 to 1975. He was Executive Member of the National Committee for Gandhi Centenary; he was a Trustee, Jawaharlal Nehru Memorial Trust and Lal Bahadur Shastri Memorial Trust. He took keen interest in sports and was the member of All India Council of Sports from 1953 to 1971.

A prolific writer, Shri Mukerjee was the author of many books in English and Bengali, He has written extensively on historical, literary and political themes. He edited an anthology of modern Bengali poetry and was the author of *"History of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (Bolsheviks)"* and some of his works in English are: *"An Introduction to Socialism"; "India Struggles for Freedom"; "India and Parliament"; "The Gentle Colossus: A study of Jawaharlal Nehru"* and *"Portrait of Parliament"*. He was the author of studies of Mahatma

Gandhi, Rabindranath Tagore, Jawaharlal Nehru, Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, Swami Vivekanda and Raja Rammohan Roy. His books in Bengali include *"National Movement in India"; "A History of India"* in two volumes, and *"Modern Bengali Poetry"*.

He was the Editor of *"Indo-Soviet Journal"*, Calcutta, from 1941 to 1945; and Joint Editor, *"Calcutta Weekly Notes"*, a law journal, from 1945 to 1952.

Shri Mukerjee was conferred many honours in recognition of his exceptional erudition and achievements. He was awarded honorary doctorates by the Universities of Calcutta, Andhra, North Bengal, Rabindra Bharati, Kalyani and Vidyasagar. He was awarded the Padam Bhushan in 1990 and Padam Vibhushan in 1991 for his contribution to public life. He received the "Vidyasagar Award" in 1992 and "Nazrul Award" in 2000 for his literary work from the Government of West Bengal.

He received the 'Soviet Award' for his book on the Second World War and 'Dimitrov Memorial Award' from Bulgaria in the 1980s. He was also conferred 'Maulana Azad Award' by the Muslim Cultural Association in 1994 and the 'Muzaffir Ahmed Award' by the CPI (M) in 2000. He also received the "Soviet Land Nehru Award" in 1977.

Since its formation in 1987, Shri Mukerjee had been the Honorary Chairman of the Mass Media Centre of the Government of West Bengal and was also the Honorary Advisor to the Bureau of Parliamentary Studies of the West Bengal Legislative Assembly till his death.

A widely travelled person, Shri Mukerjee was a member of the Indian Delegation to Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference held in Canberra, Australia in 1959 and the Indian Parliamentary Delegation which visited the erstwhile USSR and Hungary in 1968. He also attended the Inter-Parliamentary Union Meeting at Yaounde, Cameroon in 1972 and the 60th Inter-Parliamentary Conference at Paris, France in 1972.

His humility endeared him to all those who came into his contact. However, beneath his gentle demeanour lay a steely determination to optimally utilize the forum of Parliament for redressal of grievances of the people. His contributions to the Indian Parliamentary System were exemplary and would serve as a guiding light for legislators.

Shri Mukerjee's life was dedicated to the cause of the downtrodden, the deprived and the exploited sections of the people. He steadfastly fought for a society where there will be no discrimination between person and person and for a classless society where the people irrespective of differences of caste, creed, language, religion etc. will have equal rights and for a society where there will be no exploitation of men by men. Till the last breath of his life, Shri Mukerjee fought for the working class, the common people and for the establishment of a society free from hunger and privation and for a strong, progressive and resurgent India.

In his passing away, the country has lost an outstanding Parliamentarian, a leader of the masses and champion of the down-trodden and of the working class and a multifaceted personality.

Shri Hirendra Nath Mukerjee passed away on 30th July, 2004 at Kolkata, West Bengal, at the age of 97, after a brief illness.

We deeply mourn the loss of these friends and I am sure the House would join me in conveying our condolences to the bereaved families.

As the hon. Members are aware, on 15th August, 2004, terrorist attacks in Assam and Jammu and Kashmir marred the Independence Day celebrations. In a tragic incident in Assam, a bomb was exploded near the children who were participating in the Independence Day celebrations in the college ground at Dhemaji town which resulted in gruesome death of and critical injuries to children, women and other persons. There were two other bomb explosions in Assam on this occasion. Lamentably, children were targeted by the terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir too when a grenade was hurled into a school in Baramulla District resulting in injuries to children.

The House strongly condemns these dastardly attacks by terrorists and expresses its deep anguish over the death of and injuries to innocent people particularly children at the hands of anti-national elements whose sole purpose is to destabilise the unity and integrity of the country.

The House may now stand in silence for a short while as a mark of respect to the memory of the departed.

11.13 hrs.

(The Members then stood in silence for a short while.)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, we are now beginning the second phase of the Budget Session and I am sure we shall be able to discuss many important issues during this phase. I seek cooperation and help from all sections of the House and I wish you all very fruitful discussions inside the House.

11.15 hrs.

WITHDRAWAL OF REMARKS MADE BY MEMBERS

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR (Bareilly): Mr. Speaker, Sir, our party makes full efforts to keep the dignity and respect of the House fully. Deputy Leader of our party Shri Vijay Kumar Malhotra had made some remarks in this House on 23rd July 2004. He did not say anything disrespectful for the Chair. Still if you feel that he had said something disrespectful I withdraw his words and express full respect towards the Chair on his behalf as he is not in the country.

[English]

MR. SPEKAER: I thank you very much. I am deeply obliged.

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKERJEE): Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the last day of the House, before the adjournment for the recess, certain observations were made against the hon. Speaker, which, I felt, should not have been spoken. Thereafter, in a written statement, I condemned those observations. As the hon. representative of the Party has withdrawn the remarks, I seek your indulgence and permission to withdraw my statement. I seek the leave of the House to withdraw my statement.

MR. SPEAKER: Your observation will be recorded. I am grateful to all the Parties. Really I have forgotten all these, but I seek your kind co-operation. I am sure I will get it in plenty. Thank you very much.

[Translation]

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI (Bhagalpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to say about Mohammed Taslimmudin.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I will allow you after the Question Hour. I have already mentioned that. You see the entire House is concerned.

[Translation]

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI: Sir, permission be given to raise this matter in Zero Hour. An absconder has been made the Minister by the hon. Prime Minister. I want to raise this matter in the House.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. I am dealing with it.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please listen to me. Let us proceed with the Question Hour.

11.16 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

National Sports Development Fund

\+

*282. SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA:
SHRI SURENDRA PRAKASH GOYAL:

Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the composition of National Sports Development Fund (NSDF) and the details of year-wise grants received by it from Union Government since its inception;

(b) the details of the other sources through which it has raised funds during the said period;

(c) whether contribution to NSDF is exempted from payment of income-tax;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the details of sportspersons to whom funds have been sanctioned from this Fund till date alongwith the names of the sportspersons who have been sanctioned funds in advance for training-cum-competition programmes prior to Athens Olympics, 2004?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-RESIDENT INDIANS AFFAIRS (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) A Council, chaired by the Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports, manages and administers the National Sports Development Fund (NSDF). Secretary (YA&S); Director General (DG); Sports Authority of India (SAI); Joint Secretary (Sports); Financial Adviser (FA) are the other *ex-officio* members of the Council. Eight eminent sportspersons and upto nine eminent persons representing the corporate sector, private foundations and not-for-profit

voluntary organisations etc. are the other members of the Council. An officer not below the rank of Deputy Secretary of this Ministry is the Member Secretary of the Council. In addition, there is an Executive Committee under the Presidentship of Secretary (YA&S). DG, SAI; JS (Sports); FA; Deputy Secretary-Director (Member Secretary) and 5 nominated members of the Council are the other members of the Executive Committee.

The details of grants received by the Fund since its inception from Government by way of seed money, matching contributions and contributions received from other sources is given in Annexure-I.

(c) and (d) Contribution to the NSDF has the facility of 100% exemption from payment of income tax.

(e) The details of sportspersons assisted from NSDF till date alongwith details of sportspersons given advance for training-cum-competition programmes prior to Athens Olympics is given in Annexure-II.

Annexure I

Sl.No.	Year	Contributions/Donations received from other sources		Matching Government contribution
		Name of the Donor	Amount donated	
1	2	3	4	5
1.	1998-99	—	—	Rs. 200,00,000 (Seed Money)
2.	1999-2000	Rural Electrification Power Corporation Ltd.	Rs. 5,00,000	
3.		Oriental Bank of Commerce	Rs. 5,00,000	
4.		M/s. Balmer Lawrie & Co. Ltd.	Rs. 1,00,000	Rs. 11,60,000
5.		Punjab National Bank	Rs. 50,000	
6.		National Mineral Development Corporation	Rs. 10,000	
7.	2000-2001	Naptha Jhakri Power Corporation Ltd.	Rs. 2,00,000	
8.		Power Finance Corporation	Rs. 2,00,000	Rs. 125,00,000
9.		Contribution of Shri Kapil Dev few years back lying unutilized in National Welfare Fund for Sports persons with interest transferred to NSDF with the consent of Shri Kapil Dev	Rs. 121,00,000	
10.	2001-02	HUDCO	Rs. 25,00,000	Rs. 25,00,000
11.	2002-03	—	—	—

1	2	3	4	5
12.	2003-04	Shri K S Rana	Rs. 300	
13.		Punjab National Bank	Rs. 5,00,000	
14.		Shri R P Kanhaiya	Rs. 250	
15.		Export-Import Bank of India	Rs. 5,00,000	
16.		Bank of India	Rs. 50,000	
17.		Chennai Petroleum Corporation Ltd.	Rs. 1,00,000	
18.		Shri S K Gupta	Rs. 500	
19.		North Eastern Electric Power Corporation Ltd.	Rs. 20,000	Rs. 19,46,050
20.		State Bank of Mysore	Rs. 25,000	
21.		National Mineral Development Corporation	Rs. 25,000	
22.		Union Bank of India	Rs. 1,00,000	
23.		State Bank of India	Rs. 5,00,000	
24.		Central Bank of India	Rs. 1,25,000	
		Total	Rs. 1,81,06,050	Rs. 3,81,06,050

Annexure II

Sl.No.	Name of the Sportsperson	Amount sanctioned	Amount released
1	2	3	4
1.	Shri Abhinav Bindra, Shooter (Training during 2002)	Rs. 20,00,000	Rs. 16,90,000 (Final amount)
2.	Shri Anil Kumar, Athlete-Training during 2002-2003	Rs. 13,37,794	Rs. 13,37,794
3.	Ms. Bobby Aloysius, Athlete Training during 2002-03	Rs. 14,31,531	Rs. 14,31,531
4.	Ms. Anju George for training during 2002-03	Rs. 14,91,505	Rs. 14,91,505
5.	Shri RVS Rathore, Shooter for training during 2003	Rs. 10,23,496	Rs. 10,23,496

1	2	3	4
6.	Major RVS Rathore, Shooter for training-cum-competition during 2004	Approximately Rs. 91,00,000 for his training programme during 2004*	Rs. 68,00,000 released as advance
7.	Ms. Bobby Aloysius for her training programme during 2003-2004 & 2004-05	Approximately Rs. 15,81,000*	Rs. 11,86,000 released as advance
8.	Shri Mansher Singh, Shooter Training-cum-competition during 2004-05	Approx 13,93,821+air fare*	Rs. 10,86,116 released as advance
9.	Shri Manavjit Singh, Shooter Training-cum-competition during 2004-05	Approx 9,24,883+air fare*	Rs. 6,96,662 released as advance
10.	Shri Anwar Sultan, Shooter Training-cum-competition during 2004-05	Approx 4,47,985+air fare*	Rs. 3,35,989 released as advance
11.	Shri Gagan Narang, Shooter Training-cum-competition during 2004-05	Approx Rs. 5,94,829+air fare*	Rs. 4,46,122 released as advance
12.	Ms. Suma Shirur, Shooter Training-cum-competition during 2004-05	Approx Rs. 3,64,285*	Rs. 2,73,213 released as advance
13.	Shri Abhinav Bindra, Shooter Training-cum-competition during 2004-05	Approx. 12,47,429+air fare etc.*	Rs. 13,42,506
	Total	Approx. Rs. 2,29,38,558	Rs. 1,91,40,934

*Subject to submission of actual bills and exchange rate fluctuations.

[Translation]

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, our party has decided to bycott the House over the indictment of Shri Tytler for his involvement in Sikh massacre in 1984 *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: They have taken a decision. Yes, your statement is recorded.

11.18 hrs.

(Shri Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa and some other hon. Members then left the House)

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER: Sir, it is important for me that I seek your permission because somehow or the other, for the last so many years, my name has been associated in all sorts of ways. I would like to make a statement in this House that not once my name has been mentioned in any of the FIRs. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Because his name is mentioned, he is making a personal explanation.

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER: Yes, Sir. I want to make this very clear that even today nobody can prove even one statement in any of the FIRs where my name has been mentioned. I have been maligned politically. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: All right, you have made your position clear.

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER: So, it is not there anywhere till today. Neither there has been any case on me nor an FIR on me. All this has been politically motivated.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Avtar Singh Bhadana, you put your supplementary.

[Translation]

SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are nine Members in the Notional Sports Development Fund Council selected as per the provisions of the organisation five members are nominated in the Executive Committee. I would like to know whether one or two MPs can be included in this Council? If not, what are the reasons therefor?

Sir, secondly, I would like that the hon. Minister may kindly provide name-wise details of the sportspersons who have been given financial assistance by the National Sports Development Fund alongwith the names and details of the sportspersons who have been given financial assistance from the NSDF for getting pre-Olympic training. My third question is...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: No *teesra* ! There is no provision for the third question.

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER: There are eight prominent sportsmen who are put in this Committee. There is no provision for a Member of Parliament to be put in this Committee but if there is a Member of Parliament who has prominently contributed to sports, his name could be considered.

Secondly, I have a list of names of players who have got funds from this NSDF. They are—Shri Abhinav Bindra in shooting, Shri Anil Kumar in athletics, Mrs. Bobby alias Anju George in athletics, Major R.V.S. Rathore for training in shooting, Mrs. Bobby again for athletics, Shri Maninder Singh for shooting ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You can send all these details to the hon. Member.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, this is the Parliament of India. Kindly put your questions one by one.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA: Whether the Government are contemplating to include the MPs in the National Sports Development Fund? Will any of the present MPs would be selected for it?

MR. SPEAKER: The MPs having sports background, will be included in it. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: He has answered that. You have to have a good sportsman MP.

[Translation]

MD. SALIM: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Olympics games are being held in Athens. There can not be a better opportunity than this. Not very often discussion is held on sports in the House. I am asking specifically about what was said by the hon. Minister and I am not asking about sports in general. As far NSPF is concerned, the contribution of the corporate sector on it is almost negligible despite 100 percent tax exemption for such donations. There are nine executives to manage financial affairs in the Committee. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to why this is not proving effective and no money is received for the fund? It is being said that a lot would be done for the development of sports but nobody bothers to take initiative when issue of fund mobilisation comes to fore. All the money is raised through Government's efforts or through some other means. Further, I would like to know as to what happened to the two third of the funds associated with Kapil Dev that was kept for other purposes. It was approximately 181 lakh

rupees. If you look at the things closely, it is apparent that as per the hon. Minister's reply three-fourth of the funds was allocated for shooting alone even though there are other sports also which covers several persons of elite class. There are other sports like Archery etc. I would like to know why this lopsided allocation of funds has been made.

[English]

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER: It is true that we have not received funds from the corporate houses. We would take note of this.

Secondly, funds are available to people who have prominence in sports and apply for it. The Committee sits and decides and that is the final decision.

SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY: Thank you, Sir. I could see from the reply of the hon. Minister that the Government has been helping the youths to go in for advanced training programmes. I had requested the Government that in my constituency, in a place called Mangalore, they should sanction a sports stadium and a youth hostel for training of youths. From the year 2000 onwards. I have been writing consistently to the hon. Minister. Last July also, I had reminded our hon. Minister to sanction it. I do not know what happened to my request. It is hanging fire. I would request the hon. Minister to come forward and say what steps he is taking to sanction this project.

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER: These funds are generally meant for promotion of sports. You can apply to the appropriate authority and this request would be considered.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is the need of the hour that the Government of India do a serious thinking about sports as the Olympic games are underway and the Indian contingent is making a very dismal show. Unfortunate aspect is that no effort is being made by either the Government or the private individuals or corporate bodies capable of contributing a lot in NSDF to promote the sports activities. As per the information provided by the hon. Minister during his reply in regard to the funds utilized for sports, it seems unlikely that India would ever be able to make progress in this field. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what efforts are being made by the Government for the progress and allowed development of the sportsperson of rural background who are unable to make progress due to the negligence.

[English]

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER: This question, of course, relates to the National Sports Development Fund. But I would like to inform the hon. Member that we have sent about 75 sportsmen for the Olympics.

MR. SPEAKER: 'Sportspersons'.

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER: I mean Sportspersons.

I would like to inform him that there are still a few games like rifle. double's trap, men's archery, athletics, hockey and women's weight lifting. So, we still hope that we will do better.

MR. SPEAKER: Let the House send its good wishes for the remaining participants.

[Translation]

Drought Affected States

*283. + SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL:
SHRI PRAKASHBAPU V. PATIL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the districts affected by drought this year in the country, State-wise;

(b) the normal and actual rainfall and shortfall noticed during the last three months, State-wise;

(c) the percentage of Kharif crop loss in the said districts and population affected as a result thereof, State-wise;

(d) the names of the States visited by the central team for the purpose;

(e) the details of recommendations made by team;

(f) the assistance sought by each State, the actual amount released and foodgrains provided to each State;

(g) whether the Government have chalked out any strategy to deal with drought situation in future; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (h) A statement is laid on Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (h) The over-all rainfall position for the period May to July in States reporting drought during 2003-2004 and States facing rainfall deficiency in July 2004 is in the Annexure enclosed.

After deficit rains in many parts of the country around 28th July when the country had a cumulative rainfall deficit of—15%, there is a significant improvement in the situation with the revival of South-West Monsoon which will remain active till the end of September. Similarly, kharif sowing is still in progress. States like Gujarat, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Punjab and Haryana after serious deficit of rains have experienced considerable improvements in the last two weeks. Rains have also been received in other States. Even in Rajasthan, much improvement is in evidence following widespread rains in the first two weeks of August, causing large-scale sowing and re-sowing operations to commence in these States. As such it would be pre mature to categorise any of the districts as drought affected, having losses of kharif.

Interim demands raised by Governments of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat at a time when a serious drought was apprehended, therefore, require reconsideration of the State Governments concerned, in the light of the changed situation. Agriculture Secretary has undertaken visits along with a team of officials to some of the States with serious rainfall deficits to make a preliminary assessment of the situation and to discuss contingent arrangements only.

In order, however, to enable these States to initially deal with any difficulties the following amounts have been released in August to their Calamity Relief Funds:

State	Amount (Rs. in crores)
Andhra Pradesh	45.14
Gujarat	73.57
Haryana	37.06
Madhya Pradesh	28.55
Maharashtra	71.65
Rajasthan	94.35
Punjab	55.93
Uttar Pradesh	66.68
Jharkhand*	25.84
Total	498.77

*Recommended for release.

Besides, allocation of 1 lakh MTs. of foodgrains to Rajasthan and 0.50 lakh MTs. for Madhya Pradesh has been approved to initiate generation of relief employment wherever it may be necessary. Railways are now providing transport of drinking water in Rajasthan free of cost.

Government is keeping a close watch on the situation at the highest level and is in close touch with the State Governments concerned. Cabinet Secretary has discussed preparatory measures to deal with any eventualities with the State Governments. Central Government is committed to provide all the requisite assistance as the situation may warrant.

Annexure

Month-wise position of rainfall in states facing rainfall deficts in July 2004

(Rainfall in mm)

Sl.No.	State/UT	May-04			June-04			July-04		
		Actual	Normal	Dep%	Actual	Normal	Dep%	Actual	Normal	Dep%
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1.	Andhra Pradesh	114.3	55.4	+106	68.3	104.9	-35	173.9	157.6	+10
2.	Gujarat	8.5	4.6	+85	111.5	98.5	+13	85.3	243.2	-65

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
3.	Haryana	67.6	14.3	+373	70.0	42.3	+65	13.0	154.1	-92
4.	Karnataka	212.8	108.6	+96	199.4	193.3	+3	166.5	253.3	-34
5.	Jharkhand	52.6	48.9	+8	173.9	193.2	–10	161.2	305.1	-47
6.	Madhya Pradesh	11.6	8.2	+41	129.8	123.6	+5	156.1	301.0	-48
7.	Maharashtra	19.9	22.8	-13	204.3	199.3	+3	196.9	311.3	-37
8.	Punjab	43.8	16.6	+164	52.4	41.6	+26	53.1	168.7	-69
9.	Rajasthan	13.8	11.6	+19	32.0	41.7	-23	40.9	141.2	-71
10.	Tamilnadu	273.8	78.8	+247	39.3	41.6	-6	64.6	64.5	0
11.	Uttar Pradesh	54.0	15.7	+244	130.8	90.3	+45	162.3	264.0	-39

SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am very sorry to say that the Government have taken this question in a very casual manner and instead of providing the details sought in the different parts of the question, only an evasive reply has been given.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are three aspects of my question. My first supplementary is that how far this delayed monsoon is going to compensate the damage caused to Kharif crop that has largely been damaged due to so much delay in rain? Further, how many districts have been affected so far due to this delayed rain likely to be in by September? The Government of Rajasthan have submitted a memorandum to the Union Government. The Government had also dispatched a team to visit there but now the things seems to have been put on the back burner again in anticipation of some rain. It is a very lackadaisical approach. Hence I would like to say. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You ask your question.

SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I hail from Rajasthan which has never witnessed a drought free year since independence sometimes it was partial and sometimes complete drought. Mr. Speaker, Sir, deaths do take place due to floods or starvation but today the farmers have been forced to commit suicide in destitute and want of money. I want to ask an important question. The Government of Rajasthan. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You ask the question. You have been given the opportunity.

SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: How much quantity of foodgrains and amount of relief funds have been demanded by the Government of Rajasthan from the Centre. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This is not the time of speech.

[English]

Hon. Members, please realise that there is a full-fledged discussion on this issue today. Therefore, those hon. Members whose names have come may discuss then. I will allow one or two members because you can fully discuss this issue later.

[Translation]

SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: I would like to know what decision has been taken by the Government in this regard?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: If you waste unnecessarily the time of the House, then there will not be any time left.

[Translation]

SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir only if you give me on opportunity. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): There is no

specific memorandum from the Government of Rajasthan. It is true that the hon. Chief Minister of Rajasthan met me and she explained the overall situation of Rajasthan. It was suggested from her side that I might visit Rajasthan, especially the affected areas. The date was finalised by the hon. Chief Minister—13th and 14th of this month. I got the communication from the hon. Chief Minister informing me that 'in all those areas where we were facing drought for the last few days, there are very good rains now; so, please postpone your tour'. That is the reason why I postponed my visit. But without their asking, I have already released Rs. 94 crore and one lakh tonnes of wheat to the Government of Rajasthan.

[Translation]

SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to read the question asked by me in that what strategy has been formulated by the Government to combat the drought in future—but the Government have not given any reply of this question. Your might have witnessed the great famine of 1942 in Bengal during your adolescence in which a large section of the population had died.

I would like to know as to whether the Government have formulated any fool proof scheme to combat with the problem of drought on permanent basis in view of the fact that only emergent or immediate measures are adopted to combat famine. I want to know this because famine commission was set up in the country after the famine of 1942 and several agriculture commissions have also been set up. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Everybody knows it. You please sit down.

SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: That Commission had made its recommendations.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You wait for the reply. You have raised a very important question. Let him reply.

[Translation]

SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: I would like to know whether the Government have formulated any long term scheme or not, on the basis of those recommendations?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, Mr. Minister—have you formulated any policy for all droughts in future?

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: The frequent situation of drought arise in many states of our country, in view of the need for formulating a long term policy for those states of the country we have formulated a scheme—which is starting now in many states. This includes National Watershed Development project for rainfed areas. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You can mention it later on in reply to the discussion today.

SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Sir, I would like to know one thing from the hon. Minister. Kerala feels that we are neglected and there is no response from the Government whenever we ask for drought relief. You send a team to Rajasthan and that team comes to Kerala. The situation is totally different. You yourself suggested and the hon. Minister may kindly clarify that. Can you send a special team which knows about Kerala? When the Rajasthan team comes, it is all very greenery and they think there is no drought in Kerala. But there is drought and we have lost thousands of crores of rupees. We have requested for adequate relief for that also.

Can the hon. Minister convene a meeting of the Kerala MPs to discuss about the special situation in Kerala? A lot of controversy is going on in Kerala. There is a statement from the Government of Kerala that Kerala is totally neglected. I would like to have an answer.

MR. SPEAKER: A very pointed supplementary!

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Sir, the proposal which we had received from the Government of Kerala is mainly for revival of agricultural sets of Kerala. It is true that in certain areas there was not enough rainfall and certain crop has been affected in Kerala. About the team which we would like to send to Kerala, there is a difference between the other States and Kerala and it was rightly mentioned by hon. Member that if I send a team to Jodhpur or Jaisalmer area, probably the team will not be able to see a single blade of grass; but in Kerala they will see greenery everywhere and they will come to the conclusion that there is no drought. But that is not the case. In Kerala the crop which has been affected is essentially perennial crop. That is why different effort has to be taken. That is the reason why the Government of India has decided to constitute a team headed by the Joint Secretary (Credit) and consisting of representatives

of the Ministry of Commerce and representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture. The team will visit Kerala and study the case. I will be happy to call a meeting of the hon. Members of Kerala to discuss and resolve this issue.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you.

[Translation]

DR. RAJESH MISHRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to know from hon'ble Minister that today entire Uttar Pradesh is in the grip of drought. 25 districts of Northern Uttar Pradesh are facing the situation of drought simultaneously. Whether the Union Government would make some efforts to find that what is the criteria behind declaring only four districts of northern Uttar Pradesh as drought hit and why the rest of the districts have been left out?

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the authority to declare any area drought hit lies with State Government. It is the responsibility of State Government. Till date, we have not received any communication from Uttar Pradesh regarding declaring any district or area drought hit. But it is a fact and we have also read it that the revenue Minister of UP has given a statement in Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly about the bad condition of 13 districts. ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV (Sambhal): More than 30 districts have been declared drought hit. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: I feel that the statement passed by him might have been old one but as far as the information that we have, the condition of Western U.P. is grave and we are ready for whatever should be done by taking Uttar Pradesh Government into confidence. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAJESH MISHRA: Similar is the situation of entire northern Uttar Pradesh.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: All right. If you provide us detailed information regarding this then we are ready to pay our attention and support for this.

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Sir, 16 districts of North Bihar and South Bihar are declared as drought affected but here there is no mention of their name. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Raghunath Jha, you are a very senior Member of this House. Please, sit down. I have called Shri Krishnadas. You know the procedure that has to be followed, as you were also a Speaker yourself.

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: When would we seek clarification. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. Thank you very much for your cooperation.

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: Sir, I will ask a very pin-pointed question to the hon. Minister. The Government of Kerala, in the last three consecutive years, have declared some of the districts as seriously drought affected areas. In the year 2003-2004, the Government of India has declared 14 States as drought affected States, but the State of Kerala has been excluded for receiving assistance, in the form of relief measures, for the drought affected areas.

What is the real reason for excluding, and for not providing proper assistance to Kerala with regard to the natural calamities?

MR. SPEAKER: We are having a detailed discussion on this issue, in the latter part of today itself.

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: Sir, according to the reply given by the hon. Minister, the Government of Kerala is not sending proper request to the Government of India for assistance for the drought-affected areas. The innocent people of Kerala should not be made to suffer as a result of this. What steps are the Government taking to assist the people of Kerala in this regard?

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: The Kerala Government has agreed to give us a detailed proposal with regard to this. I have also said that I can sit with the hon. Members from Kerala to resolve this issue. The approach of the Government of India will be to see that all the genuine problems of the affected people in Kerala gets resolved.

[Translation]

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, entire Uttar Pradesh is reeling under drought. More than 30 districts have been declared drought affected.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please put a pointed question to the hon. Minister.

[Translation]

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV: The Union Government have admitted that the average rainfall this year in the month of July has been 39 percent below the normal. It is the sowing season of paddy or other crops. Now it is raining but most of the crops can not be revived now. A lot of damage has taken place throughout the entire state. Hon. Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh had met the Union Minister of Agriculture. I would like to say that the financial assistance provided to the states that have lesser population *vis a vis* the state of Uttar Pradesh having a population of 17 crore is more and biased attitude has been adopted against our state even though hon. Minister is a man with liberal outlook. I would like to know whether the Central Government would provide substantial financial assistance to the Government of Uttar Pradesh in order to enable it to waive off the loans of the farmers whose crops have been ruined?

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, firstly we need to get the detailed report of the prevailing situation and damage occurred there to be submitted by the Government of Uttar Pradesh and we have not received that report so far. During my meeting with the Chief Minister, I had stated that as far the information with me is concerned, western and eastern UP are facing crisis. As soon they send us details, we would dispatch a team to visit there and do the needful at the earliest.

SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Member in his question has asked about the names of the drought affected districts. The details are not given here. I want to ask a question regarding Maharashtra. It is a long pending demand of Maharashtra Government that a relief package of Rs. 1700 crore be given to the State. Whatever amount had initially been allocated has already been given. It was an amount of Rs. 97 crore provided in August. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to when the Government would provide the relief package to the state in the form of foodgrains or money.

[English]

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the question that was asked here was with regard to the names of the districts affected by drought this year in the country. So, we have given all the information regarding this year in the answer.

[Translation]

As far the Government of Maharashtra is concerned, this year's financial assistance provided to it include an amount of Rs. 250 crore from CRF, Rs. 136 crore from NCCF and foodgrain worth Rs. 700 crore i.e. a total assistance of 1086 crore rupees has been provided to the Government of Maharashtra.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This is a very important subject and there will be a full fledged discussion on this. Now, we will take up next Question No-284.

Regularisation of Encroachments on Forest Land

\+

*284. SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA:
SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY:

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

(a) the forest area under encroachments as on date and the details of encroachers, State-wise;

(b) whether the Union Government has announced their regularisation using 1980 as the baseline;

(c) if so, the details of requests received for regularisation of encroachments made prior to 1980 and after 1980 separately and the area thus regularised and distributed amongst tribals so far, State-wise;

(d) the efforts made towards regularisation of whole area as requested by States;

(e) whether some States have regularised encroachments in rural and urban areas during the last three years and thereafter;

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

(g) the names of States who have formed District Level Committees for the purpose;

(h) whether the Union Government has also directed for removal of illegal encroachments;

(i) if so, the area thus cleared so far, State-wise; and

(j) the rehabilitation package announced for evicted

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (j) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) According to information received from various State Governments/UT Administrations, about 13.43 lakh hectare of forest land is under encroachment in the country. The State-wise data is enclosed as Annexure-I. Central Government does not maintain the records of individual encroachers of forest lands.

(b) Encroachment is an offence under Section 26 of the Indian Forest Act, 1927. The encroachments have to be evicted from the forest lands. However, as a one time dispensation, Central Government had issued Guidelines on 18th September, 1990 for regularisation of pre-1980 eligible encroachments on forest lands keeping in view the fact that various State/UT Governments in some cases had taken a decision to regularize certain categories of encroachments but could not implement the decision as Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 came into effect. This relaxation is not applicable to encroachments that took place after 24-10-1980.

(c) and (d) On receipt of proposals from the State Governments/UT Administrations, Central Government has regularised pre-1980 eligible encroachments in respect of Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Kerala, Arunachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Orissa, Tripura and Andaman & Nicobar Islands. The total area under pre-1980 eligible encroachments regularized so far is 3.66 lakh hectare. State-wise details are enclosed as Annexure-II. As per the Guidelines issued for regularisation of encroachments on forest land, all pre-1980 in-eligible encroachers and post-1980 encroachers have to be evicted from the forest lands. The data regarding tribal and non-tribal encroachers are maintained by the respective States/UTs.

(e) and (f) State/UT Governments are not competent to regularize encroachments on forest lands. Since August, 2001, Central Government has regularized pre-1980 eligible encroachments over 29.94 hectare of forest lands in respect of Orissa only. The order was issued by the Central Government on 22-11-2001. Central Government has not regularized any encroachments on forest land thereafter in view of the Supreme Court order dated 23-11-2001 restraining Central Government from regularisation of further encroachments.

(g) According to the available information with the Central Government, States of Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Orissa, Kerala and Arunachal Pradesh had constituted the District Level Committees involving officials of Revenue Department, Forest Department and Tribal Welfare Department as per the Guidelines issued on 18th September 1990, for regularisation of encroachments.

(h) In accordance with the orders of the Supreme Court and the Guidelines issued by the Central Government for regularisation of encroachment, pre-1980 in-eligible encroachments and all post-1980 encroachments have to be evicted from the forest lands.

(i) According to information received from various State Governments/UT Administrations, encroachments from about 1.52 lakh hectare of forest area have been evicted so far. The State-wise data for eviction of encroachments is enclosed as Annexure-III.

(j) No rehabilitation of the evicted encroachers is done by the Central Government.

Annexure I

(Data as on 31-3-2004)

Sl.No.	Name of State/UT	Existing encroachments (pre-1980 & post 1980 both) on forest lands (area in hectare)
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	295383.000
2.	Assam	299710.000
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	3887.810
4.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	2057.490
5.	Bihar	251.869
6.	Chandigarh	0.000
7.	Chhattisgarh	150495.000
8.	Delhi	0.000
9.	Daman and Diu	87.960
10.	Dadar and Nagar Haveli	614.350
11.	Gujarat	22139.540
12.	Goa	1012.000
13.	Haryana	1274.060

1	2	3
14.	Himachal Pradesh	2841.875
15.	Jammu and Kashmir	9284.000
16.	Jharkhand	48438.410
17.	Karnataka	67710.000
18.	Kerala	7290.000
19.	Lakshadweep	0.000
20.	Maharashtra	79641.730
21.	Manipur	533.240
22.	Meghalaya	6584.490
23.	Madhya Pradesh	138110.585
24.	Mizoram	18759.616
25.	Nagaland	0.000
26.	Orissa	42605.530
27.	Punjab	6812.806
28.	Pondicherry	0.000
29.	Rajasthan	6712.742
30.	Sikkim	3499.640
31.	Tamil Nadu	17555.564
32.	Tripura	59336.150
33.	Uttaranchal	9668.000
34.	Uttar Pradesh	27214.630
35.	West Bengal	13834.536
	Total	1343346.622

Annexure II

Sl.No.	Name of State	Total pre-1980 eligible encroachments regularized over forest area by Central Government (in hectare)
1	2	3
1.	Madhya Pradesh	275405.692
2.	Gujarat	31982.800
3.	Kerala	28588.159
4.	Arunachal Pradesh	13419.290
5.	Karnataka	14848.830
6.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	1367.000
7.	Orissa	29.940
8.	Tripura	27.400
	Total	365669.111

Annexure III

(Data as on 31-3-2004)

Sl.No.	Name of State/UT	Encroachments evicted from forest lands since May, 2002 (in hectare)
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0.000
2.	Assam	71740.000
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	150.190
4.	Andaman and Nicboar Islands	2580.400
5.	Bihar	602.313
6.	Chandigarh	0.000
7.	Chhattisgarh	0.000
8.	Delhi	0.000
9.	Daman and Diu	0.000
10.	Dadar and Nagar Haveli	0.000
11.	Gujarat	14416.860
12.	Goa	0.000
13.	Haryana	873.840
14.	Himachal Pradesh	84.124
15.	Jammu and Kashmir	1806.000
16.	Jharkhand	1739.390
17.	Karnataka	19948.000

1	2	3
18.	Kerala	2183.000
19.	Lakshadweep	0.000
20.	Maharashtra	13557.660
21.	Manipur	2.750
22.	Meghalaya	0.000
23.	Madhya Pradesh	8071.640
24.	Mizoram	0.000
25.	Nagaland	0.000
26.	Orissa	2463.434
27.	Punjab	420.767
28.	Pondicherry	0.000
29.	Rajasthan	8360.412
30.	Sikkim	50.450
31.	Tamil Nadu	1698.284
32.	Tripura	0.000
33.	Uttaranchal	280.800
34.	Uttar Pradesh	361.900
35.	West Bengal	1007.896
	Total	152400.110

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. There will be a full-fledged discussion on this. I would not allow you.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: There will be a full-fledged discussion on this, Mr. Lal Muni Choubey.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except the question of Shri Mahavir Bhagora.

*...(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: I request you to please take your seats. I am sure, Bihar will be fully discussed during the discussion and the hon. Minister will reply to it.

...(Interruptions)

*Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing is going on record.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Do not do like this. I would not allow this.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please sit down. When I am on my legs, you must sit down. I would not allow you to behave like this. Nothing is going on record. You sit down, Mr. Lal Muni Choubey. I would not allow this, please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing is going on record. Do not record anything. I would not allow it to go on record.

*...(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, please reply. Hon. Members, you cannot hold the House to ransom. There will be a full-fledged discussion today and I will give you full opportunity to speak.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I would not allow this. I am as much concerned about Bihar as you are, but the House must go according to some norms.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing is going on record except the hon. Minister's reply.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I shall see that the hon. Members from Bihar get full opportunity during the discussion. This issue was raised many-many times. I have allowed so many discussions and questions on this. Please do not give an impression that you alone are concerned; we are all concerned. I am sure, the Government is equally concerned, and we have a very competent Minister to reply.

Mr. Minister, please reply.

...(Interruptions)

*Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: You can go on shouting; nothing is being recorded.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: We are not shouting. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This has become a fashion to question the Speaker. I will never allow this. I will have to take action against some Members. I will not allow this, Mr. Raghunath Jha. Please take your seat.

[Translation]

SHRI LAL MUNI CHOUBEY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, you are all in all to us.

MR. SPEAKER: You sit down please, if you consider me all in all then you should listen to my viewpoint.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Minister, Mr. Raja, you can reply to the question.

SHRI A. RAJA: The hon. Member has to put his question first. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Do not do this.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You should reciprocate the respect I have for Members.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Minister in part 'a' of his reply has mentioned of the encroachment on forest land. According to him an area of 6712.742 hectares of land in Rajasthan was under encroachment before 1980 and afterwards.

Sir, the figure of encroached land given in annexure of part (c) is 8,360.412 hectares. I would like to know as to what is the truth and which of the figures in correct. Whether the figure of land under encroachment is right or the one from which encroachment has been removed is correct. Why there two varying figures given. I would like to know as to what is the exact figure of encroached land received by the hon. Minister and also whether there is not even a single person eligible for regularisation?

[English]

SHRI A. RAJA: With regard to Rajasthan, the total area under encroachment is 6,712 hectares. As the hon. Member has put it, the cut off line was drawn by the passage of Act itself, that all encroachments prior to 24th October, 1980 can be regularised. Both the figures are correct. Part (a) figures are encroachments on forests land as on 31.3.04. While part (c) figures are cumulative encroachments evicted. Rajasthan Government submitted various proposals for regularisation. Unfortunately, they were within the framework of neither the Act nor the Supreme Court judgement, and some of the prerequisite conditions were not complied with by the encroachers in Rajasthan. So, those cases could not be regularised.

[Translation]

SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Minister in his reply has mentioned about setting up of a Committee. I would like to know whether that Committee has not sent any figure to the Government of India after investigating into the matter and if it has sent any such figure. Whether not a single such case has been found which could be regularised? The hon. Minister may kindly give a clear reply. Sir, I have also asked as to why there is so much difference between these two figures?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You have put the question very clearly. What is the reply of the Minister?

SHRI A. RAJA: The problem is that there was a stay order by Supreme Court on 23-11-2001. Though the cut-off line was given in the Act as 1980, after 1980 until the stay order was passed by the Supreme Court in 2001, all the eligible encroachments were regularised then and there. The State came into the picture only in the year 2001. After that we were not able to give it. Before that, whatever encroachments were proposed by either the Rajasthan Government or any other Government should have been taken into consideration. *...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Minister is not replying my question properly. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I do not know, you may be super humans. I am not a super human to able to listen to 20 hon. Members together.

[Translation]

SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA: Sir, my question is as to why there is a difference of approximately one and half thousand hectares in the figures of the encroached land and the land from which encroachment has been removed as has been told in the reply. I would like to know from where has the hon. Minister received these figures and also whether the Committee set up in 1980 did not find even a single person eligible for regularisation. Why is there so much difference between two figures? ...*(Interruptions)* Please reply this question of mine?

[English]

SHRI A. RAJA: The figure of encroachments is flexible. As on date it may decrease and tomorrow it may increase as some other encroachments come into existence. That is all subject to the data available with the State Governments. If any encroachment is eligible. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I think you should call him once. Hon. Member, you can go to the Minister and have a cup of tea.

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Sir, in Assam, more than a lakh of flood-affected people have either taken shelter on their own or been rehabilitated by the Government of Assam on the forest land. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government has received any proposal from the Government of Assam for regularisation of those encroachments of those who have taken shelter and those who have been rehabilitated by the Government in the forest land because of floods and erosion.

SHRI A. RAJA: There is no proposal pending with the Central Government with regard to Assam.

SHRI K.C. SINGH 'BABA': I would like to know that since only eight proposed States have given their proposals pre-1980, have their lands been regularised?

Or, have the encroachments in the new State of Uttaranchal which was part of Uttar Pradesh also been regularised pre-1980? They have got possession over forest lands for over 35 years with a population of over 60000 in Bindukhatta. They have got regular schools, Government schools, junior schools roads, electricity and other things, but the forest lands have not been regularised till today. For example, Bindukatta, Sundarkal where backward and the Scheduled Castes people are staying.

MR. SPEAKER: It is a very good question.

SHRI K.C. SINGH 'BABA': Another question is that from the buffer zone of the national parks, people had been removed. From their revenue lands and they had been given lands on the deforested forest land of forest land about 10 to 12 years ago but till today their given forest lands have not been regularized as revenue land. Sir, today they might be called encroachers. The problem is that they cannot get loan for their farms and they have many other problems. Are these problems going to be solved?

MR. SPEAKER: This is the people's issue. I am sure, the Minister would look into it.

SHRI A. RAJA: First of all, I want to submit before the House that whatever be the stay, the Government is committed. Of course, 2,690 forest villages are there. They should be converted into revenue villages. That is the commitment of the Government. The problem is that the process is on. We had given clear cut guidelines and directed the State Government to constitute a Committee with the officials of Tribal Department and Revenue Department and headed by an official of the Forest Department to find out as to who are the encroachers and which are the forest villages which can be converted into revenue villages. That is a different matter. The problem is that *amicus curie* filed a writ petition before the Supreme Court for some other reason. Since some anti-social elements and some other non-qualified persons wanted to get shelter under this legal umbrella, it was stayed by the Supreme Court. We filed an affidavit before the Supreme Court. Whatever be the directions by the Supreme Court to protect the tribals, the Government is fully committed. It will be done. The process is on. That does not mean the entire jurisdiction of the Ministry is ousted. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I am trying to help you. Please wait.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down, Shri Krishnadas. I have not called you. Give up this habit.

Mr. Minister, he has referred to a particular problem of a particular poor people. Please look into that.

SHRI A. RAJA: Yes, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: I am helping you. Even then, you are disturbing him.

SHRI K.C. SINGH 'BABA': I just want to say one more thing.

MR. SPEAKER: You cannot say anything more.

Shri K. Francis George.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri K.C. Singh, you should thank me.

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE: There is a list of States where pre-1980 cases of so called encroachment have been regularized. I doubt whether it is right to call all these people as 'encroachers' because at least in the case of Kerala after the Second World War, people were encouraged to settle in forest area under the 'Grow More Food Scheme'. A lot of people got settled in forest areas and there have been cases pending since then for regularization of their settlements. A joint verification has been done by the Forest and Revenue Departments and a list has been prepared. A number of cases have been settled but there are cases which are still pending. Also in some cases which have been settled, title deeds have been given with a rider saying that this would be subjected to the final verdict of the Supreme Court. So, what exactly is happening is that these people cannot take these title deeds to banks to avail loans or use them for any other purpose.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, have you got any information?

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE: Would the Government take the initiative to settle the cases that are still pending in the Supreme Court and get them cleared? Will the Government expedite the process of granting sanction to the existing cases that are still pending? Also there is one more....

MR. SPEAKER: No also. Please sit down. You cannot put ten questions.

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE: I just wanted to bring it to the notice of the Minister that after the Forest Conservation Act, 1980, there are a lot of tribal settlements in our country where no developmental work could be taken up. They have no roads, they cannot have electricity, and they cannot have communication facilities. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Ministry would come forward with suitable amendments to help provide these modern amenities to the tribal settlements also in our country.

SHRI A. RAJA: Sir, as far as vacating the stay, which is pending before the Supreme Court, is concerned, we are ready for taking measures. If any grey areas are there in the Act or in the Guidelines, we would try to look into them. We are waiting for the order.

The second submission that was made by the hon. Member was regarding amenities to the tribals. For the first time, we have delegated some powers to the State Governments for laying electricity lines and drinking water pipelines in those areas. The State Governments, with the prior approval of the Central Government, can lay the pipelines and other amenities in the forest areas.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Basu Deb Acharia.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Krishnadas, I have asked your leader to put a question.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, there is a major problem in some States. Tribals are living in the so-called forest area where there is not even a single tree or grass. They are living there for hundreds of years. After the Supreme Court's order, there was an attempt in a number of States to evict the tribal people who are residing in the forest land for hundreds of years.

I want to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government of India will bring a suitable legislation to regularise the tribal people in forest areas, who are not the encroachers and who have been living there for hundreds of years.

SHRI A. RAJA: With great respect to the hon. Member, I would like to submit before the House that no legislation is needed at the moment. Protecting clauses are already available in the Act itself and adequate measures have been contemplated in the guidelines themselves. The only stumbling block before us is the Supreme Court's stay. We are taking every step, every measure to vacate it as early as possible.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: They are being removed. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to know whether there was not a single case of Maharashtra among the encroachments legalised before 1980? If there were some cases recommended from Maharashtra, what action was taken in regard thereto?

Second, there is no forest area in the eastern Vidarbha region of Maharashtra better known as Jhudpi forest. So much so that even the Commissioner's office alongwith High Court is situated there. I would like to know whether the Union Government would consider the regularisation of Jhudpi forest and hold discussion in the regard by calling on all the MP's of the Vidarbha region?

[English]

SHRI A. RAJA: Sir, in Maharashtra, already 73 forest villages have been converted into revenue villages. Over the years, the State Governments and the tribals are claiming title for their forest lands. Some of the problems regarding them cannot be avoided whether they can be classified well within the eighties, prior to eighties or after the eighties. This question is before the State Governments. Maharashtra State is getting more benefit under the regularisation scheme. If, at all, any specific cases are there, we can take them into consideration as soon as the ban is lifted.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Madhusudan Mistry.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Minister do not reply to my question about Jhudpi forest.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You cannot go on asking questions like this. You have been given opportunity no speak. There is no time left.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: Sir, the regularisation of forest land of pre-1980 is a very serious question throughout the country. They have taken out, in fact, the circular to the various State Governments. Many State Governments, including the State of Gujarat, are not implementing it. The tribals are being evicted. I would request the Forest Minister to take action and call a meeting of all the Forest Secretaries and others along with the Members of Parliament to get the forest land regularised throughout the country to save the tribals.

I demand a special discussion. I demand Half-an-Hour discussion on this.

MR. SPEAKER: There will be no answer. You can only put a question.

Mr. Minister, say 'yes' or 'no'.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: I will be very happy if Half-an-Hour discussion is allowed on this subject.

MR. SPEAKER: You can put it.

SHRI A. RAJA: Sir, in spite of the State going up to the Supreme Court, the process to legitimise the scheme of the tribals is not at all stopped. The process is on.

MR. SPEAKER: You have already said that.

SHRI A. RAJA: the process is on. Nobody can stop that.

MR. SPEAKER: The Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Illicit Felling of Trees

*285. SHRIMATI NEETA PATERIYA:
SHRI SHRINIWAS DADASAHEB PATIL:

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

(a) whether the Government is aware that a large scale illicit felling of trees has been taking place in the country;

(b) if so, the number of cases which came to the notice of the Government during the last three years, State-wise;

(c) whether chawkidars have also been posted alongwith forest officers in the forests;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government propose to introduce any legislation to put a ban on illicit felling of trees;

(f) if so, by when it is likely to be enacted and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(g) the other steps being taken by the Government to check this activity?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) The incidents of illicit felling of trees have been detected from time to time in different parts of the country.

(b) State-wise number of cases, as reported by the State Governments during the last three years is given in the statement enclosed.

(c) and (d) Depending on the vulnerability of the forest area to illicit felling and availability of funds etc. Chowkidars are engaged to assist the beat officer (forest guard). The position may vary from State to State.

(e) and (f) There are adequate legislations like Indian Forests Act, 1927, State Forest Acts, Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 etc. which prohibit the illicit felling of trees. No new legilsation is necessary.

(g) The other steps are:

(i) Seizure, confiscation of vehicles and articles involved in illicit felling, arresting and prosecution of offenders by the State Governments in accordance with the Indian Forest Act, 1927 and State Forest Acts.

(ii) Regular patrolling by field staff.

(iii) Inspection of forest produce in transit and checking of saw mills.

(iv) Strengthening of wireless networking.

(v) Acquiring and use of fire arms by field staff in vulnerable areas.

(vi) Protection, conservation of and management of forests by the active involvement of local communities through the process of Joint Forest Management.

(vii) Deployment of Home guards and State Police personnel in special situations.

(viii) Financial assistance is provided to the State Governments under various centrally sponsored forestry and wildlife schemes for the protection and conservation of forests and wildlife.

(ix) Creation of network of protected areas i.e. Wildlife National Parks, Sanctuaries, Conservation Reserves and Community Reserves.

Statement

Sl.No.	State	Year	No. of cases
1	2	3	4
1.	Assam	2001-02	578
		2002-03	690
		2003-04	447
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	2001-02	12
		2002-03	29
		2003-04	35
3.	Bihar	2001-02	603
		2002-03	343
		2003-04	78
4.	Chhattisgarh	2002-03	21064
		2003-04	18196
5.	Gujarat	2001-02	3761
		2002-03	4361
		2003-04	4432
6.	Goa	2001	1422
		2002	1515
7.	Himachal Pradesh	2001-02	2850
		2002-03	2513
		2003-04 upto 31-5-04	409

1	2	3	4
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	2001-02	7094
		2002-03	4490
		2003-04	3110
9.	Jharkhand	2001-02	924
		2002-03	1056
		2003-04	1339
10.	Karnataka	2001-02	11709
		2002-03	11091
		2003-04	10061
11.	Andhra Pradesh	2001-02	32,720
		2002-03	45,526
		2003-04	38,699
12.	Kerala	2001-02	1478
		2002-03	1386
13.	Maharashtra	2001-02	54977
		2002-03	41888
		2003-04	32940
14.	Madhya Prdesh	2001-02	62366
		2002-03	70132
		2003-04	44333
15.	Mizoram	2001-02	104
		2002-03	—
		2003-04	—
16.	Nagaland	2001-02	1
		2002-03	2
		2003-04	2
17.	Punjab	2001-02	3819
		2002-03	4650
18.	Rajasthan	2001-02	5829
19.	Tamil Nadu	2001-02	9040
		2002-03	9650
		2003-04	9761
20.	Tripura	2001-02	860
		2002-03	4841
		2003-04	—
21.	Uttar Pradesh	2001-02	4897
		2002-03	5101
		2003-04	4279
22.	Uttaranchal	2001-02	2364
		2002-03	2229
		2003-04	1698
23.	West Bengal	2001-02	14829
		2002-03	12969
		2003-04	11315
24.	Sikkim	2001-02	48
		2002-03	28
		2003-04	61

Controlling of River Pollution

*286. SHRI GIRIDHARI YADAV:
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJI:

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

(a) the action plan initiated by the Government to check the increasing pollution in each river of the country alongwith the quality of water before and after the plan, State-wise and river-wise;

(b) whether the Government has failed to achieve the targets set in this regard;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and the future action plan formulated in this regard;

(d) whether certain States have requested for inclusion of some more rivers in the plan; and

(e) if so, the State-wise details thereof and action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) A National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) is under implementation in 157 towns along pollution stretches of 31 rivers spread over 18 States at a total approved cost of Rs. 4688 crore including Central & State share. The objective of the National River Conservation Plan is to improve the water quality of the rivers through the implementation of the following pollution abatement works:

- Interception and diversion works to capture the raw sewage flowing into the river through open drains and divert them for treatment.
- Sewage treatment plants for treating the diverted sewage.
- Law cost sanitation works to prevent open defecation on river banks.
- Electric crematoria and improved wood crematoria to conserve the use of wood and help in ensuring proper cremation of bodies brought to the burning ghats.
- River front development work such as improvement of bathing ghats etc.
- Other miscellaneous works like afforestation, public participation, public awareness etc.

The monitoring of water quality of rivers was initiated with river Ganga from April, 1986. The water quality is monitored to evaluate the changes in status of water quality due to implementation of river action plans. Phase-I of river Action Plans in respect of river Ganga and Yamuna have since been completed. A comparison of water quality of rivers before and after the Action Plans i.e. 1986 and 2003 in case of river Ganga and 1996 and 2003 in case of river Yamuna during the critical period of summer (March-June) is enclosed at Statement-I & I-A. It may be observed that water quality of river Ganga in terms of Dissolved Oxygen (DO) and Bio-chemical Oxygen demand (BOD) has shown improvement over the pre-Ganga Action Plan (GAP) quality. The increased BOD in some of the towns may be attributed to increased population and only partial completion of interception and diversion of sewage schemes. The water quality of the river is likely to improve to desired levels when entire waste water generated is tapped and treated. For river Yamuna, the pollution levels in terms of BOD level have deteriorated for Delhi & Agra due to increase in population and sewage generation in the intervening years between 1996 and 2003.

(d) and (e) The details of new proposals for rivers received under NRCP, State-wise and Project-wise alongwith the action taken by the Government and their present status is given at Statement-II enclosed.

Statement I

Water Quality Data for River Ganga
(Summer Average i.e. March-June)

Sl.No.	Station/Location	1986		2003	
		DO (mg/1)	BOD (mg/1)	DO (mg/1)	BOD (mg/1)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Rishikesh	8.1	1.7	9.2	0.5
2.	Hardwar D/S	8.1	1.8	9.0	0.8
3.	Garhmukteshwar	7.8	2.2	8.2	1.2
4.	Kannauj U/S	7.2	5.5	7.9	1.2
5.	Kannauj D/S	NA	NA	6.2	3.3

1	2	3	4	5	6
6.	Kanpur U/S	7.2	7.2	6.7	3.7
7.	Kanpur D/S	6.7	8.6	4.4	6.1
8.	Allahabad U/S	6.4	11.4	10.0	4.8
9.	Allahabad D/S	6.6	15.5	7.3	3.2
10.	Varanasi U/S	5.6	10.1	7.2	2.5
11.	Varanasi D/S	5.9	10.6	8.1	5.4
12.	Patna U/S	8.4	2.0	7.5	2.0
13.	Patna D/S	8.1	2.2	7.8	2.8
14.	Rajmahal	7.8	1.8	7.5	2.2
15.	Palta	NA	NA	7.2	2.2
16.	Uluberia	NA	NA	5.6	1.9

Bathing Water Quality criteria : Dissolved Oxygen (DO) equal to or more than 5.0 mg/1 Bio-chemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) equal to or less than 3.0 mg/1.

Statement IA

Summer Average (March-June) 1996-2003 Yamuna Action Plan

Sl.No.	Station/Location	1986		2003	
		DO (mg/1)	BOD (mg/1)	DO (mg/1)	BOD (mg/1)
1	2	3	4	5	6
A. Haryana					
1.	Tajewala	11.70	1.20	4.90	1.30
2.	Kalanaur	10.40	1.05	4.70	1.30
3.	Sonepat	9.75	3.00	7.40	1.80
4.	Palla	13.95	6.00	7.50	1.50
B. Delhi					
5.	Nizamuddin Bridge	0.30	25.00	—	28.80
C. Uttar Pradesh					
6.	Agra Canal	0.35	26.50	0.30	18.00
7.	Majhawali	0.50	22.00	3.90	15.80

1	2	3	4	5	6
8.	Mathura	8.10	4.00	6.90	13.30
9.	Mathura D/S	8.50	2.50	6.90	9.30
10.	Agra U/S	10.65	4.50	4.70	18.30
11.	Agra D/S	1.65	9.00	5.40	29.50
12.	Batteshwar	13.90	11.00	4.70	10.30
13.	Etawah	11.16	7.00	5.80	10.80
14.	UDI	9.71	2.00	4.30	2.80
15.	Auraiya Juhika	8.14	5.00	6.10	4.80

*—>Summer average (March+April)

Statement-II

Sl.No.	Name of the Project	State	Estimated Cost (Rs. in crore)	Action Taken by the Union Government/Current Status
1	2	3	4	5
1.	33 towns along river Ghaggar	Punjab	536.00	Received pre-feasibility report only. State Government was asked to submit Detailed Project Report to be prepared as per our guidelines. No Detailed Project Report received till date.
2.	Amritsar town along river Ravi	Punjab	394.00	-do-
3.	Kapurthala and Sultanpur towns along West Bein (a tributary of Satluj)	Punjab	14.97	Project sanctioned for Rs. 14.97 crore and is presently under implementation.
4.	11 towns along Bears river	Himachal Pradesh	78.41	Received pre-feasibility Report only. State Government was asked to submit Detailed Project Report to be prepared as per our guidelines. No Detailed Project Report received till date.
5.	4 towns along river Jhelum	Jammu and Kashmir	284.42	Received pre-feasibility Report only. State Government was asked to submit Detailed Project Report to be prepared as per our guidelines. No Detailed Project Report received till date.

1	2	3	4	5
6.	Paonta Sahib town along river Yamuna	Himachal Pradesh	3.58	Received pre-feasibility Report only. State Government was asked to submit Detailed Project Report to be prepared as per our guidelines. No Detailed Project Report received till date.
7.	(i) Khuakhai and Daya rivers at Bhubneshwar	Orissa	497.00	-do-
	(ii) River Mahanadi & Kathjori at Cuttack		523.00	-do-
8.	Sewerage & treatment scheme of Puri as per Supreme Court Direction	Orissa	48.29	Approved
9.	21 towns along river Ghaggar	Haryana	345.35	Proposal not considered due to shortage of funds.
10.	Dhansiri and Dhipu rivers at Dimapur	Nagaland	83.87	DPR is under consideration, but States commitment to bear 30% cost is pending. Besides, the project report is also required to be revised by the State Govt. However, Rs. 2.5 lakh has been released to the State Govt. for the preparation of DPR.
11.	Bagalkot town along Krishna/Ghataprabha river	Karnataka	29.12	Present outlay of NRCP in the X Plan is not sufficient for taking up new works. Thus, it will not be possible to consider this proposal at present.
12.	Maddur town along Shimsha river	Karnataka	6.63	-do-
13.	Gokak town along Ghataprabha river	Karnataka	14.50	-do-
14.	Baillahongol town along Malaprabha river	Karnataka	10.21	-do-
15.	Shahbad Gulbarga town along Kagina river	Karnataka	14.82	-do-
16.	Hospet town along Tungabhadra river	Karnataka	21.45	-do-
17.	Gangawati town along Tungabhadra river	Karnataka	21.00	-do-
18.	Kanakpura town along Arhavathi river	Karnataka	10.61	-do-
19.	Yadgir town along Bhima river	Karnataka	17.60	-do-

1	2	3	4	5
20.	Dandeli town along Kali river	Karnataka	10.67	The Detailed Project Reports have not been received. So far, only information through a forwarding letter has been received in this Ministry.
21.	Sriaguppa town along Tungabhadra river	Karnataka	8.96	-do-
22.	Environmental Action Plan of Bangalore city for pollution abatement of river Cauveri & Penniyar	Karnataka	46.27	Approved
23.	Rajpur town along Kharun river	Chattisgarh	36.60	At present, outlay of NRCP in the X Plan is not sufficient for taking up new works. Thus, it will not be possible to consider this proposal at present.
24.	Durg town along Seonath river	Chhattisgarh	26.60	-do-
25.	Bilaspur town along Arpa river	Chhattisgarh	26.90	-do-
26.	Siliguri town along Mahananda river	West Bengal	37.87	Planning Commission has been requested to accord in principle approval to undertake the scheme. No tie up of funds is required as it is proposed to undertake the scheme from projected savings of Rs. 100.60 crore in West Bengal under GAP-II.
27.	Kolhapur town along river Panchganga	Maharashtra	83.85	The State Govt. has been conveyed that the outlay provided for the NRCP under the X Plan is not adequate to take up new projects. Thus, it would not be possible to include this town under NRCP at present. They have also been conveyed that as and when more funds are forthcoming, this proposal would be considered for inclusion under the NRCP.
28.	Wai town along river Krishna	Maharashtra	3.87	-do-
29.	Pandharpur town along river Bhima	Maharashtra	26.53	-do-
30.	Prakasha town along river Tapi	Maharashtra	4.59	-do-
31.	Paithan town along Godavari river	Maharashtra	12.80	-do-

1	2	3	4	5
32.	Sonepur town along river Gandak	Bihar	0.91	The State has been asked to complete GAP-II schemes first and NRCD would not be able to consider the proposal. It was also conveyed that while the amenity of sanitation is necessary for the pilgrims at Sonepur, the State Govt. may provide these on the basis of BOT/'users pay'. Accordingly, the proposal has been returned.
33.	Samastipur town along river Burhi Gandak	Bihar	8.04	The State has been conveyed that the schemes of Bihar under GAP-II may be completed first and the scheme of Samastipur (having a population less than 1 lakh) may be taken up subsequently with a holistic and integrated approach, as per the resolution of NRCA.
34.	Khagaria town along river Burhi Gandak	Bihar	5.01	The State has been conveyed that the schemes of Bihar under GAP-II may be completed first and the scheme of Khagaria (having a population less than 1 lakh) may be taken up subsequently with a holistic and integrated approach, as per the resolution of NRCA.
35.	Sitamarhi town along river Lakhandei	Bihar	5.30	The State has been intimated that the decisions of the NRCA emphasize on schemes of river conservation in larger towns (population of Sitamarhi is less than 1 lakh) to ensure that the available financial resources are not too thinly spread. In this context, it would be of paramount importance to complete the tasks in hand and those already approved by the Govt., which are running behind schedule viz., GAP-1, GAP-II (MS) as well as GAP-II (Supreme Court towns). Accordingly, it has not been found feasible to consider the scheme of Sitamarhi town.

1	2	3	4	5
36.	Sabarmati River Cleaning Project Phase-II for Ahmedabad town	Gujarat	412.24	The State Govt. has been conveyed that the outlay provided for the NRCP under the X Plan is not adequate to take up new projects. Thus, it would not be possible to include this town under NRCP at present.
37.	Pollution abatement or river Tapi at Surat	Gujarat	134.50	-do-
38.	River frontline drainage & sewage treatment for Jamnagar along river Rangmati	Gujarat	30.50	-do-
39.	Environmental Upgradation of Panaji City Phase-II along river Mandovi	Goa	14.39	Clarifications have been sought from the State Govt. on the project proposal, the same are awaited.
40.	(i) Ambur, Walajapet and Ranipet along the river Palar (ii) Coastal towns of Trichendur & Rameshwaram	Tamil Nadu	72.89	Due to shortage of outlay in X Plan, it is not possible to take up new projects.
41.	Chaliyar river	Kerala	271.00	Report received is not as per Ministry's guidelines. State Government asked to submit Detailed Project Report.
42.	Pamba Action Plan	Kerala	320.00	A proposal for abatement of pollution of river Pamba in Kerala had been submitted by Govt. of Kerala in December, 2002 at a cost of Rs. 320 crore for including the project under NRCP in the X five year Plan. However, a part of project for abatement of pollution of the river at Pamba and Sabrimala as immediate phase at cost of Rs. 18.45 crore, was sanctioned in May, 2003. Most of the remaining works proposed in the project relate to Urban Development activities, Irrigation and Flood Control Department. Also, due to constraint in the availability of funds for new projects in X Five year Plan, the State Govt. was asked to prioritize the

1	2	3	4	5
				works on the basis of pollution load and re-submit the proposal accordingly. The cost of the project is to be shared on 70:30 basis between Central and State Government. The scheme is targeted to be completed within 4 years. An amount of Rs. 75 lakh has been released to the implementing agency for execution of works. The execution of the works under the project is yet to start.
43.	Yamuna Action Plan, Phase-II	Delhi, Haryana & U.P.	624.00	Yamuna Action Plan Phase-II was approved in July, 2003 for abatement of pollution of river Yamuna in the State of U.P. Haryana and Delhi at a cost of Rs. 624.00 crore. The funds for the project are to be made available by the JBIC as a soft loan. The cost of the project is to be shared on 85:15 basis between Central and State Govts. The share of Delhi in the project is Rs. 387.17 crore and that of U.P. and Haryana as Rs. 124.13 crore and Rs. 62.5 crore respectively. A provision of Rs. 50.20 is made for capacity building of NRCD and project implementing agencies. The project is scheduled to be completed in September, 2008. As per the instructions by JBIC, the works will be started after appointment of Project Management Consultant, (PMC), which is under process and is likely to be finalized by the end of August, 2004.
44.	19 towns along river Yamuna and its tributaries	Uttar Pradesh	222.52	Received outline proposal only. The outlay provided for the National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) under the X Plan is not adequate to take up new projects at present.
45.	Unnao town along Ganga river	Uttar Pradesh	85.00	-do-

1	2	3	4	5
46.	Gomti Action Plan Phase-II at Lucknow	Uttar Pradesh	291.58	Project sanctioned for Rs. 263.04 crore and is presently under implementation. The project is scheduled for completion by March 2007.
47.	Additional funds for pollution abatement of river Gomti at Sultanpur and Jaunpur towns (in addition to already) approved allocation of Rs. 10.36 crore for these towns)	Uttar Pradesh	16.76	Received Pre-feasibility report only. State Government has been asked to submit Detailed Project Report to be prepared as per our guidelines. No Detailed Project Report received till date.
48.	6 towns along Kali Nadi and 1 town along river Solani (tributaries of Ganga)	Uttar Pradesh	218.99	Received outline proposal only. The outlay provided for NRCP under the X Plan is not adequate to take up new projects at present.
49.	Revised Pre-feasibility report for Allahabad town along Ganga	Uttar Pradesh	234.80	Based on Detailed Project Reports submitted by the State Governments, schemes amounting to Rs. 31.63 crore have been sanctioned out of the available allocation of Rs. 32.72 crore for GAP Phase-II in the town. The schemes are in various stages of implementation. For tackling the balance pollution load, the Master Plan and Feasibility Study for sewerage and non-sewerage components in the town is under preparation by the Consultants appointed under the JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency) assisted Development Study.
50.	Revised pre-feasibility report for Varanasi town along Ganga	Uttar Pradesh	236.28	Based on Detailed Project Reports submitted by the State Government, schemes amounting to Rs. 41.61 crore have been sanctioned out of the available allocation of Rs. 45.05 crore for

1	2	3	4	5
				GAP Phase-II in the town. The schemes are in various stages of implementation. For tackling the balance pollution load, the Master Plan and Feasibility Study for sewerage and non-sewerage components in the town is under preparation by the Consultants appointed under the JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency) assisted Development Study.
51.	Abatement of pollution of river Ganga at Haridwar-Rishikesh	Uttaranchal	40.55	Planning Commission has been requested to accord in-principle approval and enhance the X Plan outlay to undertake the important works.
52.	Rejuvenation of River Penna	Andhra Pradesh	57.97	Project not considered due to the fact that Canal cleaning is not the mandate of NRCD.
53.	Vijaywada pollution prevention and environmental improvement of irrigation canals of river Krishna in Vijaywada.	-do-	11.62	Project not considered due to the fact that Canal cleaning is not the mandate of NRCD.
54.	Gaggar River Action Plan	-do-	350	Proposal not considered due to shortage of funds.
55.	DPR for Rani Chu river	Sikkim	35.77	DPR is under consideration. Rs. 3.5 lakhs released towards Project Preparation Fee (PPF).
56.	Request for release of Project Preparation Fee (PPF) for Haora river conservation plan.	Tripura	0.20	Under consideration.
57.	Community based conservation of Bichom river	Arunachal Pradesh	0.20	Approved.
58.	Imphal and Nambul river	Manipur	Only an outline proposal received	Rs. 2.80 lakhs has been released for preparation of DPR as per NRCD guidelines.

[English]

Selling of Fake Seeds

*287. SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY:
SHRI DINSHA PATEL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the selling of spurious Bt. Cotton seeds by traders to the farmers in some States of the country;

(b) if so, the action take by the Government against such traders;

(c) whether the Government intend to pay compensation to such farmers; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to safeguard the interests of farmers?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) Production of spurious Bt. Cotton seeds has been reported in Gujarat. According to information made available by Government of Gujarat, 61,751 kgs. of spurious Bt. Cotton seeds has been confiscated. FIRs have been filed in 12 cases upto 30.6.2004.

(c) Affected farmers may claim compensation from the producer, distributor or vendor under the Consumer Protection Act, 1986.

(d) State Governments have been advised to take action against the producers and vendors of spurious Bt. Cotton seeds under the rules for Manufacture, Use/Import/ Export and Storage of Hazardous Microorganisms/ Genetically Engineered Organisms or Cell, 1989 under the Environment (Projection) Act 1986, and Seeds (Control) Order, 1983.

Central Institute for Cotton Research (CICR), Nagpur has been notified as referral Laboratory for detection of presence/absence of Bt. Gene in the cotton hybrid seeds.

Measures such as compulsory registration of varieties and enhancement of penalty for major and minor infringements are proposed in the new Seeds Act to safeguard the interest of the farmers.

[Translation]

ICAR

*288. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Council for Agricultural Research (ICAR) has decided to bear 80 percent additional expenditure of State Agriculture Universities;

(b) if so, whether the Government have released funds to the Agriculture Universities under this head during the current financial year;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any amount has been released to the only Agriculture University in Bihar; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) No, Sir. The State Agricultural Universities are under the administrative and financial control of respective State Governments. However, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) gives grants to State Agricultural Universities for Education as per sanction in the various 5 year plans.

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

(d) and (e) The details of funds released by the ICAR to Rajendra Agricultural University, Pusa, during the last two years under various schemes are as follows:

	Amount Released (Rs. in lakhs)	
2002-2003	—	916.08
2003-2004	—	992.33

[English]

Private Sector Participation in Dairy Industries

*289. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has initiated private sector participation in dairy industries;

(b) if so, the reaction of the private sector thereto;

(c) the steps taken to promote dairy industries in different States; and

(d) the target set therefor during the Tenth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) The dairy industry was de-licensed in 1991. Thereafter, Government of India promulgated Milk and Milk Products Order (MMPO), 1992 in June, 1992 under the provisions of Essential Commodities Act, 1954, to ensure orderly growth of dairy industry. The Order requires any person/dairy plant handling in excess of 10,000 litres of milk per day or 500 MT of milk solids per annum to be registered under the said order. There is no restriction on any private entrepreneur to set up dairy industry and they only need to obtain a registration under the MMPO.

(b) Under the order, altogether 395 dairy units in private sector with a capacity 385.7 lakh liters per day have been registered up to March, 2004.

(c) Apart from efforts of the State Governments and other related agencies, the Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying is implementing the following Plan Schemes for promotion of Dairy Industry in the country:

1. Integrated Dairy Development Project (IDDP) in Non Operation Flood, Hilly & Backward Areas.
2. Assistance to Co-operative for rehabilitation of sick dairy co-operative Milk Unions.
3. Strengthening Infrastructure for Quality and Clean Milk production.
4. National Project for Cattle and Buffalo Breeding.
5. Assistance provided by National Dairy Development Board under its Perspective Plan 2010.

(d) The 10th Plan document envisages an annual growth rate of 6% in milk production and milk production in 2006-07 is projected to reach 108.40 Million Tones.

Edible Oil Packaging

*290. DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Government to effectively implement the edible oil packaging regulations order, 1998;

(b) whether the Government maintains data regarding implementation of the order;

(c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and edible oil-wise;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) the mechanism adopted to monitor the implementation of these regulations;

(f) whether any inspections have been carried out by the Government in this regard since 2001; and

(g) if so, the details thereof alongwith the prosecutions carried out during the above period, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) The powers for implementation of the Edible Oil Packaging (Regulation) Order, 1998 have been delegated to the State Governments. Since the inception of the said Order, Government regularly monitors its implementation status and interacts with the State Governments at various levels.

(b) to (d) The status of the implementation of the said Order State-wise and oil-wise is given in the enclosed Statement.

(e) The State Governments have been frequently advised to enforce the implementation of the said Order.

(f) and (g) The responsibility of conducting inspections and prosecution under this order is vested in the State Governments.

Statement

States who have started Implementation of the Edible Oils Packaging (Regulation) Order, 1998

As on 10-08-2004

State/UT	Status of Implementation
1	2
Andhra Pradesh	has recommenced implementation after vacation of the stay order by the H.C. vide CCS. Ref. No. PI(3)/652/2000 dated 23.05.02. Copies of Regn. Certificates are being received.

1	2
Delhi	has initiated implementation vide Notfn. Nos. F. 6 (3)/98-F&S (P&C)/I to V dt. 13.1.2000 Registering Authority, Inspecting Officers and Registration Fee have been notified. Laboratory of PFA & any lab authorized by the State Govt. are notified for analysis of samples.
Himachal Pradesh	has extended the Edible Oil Packaging (R) Order 1998 to whole state vide No. FDS-A(3)-9/90-I-Loose Dt. 1.5.2002 & Registering Authority and Inspecting Officers have been notified.
Orissa	has started implementation vide Notfn. No. 11385 dt. 10.05.99. 21 Registrations have been issued so far.
Pondicherry	has republished DOP(R) Order 1998 vide G.O. Ms. No. 19/98 dt. 14.10.98. Registering Authority, Inspecting Officers and fee for Registration have been notified.
Rajasthan	has started implementation vide Notfn. No. F. 17 (10) FS/Legal/98 dt. 9.5.2000, Copies of Regn. Certificates issued have been received.
Tamil Nadu	Has republished EOP(R) Order 1998 vide G.O. Ms. No. 267 dt. 14.12.98 Registrations from the districts of Dharmapuri, Coimbatore, Madurai and Chennai are being received. The State Government has exempted Gingelly oil, Ground nut oil & Coconut oil for a period of one year from 01.01.04 upto 31.12.04.

Status of Implementation of the Edible Oils Packaging (Regulation) Order, 1998 by the State Governments as on 10.8.2004

Andaman and Nicobar	exempted all edible oils upto 31.03.1999 vide Notfn. No. 55-28/98-TR dt. 5.2.99
Assam	is processing the matter of implementation of the order vide No. FSB. 216/98/16 dt. 6.2.99
Bihar	has decided not to implement the Order till 31.03.2003 vide Pr. 4-V.2-03/98/3697 Dt. 31.08.2001 & letter dt. 11.4.2002
Gujarat	decided to implement the Edible Oil Packaging (R) Order, 1998 vide Notification TLP/ 1098/4012/D dt. 28.8.2001
Haryana	has kept the matter of implementation of the Order in abeyance vide Letter No. 114-5S-99/704 dt. 8.1.99
Jammu and Kashmir	exempted all edible oils including those distributed through PDS upto ending December 2002 vide Notfn. No. SRO-03 dt. 3.1.02 read with Notfn. No. SRO-355 dt. 29.12.98 and SRO. 211 dt. 20.6.2000
Karnataka	has started implementation in a phased manner exempting some specified oils upto 1.1.2004 & exemption will cease for edible oils w.e.f. 1.1.04 vide Notfn. No. FCS/149/ FCS/98 dt. 02.03.2002.
Kerala	has exempted coconut oil from the purview of the VOP (R) Order for a period of 10 years vide Notification S.R.O. No. 290/2000 dt. 29.3.2000.
Madhya Pradesh	has exempted all edible oils up to 30.09.2004 vide Notfn. No. F-4-28/98/29-1 dt. 22.09.2003

1	2
Maharashtra	has decided to defer implementation of the said order up to 15.7.2000 vide Letter No. ECA 1898/2473/CR 3719/CS-30 dt. 16.10.99.
Punjab	has decided to keep the matter in abeyance for a period of one year more vide Letter No. 24/4/98-7 FDI/6436 dt 3.8.2001 & yet to implement the order vide Lr. Dt. 22.7.03.
Tripura	Published the order in the state vide Notfn. No. F. 2 (31)-FSD/94 dt. 2.11.98 & exempted the sales of loose Mustard oil vide Notification No. F. 2 (31)-FSD/94 dt. 15.12.98.
Uttar Pradesh	Exempted all edible oils upto 30.6.2004 vide No. 456/29-Kha-9-2003-201/1998 dt. 31.3.2003. The Govt. has not yet implemented the order.
West Bengal	has drafted West Bengal Edible Oils Packaging (Regulation) Order, 1999 as an alternative to the above order and sent to Law Dept. for vetting vide D.O. No. NIL dt. 12.1.2000 from Shri A. Kapur DG & Secy., F&S.
	States who have no Edible Oil Packaging Unit (As on 10.8.2004)
Lakshadweep	has no specific action in implementation of the Order as there is no oil mill/manufacturer in the U.T. edible oils in packed from is procured from neighbouring states, Karnataka & Kerala
Meghalaya	has informed that it does not implement the Packaging order. There is no edible oil-packaging unit in the State.
Mizoram	The Government has informed that there is no Edible Oil manufacturing units as well as registered packer in Mizoram. Oils are brought in tins or cartons or plastic containers.
	States who Sent no Information (As on 10.8.2004)
Arunachal Pradesh	No information/reply received
Chandigarh Admn.	No information/reply received
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	No information/reply received
Daman and Diu	No information/reply received
Goa	No information/reply received
Manipur	No information/reply received
Nagaland	No information/reply received
Sikkim	No information/reply received
Chhattisgarh	New State
Jharkhand	New State
Uttaranchal	New State

[Translation]

Storage Capacity of FCI and CWC

*291. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:
SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE PATIL:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) and Food Corporation of India (FCI) are incurring huge losses;

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

(c) the total storage capacity of each of these corporations alongwith the percentage capacity utilization during the last three years separately; and

(d) the efforts made by the Government to increase the storage capacity particularly in States where procurement is high and to help the corporations earn profit?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) The total storage capacity available with FCI and CWC along with percentage utilization during the last three years is as under:

Year	Food Corporation of India (FCI)		Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC)	
	Capacity (in lakh tonnes)	Utilization (%)	Capacity (in lakh tonnes)	Utilization (%)
2001-02	358.40	82	86.55	83
2002-03	317.40	59	91.50	74
2003-04	272.40	46	92.64	60

(d) Due to the efforts made in the past, the storage capacity now available in the country, and in particular in the procuring States, in considered adequate.

[English]

Experiments of Prohibited Drugs on Athletes

*292. SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID:
SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH:

Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether prohibited drugs on the Indian athletes are being experimented by Foreign coaches for better performance as reported in the "Hindustan Times" dated July 11, 2004;

(b) if so, whether during the preparatory camps just before the 2000 Sydney Olympics top Indian Athletes were administered a cocktail of anabolic steroids;

(c) if so, the details and facts thereof alongwith the names of the foreign coaches involved therein;

(d) the action taken against the said coaches;

(e) the number of foreign coaches hired at present for various sports; and

(f) the remedial steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-RESIDENT INDIANS AFFAIRS (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) No such instances has come to the notice of Government.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

(e) 35 Foreign coaches are engaged at present.

(f) During the National Coaching Camps, athletes are educated about the prohibited substances and methods as notified by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) and its harmful effects. An information guide in the form of a Directory on 'Drugs in Sports' and Handbook on 'Drugs Abuse in Sports' developed by the Lab Scientists are also circulated among sportspersons, coaches, doctors and athlete support personnel as part of the educational programme. List of banned drugs and placards for educating the players are also put in the rooms of the campers. Random checking of the rooms of the campers is also done to ensure that no banned drugs are being used. The Sports Medicine Doctor at Netaji Subash National Institute of Sports, Patiala and other Regional

Centres of Sports Authority of India conduct lectures to educate the players not to use any banned drugs. Apart from the above, random tests are also done during coaching camps, selection trials, domestic competitions and prior to participation in International Competitions.

Report on Climate Changes

*293. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:
SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH:

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

(a) whether the Government has lately submitted a report to the United Nations on the issue of climate changes and earth-warming which are likely to cause enormous shift in the monsoon patterns all the way upto 2050:

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

(c) the main recommendations and suggestions made in the report and the response of United Nations thereto?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) India is a Party to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). In accordance with the provisions of the Convention, Parties are required to communicate to the Conference of Parties, the supreme body of the Convention, information on implementation of the Convention. The Ministry of Environment and Forests, which is the nodal Ministry for the subject of climate change, has, towards fulfillment of obligations under the Convention submitted on behalf of the Government of India, a report entitled "India's Initial National Communication to United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change" to Climate Change Secretariat on June 22, 2004. The Initial National Communication contains information on India's emissions of greenhouse gases due to human activities at 1994 level, Vulnerability assessment of key sectors such as agriculture, forestry, water resources, health, infrastructure, industry, natural ecosystems, coastal zones to projected climate change; Programmes related to sustainable development; Research and systematic observations; and constraints and gaps, and related financial, technical and capacity needs in the area of climate change.

In 1994, the aggregate greenhouse gas emissions from human activities in India amounted to 793 million tons of carbon dioxide; 18 million tons of methane and 0.178 million tons of nitrous oxide; and constitutes about 3 per cent of global greenhouse gas emissions. The contributions of the USA, Japan, Germany and UK to the global emission in 1994 were 20%, 5%, 4% and 2% respectively. However, India's per capita emissions were 4% of USA, 8% of Germany, 9% of UK, 10% of Japan and 23% of Global average.

The projected climate change scenarios indicate increase in and variable trend of both rainfall and temperature into 21st century. It is projected that quantity of surface run of due to climate change would reduce and vary across the river basins as well as sub basins. The initial analysis has revealed that climate change may have adverse effects in terms of severity of droughts and intensity of floods in various parts of the country. Forest biomass in India seem to be highly vulnerable to the projected change in climate. Coastal areas are also vulnerable to climate variability in varying degrees. As such no specific response of the United nations is expected, however, the report has been well received both in the national and international community.

[Translation]

Old Foodgrains Stock

*294. SHRI M. ANJAN KUMAR YADAV: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether more than five years old foodgrain stock has been lying in Food Corporation of India (FCI) godowns;

(b) if so, the rationale behind keeping such an old stock of foodgrains in the godowns;

(c) the efforts made by the Government for disposal of the old stock of foodgrains; and

(d) the outcome of the above efforts?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) A quantity of only 22,408 tonnes, comprising 0.14 per cent of the total foodgrains stocks held by the FCI, and which is categorised as damaged and unfit for human consumption, is held by the FCI as on 1.7.2004.

(b) and (c) The FCI is liquidating this damaged stock according to well laid down procedures for their disposal, under which the damaged stocks are offered to bonafide Government Departments/Agencies at a Running Rate Contract and in the event of non-acceptance by

them, sold to the users registered with the FCI, through tender.

(d) Except for 7396 MTs of this damaged stock which is involved in court cases, the remaining stocks have either been covered under tender or are in the process of lifting.

[English]

Projects under National River Conservation Plan

*295. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:
SHRI R. PRABHU:

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

(a) the present ratio of the cost of projects being undertaken under the National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) between the States and the Union Government;

(b) the proposals/projects received from various States for release or enhancement of funds or inclusion of certain projects under the NRCP during the last three years and current year, till date, State-wise;

(c) the action taken by the Government on each of the said project/proposals alongwith their present status;

(d) the total amount released and utilized under NRCP for each project during the said period, State-wise;

(e) the outcome of the review undertaken in respect of the approved projects; and

(f) by when the remaining projects are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) The present ratio of the cost of projects under National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) to be shared between the Union Government and the States is 70:30.

(b) and (c) The details of proposals received during the last three years State-wise and Project-wise alongwith the action taken by the Government and their present status is given in Statement-I enclosed.

(d) The State-wise and year-wise total amount released by the Government and utilized by the States is given in Statement-II enclosed.

(e) Review/evaluations of the approved and completed projects have been undertaken at various points of time. In this connection, a Cost Benefit Analysis of Ganga Action Plan (GAP) Phase-I carried out by Harvard Institute of International Development indicated that in terms of both the time taken and cost involved, GAP compares favourably with those of other major rivers of the world like Thames, Rhine & Danube.

Further studies have been done by independent agencies (Universities, R&D Institutions and CPCB) on Ganga Action Plan where it has been concluded that reduction of discharge of organic matter, a necessary first step in restoring the water quality, has been achieved to a fair level under GAP Phase-I. It has also been recommended that reduction in bacterial pollution levels in the river water should be aimed at and adequate allocation of funds for operation and maintenance of STPs should be specially looked into.

(f) Planning Commission has provided an outlay of Rs. 1417 crore in the X Plan under NRCP which is insufficient for completion of the presently approved projects. Additional funds have been sought from Planning Commission and different funding agencies. The remaining projects would be considered for inclusion under NRCP depending upon the availability of funds.

Statement-I

Sl.No.	Name of the Project	State	Estimated Cost (Rs. in crore)	Action Taken by the Union Government/Current Status
1	2	3	4	5
1.	33 towns along river Ghaggar	Punjab	536.00	Received Pre-feasibility report only. State Government was asked to submit Detailed Project Report to be prepared as per our guidelines. No Detailed Project Report received till date.
2.	Amritsar town along river Ravi	Punjab	394.00	-do-

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Kapurthala and Sultanpur towns along West Bein (a tributary of Sathuj)	Punjab	14.97	Project sanctioned for Rs. 14.97 crore and is presently under implementation.
4.	11 towns along Beas river	Himachal Pradesh	78.41	Received Pre-Feasibility Report only. State Government was asked to submit Detailed Project Report to be prepared as per our guidelines. No Detailed Project Report received till date.
5.	4 towns along river Jhelum	Jammu & Kashmir	284.42	Received Pre-Feasibility Report only. State Government was asked to submit Detailed Project Report to be prepared as per our guidelines. No Detailed Project Report received till date.
6.	Paonta Sahib town along river Yamuna	Himachal Pradesh	3.58	-do-
7.	(i) Khuakhai and Daya rivers at Bhubneshwar	Orissa	497.00	-do-
	(ii) River Mahanadi & Kathjori at Cuttack		523.00	-do-
8.	Sewerage & treatment scheme of Puri as per Supreme Court Direction	Orissa	48.29	Approved
9.	21 towns along river Ghaggar	Haryana	345.35	Proposal not considered due to shortage of funds.
10.	Dhansiri and Dhipu rivers at Dimapur	Nagaland	83.87	DPR is under consideration, but States commitment to bear 30% cost is pending. Besides, the project report is also required to be revised by the State Govt. However, Rs. 2.5 lakh has been released to the State Govt. for the preparation of DPR.
11.	Bagalkot town along Krishna/Ghataprabha river	Karnataka	29.12	Present outlay of NRCP in the X Plan is not sufficient for taking up new works. Thus, it will not be possible to consider this proposal at present.
12.	Maddur town along Shimsha river	Karnataka	6.63	-do-
13.	Gokak town along Ghataprabha river	Karnataka	14.50	-do-
14.	Bailahongol town along Malaprabha river	Karnataka	10.21	-do-
15.	Shahbad Gulbarga town along Kagina river	Karnataka	14.82	-do-

1	2	3	4	5
16.	Hospet town along Tungabhadra river	Karnataka	21.45	Presently outlay of NRCP in the X Plan is not sufficient for taking up new works. Thus, it will not be possible to consider this proposal at present.
17.	Gangawati town along Tungabhadra river	Karnataka	21.00	-do-
18.	Kanakpura town along Arhavathi river	Karnataka	10.61	-do-
19.	Yadgir town along Bhima river	Karnataka	17.60	-do-
20.	Dandeli town along Kali river	Karnataka	10.67	The Detailed Project Reports have not been received. So far, only information through a forwarding letter has been received in this Ministry.
21.	Siraguppa town along Tungabhadra river	Karnataka	8.96	-do-
22.	Environmental Action Plan of Bangalore city for pollution abatement of river Cauveri & Penniyar	Karnataka	46.27	Approved
23.	Rajpur town along Kharun river	Chattisgarh	36.60	At present, outlay of NRCP in the X Plan is not sufficient for taking up new works. Thus, it will not be possible to consider this proposal at present.
24.	Durg town along Seonath river	Chhattisgarh	26.60	-do-
25.	Bilaspur town along Arpa river	Chhattisgarh	26.90	-do-
26.	Siliguri town along Mahananda river	West Bengal	37.87	Planning Commission has been requested to accord in-principle approval to undertake the scheme. No tie up of funds is required as it is proposed to undertake the scheme from projected savings of Rs. 100.60 crore in West Bengal under GAP-II.
27.	Kolhapur town along river Panchganga	Maharashtra	83.85	The State Government has been conveyed that the outlay provided for the NRCP under the X Plan is not adequate to take up new projects. Thus, it would not be possible to include this town under NRCP at present. They have also been conveyed that as and when more funds are forthcoming, this proposal would be considered for inclusion under the NRCP.

1	2	3	4	5
28.	Wai town along river Krishna	Maharashtra	3.87	The State Govt. has been conveyed that the outlay provided for the NRCP under the X Plan is not adequate to take up new projects. Thus, it would not be possible to include this town under NRCP at present. They have also been conveyed that as and when more funds are forthcoming, this proposal would be considered for inclusion under the NRCP.
29.	Pandharpur town along river Bhima	Maharashtra	26.53	-do-
30.	Prakasha town along river Tapi	Maharashtra	4.59	-do-
31.	Paithan town along Godavari river	Maharashtra	12.80	-do-
32.	Sonepur town along river Gandak	Bihar	0.91	The State has been asked to complete GAP-II schemes first and NRCD would not be able to consider the proposal. It was also conveyed that while the amenity of sanitation is necessary for the pilgrims at Sonepur, the State Govt. may provide these on the basis of BOT/'users pay'. Accordingly, the proposal has been returned.
33.	Samastipur town along river Burhi Gandak	Bihar	8.04	The State has been conveyed that the schemes of Bihar under GAP-II may be completed first and the scheme of Samastipur (having a population less than 1 lakh) may be taken up subsequently with a holistic and integrated approach, as per the resolution of NRCA.
34.	Khagaria town along river Burhi Gandak	Bihar	5.01	The State has been conveyed that the schemes of Bihar under GAP-II may be completed first and the scheme of Khagaria (having a population less than 1 lakh) may be taken up subsequently with a holistic and integrated approach, as per the resolution of NRCA.
35.	Sitamarhi town along river Lakhandei	Bihar	5.30	The State has been intimated that the decisions of the NRCA emphasize on schemes of river conservation in larger towns (population of Sitamarhi is less than 1 lakh) to ensure that the available financial resources are not too thinly spread. In this context, it would be of paramount importance to complete the tasks in hand and those already approved by the Govt., which are running behind schedule viz., GAP-1, GAP-II (MS) as well as GAP-II (Supreme Court towns). Accordingly, it has not been found feasible to consider the scheme of Sitamarhi town.

1	2	3	4	5
36.	Sabarmati River Cleaning Project Phase-II for Ahmedabad town	Gujarat	412.24	The State Govt. has been conveyed that the outlay provided for the NRCP under the X Plan is not adequate to take up new projects. Thus, it would not be possible to include this town under NRCP at present.
37.	Pollution abatement of river Tapi at Surat	Gujarat	134.50	-do-
38.	River frontline drainage & sewage treatment for Jamnagar along river Rangmati	Gujarat	30.50	-do-
39.	Environmental Upgradation of Panaji City Phase II along river Mandovi	Goa	14.39	Clarifications have been sought from the State Govt. on the project proposal, the same are awaited.
40.	(i) Ambur, Walajapet and Ranipet along the river Palar (ii) Coastal towns of Trichendure & Rameshwaram	Tamil Nadu	72.89	Due to shortage of outlay in X Plan, it is not possible to take up new projects.
41.	Chaliyar river	Kerala	271.00	Report received is not as per Ministry's guidelines. State Government asked to submit Detailed Project Report.
42.	Pamba Action Plan	Kerala	320.00	A proposal for abatement of pollution of river Pamba in Kerala had been submitted by Govt. of Kerala in December, 2002 at a cost of Rs. 320 crore for including the project under NRCP in the X five year Plan. However, a part of project for abatement of pollution of the river at Pamba and Sabrimala as immediate phase at cost of Rs. 18.45 crore, was sanctioned in May, 2003. Most of the remaining works proposed in the project relate to Urban Development activities, Irrigation and Flood control Department. Also, due to constraint in the availability of funds for new projects in X Five year Plan, the State Govt. was asked to prioritize the works on the basis of pollution load and re-submit the proposal accordingly. The cost of the project is to be shared on 70:30 basis between Central and State Government. The scheme is targeted to be completed within 4 years. An amount of Rs. 75 lakh has been released to the implementing agency for execution of works. The execution of the works under the project is yet to start.

1	2	3	4	5
43.	Yamuna Action Plan, Phase-II	Delhi, Haryana & Uttar Pradesh	624.00	Yamuna Action Plan Phase-II was approved in July, 2003 for abatement of pollution of river Yamuna in the State of U.P., Haryana and Delhi at a cost of Rs. 624.00 crore. The funds for the project are to be made available by the JBIC as a soft loan. The cost of the project is to be shared on 85:15 basis between Central and State Govts. The share of Delhi in the project is Rs. 387.17 crore and that of U.P. and Haryana as Rs. 124.13 crore and Rs. 62.5 crore respectively. A provision of Rs. 50.20 is made for capacity building of NRCD and project implementing agencies. The project is scheduled to be completed in September, 2008. As per the instructions by JBIC, the works will be started after appointment of Project Management Consultant, (PMC), which is under process and is likely to be finalized by the end of August, 2004.
44.	19 towns along river Yamuna and its tributaries	Uttar Pradesh	222.52	Received outline proposal only. The outlay provided for the National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) under the X Plan is not adequate to take up new projects at present.
45.	Unnao town along Ganga river	Uttar Pradesh	85.00	-do-
46.	Gomti Action Plan Phase-II at Lucknow	Uttar Pradesh	291.58	Project sanctioned for Rs. 263.04 crore and is presently under implementation. The project is scheduled for completion by March 2007.
47.	Additional funds for pollution abatement of river Gomti at Sultanpur and Jaunpur towns (in addition to already) approved allocation of Rs. 10.36 crore for these towns)	Uttar Pradesh	16.76	Received Pre-feasibility report only. State Government has been asked to submit Detailed Project Report to be prepared as per our guidelines. No Detailed Project Report received till date.
48.	6 towns along Kali Nadi and 1 town along river Solani (tributaries of Ganga)	Uttar Pradesh	218.99	Received outline proposal only. The outlay provided for NRCP under the X Plan is not adequate to take up new projects at present.

1	2	3	4	5
49.	Revised Pre-feasibility report for Allahabad town along Ganga	Uttar Pradesh	234.80	Based on Detailed Project Reports submitted by the State Governments, schemes amounting to Rs. 31.63 crore have been sanctioned out of the available allocation of Rs. 32.72 crore for GAP Phase-II in the town. The schemes are in various stages of implementation. For tackling the balance pollution load, the Master Plan and Feasibility Study for sewerage and non-sewerage components in the town is under preparation by the Consultants appointed under the JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency) assisted Development Study.
50.	Revised pre-feasibility report for Varanasi town along Ganga	Uttar Pradesh	236.28	Based on Detailed Project Reports submitted by the State Government, schemes amounting to Rs. 41.61 crore have been sanctioned out of the available allocation of Rs. 45.05 crore for GAP Phase-II in the town. The schemes are in various stages of implementation. For tackling the balance pollution load, the Master Plan and Feasibility Study for sewerage and non-sewerage components in the town is under preparation by the Consultants appointed under the JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency) assisted Development Study.
51.	Abatement of pollution of river Ganga at Haridwar-Rishikesh	Uttaranchal	40.55	Planning Commission has been requested to accord in principle approval and enhance the X Plan outlay to undertake the important works.
52.	Rejuvenation of River Penna	Andhra Pradesh	57.97	Project not considered due to the fact that Canal cleaning is not the mandate of NRCD.
53.	Vijaywada pollution prevention and environmental improvement of irrigation canals of river Krishna in Vijaywada.	-do-	11.62	Project not considered due to the fact that Canal cleaning is not the mandate of NRCD.
54.	Ghaggar River Action Plan	-do-	350	Proposal not considered due to shortage of funds.
55.	DPR for Rani Chu river	Sikkim	35.77	DPR is under consideration. Rs. 3.5 lakhs released towards Project Preparation Fee (PPF).

1	2	3	4	5
56.	Request for release of Project Preparation Fee (PPF) for Haora river conservation plan.	Tripura	0.20	Under consideration.
57.	Community based conservation of Bichom river	Arunachal Pradesh	0.20	Approved
58.	Imphal and Nambul river	Manipur	Only an outline proposal received	Rs. 2.80 lakhs has been released for preparation of DPR as per NRCD guidelines.

Statement II

State-wise and Year-wise funds released and Funds utilised

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	State	2001-2002		2002-2003		2003-2004		2004-2005	
		Funds Released	Expenditure by State#	Funds Released	Expenditure by State#	Funds Released	Expenditure by State#	Funds Released (Till 7/04)	Expenditure by State# (Till 5/04)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Andhra Pradesh	113.00	252.10	0.00	160.89	0.00	294.06	1600.00	0.00
2.	Bihar	0.00	20.03	25.00	82.76	0.00	69.59	0.00	0.00
3.	Jharkhand	0.00	6.11	0.00	20.90	0.00	24.69	0.00	26.74
4.	Gujarat	977.00	1427.55	800.00	2152.38	2254.00	1824.80	700.00	536.97
5.	Goa	0.00	0.00	246.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
6.	Karnataka	0.00	95.77	800.00	151.15	400.00	1896.61	670.00	19.67
7.	Maharashtra	1531.20	1698.15	2639.50	2759.95	1075.00	1236.33	130.00	33.39
8.	Madhya Pradesh	0.00	1053.90	700.00	1244.63	1475.00	1547.74	700.00	0.00
9.	Orissa	300.0	055.90	128.00	92.54	167.00	327.60	0.00	120.71
10.	Punjab	1507.00	2236.22	2620.00	1810.19	2270.00	3103.68	0.00	404.66
11.	Rajasthan	0.00	0.00	0.00	50.81	0.00	14.84	0.00	0.00
12.	Tamilnadu	7401.80	7922.02	4142.00	7222.41	8448.00	13461.20	3762.00	2363.20
13.	Delhi	7240.22	6004.70	9185.00	7900.86	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
14.	Haryana	2300.00	3656.54	237.00	535.18	0.00	55.55	0.00	3.24
15.	Uttar Pradesh	5117.91	5029.82	3814.00	3598.43	2650.00	1478.63	0.00	84.98
16.	Uttaranchal	120.00	85.64	327.00	203.26	200.00	345.19	0.00	33.95
17.	West Bengal	1641.00	354.65	2025.50	2391.51	2135.50	5239.23	500.00	0.00
18.	Kerala	3.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	75.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Grand Total	2852.13	29899.10	27689.00	30377.35	21149.50	30919.74	8062.00	3673.98

#Expenditure by States given above includes the balance of GOI's share carried over from the unspent balance by State Government for previous years. This figure also includes expenditure from State Governments' Share.

Identification of BPL Families

*296. SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR:
SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Public Distribution System (Control) Order, 2001 sets a three month deadline to identify Below Poverty Line (BPL) families;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government has issued an order making it mandatory for the State Governments to identify people living below poverty line and also to ensure that they get food at fair price shops;

(c) whether a number of States and Union Territories are still to identify the families to be covered under the Antyodaya Scheme;

(d) if so, the reasons for delay;

(e) the directives given by the Union Government to these States to expedite the process; and

(f) the extent to which the Public Distribution System (Control) Order, 2001 will help the poor families to get the food in fair price shops?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The PDS (Control) Order, 2001 makes it mandatory for the State Governments to identify the families living Below the Poverty Line and issue them distinctive Ration Cards to enable them to draw foodgrains at subsidized rates.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) All States/Union Territories are being regularly persuaded to complete the identification and issue of Antyodaya Cards to all beneficiaries.

(f) In order to maintain supplies, securing availability and distribution of essential commodities, the Public Distribution System (Control) Order 2001 has been notified on August 31, 2001. The Order mainly contains provisions with regard to the following matters;

(i) Identification of families living below the poverty lines;

(ii) Ration Cards;

(iii) Scale and issue prices;

(iv) Distribution of foodgrains;

(v) Licensing; and

(vi) Monitoring.

The order provides for stringent punishment under Section 7 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 for violation of any of the Clauses 3, 4, 6 and 7 of the order.

All these provisions help to ensure that foodgrains allocated to Fair Price Shops are distributed to the beneficiaries in an efficient and transparent manner.

[Translation]

Cotton Project Financed by Netherland

*297. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Governments of Maharashtra, Tamilnadu, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh have started any Central Cotton Project with the technological and financial assistance provided by the Government of Netherland;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal to allow subsidy in export of cotton so as to percolate the benefit of the above project to the cotton growing farmers;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government to safeguard the interests of cotton growing farmers of the above States?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, a project titled "Popularisation of bio-agent production and use as part of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) in cluster villages of Nalgonda and Mahabubnagar districts" is being implemented in Andhra Pradesh with the financial assistance of Netherland Government since 2001-02. The major crops covered under the project are Groundnut, Castor, Redgram and Cotton. The total outlay of the project is Rs. 62.53 lakhs. The main objective of the scheme is to create awareness among farmers and rural youths on the use of bio-agents to control pests and diseases and to reduce pesticide consumption and thereby improve quality of crop through sustainable agriculture and to reduce the cost of cultivation.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Question does not arise.

(e) To safeguard the interests of the cotton growing farmers in the country, a number of steps are being taken by the Government which include implementation of Technology Mission on Cotton for increasing production, productivity and improving quality of cotton; announcement of Minimum Support Price (MSP) to ensure remunerative price of cotton to the farmers; procurement of cotton under Price Support Scheme, if market prices of cotton fall below MSP; ensuring availability of credit and other inputs required for cotton cultivation; providing crop insurance to cotton against natural calamities under National Agriculture Insurance Scheme and removal of restrictions on the export of cotton.

[English]

Pending Cases of Labour Dispute

*298. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a constant increase in the pending cases of labour dispute during the previous decade;

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

(c) whether there are some vacant posts of Judges in most of the tribunals for a long time resulting in delay in the disposal of the cases; and

(d) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken to fill up the vacant posts of judges to ensure the speedy disposal of the pending cases?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI SISH RAM OLA): (a) and (b) There has been an increase in the number of pending cases in CGIT-cum-Labour Courts. The main reasons for the pendency are as follows:

(i) Absence of affected parties at the time of hearing;

(ii) Parties seeks frequent adjournments to file documents;

(iii) Parties approach higher courts against order issued by the Tribunals on preliminary points and hearing of the case is stayed for a long time leading to delay; and

(iv) Time taken for filling up the vacant posts of Presiding Officers.

(c) As on 31.07.2004 out of 22 posts of Presiding Officers, only five were vacant.

(d) The selection process has been initiated for filling up of above mentioned five vacant posts.

During the year 2003-2004 five new CGIT-cum-Labour Courts have been set up to tackle the growing number of industrial disputes. Further, as an alternative mechanism for dispute resolution, Lok Adalats are being held to dispose of the backlog of pending cases.

[Translation]

Assistance to NGOs

*299. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KUSHAWAHA:
SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:

Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the schemes under which assistance is provided to the Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) which are active in sports field;

(b) the funds provided to the said NGOs during the last three years, State-wise;

(c) the details of developmental works undertaken by these NGOs during the said period, State-wise;

(d) whether the Government are aware that some NGOs have not utilized the amount for the intended purpose;

(e) if so, whether the Government have conducted any inquiry in this regard;

(f) if so, the details thereof and outcome thereof; and

(g) the action taken by the Government against said NGOs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-RESIDENT INDIANS AFFAIRS (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Under the schemes of "Grants for Creation of Sports Infrastructure" and "Grants for Installation of Synthetic Playing Surfaces", assistance is provided to the NGOs, which are active in sports field.

(b) and (c) State-wise details of Central assistance provided to NGOs under the aforementioned schemes during the last 3 years, with status of each project have been indicated in the enclosed Statement-I to IV.

(d) to (g) Nothing adverse has been bought to our notice against any NGO, which was assisted under the above schemes during the last three years. However, complaints against proposals of 3 NGOs of Manipur, which were approved during 1999-2000 and 2000-01, were received and on inquiry, found to be correct. Accordingly, the State Government was asked not to release the sanctioned grant to the above NGOs and also to initiate necessary action against the NGOs. The Ministry also decided not to entertain proposals from these NGOs in future.

Statement I

List of NGO Assisted under the Scheme of Grants for Creation of Sports Infrastructure

2001-2002

Sl.No.	Name of the NGO	Purpose	Amount released (Rs. In lakhs)	Instalments released during 2001-2002	Status
1	2	3	4	5	6
Manipur					
1.	Hony. Secretary, Thobal Distt. Table Tennis Association, Thoubal Wangmataba, Manipur	Indoor Stadium category-III	15.00	Ist Instalment	Project completed UC/CC received in subsequent years.
2.	Secretary, Integrated Rural Upliftment Services, Kiyam, BPO-Kiyam Siphai Dt. Thobal, Manipur—795138.	Development of Playfield	3.042	Ist Instalment	UC/CC/PR awaited

1	2	3	4	5	6
3.	Secretary, Youth Social Welfare Association, Utlou, P.O. Nambol, Bishnupur, Manipur	Outdoor Stadium	15.00	Ist Instalment	UC/CC/received in subsequent years. Project completed
Nagaland					
4.	President, K.K. Club Youth Welfare Society at New Tesophenyu, P.O. Tseminyu, Kohima, Nagaland	Indoor Stadium category-III	20.00	Ist Instalment	UC/CC received in subsequent years. Project completed
5.	President, Teens Club, P.O. & Distt. Wokha, Nagaland—797111.	Outdoor Stadium	4.79	Ist Instalment	UC/CC awaited.
6.	President, Veda Sports Club, Chen, H.Q. P.O. Chen Town, Distt. Mon, Nagaland	Indoor Stadium category-II	20.00	Ist Instalment	-do-
7.	Chairman, Mummy's Multipurpose Society, Kashiram, Distt. Dimapur, Dimapur, Nagaland	Playfield	1.125	Ist Instalment	UC/CC received in subsequent years. Project completed.
8.	Chairman, Social Welfare Organisation Lakuti, BPO. Aitepyong, P.O. Wokha, Wokha Distt., Nagaland	Playfield	1.125	Ist Instalment	-do-
9.	Chairman, Mixed Farm Society, Sokhu Valley, Baghty (Lakhuti) Distt. Wokha, Nagaland	Playfield	1.125	Ist Instalment	-do-
10.	Chairman, Association of Tribal Welfare Development, Woodland Mansion, Naharbari (19) Dimapur, Nagaland-797112	Playfield	3.114	Ist Instalment	-do-
11.	President, Secieku Society, Chizami Town, P.O. Chizami, Distt. Phek, Nagaland—797002	Indoor Stadium category-III	15.00	Ist Instalment	UC/CC/PR/AA awaited.

1	2	3	4	5	6
Assam					
12.	General Secretary, Khanpara Sports & Cultural Organisations, Khanpara P.O., Distt. Guwahati, Assam	Indoor Stadium category-I	30.00	Ist Instalment	UC/CC awaited.
Maharashtra					
13.	Secretary, Patashibai Rattan Chand Manav Kalyan Trust, Plot No. P-61, MIDC, Kupwad, Distt. Sangli, Sangli, Maharashtra—416436	Sports Hostel	30.00	Ist & Final Instalment	UC/CC received project completed.
14.	Secretary, Shri Marwadi Rajasthan Sikshan Sanstha, Dayaram Road Latur, Maharashtra—413512.	Swimming Pool	25.00	Ist & Final Instalment	UC/CC received, project completed.
15.	Secretary, J.M. Rathi Charity Trust Roha, Sudarshan Nagar, Raigarh Distt. Maharashtra	Swimming Pool	25.00	Ist Instalment	UC/CC received in subsequent years. Project completed.
16.	Secretary, Shipra Pratisthan, 42, Girija Society, Paud Road, Pune, Maharashtra-411038	Swimming Pool	20.00	Ist Instalment	UC/CC awaited.
Gujarat					
17.	Hony. Secretary, Ankleshwar Industrial Development Society, K-1/205, GIDC Industrial Area, P.B. No. 124, Ankaleshwar, Distt. Bharuch, Gujarat—393002	Swimming Pool	3.12	Final instalment	UC/CC reeceived. project completed.
18.	Hony. Secretary, Charutar Vidya Mandal, PB. No. 22, Vallabh Vidyanagar Distt. Kheda, Gujarat—388120	Swimming Pool	0.765	Final Instalment	UC/CC received. Project completed.
Karnataka					
19.	Chairman, Action Committee, K.M. Cariappa Multipurpose Auditorium Trust, Govt. Pre University College, Medikeri, Distt. Dodagu, Karnataka	Indoor Stadium	4.25	IIIrd Instalment	UC/CC received in 2002-03. Project completed.

1	2	3	4	5	6
20.	Secretary, People's Education Trust, Mandya, Distt. Mandya, Karnataka—571401.	Outdoor Stadium	16.20	Ist Instalment	UC/CC received in subsequent years. Project completed.
21.	Chairman, Sri Veerpulikeshi Vidya Vardhak Samsthi, Badami, Distt. Bijapur, Karnataka—587201	Indoor Stadium	1.00	Final instalment	UC/CC received. Project completed.
Kerala					
22.	Director, Mitraniketan, Villanand—695543 Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala	Indoor Stadium	1.66	Final instalment	UC/CC received. Project completed.
Andhra Pradesh					
23.	President, Rotary Service Trust, Chirala Distt. Prakasam, A.P.—523155	Indoor Stadium	30.00	Ist instalment	UC/CC received in subsequent years. Project completed.
Haryana					
24.	President, Lala Dewan Chand Modern Wrestling & Yoga Centre, Chhara, Distt. Jhajjar, Haryana.	Indoor Stadium	22.00	Ist instalment	UC/CC awaited.
West Bengal					
25.	Secretary, Jalpaiguri Badminton Players Association Pabitrapara, Jalpaiguri, West Bengal—735101	Indoor Stadium	10.00	Ist instalment	UC/CC received in subsequent years. Project completed.

Abbreviations used:

AA : Audited Accounts;

UC : Utilisation Certificate

CC : Completion Certificate

Statement II

List of NGO Assisted under the Scheme of Grants for Creation of Sports Infrastructure

2002-2003

Sl.No.	Name of the NGO	Purpose	Amount released (Rs. In lakhs)	Instalments released during 2002-03	Status
1	2	3	4	5	6
Assam					
1.	Distt. Sports Association, North Lakhimpur, Assam	Indoor Stadium	30.00	Ist Instalment	UC/CC awaited.
2.	General Secretary, Khanpara Sports & Cultural Organisation, P.O. Khanpura, Distt. Guwahati, Assam	Indoor Stadium	30.00	IInd Instalment	UCC/CC awaited.
3.	General Secretary, Biswanath Distt. Sports Association, Madhupur, P.O. Vhstsli (Near B.N. College) Distt. Sonitpur, Assam—784176	Outdoor Stadium	13.50	Ist Instalment	UC/CC awaited.
Nagaland					
4.	General Secretary, Nagaland Tennis Association, Charmo Peseyre Memorial Tennis Complex, Kuda Village, Nagarjan, Dimapur, Nagaland	Indoor Stadium	15.00	Ist Instalment	UC/CC awaited.
5.	Chairman, Hill Pioneers, Distt. Phek, Chethaba, Nagaland	Indoor Stadium	15.00	Ist Instalment	UC/CC awaited.
6.	President, K.K. Club Youth Welfare Society, New Tesophenyu, Kohima, Tseminyu, Nagaland	Indoor Stadium	10.00	IInd & final Instalment	UC/CC received. Project completed.

1	2	3	4	5	6
7.	Chairman, Expression Voluntary Organisation, Purana Bazar, Dimapur, Nagaland	Swimming Pool	20.00	Ist Instalment	UC awaited.
8.	President, Chen Wanken Development Society Chen Town, Mon Distt. Nagaland	Outdoor Stadium	14.00	Ist Instalment	UC awaited.
Manipur					
9.	Hony. Secretary, Thoubal Distt. Table Tennis Association, Thoubal (Wangmatabon, Thoubal, Manipur	Indoor Stadium	12.00	IInd Instalment	UC/CC received in 2004-2005 Project completed.
10.	Secretary, Integrated Tribal Development Society, Khoupum, P.O. Nungba, Distt. Tamenglong. Manipur—795147	Indoor Stadium	15.00	Ist Instalment	UC/CC awaited.
11.	Secretary, Angtha Western Panthoibi Club, Angtha Village, Yairipok Bazar, Imphal East, Manipur—795149	Outdoor Stadium	13.50	Ist Instalment	UC/CC awaited.
12.	Secretary, Social Development & Education Organisation, P.O. Thoubal, Haokha, Manipur	Outdoor Stadium	10.00	Ist Instalment	UC/CC awaited.
13.	Secretary, United Rural Development Services, Heirok, P.O. Wangjing, Distt. Thoubal Manipur—795148	Outdoor Stadium	12.00	Ist Instalment	UC/CC awaited.

1	2	3	4	5	6
Haryana					
14.	Principal, Shri Guru Hari Singh College, Jeevan Nagar, Distt. Sirsa Haryana	Outdoor Stadium	1.20	Final Instalment	UC/CC received. Project completed.
Karnataka					
15.	Secretary, People's Education Trust, Mandya, Distt. Mandya, Karnataka—571401.	Outdoor Stadium	1.80	Final Instalment	UC/CC received. Project completed.
16.	Chairman, Action Committee, K.M. Cariappa Multipurpose Auditorium Trust, Pre University College, Medikeri, Distt. Kodagu, Karnataka—571201	Indoor Stadium	1.00	Final Instalment	Project completed. UC/CC received.
Maharashtra					
17.	Secretary, Pravara Rural Education Society, At/Po Loni, Pravaranagar Shrirampur Block-Loni, Ahmednagar—413713 Maharashtra	Swimming Pool	20.00	Ist Instalment	UC/CC received. Project completed in subsequent year.
18.	Karyadhyakha, Kolhapur Zilla Rashtriya Talim Sangha 1358, B. Ward, Khari Corner, Kolhapur, Maharashtra	Indoor Stadium	10.00	Ist Instalment	UC/CC received in subsequent year. Project completed.
19.	Managing Trustee, Navjeevan Education Society Vinchur Gaoli, P.O. Madsangvi, Nasik, Maharashtra	Swimming Pool	20.00	Ist Instalment	UC/CC received in subsequent year. Project completed.

1	2	3	4	5	6
20.	Sri Satya Sai Krida Nagari, Waghapur, Satchikitsa Prasarak Mandal Yavatmal, Maharashtra	Swimming Pool	25.00	Ist Instalment	UC/CC awaited.
21.	General Secretary, Deccan Gymkhana Talim Pavilion, 759/2 Daccan Gymkhana, Pune, Maharashtra—411004	Swimming Pool	30.00	Ist Instalment	UC/CC received in subsequent years. Project completed.
Tamil Nadu					
22.	General Secretary, Tamil Nadu Squash Racket Association, Dhun Building, 3rd Floor, North Wing, 827, Auna Salai, Chennai Tamil Nadu-600002	Indoor Stadium	30.00	Ist instalment	UC/CC received in subsequent year. Project completed.
23.	Secretary Sri R.K. Mission Vidyalaya Coimbatore, Tamilnadu—692 582	Indoor Stadium	37.623	Ist Instalment	-do-
West Bengal					
24.	Secretary, Jalpaiguri Badminton Players Association, Jalpaiguri—735101, West Bengal.	Indoor Stadium	8.00	2nd Instalment	UC/CC received in 2003-2004. Project completed.

Abbreviation used:
AA : Audited Accounts
UC : Utilisation Certificate
CC : Completion Certificate

Statement III

List of NGOs Assisted under the Scheme of Grants for Creation of Sports Infrastructure.

2003-2004

		Amount released (Rs. in lakhs)	Instalments released during 2003-2004	Status
1	2	3	4	5
Andhra Pradesh				
1.	Indoor Stadium AT Chirala by Rotary Service Trust, Chirala, Distt, Prakasam	15.00	Final Grant	UC/C received. Project completed.
Assam				
2.	Indoor Stadium Category-III at Tezpur by Tezpur Dist. Sports Association.	7.00	IInd Instalment	UC/CC awaited.
3.	Indoor Stadium Category-II at Kolongpar, Distt. Nagaon, Assam	10.00	Ist Instalment	UC/CC awaited.
Haryana				
4.	Indoor Stadium Category-II at Sirsa by Maharaja Agrasain Charitable Trust	22.50	Ist Instalment	UC/CC awaited.
5.	Indoor Stadium Category-II at Chhara, Distt. Jhajjar by Lala Dewan Chand Medern Wrestlings Yogacentre, Chhara	17.67	2nd Instalment	-do-
Karnataka				
6.	Poornaprajna Education Centre Bangalore for Development of Play field	0.04	Final Grant	UC/CC received. Project completed.
Kerala				
7.	Footaball ground by Juvenile Sports Club Elavana, Malappuram.	1.125	Final Grant	UC/CC received. Project completed.
8.	Indoor Stadium at Ottapalam by Shri Chettur Shankaran Nair Memorial Cultural Trust, Ottapalam, Distt. Palghat	1.45	Final Grant	-do-
Maharashtra				
9.	Swimming Pool Category-I at Loni, Ahmadnagar by Prawara Rural Education Trust	27.40	IInd & Final Instalment	CC received. Project completed.

1	2	3	4	5
10.	Indoor Stadium Category-III at Kolhapur by Kolhapur Zilla Rashtriya Talim Sangh	9.13746	IInd & Final Instalment	CC received. Project completed
11.	Swimming Pool Category-II at Rogh by Jagannath Rathi Charity Trust	12.50	IInd & Final Instalment	UC/CC received. Project completed
12.	Swimming Pool Category-I at Dhule by Shri Tulja Bhavani, Education Trust, Dhule	4.00	Final Instalment	UC/CC received. Project completed.
13.	Outdoor Stadium Category-I at Pune by Maharashtriya Mandal, Pune	10.00	Ist Instalment	UC/CC awaited.
14.	Swimming Pool Category-II at Karveer by R.L. Tawade Foundation, Kolhapur, Maharashtra	20.00	Ist Instalment	-do-
15.	Swimming Pool Category-II at Vinchur Gaoli, Nasik by Navjeenam Education Society, Nasik	5.00	IInd & Final Instalment	UC/CC received. Project completed.
16.	Swimming Pool at Pune by Daccan Gymkhana, Pune	29.20	IInd & Final Instalment	UC/CC received. Project completed.
17.	Swimming Pool at Chakkikhapa by Central Hindu Education Society, Nagpur	15.00	Ist Instalment	UC/CC awaited.
Nagaland				
18.	Indoor Stadium Category-II by Nagaland Tennis Association, Nagarjan at Nagarjun	25.00	IInd Instalment	UC/CC awaited.
19.	4 Playfield at Dimapur by Association of Tribal Welfare Development	1,03,819	IInd & Final Instalment	UC/CC received. Project completed.
20.	Indoor Stadium Category-III at Zuneheboto by Rhino Club, Zineheboto	10.00	Ist Instalment	UC/CC awaited.
21.	Indoor Stadium (Cat. III) at Chen Town by Veda Sporting Club, Nagaland	20.00	IInd Instalment	UC/CC awaited.

1	2	3	4	5
22.	Football ground at Kashiram by Mummy's Multipurpose Society, Dimapur	1.125	IInd Instalment	UC/CC received, project completed.
23.	Football field at Lokhuti Bijokha Nagaland by Social Welfare Organisation Wokha.	1.125	IInd Instalment	-do-
24.	Playfield at Baghty, Wokha by Mixed Farm Society, Sokhu Valley	1.125	IInd Instalment	-do-
Orissa				
25.	Development of Playfield at Artatrana Bidya Niktan, Khurda	5,000	IInd Instalment	UC/CC received. Project completed.
Rajasthan				
26.	Swimming Pool Category-II at Kota by Bol Hitkari Samity Kota	25.00	Ist & Final Instalment	UC/CC received. Project completed.
Tamil Nadu				
27.	Indoor Stadium Cat. I at Coimbatore by R.K. Mission Vidyalaya, Coimbatore	43,37,650	IInd & Final Instalment	UC/CC received. Project completed.
28.	Indoor Stadium at Chennai, Tamilnadu Squash Racket Association.	30.00	IInd & Final Instalment	UC/CC received. Project completed
West Bengal				
29.	Football/Cricket field at Vill. Fakirchak Dt. Midnapore by Taru Sangha	1.20	Ist Instalment	UC/CC awaited.
30.	Indoor Stadium Cat. III at Jalpaiguri by Jalpaiguri Badminton players Association	2.00	Final Instalment	UC/CC received. Project completed.

Abbreviations used:

AA : Audited Accounts

UC : Utilisation Certificate

CC : Completion Certificate

Statement IV

List of NGOs Assisted under the Scheme of Grants for Installation of Synthetic Playing Surfaces.

Sl.No.	Name of the NGO	Purpose	Amount released (Rs. in lakhs)	Instalment	Remarks.
2001-2002					
			—Nil—		
2002-2003					
			—Nil—		
2003-2004					
	Tata Steel Sports Foundation, Jamshedpur, Jharkhand	Installation of Synthetic Athletic Track	Rs. 100.00 lakh	Ist instalment of Rs. 50.00 lakh on 8.8.2003 and IInd instalment of Rs. 50.00 lakh on 19.3.2004.	UC received and project completed.

Special Package for Sugar Mills

*300. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE:
SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has given/ proposes to give a special package to the sugarcane farmers and sugar mills to help them come out of financial crunch and for their modernisation particularly in the States of Maharashtra and Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the States already receiving the said assistance; and

(c) the sugarcane growing States which were not provided the above mentioned special package alongwith the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (c) The Union Government has announced the following package for farmers including sugarcane farmers.

(i) one time settlement scheme for small and marginal farmers;

(ii) special scheme for relief to farmers affected by natural calamities for at least two consecutive years in the last five years;

(iii) scheme for providing relief to farmers in arrears.

These measures are applicable to debts as on 31-3-2004.

All sugar producing States have been offered assistance by way of Open Market Borrowings to help sugar factories to clear cane price arrears of 2002-03 sugar season subject to terms and conditions thereof. This assistance would be available to the mills in the cooperative and public sectors in the States where the practice of State Advised prices (SAP) of sugarcane is prevalent and to all sugar mills in the States where no

such practice exists. The States of Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra availed of the assistance to the tune of Rs. 229.97 crores and Rs. 300 crores respectively. Besides, the concerned financial institutions like NABARD, RBI, NCDC etc. address the credit related problems of sugar industry on an ongoing basis.

For modernisation, any sugar undertaking is eligible to apply for a loan from the Sugar Development Fund (SDF) as per the Rules made in this regard.

[English]

Winding up of Task Force on Linking of Rivers

*301. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR:
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government proposes to wind up the Task Force on Inter-linking of rivers;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Task Force has since submitted two action plan reports including linking of 30 rivers starting with two rivers in Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan;

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

(e) whether in view of recent flood situations in Bihar, Assam and North Bengal the Government proposes to interlink some rivers; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and by when it is likely to be done?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) No final decision in respect of the winding up of the Task Force on Inter linking of Rivers has been taken by the Government so far.

(c) The Task Force has submitted two action plan reports not specific to any of the linking projects. It has carried out general review of all the 30 river link proposals and has also suggested two river link proposals in the States of Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan for taking up Detailed Project Reports.

(d) The Task Force submitted Action Plan-I on 30th April, 2003 giving the outline of the time schedules for the completion of the feasibility studies, detailed project reports, estimated cost, implementation schedule, concrete benefits and advantages of the project etc. Action Plan-II was submitted on 16.4.2004. The important issues such as appraisal of individual projects in respect of economic viability, socio-economic impacts, environmental impacts and preparation of resettlement plans; suitable mechanism for bringing about speedy consensus amongst the States; prioritization of the different project components for preparation of Detailed Project Reports and implementation; suitable organizational structure for implementing the project; various modalities for project funding; international dimensions that may be involved in some project components and cost recovery have been discussed in Action Plan-II. The Government envisages a comprehensive assessment of the feasibility of the project.

(e) and (f) The Himalayan Component of the National Perspective Plan envisages a number of inter linking proposals which provide some flood control benefits to Bihar, Assam and North Bengal. The implementation of these link proposals is dependent upon the comprehensive assessment and the agreements reached amongst the concerned States/neighbouring countries.

[Translation]

Nehru Yuvak Kendras

2452. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Nehru Yuvak Kendras (NYKs) functioning at present in the country, State-wise; and

(b) the funds allocated to the NYKs during each of the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-RESIDENT INDIANS AFFAIRS (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) The number of Nehru Yuvak Kendras (NYKs) functioning at present in the country, State-wise, is given in Statement-I enclosed.

(b) The quantum of funds allocated to the NYKs during each of the last three years, State-wise, is given in Statement-II enclosed.

Statement I

A State-wise list of Nehru Yuva Kendra (NYKs)

Sl.No.	Name of the State	No. of Kendras
1	2	3
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	06
2.	Andhra Pradesh	23
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	04
4.	Assam	23
5.	Bihar	34
6.	Chandigarh	01
7.	Chhattisgarh	08
8.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	01
9.	Daman and Diu	02
10.	Goa	03
11.	Gujarat	19
12.	Haryana	16
13.	Himachal Pradesh	12
14.	Jammu and Kashmir	14
15.	Jharkhand	16
16.	Karnataka	20
17.	Kerala	14
18.	Lakshadweep	01
19.	Madhya Pradesh	40
20.	Maharashtra	30
21.	Manipur	09
22.	Meghalaya	05
23.	Mizoram	03
24.	Nagaland	07
25.	New Delhi	03
26.	Orissa	16
27.	Pondicherry	04
28.	Punjab	14
29.	Rajasthan	30
30.	Sikkim	04
31.	Tamil Nadu	29
32.	Tripura	03
33.	Uttar Pradesh	55
34.	Uttaranchal	09
35.	West Bengal	22
	Total	500

Statement-II

Details of State/UT-wise releases in the last three years

Sl.No.	State	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	3687180	4277282	3931860
2.	Andhra Pradesh	18050371	17822117	18998556
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	1518147	3633805	1855870
4.	Assam	25244725	23074167	19068556

1	2	3	4	5
5.	Bihar	29562558	35910594	24689762
6.	Chandigarh	701653	607413	759958
7.	Chhattisgarh	11685167	14508419	5605143
8.	Dadar and Nagar Haveli	466835	536412	441445
9.	Daman and Diu	902398	1058040	953853
10.	Delhi	4562205	4275746	1441881
11.	Goa	609809	1192501	1165310
12.	Gujarat	18142108	16639535	12295915
13.	Haryana	13560241	12464290	7952664
14.	Himachal Pradesh	11206440	11426894	5856947
15.	Jammu and Kashmir	12413086	11011302	5523058
16.	Jharkhand	14115173	17678587	11591420
17.	Karnataka	15479338	10950931	14662176
18.	Kerala	15530196	15820559	20179769
19.	Lakshadweep	302366	236170	269121
20.	Madhya Pradesh	37304326	50202172	41680943
21.	Maharashtra	25527330	33819778	23113923
22.	Manipur	7692259	11455306	7696253
23.	Meghalaya	5581108	3417497	2965197
24.	Mizoram	3335630	3266912	6436343
25.	Nagaland	5595899	8557390	4133976
26.	Orissa	24766710	26515284	24900600
27.	Pondicherry	21028933	2244922	1827787
28.	Punjab	11490980	9933125	6532612
29.	Rajasthan	23715103	22630897	13855599
30.	Sikkim	3505586	4979742	2356794
31.	Tamil Nadu	24612627	30712949	32702114
32.	Tripura	4351067	5093141	2926869
33.	Uttar Pradesh	55204727	93306011	86042989
34.	Uttaranchal	6894750	9046121	9859491
35.	West Bengal	17988272	20455969	18335533

[English]

Threat to Olive Ridley Turtles

2453. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU:
DR. M. JAGANNATH:

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

(a) whether unchecked trawling is threatening India's precious maritime resources especially Olive Ridley Turtles on the shores of Orissa and has caused killing of more than 2000 Turtles there; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to protect the natural sea-wealth?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Yes, Sir, unchecked trawling is a threat to maritime resources, including Olive Ridley Turtles.

(b) Following steps have been taken to protect the natural sea wealth from such activities:

(i) Trawling has been restricted in Gahirmatha Marine Sanctuary and the sea within ten kilometre radius from the sea coast.

(ii) Fishing has been prohibited for the period covering October to March every year under the Orissa Marine Fishing Regulation Act, upto a distance of 20 kms. from the nesting beaches of Olive Ridley Turtles at Devi River mouth and Rushikulya mouth.

(iii) Financial assistance has been provided to State Forest Department for Protection of marine wealth in Gahirmatha Marine Sanctuary.

(iv) Olive Ridley Sea Turtles have been provided maximum legal protection by including them in Schedule-I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.

[Translation]

Ban on Import of Genetic Modified Oil

2454. SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the "genetically modified" soy oil which is being imported from foreign countries is harmful to health;

(b) if so, the efforts being made by the Government to ban the imports of the said product; and

(c) by when the import of said product is likely to be banned.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) The Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) constituted under Rule 4 of the 'Rules for the Manufacture, Use, Import, And Export And Storage of Hazardous Micro Organisms Genetically Engineered Organisms or Cells, 1989 framed under the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 has approved only limited import of refined vegetable soybean oil and Crude de-gummed Soya Bean Oil by CARE & CRS under the ICDS programme after ascertaining that oil processed from GM soyabean does not contain any protein or DNA.

(b) and (c) There is, therefore, presently no reason to consider a ban on import of these products.

Wheat Export to Pakistan

2455. SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any proposal from the Government of Pakistan regarding export of wheat from India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the decision taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

SCs/STs/OBCs Persons Registered in Employment Exchanges

2456. SHRI NAKUL DAS RAI: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Handicapped/SCs/STs/OBCs persons registered in various employment exchanges of North Eastern States and Sikkim during each of the last three years and current year, category-wise;

(b) the number of persons out of them provided employment through Employment Exchanges during the said period, category-wise; and

(c) the efforts being made by the Government fill up the vacancies in all the categories in these States?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI SISH RAM OLA): (a) Number of Handicapped, SC/STs/OBCs job seekers, all of whom are not necessarily unemployed, on the Live Register of Employment Exchanges in the North Eastern States during 1999-2002 (latest available) is given in Statement-I enclosed. No employment exchange is functioning in the State of Sikkim.

(b) Placement of Handicapped, SCs/STs/OBCs job seekers effected through employment exchanges in the North Eastern States is given in Statement-II enclosed.

(c) Employment Exchanges sponsor the names of the candidates against the vacancies notified to them. Actual filling up of the vacancies either from the candidates sponsored by employment exchanges or through other sources rests with the employer.

Statement I

No. of Job-seekers on the Live Register of Employment Exchanges in North Eastern States at the end of 1999-2002

(In thousands)

Live Register

Year (As on 31st December)	Physically Handicapped	Scheduled Caste	Scheduled Tribe	Other Backward Classes
1999	8.8	142.6	460.6	177.4
2000	8.6	144.5	480.2	185.3
2001	9.1	154.7	498.1	187.7
2002	10.1	165.2	460.8	224.1

Note: Information relates to Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland & Tripura.

Statement II

No. of Placement effected by the Employment Exchanges in North Eastern States each year during 1999-2002

Placement

(In Actual Number)

Year	Physically Handicapped	Scheduled Caste	Scheduled Tribe	Other Backward Classes
1999	66	127	726	223
2000	36	383	750	248
2001	26	195	454	229
2002	5	125	452	58

Note: Information relates to Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland & Tripura.

Prawn Aquaculture

2457. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA:
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:
SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH;

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has prepared a Mission Mode Project on Semi-Intensive Prawn Aquaculture;

(b) if so, the details of the projects sanctioned and the expenditure incurred thereon, project-wise; and

(c) the names of the projects which achieved their objectives and projects which failed to do so alongwith the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Statement is annexed.

Statement

The Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA), in the Ministry of Commerce has prepared a

Mission-Mode Project on Semi-Intensive Prawn Aquaculture. The details of the project sanctioned under the Mission-Mode Programme are given below:

(i) Mission Mode Project on Semi-Intensive Prawn Culture in West Bengal

The Department of Bio-Technology sanctioned an amount of Rs. 63.15 lakh for a technology project on Semi-Intensive Prawn Aquaculture in West Bengal. The objective was to demonstrate the techno-economic feasibility of semi-intensive prawn culture in West Bengal. As the project could not take off on account of banning semi-intensive prawn aquaculture in the country as per directives of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India and also due to non-leasing of the land identified by the State Government. No expenditure was incurred under the project.

(ii) Mission Mode Project on Developing Technology Packaging for Scampi Farming in the Salem District of Tamil Nadu

The Department of Bio-Technology sanctioned the project for an amount of Rs. 96.55 lakh. The project was implemented by MPEDA through a Society, *viz.*, Tamil Nadu Freshwater Prawn Production and Research Centre (TANPARC). The objective of this project was to demonstrate the techno-economic feasibility of scampi culture in the Cauvery belt. After completing four demonstrative crops successfully, the project was wounded up during March, 2002. This resulted in successful scampi farming in the coastal states. The expenditure incurred under the project was for Rs. 86.61 lakh.

(iii) Mission Mode Project on Broad Stock/Naupli Rearing Centre in Andaman & Nicobar Islands

The Department of Bio-Technology sanctioned an amount of Rs. 80.65 lakh to MPEDA for implementing the project in 1994. The objective of this project was to establish the technology for tiger shrimp brood stock bank in A&N Islands. This project could not be implemented, as the Andman Administration for implementation did not give necessary clearance. No expenditure was incurred under the project.

Ban on Plastic and Polythene Bags

2458. SHRI KIRIP CHALIHA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that production and import of plastic and polythene has gone up considerably in the recent years;

(b) if so, the details in this regard during the last three years;

(c) whether the Government is also aware that use of plastic and polythene is harmful to human health;

(d) if so, whether the Government proposes to impose ban on production and import of those items through legislation;

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

(f) the steps proposed to be taken to save the people from ill-effects of these items?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) As per the information furnished by the Indian Centre for Plastics in the Environment, the production and import figures of plastics including polyethylene during the last three years are as follows:

(In thousand tonnes)

Year	Production	Imports
2001-2002	3917	302
2002-2003	4072	438
2003-2004	4467	475

(c) Indiscriminate littering of plastics and environmentally unsound recycling practices have the potential to cause adverse impacts on environment and health.

(d) to (f) Ministry of Environment and Forests has prohibited the use of recycled plastic bags for storing, carrying, dispensing, or packaging of foodstuffs under the Recycled Plastics Manufacture and Usage Rules 1999. Further, vide notification S.O. No. 698(E) dated 17th June 2003, Ministry has banned the manufacture, stocking, distribution or selling of carry bags made of virgin/recycled plastics, which are below 8x12 inches in size and 20 microns in thickness. To enforce strict compliance, registration of plastic carry bag manufacturing units with the State Pollution Control Boards/Pollution Control Committees has also been made mandatory.

Plans for Olympic Games 2008

2459. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated any plan for the Olympic games to be held in China in 2008; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-RESIDENT INDIANS AFFAIRS (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) The training of sportsperson for major international events including Olympic Games is an on-going process. For this purpose, the disciplines in which India is likely to achieve good results are identified and more concentrated inputs are given to these disciplines. Systematic approach is adopted to select and train athletes and teams for participation in the Olympic Games by drawing Long Term Development Programme (LTDP) to put in action in four year roll-on plan (Asian Games to Asian Games) under which elite sports person selected on the basis of their performance are put through scientifically designed continuous training programme.

Specific efforts by way of providing specialized training under Indian & foreign coaches with scientific input shall also be made for the sportspersons who will excel in their respective disciplines in the Commonwealth and Asian Games, 2006 to prepare them for participation in Olympic Games, 2008.

Setting up of National Golf Academy

2460. SHRI ATIQ AHAMAD: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up the National Golf Academy;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-RESIDENT INDIANS AFFAIRS (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No proposal has been received from any quarter for setting up of a National Golf Academy.

[Translation]

Pending Proposals of Madhya Pradesh

2461. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the proposals regarding sports facilities in Madhya Pradesh received by the Union Government during the last two years;

(b) the number out of them lying pending; and

(c) by when these are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-RESIDENT INDIANS AFFAIRS (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (c) The details of proposals received from Madhya Pradesh during the last 2 years for sports facilities under the sports infrastructure schemes of the Ministry alongwith their status have been indicated below:

Sl.No.	Name of Scheme	No. of proposals		
		Received	Approved	Rejected
1.	Grants for Creation of Sports Infrastructure	26	08	3
2.	Grants to Rural Schools for purchase of sports equipment & development of playground	82	33	9
3.	Grants for Promotion of sports in Universities & Colleges	18	09	0
4.	Grants for Installation of Synthetic Playing Surfaces	Nil	Nil	Nil

The remaining 64 proposals suffered from various deficiencies and have been referred back to the State Government/Grantees for rectification. No proposal is pending with the Ministry for consideration.

[English]

Integrated Inter-State Tourist Route in North-East

2462. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2982 dated December 22, 2003 and state:

(a) whether an integrated Inter-State tourist route for tourists in the North-East has since been developed;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent to which the tourist traffic in the region has improved as a result thereof in recent months?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) There is no proposal for setting up a Inter-State tourist route in the North-Eastern Region. For Development and Promotion of tourism in the Region, a North-East Circuit (Eco-Tourism Circuit) has been identified for development as under:

Shillong-Guwahati-Kaziranga-Tezpur-Bhalakpung-Tawang-Majuli-Sibsagar-Kohima

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

Supply of Groundnut and Sesame Seeds

2463. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Gujarat has made any request to the Union Government for supply of Groundnut and Sesame seeds in Saurashtra AEZ; and

(b) if so, the present status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) No such request has been received.

(b) Question does not arise.

[Translation]

Saving of Dal Lake

2464. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated any scheme or provided any financial assistance to save the Dal Lake of Kashmir;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Additional Central Assistance of Rs. 102.45 crore has been provided till date by the Planning Commission to the J&K Government for conservation of Dal Lake, which is being spent by the State Government on various activities relating to dredging, de-weeding, catchment area treatment, solid waste management, sewerage system and sewage pumping stations, improvement of lake hydrology and hydraulics, lake eco-regeneration, rehabilitation of families and acquisition of land & structures inside the lake, etc. A project proposal amounting to Rs. 269.45 crore has also been prepared for conservation of the Dal-Nagin Lake.

Pollution in Ramganga and Kosi Rivers

2465. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the water of Ramganga and Kosi rivers flowing through the border of Rampur district has got polluted thereby causing serious health hazards to human beings and livestock and the colour of the water has turned black;

(b) if so, whether the Government has formulated any scheme to control the water pollution of these rivers; and

(c) if so, by when the water of these rivers is likely to be made pollution free?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (c) Disposal of industrial waste water by distilleries and agro-based paper mills located at Kashipur

and Rampur Districts including untreated city sewage are the sources causing pollution and colour problem in the rivers Ramganga and Kosi. Water of the Ramganga and Kosi has been observed dark coloured particularly during the winter months.

To prevent the pollution of rivers Ramganga and Kosi, the industries, in particular, Distilleries and Pulp & Paper, have been directed not to dispose off waste water into the rivers. Distilleries are required to store effluents in lagoons and discharge their waste water during monsoon period only. Further, under Corporate Responsibility for Environment protection (CREP), a time bound action plan for these industries has also been specified.

Expenditure on Agricultural Research

2466. SHRI RAGHUVEER SINGH KOSHAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government spends only about 0.3 percent of GDP on agricultural research;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the percentage of GDP spent on agricultural research during each of the last five years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) No, Sir. The spending on agricultural research by the Department is 0.3 percent of Agricultural GDP.

(b) Expenditure is incurred commensurate with the allocation of funds.

(c) The percentage of Agricultural GDP spent on agricultural research during last five years is as under:

Year	Percentage
1999-2000	0.29%
2000-01	0.33%
2001-02	0.29%
2002-03	0.33%
2003-04	0.30%

[English]

Production of Paddy

2467. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the annual paddy production in the country during the last three years, particularly from Tamil Nadu;

(b) whether the cultivable land for paddy production is shrinking year after year in the delta region in Tamil Nadu;

(c) if so, whether the scarcity of rainfall and lesser amount of storage and discharge of water from Mettur reservoir results in lower output of paddy production;

(d) if so, the amount of loss incurred by the farmers in Tamil Nadu during the last three years; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to ensure adequate quantity of water for the farmers in the delta region and also to boost paddy production in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) The annual production of Paddy in the country as a whole as well as in Tamil Nadu during 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04 is given in the following table:

(Production of Paddy in Million Tonnes)

	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04*
Tamil Nadu	9.87	5.37	6.23
All-India	140.01	108.99	130.50

*As per the advance estimates released on 5.8.2004.

(b) According to information given by the Government of Tamil Nadu, the area under paddy in 8 delta districts in Tamil Nadu which are Tiruchirapalli, Karur, Pudukkottai, Perambalur, Thanjavur, Thiruvarur, Nagapattinam, Cuddalore is as under;

(in '000 hectares)

Year	Area under Paddy
2000-01	896.22
2001-02	863.61
2002-03	687.21

(c) Annual Rainfall in Tamil Nadu (in mm)

Year	Actual	Normal	Deviation
2000-01	785.3	979.3	-19.8
2001-02	795.2	947.7	-18.4
2002-03	731.0	964.1	-24.2

As per the information given by the Central Water Commission, the water level (in Metres) in the Mettur Dam in Tamil Nadu during the first week of August for the last three years are as follows:

Year	Water level (Metre)
4.8.2002	217.32
4.8.2003	212.68
4.8.2004	227.17

(d) According to the information received from the Government of Tamil Nadu, there was no loss in 2001-02 while the loss to farmers amounted to Rs. 5013.35 crore and Rs. 2638.55 crore in 2002-03 and 2003-04 respectively.

(e) The following steps are taken in the delta region to boost paddy production:

1. Suitable medium, short duration varieties of paddy are recommended.
2. Popularisation of Hybrid Rice is taken on a large scale so as to increase the paddy large scale so as to increase the paddy production.
3. Suitable crop insurance coverage for paddy is also taken care of.
4. Water management technologies are disseminated to paddy growing farmers.
5. Rain water harvesting such as farm ponds are constructed for the benefit of farming community.

Development of Pasture Land

2468. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is shortage of pasture land for the animals in the country;

(b) if so, whether any scheme is being sponsored by the Government for the development of pasture land and grass land in the country;

(c) if so, the States where the scheme has been sponsored; and

(d) the funds provided for the purpose during the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) Taking into consideration the existing livestock population in the country there is a shortage of pasture land. Till the end of 9th Plan i.e. upto 31st March, 2002, assistance was being provided to the States for pasture land development under a Centrally Sponsored Scheme Component "Development of Grassland including Grass Reserves". This Scheme has been discontinued in the 10th Plan. Hence, presently there is no Centrally Sponsored Scheme with the Department for providing assistance to the States for development of pasture lands.

(d) The States of Jammu and Kashmir (Rs. 47.60 lakhs), Tripura (Rs. 2.80 lakhs), Sikkim (Rs. 14.00 lakhs) and Mizoram (Rs. 19.60 lakhs) were provided the funds during 2001-02 for "Development of Grassland including Grass Reserves". No funds could be provided during 2002-03 and 2003-04, as the Centrally Sponsored Scheme has been discontinued in 10th Plan.

[Translation]

Cooperative Sugar Mills

2469. DR. RAJESH MISHRA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of the proposals regarding improving the condition of cooperative sugar mills in the country especially in Uttar Pradesh pending with the National Cooperative Development Corporation, State-wise; and

(b) by when the decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

[English]

Pagladia Dam Project

2470. SHRI NARAYAN CHANDRA BORKATAKY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made on the implementation of Pagladia Dam Project;

(b) whether land required for the project has not been handed over to the project authorities by the State Government; and

(c) if so, the steps the Government has taken for early completion of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Brahmaputra Board has carried out the infrastructural development works including improvement, repairs and renovation of road network at Pagladia project. The Brahmaputra Board has also constituted a Committee headed by Commissioner and Secretary to the Government of Assam, revenue Department to examine, recommend and oversee implementation of various works under resettlement and rehabilitation package. The committee has already finalized the type of dwelling units for the Project Affected People. For monitoring the implementation of the project, a Board Level Project Implementation Authority and Project level Construction and Monitoring Committee have also been constituted.

(b) The State Government has so far handed over 956 ha. of land to Brahmaputra Board for Resettlement and Rehabilitation (R&R) purposes against the requirement of 3238 ha. No land has been handed over to Brahmaputra Board by the Government of Assam in the reservoir area for construction of dam and other structures. The Government of Assam has issued the necessary notification in respect of 37 villages for acquisition of land for the dam area.

(c) The Government of Assam is in the process of identifying the balance land required for R&R purposes. The people inhabiting in the project area have to be rehabilitated for which Zirat Survey for assessment of land and property of the inhabitants has to be conducted. The State Government is being pursued to carry out the Zirat Survey on which the activities for construction of the dam depend. The Government of Assam has nominated their Water Resources Department as the nodal department for coordination with various departments of the State Governments. Ministry of Water Resources is also pursuing the matter at various levels with the State Government of Assam.

National Commission for Women

2471. SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Commission for Women has studied the condition of women bamboo workers;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations;

(c) whether the Government proposes to provide social security *viz.* pension, insurance and health etc. to the said workers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI SISH RAM OLA): (a) to (d) The National Commission for Women organized a public hearing on the impact of globalization on women bamboo workers on 26.9.2003 at Malayattor, Kerala. The recommendations include (i) ensure regular employment through supply of quality bamboos at subsidized prices, (ii) to provide pension and medical aid to the workers, (iii) enhance the concept of multi-skilling, (iv) use of bamboo products in the Departments likely railways, shipping, defence and road-transport, (v) establish global linkages for better marketing avenues, (vi) investment in the research and development wing to improve the quality of products, etc. The Commission has sent these recommendations to the concerned State Government and various Ministries/ Departments.

The Government has launched the Unorganised Sector Workers' Social Security Scheme, 2004 on pilot basis in 50 districts for unorganized sector workers including women workers. The list of occupations, *inter-alia*, includes forestry operations. The benefits under the scheme are old age pension, personal accidental insurance and medical insurance cover.

Release of Water to Rajasthan

2472. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Rajasthan had requested the National Water Development Agency (NWDA) to examine the possibilities of augmenting surplus

water in Sarda river by diverting surplus water of Gandak and Ghagra rivers of Ganga basin and also to supply 45,800 mm of water from Bhingoda Dam in Yamuna-Rajasthan link in the State; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) In 2002, the Government of Rajasthan requested National Water Development Agency, NWDA) to examine the possibilities of (i) augmenting surplus water in Sarda river by diverting surplus waters of Gandak and Ghagra rivers of Ganga basin, and (ii) supplying 45,800 Million Cubic Metre of water from Bhimgoda Dam in Yamuna-Rajasthan link for Rajasthan. It has been found by the NWDA that the augmentation of water as requested by Government of Rajasthan in not possible.

Construction of Malpe Fishing Harbour-II Stage

2473. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka has submitted a proposal for construction of Malpe Fishing Harbour-II stage;

(b) if so, whether the Government has sanctioned this project at estimated cost of Rs. 1196.70 lakhs during 1996;

(c) if so, whether the Government has released Rs. 598.35 lakhs as its share on April 19, 2003 and October 10, 2003;

(d) whether the Government was requested to accord approval for the revised estimate and also to release the balance Central share of Rs. 481.65 lakhs;

(e) if so, whether this proposal is still under the Union Government consideration; and

(f) if so, by when a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Central share of 50% of the above project cost was released in four instalments as follows:

The first instalment of Rs. 50 lakhs in February 1996, second instalment of Rs. 200 lakhs in December 1997, third instalment of Rs. 300 lakhs in November 1998 and final instalment of Rs. 48.35 lakhs in September 1999.

(d) to (f) Yes, Sir. The Government of Karnataka in June 2004 had submitted a Revised Cost Estimate proposal for construction of Malpe Stage-II fishing harbour with a cost escalation from Rs. 1196.70 lakhs to Rs. 2160 lakhs. The proposal has been scrutinized and the State Government has been requested to submit a detailed revised project report with additional information relevant to cost escalation.

[Translation]

Reservation of Posts

2474. SHRI KAILASH BAITHA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of personnel of all categories working in Food Corporation of India and Central Warehousing Corporation including their headquarters and the branches all over the country;

(b) the number of SC/ST and OBC personnels in 'A', 'B' 'C' and 'D' groups separately in all the branches;

(c) whether reservation quota of SC/ST and OBC has been filled in these two PSUs;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) by when it is likely to be filled up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) The total number of employees including SC/ST/OBC, category-wise, working in the Food Corporation of India and Central Warehousing Corporation, as on 31.3.2004 is in the enclosed Statement.

(c) to (e) Reservation quota for SC/ST and OBC has been filled up in these two Corporations to the extent of

availability of suitable and eligible candidates. The reason for shortfall in the case of SC/ST and OBC candidates is that these Corporations have not been resorting to any further recruitment for the last few years.

Statement

The total number of employees, including SC/ST/and OBC employees, in all categories working in the Food Corporation of India and the Central Warehousing Corporation as on 31.3.2004 are as under:

Category of Post	Food Corporation of India				Central Warehousing Corporation			
	Total No. of Employees	Total No. of SC	Total No. of ST	Total No. of OBC	Total No. of Employees	Total No. of SC	Total No. of ST	Total No. of OBC
A/I	771	116	35	42	316	59	9	2
B/II	7527	1329	336	472	1137	178	37	3
C/III	30802	6593	1584	2366	3321	640	91	130
D/IV	15808	4987	1261	607	2039	768	111	165
Total	54908	13025	3216	3487	6813	1645	248	300

[English]

Water Disputes between Andhra Pradesh and Orissa

2475. SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the names of river water disputes between Orissa and Andhra Pradesh pending for settlement;

(b) whether the State Governments have approached the Union Government to intervene in the matter for their settlement;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government in the matter;

(d) whether the Neradi Barrage on river Vansadhara in Rayagada district comes under the purview of water disputes between the States; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government to resolve the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) The Central Government has not received any complaint either from Government of Orissa or from Government of Andhra Pradesh under Inter-State River Water Disputes Act, 1956 for adjudication of water dispute with regard to use, distribution or control of waters of inter-State rivers involving Orissa and Andhra Pradesh.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Do not arise.

Land Reforms

2476. SHRI D. VITTAL RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to put land reforms on the fast track;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is finding a mechanism to end litigation that puts on hold the farmer's right to plough his own land; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a)

and (b) Land Reforms is an ongoing process. State Governments are advised by the Ministry of Rural Development, Department of Land Resources in the periodic conferences of Revenue Ministers/Revenue Secretaries to expedite Land Reforms. The progress of Land reform is monitored by Quarterly Progress Report.

(c) and (d) State Governments are advised to take effective steps to get the land-dispute cases disposed off by Special efforts.

Conference on Conservation of Environment and Forests

2477. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of times a National Conference of the Ministers of Environment and Forests were held during the last two years and current year upto July 31, 2004 to discuss issues relating to protection, conservation and development of forests and improvement of the environment;

(b) the outcome of each meeting;

(c) whether unscrupulous elements have constructed buildings or jungle lodge in the name of eco tourism and for religious purposes in many States;

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

(e) the measures taken by the Government to protect, conserve and develop forests and to improve environment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) During the period of last two years (2002 and 2003) and current year upto July 31, 2004, the National Conference of Forests Ministers was held only once on 22nd & 23rd July, 2002 at New Delhi.

(b) In the Conference held in July, 2002, it was resolved to consolidate and expand the Joint Forest Management programme by covering all the forest fringe villages. Emphasis was also laid on implementation of National Afforestation Programme through Forest Development Agency (FDA) mechanism. It was also decided to give a push to the role of National Green Corp in creation of awareness and mass support in conservation of environment.

(c) No such activity by unscrupulous elements in forest areas has come to the notice of the Ministry.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The Government of India is taking following measures for the protection, conservation and development of forests:

(i) Financial assistance is provided under various centrally sponsored forestry and wildlife schemes for the protection and conservation of forests and wildlife.

(ii) Creation of network of protected areas i.e. Wildlife National Parks, Sanctuaries, Conservation Reserves and Community Reserves.

(iii) Involvement of local communities in protection, conservation and management of forests through the process of Joint Forest Management.

(iv) Management of forest areas through the system of working plans which are approved by Central Government.

(v) Afforestation of degraded land under National Afforestation Programme through the system of Forest Development Agencies and Joint Forest Management Committees.

(vi) Harvesting of trees from Government Forest Land only through the agency of State Forest Departments/Forest development Corporations.

(vii) Action against offenders of illicit felling by the State Governments.

[Translation]

Failure of TPDS

2478. SHRI MOHD. TAHIR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has identified the States where the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) has been fully successful, partially successful or unsuccessful;

(b) whether the TPDs has not achieved desired success in Uttar Pradesh particularly Sultanpur;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to ensure proper supply of essential commodities to Below Poverty Line families?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) The off-take of foodgrains by the Government of Uttar Pradesh was 50% and 75% under BPL and AAY respectively during 2003-04, which is little less than the average national offtake of 65% and 84%. The State Government has completed the identification and issue of Ration Cards to all the estimated BPL and Antyodaya families. The Central Government is making allocation of foodgrains for all these families.

(d) The Government has taken the following measures to ensure proper supply of essential commodities under the Public Distribution System:

(i) The Public Distribution System (Control) Order, 2001 has been issued on 31st August, 2001 under Section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 with a view to curb willful adulteration, substitution, diversion, theft of stocks from the Central godown to Fair Price Shops and at the premises of the Fair Price Shops etc.

(ii) States/UTs have been asked to actively the Gram Panchayats in rural areas and local bodies in urban areas in the monitoring of Fair Price Shops as a measure of social audit.

(iii) A model Citizen's Charter has been issued to all the States/UTs for adoption.

[English]

Setting up of Hotels in Andhra Pradesh

2479. SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to lay emphasis to construct one-star hotels and dormitories for pilgrims to boost tourism in Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) In order to augment accommodation in budget category of hotels, the Department of Tourism, Government of India has a Scheme to provide Capital Subsidy under the Scheme of 'Incentive to Accommodation Infrastructure' for construction of hotels in 1-star to 3-star categories and Heritage Basic Category in the country including the State of Andhra Pradesh except the four metro cities. Under the above Scheme, the Capital Subsidy of 10% of the total principal loan taken from the designated Financial Institutions/Scheduled Banks or upto Rs. 25 lakhs for 1-star, Rs. 50 lakhs for 2-star and Rs. 75 lakhs for 3-star and Heritage Basic category projects is granted. The subsidy is released through the designated Financial Institutions/Scheduled Banks.

[Translation]

Labourers in Construction Work Abroad

2480. KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether some countries have shown interest in employing labourers from India particularly for their construction industry;

(b) if so, the details of such countries and the steps proposed to be taken to send skilled/semi-skilled labourers;

(c) the present policy of the Government in this regard and the present system of sending labourers in the international market;

(d) the number of registered agencies engaged in sending labourers abroad, state-wise;

(e) the number of persons sent abroad through these agencies during each of the last three years and thereafter alongwith the trades in demand in international market, State-wise;

(f) the details of cases of exploitation of labourers by such agencies; and

(g) the action taken/proposed to be taken against them during the said period and till date, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI SISH RAM OLA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Countries

in the Gulf and Saudi Arabia, Malaysia, Singapore, Brunei, etc. employ a substantial number of Indian labourers in the construction industry. Steps taken to send skilled/ semi-skilled/unskilled labourers include simplification of emigration clearance procedures and expansion of the list of those who do not require emigration clearance.

(c) The present policy of the Government for emigration of Indian workers for overseas employment is regulated under provisions of the Emigration Act, 1983. There is no State-wise policy.

(d) and (e) The number of registered recruiting agencies State-wise and the number of persons who had obtained emigration clearance from eight Protectors of Emigrants for employment abroad during last three years is given in the statement enclosed. The trade-wise data is not maintained.

(f) and (g) Complaints of exploitation by recruiting agencies include over-charging, sending labourers against non-existent jobs and promising wages higher than those offered by foreign employers. As and when such complaints are received, the concerned recruiting agent is directed to settle the matter. If the recruiting agent fails to settle the complaint, action is taken to suspend and thereafter cancel the registration certificate.

Statement

Sl.No.	State	No. of registered recruiting agents	No. of workers who had obtained emigration clearances		
			2001	2002	2003
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	94	37,331	38,417	65,971
2.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	—	0	2	9
3.	Aruanchal Pradesh	—	0	0	61
4.	Assam	—	1,575	2,666	2298
5.	Bihar	—	9,711	19,222	17,104
6.	Chandigarh	84	2435	2,813	2,374
7.	Chhattisgarh	—	—	0	588
8.	Delhi	727	3183	4,018	6,513
9.	Gujarat	30	10,294	11,925	17,012
10.	Goa	39	2255	3,545	3,494
11.	Haryana	10	154	424	1,246
12.	Himachal Pradesh	2	116	1,724	1,690
13.	Jammu and Kashmir	3	1366	1,323	42
14.	Jharkhand	—	—	0	1,779
15.	Karnataka	62	10095	14,061	22,641
16.	Kerala	272	61548	81,950	92,044
17.	Madhya Pradesh	8	5035	7,411	10,651

1	2	3	4	5	6
18.	Maharashtra	1,918	22713	25,477	29,350
19.	Manipur	—	0	2	50
20.	Meghalaya	—	0	0	1
21.	Mizoram	—	0	0	81
22.	Nagaland	—	0	1	54
23.	Orissa	5	3014	1,742	5,370
24.	Pondicherry	—	21	21	24
25.	Punjab	129	12422	19,638	24,963
26.	Rajasthan	31	14993	23,254	37,693
27.	Sikkim	—	3	16	3
28.	Tamil Nadu	319	61649	79,165	89,464
29.	Tripura	—	2	1,114	4
30.	Uttar Pradesh	34	13912	19,288	24854
31.	Uttaranchal	2	—	106	122
32.	West Bengal	16	4830	8,338	8,906
33.	Others	—	7	0	0
	Total		278,664	3,67,663	4,66,456

[English]

Soil Protection Schemes of Assam

2481. SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Hon'ble Prime Minister during his visit to Assam has assured that soil erosion protection schemes would be drawn up and implemented with the Central assistance; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the funds released by the Union Government to the State Government for the purpose alongwith areas covered under the said schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, the Hon'ble Prime Minister during his recent visits to Assam and Bihar had announced setting up of a Task Force to look into the problem recurring floods in Assam and neighbouring States. Accordingly as a follow up of the above announcements, a 21-member Task Force has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Chairman, Central Water Commission. Besides Experts from Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Tripura, Bihar, West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh, the Task Force includes the officials from National Hydro-electric Power Corporation, Planning Commission, Ministry of Finance, Brahmaputra Board, Ganga Flood Control Commission, Central Water Commission and the Ministry of Water Resources. Two non official Experts have also been included in the Task Force.

The Terms of Reference for the Task Force include examination of the causes of the problem of recurring floods and erosion in Assam and other neighbouring States as well as Bihar, West Bengal and Eastern Uttar

Pradesh, to review the measures undertaken so far to combat floods and erosion and to suggest short-term and long term measures for management of floods and erosion control. The Task Force has also been asked to examine related International dimensions and suggest future course of action as well as to suggest institutional arrangements for tackling the problem and the source of funding for the future action plan. The Task Force has been directed to submit its final report by 31st December, 2004.

Review of On-going Tourism Projects

2482. DR. COL. (RETD.) DHANI RAM SHANDIL: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has recently reviewed the performance/progress of on-going tourism projects in the country particularly in Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years in terms of physical and financial targets set and achieved, State-wise;

(c) the details of fresh proposals sent by the State Government to the Union Government;

(d) by when the proposals are likely to be given approval; and

(e) the action plan formulated for promotion of tourism during the current year and the next five years highlighting the projects likely to be taken up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) Review of implementation of projects is on-going process. The position of projects sanctioned during the 9th Plan in States/Union Territories including Himachal Pradesh is given in the Statement enclosed.

(c) to (e) Tourism project are identified in consultation with State Governments/UT Administrations and sanctioned on merit subject to availability of funds every year. The process of identification of projects for 2004-05 has not been completed so far.

Statement

State-wise Tourism Projects sanctioned and amount released during Ninth Plan (As on 31.03.2004)

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Sl.No.	State/UT	Project Sanctioned	Amount Sanctioned	Amount Released	Projects completed	Projects incomplete	Projects dropped
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	53	1170.35	1043.02	42	7	4
2.	Assam	62	1840.03	837.78	33	8	21
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	45	1084.60	634.37	9	29	7
4.	Bihar	44	912.68	415.19	16	23	5
5.	Chhattisgarh	7	155.28	60.75	4	3	0
6.	Goa	52	936.45	482.80	27	22	3
7.	Gujarat	64	1653.75	762.98	22	32	10
8.	Haryana	39	933.85	694.43	25	4	10
9.	Himachal Pradesh	63	1680.22	1176.55	34	22	7
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	47	1338.06	1002.56	26	20	1

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
11.	Jharkhand	8	286.49	212.81	1	7	0
12.	Karnataka	87	2163.02	1637.99	58	27	2
13.	Kerala	66	3124.66	2075.25	44	22	0
14.	Madhya Pradesh	68	1580.41	879.91	28	24	16
15.	Maharashtra	80	3098.52	2209.64	51	24	5
16.	Manipur	40	1338.36	402.77	3	37	0
17.	Meghalaya	26	492.36	402.77	3	37	0
18.	Mizoram	47	1027.46	921.81	39	7	1
19.	Nagaland	42	824.01	684.17	37	4	1
20.	Orissa	62	1236.07	789.51	16	28	18
21.	Punjab	30	690.16	381.57	19	3	8
22.	Rajasthan	72	1164.79	913.72	35	30	10
23.	Sikkim	77	852.43	687.97	65	12	0
24.	Tamil Nadu	75	1579.39	913.72	35	30	10
25.	Tripura	41	1084.28	866.51	28	13	0
26.	Uttaranchal	10	135.70	83.04	3	6	1
27.	Uttar Pradesh	104	2231.91	1381.96	32	65	7
28.	West Bengal	63	1186.24	743.87	34	24	5
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	7	256.65	139.07	4	0	3
30.	Chandigarh	14	150.86	143.99	13	1	0
31.	Dadar and Nagar Haveli	6	66.90	21.85	2	4	0
32.	Delhi	32	550.95	404.08	28	2	2
33.	Daman and Diu	5	65.17	18.75	1	2	2
34.	Lakshadweep	3	51.00	21.40	3	0	0
35.	Pondicherry	22	319.33	188.63	10	10	2
	Total	1563	37262.39	23828.76	822	585	156

Development of Agricultural Industries in Andaman and Nicobar Islands

2483. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any data on development of Agriculture Industries including machinery, fertilizer and seeds in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the private entrepreneurs participation in the Islands have been encouraged by the Government; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (d) The information will be laid on the Table of the House.

Release of Grant and Soft Loans to Shikara and Boat Owners

2484. SHRI M. APPADURAI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is providing Rs. 20,000 as grant and Rs. 30,000 as soft loans to Shikara owners and Ponywalas in Kashmir;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has any proposal to provide similar grant and soft loans to boat owners in Kanyakumari, Ooty, Kodaikanal and Pitchavaram in Tamil Nadu; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Ministry of Tourism has sanctioned a Special Package for Creation of employment through Revival of Tourism in Jammu and Kashmir. This Package has the following components:

1. Soft loans to Houseboat Owners to renovate their boats and make them functional. The amount of loan would vary between Rs. One lakh and Rs. Three lakhs depending on the type of the houseboat;
2. Soft loan of Rs. 50,000 per room for renovating and refurbishing 50% of the rooms of A,B,C and D category hotels (Except 5-Star hotels);
3. Capital Grant of Rs. 20,000 for repair and upgradation of Shikaras;
4. One time capital subsidy up to Rs. 10,000 and soft loan up to Rs. 30,000 per annum to ponywalas to buy new ponies.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Setting up of National Institute of Organic Farming

2485. SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any plan to set up a National Institute of Organic Farming in the country particularly in Kerala;

(b) if so, the measures taken so far and its proposed role; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) At present, there is no proposal to set up a National Institute of Organic Farming in the country including Kerala. However, during the X Plan, a new scheme, 'National Project on Organic Farming' is in the process of approval for production, promotion, market development and certification of organic produce in the country on a pilot basis.

[Translation]

Starvation Death of Children

2486. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that some children died due to starvation in Amla Sole village of West Bengal around the 15th of June 2004;

(b) if so, the number of children who died alongwith the number of those who are on death bed in Amla Sole and its neighbouring villages falling under West Bengal Development Council and District Council Area; and

(c) the remedial action taken/being taken/likely to be taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) No Starvation death in Amla Sole village has been reported by the State Government of West Bengal.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[English]

Pollution Caused by Oswal Chemical Fertilizers

2487. SHRI BRAHMANAND PANDA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state the immediate measures taken/to be taken to save the people around Oswal Chemical and Fertilizers, Paradeep from the hazardous effluents of the factory and settle the matter once and for all as it is causing irreparable damage to the environment by leakage of Ammonia and other hazardous effluents thus endangering the lives of thousand of people, cattle head and crops there?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): The Oswal Chemical and Fertilizers, Paradeep has been served notices and directions from time to time by Orissa State Pollution Control Board (OSPCB) to prevent disposal of effluent and leakage of ammonia. The industry was closed down in February 2003 and after having taken steps to control pollution, the industry was allowed in July 2003 on trial run for a period of three months. However, after a gas leakage in September 2003, the operations were again suspended. Presently, the industry is operating on a trial run, after adopting adequate measures, under the supervision of OSPCB.

[Translation]

Creation of Employment Opportunities

2488. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the government proposes to accord priority to create new employment opportunities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has decided to promote labour intensive technique in the industries;

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

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI SISH RAM OLA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government is targetting creation of five crore employment opportunities during the 10th Plan period. Out of this, nearly 3 crore employment opportunities will be created in the normal growth process and the remaining 2 crore through special employment generation programmes.

(c) and (d) The approach to tenth Plan focuses on providing gainful employment to the additions to the labour force and it is listed as one of the monitorable objectives for the 10th Plan and beyond. The growth strategy of 10th Plan has laid emphasis on rapid growth of these sectors which have high employment potential. Particular attention has been paid to the policy environment influencing a wide range of economic activities which have large employment opportunities.

[English]

Mechanised Vessels

2489. SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that induction of mechanized vessels in the coastal regions have adversely affected the fishermen; and

(b) if so, the remedial action being taken by the Government to ensure the livelihood of the poor fishermen?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

[Translation]

Opening of Medical Dispensaries

2490. SHRI SHISHUPAL N. PATLE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any scheme regarding upkeep of health of the people and save them from pollution related diseases who are living in close proximity of pollution causing companies and factories;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have sent team of medical experts for examining the State of health of such people;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether there is any scheme to open medical dispensaries particularly in villages near the locations of such companies; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and by when these are to be opened?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Rice Exports

2491. SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR DUBEY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the countries where rice was exported during the last three years indicating the rates thereof; and

(b) the Statewise financial assistance provided to the exporters of rice during the above period particularly in Jharkhand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) The names of the countries where rice was exported from the Central Pool during the last three years and the effective export prices of rice since 2001-2002 to 2003-2004 are at Statement-I & II respectively.

(b) No financial assistance to exporters is provided Statewise. Only certain WTO compatible expenses are reimbursed to the exporters. Foodgrains subsidy released to Food Corporation of India during the last three years is at Statement-III.

No rice was released from Jharkhand region for export.

Statement I

Name of the countries to which Foodgrain Exported from India

Rice

Sl.No.	Country
1	2
1.	Bangladesh
2.	Behrain
3.	Egypt
4.	Indonesia
5.	Myanmar
6.	Oman
7.	Phillipines
8.	Qatar
9.	South Korea
10.	Sri Lanka
11.	Sudan
12.	U.A.E.
13.	Vietnam
14.	Yemon

1	2
15.	Jordan
16.	Abu Dhabi
17.	Malaysia
18.	Taiwan
19.	Kuwait
20.	Iraq
21.	Singapore
22.	Thailand
23.	Russia
24.	Bhutan
25.	Ethopia
26.	Armenia
27.	Nepal
28.	Tanzania
29.	Djibouti
30.	Eritrea (Africa)
31.	Zanzibar (E. Africa)
32.	Dubai
33.	South Africa

Statement II

Rates (Effective Price) of Rice Exported

Effective Export Price in Rs. Per MT of Par-Boiled Rice and Raw Rice pertaining to fresh crop prevailing during the last quarter of financial years 2001-2002, 2002-2003 and 2003-2004

Financial Year	Par-Boiled Rice	Raw Rice
2001-2002	6000	5650
2002-2003	6865	6510
2003-2004	7800	7600

Statement III

Subsidy Released to FCI in Respect of Stocks (Rice & Wheat) Lifted for Export from the Central Pool during the years 2001-2002, 2002-2003 and 2003-2004

(Rs. in crores)

Financial Year	Subsidy
2001-2002	1368
2002-2003	5743
2003-2004	3621

Killing of People by Leopards

2492. SHRI RAJENDER KUMAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of people killed by the leopards in the country particularly in Maharashtra and Uttaranchal during the last three years and current year, till date, State-wise; and

(b) the action taken by the Union Government as well as concerned State Governments to check such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) The details of people killed by leopards alongwith the compensation paid, as received from the States, are as below:

State	Year	Number of people killed by leopards	Compensation paid (in Rs.)
1	2	3	4
Gujarat	2001-02	8	8,00,000
	2002-03	14	14,00,000
	2003-04	20	20,00,000
Himachal Pradesh	2001-02	4	1,00,000
	2002-03	5	5,00,000
	2003-04	6	6,00,000

1	2	3	4
Maharashtra	2001-02	09	2,40,000
	2002-03	36	10,12,500
	2003-04	20	8,05,700
Uttaranchal	2001-02	31	10,50,000
	2002-03	24	7,25,000
	2003-04	29	8,00,000

(b) The action taken by the Union Government and States to check such incidents are as below:

(i) The Union Government has provisions for reimbursement of the compensation amount paid by States under the various schemes of wildlife conservation. The payment in case of death of permanent incapacitation of any persons by wild animal has been enhanced from Rs. 20,000 to Rs. 1,00,000.

(ii) Problematic, habituated wild carnivores like leopards, straying in around human habitations are captured and translocated from the area, or eliminated if necessary, as per the provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

(iii) Continuous monitoring of such wild animals is done in the affected area.

(iv) The local residents are advised to ensure suitable precautionary measures for not venturing into wildlife habitats prone to attacks by carnivorous wild animals.

(v) Habitat development of the forest area is done and its continuity with other such areas is maintained to lure the wild carnivores with suitable habitat and abundant prey base, so that such animals do not venture into human settlements in search of welfare factors.

(vi) Eco-development of fringe areas is undertaken for the benefit of local people, so that their dependency on forests (which are wildlife habitats) is reduced. This decreases the possibility of chance encounters of people with wild animals.

Increased Level of Carbon in Atmosphere

2493. SHRI CHHATAR SINGH DARBAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain States including Madhya Pradesh have sent any proposals to the Union Government seeking assistance in order to control the increasing level of carbon in the atmosphere;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) No, Sir.

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

Foodgrains Rotting in Godowns

2494. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of foodgrains produced during the year 2002-2003;

(b) the quantity of foodgrains out of the above preserved in godowns; and

(c) the quantity of foodgrains that rotted in godowns during the said period indicating the value thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) The total quantity of foodgrains (cereals) produced in the country during the year 2002-03 is 1630.5 lakh tonnes.

(b) The quantity of foodgrains out of above preserved in godowns is 296.20 lakh MTs.

(c) The quantity of foodgrains rotten during the year 2002-03 was 0.05 lakh MTs and its value thereof is Rs. 316.09 lakhs.

[English]

National Reconstruction Corps Scheme

2495. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:
SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA:
SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:

Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has selected districts under National Reconstruction Corps (NRC) Scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the criteria for selection of such districts;

(d) the name of districts covered so far and the district selected for current financial year, State-wise; and

(e) the assistance provided under the scheme during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-RESIDENT INDIANS AFFAIRS (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) The scheme was being implemented on pilot basis for period of 2 years. The period lapsed on 31.3.2003.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

(d) List of 116 districts covered during pilot phase is in the Statement enclosed.

(e) Being a Central sector scheme, there was no provision for providing assistance to State Governments.

Statement

List of State & District-wise list of 76 NRC Districts of 2001-02 & 2002-03 and 40 NRC Districts of 2002-03

Sl.No.	Name of State	Sl.No.	Name of the NRC District of the year 2001-02 & 2002-03	Sl.No.	Name of the NRC district of the year 2002-03
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1.	East Godavari	1.	Anantapur
		2.	Hyderabad	2.	Mehaboob Nagar
		3.	Karimnagar		
		4.	Vishakhapatnam		
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	5.	Tezu (Lohit)	3.	Dibrugarh
3.	Assam	6.	Cachar	4.	Sonitpur (Tezpur)
		7.	Guwahati (Kamrup)		
		8.	Nagaon		
4.	Bihar	9.	Jahanabad	5.	Bhagalpur
		10.	Kishanganj	6.	Katihar
		11.	Nalanda	7.	Motihari
		12.	Nawada		
		13.	Patna		
		14.	Sitamarhi		

1	2	3	4	5	6
5.	Chhattisgarh	15.	Kanker	8.	Bilaspur
		16.	Sarguja	9.	Rajnandgaon
6.	Delhi	17.	Alipur		
		18.	Mehrauli		
7.	Gujarat	19.	Gandhinagar	10.	Kutch
8.	Himachal Pradesh	20.	Sirmour (Nahan)	11.	Bilaspur
		21.	Una		
9.	Haryana	22.	Narnaul	12.	Gurgaon
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	23.	Leh		
		24.	Udhampur		
11.	Jharkhand	25.	Dumka	13.	Lohardaga
		26.	Gumla	14.	Palamu
		27.	Hazaribagh		
12.	Karnataka	28.	Bidar	15.	Bangalore (Urban)
		29.	Bijapur	16.	Udupi (Mangalore)
		30.	Shimoga		
13.	Kerala	31.	Kasargod	17.	Kozhikode
		32.	Wayanad		
14.	Madhya Pradesh	33.	Bhopal	18.	Balaghat
		34.	Chattarpur	19.	Damoh
		35.	Gwalior	20.	Dewas
		36.	Jabalpur	21.	Dhar
		37.	Jhabua	22.	Sehore
		38.	Seoni		
		39.	Shahdol		
		40.	Tikamgarh		
15.	Maharashtra	41.	Beed	23.	Amravati
		42.	Gadchiroli		
		43.	Jalna		
		44.	Mumbai (Kalyan)		
		45.	Sindhudurg		
16.	Manipur	46.	Bishenpur	24.	Tamenglong

1	2	3	4	5	6
17.	Meghalaya	47.	West Garo Hills		
18.	Mizoram	48.	Lunglei		
19.	Nagaland	49.	Kohima	25.	Mon
20.	Orissa	50.	Bolangir	26.	Keonjhar
		51.	Kalahandi	27.	Sambalpur
		52.	Khurda (Bubaneshwar)	28.	Sundergarh
		53.	Koraput		
		54.	Mayurbhanj		
		55.	Naupada		
		56.	Phulbani		
21.	Punjab	57.	Guraspur		
22.	Rajasthan	58.	Bharatpur	29.	Baran
		59.	Jaipur	30.	Kota
		60.	Jhalawar		
		61.	Sikar		
23.	Sikkim	62.	Gangtok	31.	Sikkim (West)
24.	Tamil Nadu	63.	Kancheepuram (Parambulur)	32.	Coimbatore
		64.	Chennai (Rural)	33.	Nilgiri
		65.	Kanyakumari		
		66.	Ramanathapuram		
		67.	Tiruchirapalli		
25.	Tripura	68.	N. Tripura (Dharamnagar)	34.	Udaipur (S. Tripura)
26.	Uttar Pradesh	69.	Banda	35.	Bareily
		70.	Kanpur	36.	Hamirpur
		71.	Lalitpur	37.	Jalaon
		72.	Lucknow	38.	Jhansi
		73.	Mathura		
		74.	Meerut		
		75.	Pilibhit		
27.	Uttaranchal	76.	Tehri Garhwal	39.	Uttarkashi
				40.	Rudraprayag

[Translation]

Organisational Infrastructure for Mango and Lychee Growers by NHB

2496. SHRI K.C SINGH 'BABA': Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Horticulture Board has formulated any scheme to provide organizational infrastructure for the Mango and Lychee growers in Uttaranchal particularly in Tarai region;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures proposed to be taken to enhance the export potentials of these fruits from this area?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) The National Horticulture Board (NHB), an autonomous organization under the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation does not have any scheme to provide organizational infrastructure to Mango and Lychee growers in the country including Uttaranchal. However, NHB has facilitated formation of Specific Fruit Crop Grower's Associations for nine crops *viz.* Apple, Mango, Lychee, Banana, Orange, Grape, Guava, Flowers and Amla at the National level.

(c) The State Government to Uttaranchal has identified Lychee having export potential from the State. The steps taken to enhance the export of Lychee are as under:

- Government took the initiative of identifying Agri Export Zone for Lychee in the State of Uttaranchal.
- Government has also taken initiatives such as:
- Dissemination of technical knowledge through the visit of international expert to Uttaranchal.
- Dissemination of information to farmers/exporters on pre and post harvest practices to be adopted.
- Information dissemination on sanitary and phyto-sanitary requirements of the importing countries and WTO.
- Under the Agriculture & Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) Scheme of Infrastructure Development entrepreneurs were encouraged to set up integrated pack houses for processing of Lychees.
- Transport assistance is being provided by APEDA for exports of Lychee by sea and by air.
- Marketing facilitation centre has been set up by APEDA for facilitating the exporters for export of their produce and get direct information on their import related issues.
- Regular Buyer-Seller Meets are also organized by APEDA.

[English]

Sea Erosion

2497. DR. K.S. MANOJ: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is implementing any Centrally sponsored programme to prevent sea erosion in States;

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

(c) the amount earmarked for anti-sea erosion works in the budget?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Anti-erosion works are planned and implemented by the State Governments. However, considering the severity of sea-erosion problems in certain reaches, Government of India has taken up a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for anti-sea erosion works in critical areas in March 2004 on pilot basis with an estimated cost of Rs. 20.64 crore, of which 75% will be in the form of grant by the Central Government.

(b) The State-wise details of the scheme are as follows:

Sl.No.	State	Work included in the Centrally Sponsored Schemes
1.	Karnataka	Providing protection wall against sea erosion at Paduvari in Udupi District
2.	Kerala	Constructing sea wall for a length of 1680m between Azhikode and Eriyadu between KERI CP 404 and 4012 (Thrissur District)
3.	Maharashtra	Construction of anti-sea erosion Bund at Theronda in Raigad District Ch 990 m to 1545 m & Ch 1585 m to 2070 m total 1040 m)
4.	Orissa	Construction of sea wall of Jamboo Saline Gherry on Gobari left from RD 8.670 km to 10.855 km at Jamboo (Kendrapapa District)
5.	Pondicherry	Strengthening of existing rock revetment from Ch 0 m (New Pier) to Ch 300 m towards South and 300 m to Ch 900 m North of New Pier in Union Territory of Pondicherry
6.	Tamil Nadu	Construction of groyne (400 m) at Periathalai in Thoothukudi District.

The works related to preparation of Coastal Atlas etc. have also been taken up by CWC under this scheme.

(c) An amount of Rs. 15.98 crore has been allocated in the Tenth Plan of the Ministry of Water Resources, out of which Rs. 6.00 crore has been earmarked in the Budget for the financial year 2004-05.

[Translation]

HIV Test in Animals

2498. SHRI RAKESH SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any report from Sri Nirwikar Path on June 26, 2004 regarding blood samples of animals which have been found HIV positive;

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

(c) whether the Government propose to undertake further investigation in this direction; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Ministry received a report from Nirwikar Path regarding blood samples of animals found HIV positive. This was examined in consultation with the experts/scientists of the country. The experts are of the opinion that HIV does not occur in animals.

(c) and (d) There is no report in the literature world wide that animals are affected by HIV. Therefore, the Government does not propose to conduct test on the virus.

[English]

Coastal Zone Management Plan for Mumbai

2499. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT:
SHRI PRAKASH BAPU V. PATIL:
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJI:
SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:
SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE:

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

(a) whether the Union Government has received a proposal on Coastal Zone Management Plan (CZMP) for Mumbai and Navi Mumbai from the Government of Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof together with date of its receipt;

(c) whether the Union Government has constituted a committee to examine the proposal;

(d) if so, the details thereof and whether the committee has submitted its report; and

(e) if so, the details thereof alongwith present status of the proposal and by when it is likely to be approved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The proposals of revised Coastal Zone Management Plans for Mumbai and Navi Mumbai were received by the Central Government for approval in December, 1998.

(c) and (d) Government of India constituted an eight member Expert Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri D.M. Sukthankar in May, 2000 to examine, *inter-alia*, the veracity of the representations against the alleged violations of the Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, 1991 in the revised Coastal Zone Management Plan of Navi Mumbai as also other related issues of Coastal Zone Management in Mumbai Urban Area. The Committee submitted its report in December, 2000.

(e) The revised Coastal Zone Management Plan of Mumbai was approved by Government of India in January, 2000 i.e, prior to constitution of the Expert Committee referred to at (c) and (d) above. However, revised Coastal Zone Management Plan of Navi Mumbai could not be approved due to its non-conformity with the existing provisions of the Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, 1991.

Quality of Foodgrain Provided for A.A.Y.

2500. SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:
SHRI BRIJBHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of foodgrains being provided under Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) and Mid-day meal schemes, State-wise;

(b) the number of complaints received from different States regarding supply of rotten wheat and tasteless rice to the consumers under the said schemes;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to prevent distribution of poor quality foodgrains;

(d) whether any arrangements are being made by the Government to ensure immediate distribution of the foodgrains to the consumers;

(e) if so, whether the Government is contemplating to constitute monitoring committee at Central level in this regard; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) Quantum of foodgrains (wheat and rice) allocated to various States/UTs during 2004-05, upto July, 2004, under Antyodaya Ann Yojana (AAY) and Mid-Day Meal (MDM) scheme is enclosed as statement.

(b) No such complaints have been received from any States/UTs during 2004-05 so far.

(c) The following steps have been taken to ensure that only good quality foodgrains are supplied to the State Governments/UTs for distribution under various schemes:

(i) Inspectors of State Governments/UTs have the opportunity to inspect the foodgrains stocks prior to lifting from the Food Corporation of India (FCI) godowns.

(ii) The samples of foodgrains are to be jointly drawn and sealed by the officers of the States/ UTs and the FCI from the stocks for display at the counters of Fair Price Shops (FPSs) for the benefit of the consumers.

(iii) The officers of the State Governments' and the Ministry conduct surprise checks of the FPSs to oversee the quality of foodgrains being distributed through Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS).

(d) PDS is the joint responsibility of the Central and the State Governments where the responsibility for distribution of foodgrains to ultimate consumers under the said schemes rests with the concerned States/UTs only. In order to ensure prompt distribution, a network of 4.76 lakh Fair Price Shops (FPS) exists in the country.

(e) and (f) No, Sir.

Statement

State-wise allocation under AAY & MDM during 2004-05.

(Figure in '000 Tonnes)

Sl.No.	State	Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY)			Mid-day Meal Scheme (MDM)		
		Rice	Wheat	Total	Rice	Wheat	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	130.83	0.00	130.83	213.41	0.00	213.41
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	2.66	0.00	2.66	3.56	0.00	3.56
3.	Assam	39.41	0.00	39.41	101.63	0.00	101.63
4.	Bihar	56.00	84.00	140.00	113.67	164.34	278.01
5.	Chhattisgarh	60.38	0.00	60.38	56.57	0.00	56.57
6.	Delhi	1.28	3.20	4.48	10.78	10.78	21.56
7.	Goa	1.02	0.00	1.02	1.23	0.00	1.23
8.	Gujarat	9.10	36.40	45.5	30.11	30.11	60.22
9.	Haryana	0.00	20.71	20.71	2.80	43.28	46.08
10.	Himachal Pradesh	6.30	4.72	11.02	17.52	0.00	17.52
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	14.19	4.48	18.67	44.33	0.00	44.33
12.	Jharkhand	28.40	22.91	51.31	82.00	0.00	82.00
13.	Karnataka	80.61	20.15	100.76	111.86	5.03	116.89
14.	Kerala	50.04	0.00	50.04	42.63	0.00	42.63
15.	Madhya Pradesh	19.92	112.90	132.82	39.07	120.91	159.98
16.	Maharashtra	71.99	133.71	205.70	222.30	0.00	222.30
17.	Manipur	3.57	0.00	3.57	9.17	0.00	9.17
18.	Meghalaya	4.92	0.00	4.92	10.06	0.00	10.06
19.	Mizoram	2.19	0.00	2.19	1.82	0.00	1.82
20.	Nagaland	3.20	0.79	3.99	3.47	0.00	3.47
21.	Orissa	70.77	0.00	70.77	121.62	0.00	121.62
22.	Punjab	0.00	10.04	01.04	0.00	43.22	43.22
23.	Rajasthan	0.89	76.63	77.52	2.66	165.90	168.56
24.	Sikkim	1.39	0.00	1.39	1.67	0.00	1.67

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
25.	Tamil Nadu	100.00	0.00	100.00	86.12	0.00	86.12
26.	Tripura	6.33	0.00	6.33	9.16	0.00	9.16
27.	Uttar Pradesh	117.89	225.96	343.85	183.89	325.02	508.91
28.	Uttaranchal	7.49	3.19	10.68	16.22	1.58	17.80
29.	West Bengal	51.30	51.30	102.60	297.31	0.00	297.31
30.	Andaman and Nicobar	0.43	0.17	0.60	0.77	0.00	0.77
31.	Chandigarh	0.30	0.00	0.30	0.00	0.97	0.97
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.28	0.11	0.39	0.60	0.00	0.60
33.	Daman and Diu	0.06	0.03	0.09	0.30	0.00	0.30
34.	Lakshadweep	0.06	0.00	0.06	0.00	0.00	0.00
35.	Pondicherry	1.75	0.00	1.75	1.06	0.00	1.06
	Total	944.95	811.40	1756.35	1839.37	911.14	2750.51

Loans to Farmers for Agricultural Products

2501. DR. RAM LAKHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated any policy for granting loans to the farmers for agricultural products in the country particularly in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Details are given in the Statement enclosed.

(c) Does not arise.

Statement

Pursuant to the announcement made by the Finance Minister on 18th June, 2004 containing measures for improving agricultural credit flow and providing credit related relief to farmers, the banks have been advised as under:

(i) Total flow of agricultural credit which is estimated at Rs. 80,000 crore in 2003-04 will be enhanced to about Rs. 105,000 crore in 2004-05. This will represent a 30 per cent increase over the flow of credit in the previous year.

(ii) Every effort will be made to enhance coverage of institutional credit, including through KCCs, in line with the higher goal for agricultural credit in 2004-05.

(iii) Commercial banks will make an effort to bring into their fold, on average, at least 100 new farmers at each rural and semi-rural branch during current year. The goal is to enlarge the universe of new farmers borrowing from banks by about 50 lakh.

(iv) Each rural and semi-urban branch of commercial banks will take up at least two to three new investment projects in the area of plantation and horticulture, fisheries, organic farming, agro-processing, live stock, micro-irrigation, sprinkler irrigation, watershed management, village ponds development and other agricultural activities.

(v) In every district, all commercial backs put together will finance 10 agro-clinics during the current year.

(vi) In order to provide credit to tenant farmers and oral lessees, NABARD will facilitate formation and financing of self-help groups of tenant farmers and oral lessees during the current year.

(vii) Scales of finance will be reviewed to meet the realistic credit needs of farmers, especially capital intensive agricultural operations.

(viii) Debt restructuring will be done by the commercial banks, RRBs and cooperatives under the following heads in accordance with the new guidelines issued by RBI/NABARD.

- **Farmers in distress**—Debts of farmers as on 31st March, 2004 in districts declared as calamity-affected by the State Government concerned will be rescheduled/restructured. Interest outstanding in the accounts of such borrowers will be clubbed with the principal outstanding on March 31, 2004, and the amount thus arrived at shall be repayable over a period of five years, at current interest rates, including an initial moratorium of two years.

- **Farmers in arrears**—Loans in default of farmers who have become ineligible for fresh credit as their earlier debts have been categorized as sub-standard or doubtful will be rescheduled as per the guidelines issued by NABARD/RBI so that such farmers become eligible for fresh credit.

- **OTS for small and marginal farmers**—Guidelines for increasing the flexibility of banks and cooperatives to grant a one-time settlement (OTS) for small and marginal farmers who have been declared as defaulters and have become ineligible for fresh credit from lending institutions will be issued by RBI/NABARD. Management of banks and cooperatives will be advised to review cases where credit has been denied on the sole ground that a loan account was settled through compromise or write offs.

- In some parts of the country, farmers face acute distress because of the heavy burden of debt from non-institutional lenders (e.g., moneylenders). Bankers will be permitted to advance loans to such farmers to provide them relief from indebtedness against appropriate collateral or group security.

[Translation]

Tourist Cards for Foreign Tourists

2502. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to issue tourist cards to foreign tourists;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the foreign tourists visited India during each of the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) No such proposal is under consideration of the Government.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The number of foreign tourists disembarked in India during the last three years 2001, 2002 and 2003 has been 2537282, 2384364 and 2750290 respectively. Details of foreign tourists visited State-wise and Year-wise during each of the last three years are given in the Statement enclosed.

Statement

Sl.No.	State/U.T.	2001	2002	2003
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	67147	210310	479318
2.	Arunachal Pradesh*	323	187	123
3.	Assam	6171	6409	6610
4.	Bihar	85673	112873	60820

1	2	3	4	5
5.	Goa	260071	271645	314357
6.	Gujarat	30930	34187	37534
7.	Haryana	898	85281	84981
8.	Himachal Pradesh	135760	144383	167902
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	21298	7821	24330
10.	Karnataka	140703	59545	249908
11.	Kerala	208830	232564	294621
12.	Madhya Pradesh	107824	67319	92278
13.	Maharashtra*	915399	768935	986544
14.	Manipur	183	221	257
15.	Meghalaya	2390	3146	6304
16.	Mizoram	152	259	279
17.	Nagaland*	920	657	743
18.	Orissa	22854	23279	25020
19.	Punjab	3258	7558	4589
20.	Rajasthan	608283	428437	628560
21.	Sikkim	31028	8566	11966
22.	Tamil Nadu	773073	804041	901504
23.	Tripura	0	0	3196
24.	Uttaranchal	44429	55762	55228
25.	Uttar Pradesh	795000	835000	912832
26.	Chhattisgarh	N.A.	N.A.	1150
27.	Jharkhand	2979	2244	3223
28.	West Bengal	284092	529366	705457
29.	Andaman and Nicobar	5539	5101	4142
30.	Chandigarh	15203	13706	17057
31.	Daman and Diu	10290	6569	3274
32.	Delhi*	830092	543036	693827
33.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	400	202	136
34.	Lakshadweep	650	912	682
35.	Pondicherry*	22115	20094	25559

*Figures are estimated.

Protection and Preservation of Tiger Habitats

2503. SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken note of the sinking habitat of tigers in the country;

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

(c) the number of tiger deaths in the last five years as a result of poaching;

(d) whether the Government has formulated any policy to protect and preserve the tiger habitats; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) The Government of India has not received any report on sinking tiger habitat from the State Governments.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) The details of tiger deaths during the last five years due to poaching, as reported by the States, are as below:

Year	No. of Deaths
1999	21
2000	26
2001	26
2002	10
2003	—

(d) and (e) Conservation of tigers and their habitats is ensured through the ongoing Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Project Tiger, apart from other schemes like 'Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries' within the ambit of the National Wildlife Action Plan.

Reserved Post Lying Vacant

2504. SHRI LALMANI PRASAD: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of posts created in his Ministry and the department thereunder, department-wise;

(b) the total number of employees belonging to Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward classes working in these departments;

(c) whether the appointments have been made as per the reservation quota fixed for SC/ST and OBC;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) by when reservation quota for the said classes is likely to be filled up;

(f) whether any action would be taken against the authorities for not filling up the reservation quota; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI SISH RAM OLA): (a) to (g) The information is being collected and after receipt will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Enforcement of Environmental Laws

2505. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:
SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:
SHRI S.D. MANDLIK:
SHRI ANIRUDH PRASAD ALIAS SADHU YADAV:
SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA:
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

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

(a) whether some eminent environmentalists have expressed their concern over the poor enforcement of various environmental laws in the country including Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the extent of their implementation/enforcement;

(c) when was the last review of environmental laws undertaken;

(d) the strategy adopted by the Government in this regard; and

(e) the steps the Government propose to take to strictly implement the environmental laws?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) to (e) The Ministry has been reviewing on a regular basis, the implementation of Environmental Acts and Rules with the State Agencies. The Central Government has also delegated powers to the State Governments, Central and Pollution Control Boards for enforcement and compliance thereof. Subject-specific strategies have also been formulated to ensure compliance of the statutory provisions and enforcement of regulations, standards and norms.

Mango Research Centre

2506. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of availability of High quality varieties of Mangoes in Nuzvid and adjoining areas in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to open a mango research centre in Nuzvid to boost the yield of mangoes in the said areas;

(d) if so, the details of the steps initiated by the Government in this regard; and

(e) if not, the measures taken to improve the quality of available varieties of mangoes in the said areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Nuzvid and adjoining areas of Andhra Pradesh grow high quality mango varieties in large tracts. Gundra Banganapalli, Hyderabad, Israli Mamidi, Gundrasam, Jampulu, Kakulamamidi are some of the good quality varieties grown in that area.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Not applicable.

(e) the ICAR has undertaken mango improvement work under the all India Coordinated Research Project on Sub-tropical Fruits. Fruit Research Station, Sangareddi, is the recognized centre for this work. In addition, at the National level the Central Institute for Subtropical Horticulture, Lucknow has been mandated to work primarily on mango.

Development of Majauli Island

2507. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA:
SHRI M.K. SUBBA:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to develop Majauli Island of Assam as a national site for heritage tourism;

(b) if so, whether any action plan has been formulated in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the financial assistance provided to the State Government for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Based on the proposal received from the Government of Assam, Majauli Island has been identified for development under the Product, Infrastructure and Destination Development. An amount of Rs. 382.25 Lakhs has been sanctioned for the above project during the year 2002-2003.

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

[Translation]

Taj Trapezium Zone Pollution Authority

2508. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Taj Trapezium Pollution Authority has been established under the Environment Protection Act, 1986;

(b) if so, the number of schemes implemented for conservation of Taj Mahal under the said Act and the extent to which these schemes have been able to check the impact of pollution on Taj; and

(c) the expenditure incurred on setting up of this authority and on implementing various schemes during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government of India has approved ten projects in this regard for implementation by the State Government of Uttar Pradesh. Monitoring of the pollution level in and around Taj Mahal conducted by various organizations on prime parameters of ambient air quality reveals reduction of pollution level on these parameters.

(c) An amount of Rs. 12.00 lakhs on the Authority and Rs. 86.73 lakhs in implementing various approved centrally sponsored schemes have been reported to be incurred as expenditure by the State Government during last three years.

Protection of Species of Animals in Rajasthan

2509. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of livestock is decreasing continuously in Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the total number of various types of livestock in Rajasthan at present alongwith the comparative figures of ratio between animal and human population;

(d) whether the Government has evolved any action plan to protect certain type of species of animals in Rajasthan; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) Total number of various types of livestock in Rajasthan is given in the Statement enclosed. The ratio between animal and human population in Rajasthan as per provisional estimates of Livestock Census of 2003 is 0.88.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Government is implementing the following schemes:

1. **National Project for Cattle and Buffalo Breeding (NPCBB):** Rajasthan is participating under National Project for Cattle and Buffalo Breeding (NPCBB) since 2001-02.
2. **Conservation of Threatened Breed:** Government of India has sanctioned a project in Rajasthan for conservation of Marwari Breed of Horse and is being implemented through the agency "Indigenous Horse Breeding Society of India, Jaipur".

Statement

Total Number of Livestock in Rajasthan-2003

Sl.No.	Animals-Type	Number (In 000)
1.	Crossbread Cattle	464
2.	Indigenous Cattle	10390
3.	Total Cattle	10854
4.	Buffaloes	10446
5.	Sheep	10032
6.	Goats	16808
7.	Horses & Ponies	25
8.	Mules	3
9.	Donkeys	143
10.	Camels	498
11.	Pigs	338
	Total Livestock	49147

Production of Milk

2510. SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD:
SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN:
YOGI ADITYA NATH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the production of milk in the country during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government has set target for the production of milk during the Tenth Five Year Plan; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) The production of milk in the country during last three years, State-wise, is given in the Statement enclosed.

(b) and (c) Based on Ninth Five Year Plan growth rate, the target of milk production for Tenth Five Year plan is fixed at 103 million tonnes for the country.

Statement

Milk Production in 2000-01, 2001-02 and 2002-03

(000 MTs)

Sl.No.	States/UTs	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
1	2	3	4	5
1	Andhra Pradesh	5520.7	5813.8	6583.6
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	41.0	41.8	46.0
3.	Assam	682.7	681.7	704.3
4.	Bihar	2489.7	2664.4	2868.0
5.	Goa	45.3	45.0	46.2
6.	Gujarat	5311.6	5862.3	6089.5
7.	Haryana	4849.7	4977.1	5125.2
8.	Himachal Pradeh	760.0	756.1	772.5
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	1320.7	1088.0	1450.0
10.	Karnataka	4597.9	4747.4	4538.2
11.	Kerala	2605.3	2717.9	2419.1
12.	Madhya Pradesh	4760.9	5282.9	5342.2
13.	Maharashtra	5849.1	6094.3	6237.4
14.	Manipur	66.1	68.2	68.7
15.	Meghalaya	64.2	65.7	67.6
16.	Mizoram	13.7	14.1	14.8
17.	Nagaland	51.3	56.7	57.9
18.	Orissa	875.2	928.6	941.9
19.	Punjab	7776.3	7930.0	8172.9

1	2	3	4	5
20.	Rajasthan	7455.5	7758.4	7789.1
21.	Sikkim	35.5	37.0	45.0
22.	Tamil Nadu	4908.9	4987.9	4621.1
23.	Tripura	77.7	88.5	95.0
24.	Uttar Pradesh	13857.3	14647.6	15288.4
25.	West Bengal	3470.4	3515.5	3600.5
26.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	22.7	23.0	26.1
27.	Chandigarh	43.2	43.5	43.9
28.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	8.0	8.0	8.0
29.	Daman and Diu	1.0	1.0	1.0
30.	Delhi	290.7	294.0	295.7
31.	Lakshadweep	1.3	5.9	2.4
32.	Pondicherry	36.8	35.0	37.8
33.	Chhattisgarh	776.9	794.0	803.6
34.	Uttaranchal	1026.0	1066.3	1079.5
35.	Jharkhand	1100.0	1162.0	1300.0
	All India Total	80793.3	84303.4	86583.4

[English]

ESI Dues

2511. SHRI SANTASRI CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the outstanding ESI dues against the employers of various industries/undertakings/units functioning throughout the country during the last three years and current year till date, State-wise;

(b) the reasons for such unpaid huge dues; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to recover the same?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI SISH RAM OLA): (a) The ESI dues outstanding against the factories/establishments/units covered under the ESI Act for the last three years are as under:

(Rs. in crores)

As on 31.03.2002	—	748.26
As on 31.03.2003	—	908.99
As on 31.03.2004	—	918.47

The State-wise break-up of outstanding ESI dues against the employers is given in Statement enclosed.

(b) The following are the primary reasons for the pending/outstanding dues:

(i) Contribution claims being contested in Courts by employers.

(ii) Firms going into liquidation.

(iii) Recoveries barred by the Central/State Government laws and other actions.

(iv) Factories closed and whereabouts of the employers not known.

(v) Decrees obtained and execution proceedings in progress.

(c) The Revenue recovery machinery of ESI Corporation has been strengthened to maximize the recovery of the dues. The Recovery Officers of the Corporation have also been empowered w.e.f. 01.09.1991 to recover the dues of the Corporation as arrears of land revenue.

Statement

State-wise ESI dues Outstanding for the last three years

(Rs. in crore)

Sl.No.	State	Total arrears as on 31.03.2002	Total arrears as on 31.03.2003	Total arrears as on 31.03.2004
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	67.31	71.96	72.24
2.	Assam	5.67	5.15	4.93
3.	Bihar	14.38	8.04	8.26
4.	Chhattisgarh*	—	—	3.94
5.	Delhi	20.32	24.43	15.1
6.	Goa	3.82	3.61	4.18
7.	Gujarat	37.05	39.36	43.01
8.	Punjab	22.28	13.65	14.94
9.	Himachal Pradesh*	—	1.15	1.53
10.	Jammu and Kashmir*	—	6.7	3.45
11.	Jharkhand*	—	6.1	6.19
12.	Karnataka	40.64	42.33	44.36
13.	Kerala	22.77	27.59	31.83
14.	Madhya Pradesh	27.88	29.50	30.24
15.	Maharashtra	135.43	163.62	163.92
16.	Orissa	16.60	18.90	19.75
17.	Pondicherry	1.46	2.10	2.07
18.	Haryana	15.33	15.49	17.30
19.	Rajasthan	10.49	13.45	15.29
20.	Tamil Nadu	85.21	107.08	135.45

1	2	3	4	5
21.	Uttar Pradesh	66.58	114.26	79.56
22.	Uttaranchal*	—	—	5.74
23.	West Bengal	155.04	194.52	195.19
	Total	748.26	908.99	918.47

*Indicates newly formed regions recently.

[Translation]

Closure of Edible Oil Companies

2512. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that many small scale edible oil companies are on the verge of closure;

(b) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to revive these sick units;

(c) the number of edible oil companies set up in Gujarat after the announcement of concessions in excise duty for reconstruction of Kutch;

(d) whether the Government is contemplating to withdraw the concessions in excise duty being given to the edible oil companies; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) North India Confederation of Edible Oil & Vanaspati Manufacturers has represented that edible oil manufacturing units in oil seed producing State are on the verge of closure due to competition from large scale manufacturing units set up in Kutch region after availing excise duty concession provided by the Government. The Confederation has requested to withdraw excise duty exemption or make the exemption available to those units using domestic oils for refining by crushing of edible oilseeds to protect the interest of small and medium units engaged in edible oil processing.

(b) Request for withdrawal of this exemption or for restricting the same only to the new units which use oil from crushing indigenous oilseeds has not been found feasible to accept the same.

Steps taken to protect the interests of oilseed/oil processing companies include:

(i) Crushing of major oilseeds e.g. groundnut, mustard/rapeseed and sesame seed, which constitute about 60% of the total oilseeds produced in the country, are kept reserved for small scale industries.

(ii) Imports of oilseeds and edible oils except coconut/coconut oil are under Open General License (OGL)

(iii) In order to improve capacity utilization and value addition in the country, imports of crude vegetable oils of edible grade at concessional rate of duty are allowed.

(c) Two edible oils companies have been set up in Gujarat and nine companies are in pipeline in Gujarat.

(d) and (e) There is no general exemption from excise duty for edible oil units. However, following earthquake in Gujarat, to attract immediate fresh investment in the Kutch district of Gujarat, Government had exempted goods produced by new industrial units from excise duty subject, *inter-alia*, to the following conditions:

(i) The unit must be set up on or after the date of notification i.e. 31.7.2001, but not later than 31.12.2004, and start commercial production on or before such date.

(ii) The civil construction work or the installation of plant and machinery should commence on or after 31.7.2001.

(iii) Exemption to eligible units available for period of five years from the date of commencement of commercial production.

Exemption is also available to new units producing refined edible oils.

Production of Agriculture Commodities

2513. SHRI NITISH KUMAR:
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production of certain agriculture commodities is still below than their requirement in the country;

(b) if so, the details of such commodities alongwith the break-up of the percentage of deficiency;

(c) whether the Government has set any time limit to augment their production to meet their requirement in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for their under production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) Yes, Sir. The production of some agriculture commodities is below their requirement in the country.

(b) In the case of such commodities, the gap between domestic production and demand is met by imports. Import of pulses, edible oils and cotton constitutes bulk of the imports of agricultural commodities. The quantity of imports which reflects deficiency in production *viz-a-viz* requirement is given below:

(Quantity in lakh tonnes)

Commodity	April 03-March 04			
	Production	Import*	Requirement	Import as % of requirement
1	2	3	4 (2+3)	5
Pulses	152.30	15.50	167.80	9.24
Edible oils	70.00	52.94	122.94	43.06
Cotton	23.44	0.86	24.30	3.54

*In cases of pulses and cotton, the figure represent net imports. However, in the case of edible oil export figure is negligible.

(c) and (d) In order to increase the production of oilseeds and pulses the Government is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Integrated Scheme for Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM) in 14 major oilseeds and pulses growing States. Under this scheme assistance is provided for purchase of breeder seed, production of foundation seed, production and distribution of certified seed, distribution of seed, distribution of plant protection chemical etc. In order to disseminate information on improved production technologies amongst the farmers, block demonstrations and Integrated Pest Management (IPM) demonstrations are organized through State Department of Agriculture and Front Line Demonstrations through Indian Council of Agricultural Research.

In view of lower yield & poorer lint quality of cotton as compared to many other countries, the Government is implementing Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Technology Mission on Cotton (TMC) which became operational in 2000-2001. The TMC is being implemented during 2004-05 in 13 States viz. Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Tripura.

The aim of the mission is to increase the production, productivity & improve the quality of cotton. This is proposed to be achieved through the implementation of Technology Mission of Cotton by integrating various aspects of cotton *viz.* research, extension/development for production, development of market infrastructure/yards

and modernization of ginning/pressing factories in mission-mode approach.

[English]

Food Supply during Drought

2514. SHRI SURESH KURUP:
SHRI K.S. RAO:
SHRI M. APPADURAI:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the FCI has set up a crisis management group to meet the situation arising out of drought and flood in the country;

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

(c) whether some States have requested for supply of additional foodgrains to meet the situation;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the foodgrains demanded and supplied by the Government, State-wise;

(e) whether there are sufficient stocks of foodgrain and sugar in the country;

(f) if so, the details of the stock; and

(g) the other steps being taken to ensure sufficient food supply?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The Crisis Management Group (CMG) of the FCI monitors the position on a daily basis and is in touch with the Ministry of Railways, Department of Food and Public Distribution and the State Governments on a regular basis.

(c) Yes Sir.

(a) A Statement is enclosed.

(e) and (f) Yes Sir. The Stock of foodgrains in the Central Pool as on 1st August, 2004 was 270.35 lakh tonnes (90.88 lakh tones rice and 179.47 lakh tonnes wheat). The total availability of sugar in the country during the Sugar Year: 2003-04 is about 254.14 lakh tonnes.

(g) The quantum of movement has been stepped up to ensure adequate supply of foodgrains. Besides, a minimum stocking norm of 3 months' requirement has been stipulated for the States with drought like conditions.

Statement

Statement showing Request and Allotment of Foodgrains for Drought/Flood Affected States during the year 2004-05

(Figures in Tonnes)

Sl.No.	State	Request	Allotted	Purpose
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2,00,000	1,82,000	Drought
2.	Maharashtra	7,00,000	3,00,000	Drought
3.	Rajasthan	2,00,000	1,19,000	Drought
4.	Madhya Pradesh	4,00,000	50,000	Drought
5.	Bihar	1,00,000	1,00,000	Flood

Awareness Programme for Protection of Wildlife

2515. SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to launch an awareness programme for the protection of Wildlife in the country;

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

(c) whether forest department is not having adequate number of guards to protect Wildlife in various States; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard and for the protection of Wildlife?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) The Government of India provides financial support to the states on proposals for conservation of wildlife that may include *inter-alia* awareness generation activities under the ongoing Centrally Sponsored Schemes like Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries, Project Tiger and Project Elephant.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Vacancies do occur in the ranks of forest guards etc., and delay in filling up of the same may cause weakening of protection of wildlife in the States. The Government of India has requested all the States to take immediate action for filling up the vacancies for protection of forest and wildlife.

Water Conservation Schemes

2516. SHRI UDAY SINGH:
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether various schemes launched by the Union Government to conserve water have not yielded desired results;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Union Government keeping in view the failure of monsoon this year have decided to initiate new water conservation schemes in the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Water being a State subject, water resources projects including schemes for water conservation are planned, executed and maintained by the concerned State Governments. The Government of India has launched Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) for early completion of ongoing water resources schemes. The Scheme is being successfully implemented. Government of India is also promoting schemes for rainwater harvesting for conservation of water.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The matter of preparedness to meet any eventuality in view of current monsoon situation was taken up at the highest level. Cabinet Secretary monitored the situation at regular meetings. Finance Minister in his Budget Speech has announced scheme to repair, renovate and restore all the water bodies that are directly linked to agriculture.

[Translation]

India-UK Agreement

2517. SHRI S.D. MANDLIK:
SHRI ANIRUDH PRASAD ALIAS SADHU YADAV:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to collaborate with United Kingdom for investment in Agriculture sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent to which Indian Agriculture produce will get access to European market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) No agreement to collaborate in the field of Agriculture for investment, etc. is proposed between India and the United Kingdom.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Difference in Minimum Wages

2518. SHRI D.P. SAROJ:
SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a major difference in the minimum wages in different areas of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for the said difference;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to remove such difference; and

(d) the extent of success achieved by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI SISH RAM OLA): (a) and (b) The disparity in rates of minimum wages in different areas of the country is due to differences in socio-economic and agro-climatic conditions, prices of essential commodities, paying capacity, productivity and local conditions influencing the wage rate. Taking these factors in the account, the state governments as the appropriate governments, fix minimum wages in scheduled employments in their respective jurisdictions under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, differently.

(c) and (d) In order to minimize the disparity in minimum wages in various regions of the country, the Central Government has issued guidelines for setting up Regional Minimum Wages Advisory Committees. These committees have made a number of recommendations including consultation with neighbouring States while fixing and revising minimum wages.

In order to bring uniformity in minimum wages, the Central Government has mooted the concept of a national floor level minimum wage and fixed it. Though not mandatory, the appropriate Governments are persuaded to ensure that the minimum wage in their scheduled employments is not fixed below the national floor level minimum wage.

[English]

Smuggling of Children

2519. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:
SHRI NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether many small boys and girls are being smuggled through agents from Nepal, Bangladesh, West Bengal, Orissa and Jharkhand etc. and harassed and forced to work as domestic servants in Metro cities;

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

(c) the steps being taken by the government to eradicate this menace?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI SISH RAM OLA): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Study on Cleaning of Rivers

2520. SHRI DEVIDAS PINGLE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any studies have been undertaken with regard to cleaning of peninsular rivers of the country including Godavari during the last three years as well as current year till date by different agencies/departments/ institutes;

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

(c) the action taken by the Government on each of the reports submitted by them;

(d) the funds made available and utilized alongwith the achievements made in cleaning the peninsular rivers so far, river-wise; and

(e) the names of cities which have been benefited during the said period, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (c) No specific studies have been undertaken with regard to cleaning of Peninsular rivers in the country during the last five years. However, Government of India is implementing National River Conservation Plan on a 70:30 cost sharing basis between Central and State Governments. The Action Plans for pollution abatement of Peninsular Rivers in the States of Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh and Gujarat are covered under National River Conservation Plan.

(d) and (e) Funds amounting to about Rs. 1479 crore have so far been sanctioned for pollution abatement of 18 rivers in these States. An amount of Rs. 495.35 crore have been released by Government of India and an expenditure of Rs. 498.24 crore (including State share) has been incurred by the States till March, 2004. Out of 185 schemes sanctioned in 39 towns, 67 schemes have already been completed. The Statewise, townwise and riverwise details are in the Statement enclosed.

Statement

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	State/Town	River	Sanctioned Cost (Till 07/2004)	Funds Released By GOI (Till 07/2004)	Expenditure by State (Till 3/2004)	No of Sanctioned Projects (Till 07/2004)	No. of Completed Projects (Till 07/2004)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
I.	**Andhra Pradesh**						
1.	Bhadrachalam	Godavari	200.70		124.46	6	3
2.	Mancharial	Godavari	231.30		204.47	5	1
3.	Rajamundry	Godavari	2178.60		887.12	6	5
4.	Ramagundam	Godavari	574.55		266.17	7	3
5.	Hyderabad	Musi	33908.00		0.00	1	0
	Sub Total:		37093.15	2972.20	1482.22	25	12
II.	**Goa**						
6.	Panaji	Mandovi	1409.52		0.00	5	0
	Sub Total:		1409.52	246.00	0.00	5	0
III.	**Gujarat**						
7.	Ahmedabad	Sabarmati	10195.87		7984.27	13	9
	Sub Total:		10195.87	8291.86	7984.27	13	9
IV.	**Karnataka**						
8.	Bhadravati	Bhadra	376.98		245.90	4	2
9.	Davanagere	Tungabhadra	411.12		346.25	6	3
10.	Harihara	Tungabhadra	249.94		204.98	7	4
11.	R.K. Nagar	Cauvery	42.17		66.80	5	3
12.	Kollegal	Cauvery	108.66		56.15	4	0
13.	Nanjangud	Cauvery	131.89		113.84	5	2
14.	Shimoga	Tunga	380.12		146.35	5	3
15.	Sri Rangapatna	Cauvery	144.01		154.00	5	3
16.	Bangalore	Pennar	4627.00		1548.79	1	0
	Sub Total:		6471.91	2909.37	2883.06	42	20

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
V.	**Kerala**						
17.	Pamba	Pamba	1845.00		0.00	6	0
	Sub Total		1845.00	78.00	0.00	6	0
VI.	**Maharashtra**						
18.	Karad	Krishna	318.72		217.93	2	0
19.	Nanded	Godavari	1293.18		1136.62	3	0
20.	Nashik	Godavari	6201.76		4580.50	7	5
21.	Sangli	Krishna	2439.71		0.00	2	0
22.	Trimbakeshwar	Godavari	1164.00		446.18	10	0
	Sub Total:		11417.37	7066.38	6381.23	24	5
VII.	**Orissa**						
23.	Chandbali	Brahamini	0.00		0.00	0	0
24.	Cuttack	Mahanadi	804.30		280.75	4	1
25.	Dharamshala	Brahamini	19.63		0.00	2	0
26.	Talcher	Brahamini	159.95		0.00	4	0
	Sub Total:		983.88	386.93	280.75	10	1
VIII.	**Tamil Nadu**						
27.	Bhawani	Cauvery	128.25		82.83	5	2
28.	Chennai	Adyar, Cooum	32476.09		19658.16	14	0
29.	Erode	Cauvery	1136.63		1054.10	8	6
30.	Kumarapalayam	Cauvery	232.14		318.82	5	3
31.	Palli Palayam	Cauvery	184.67		61.88	4	3
32.	Trichy	Cauvery	383.03		400.39	8	6
33.	Karur	Cauvery	2764.32		342.64	1	0
34.	Kumbakonam	Cauvery	3459.19		1730.03	7	0
35.	Myladuthurai	Cauvery	3963.17		741.60	3	0
36.	Tiruchirappalli	Cauvery	11667.00		478.63	1	0
37.	Thanjavur	Vennar	5655.71		960.81	1	0
38.	Madurai	Vaigai	11277.85		4303.00	2	0
39.	Tirunelveli	Tamrabarani	5200.90		680.00	1	0
	Sub Total:		78528.96	27584.72	30812.87	60	20
	Total: (8 States):		147945.65	49535.46	49824.40	185	67

[English]

Farmer Assistance/Counselling Centres

2521. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the farmer assistance/counselling centres being run presently in the country and location thereof, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government proposes to set up more such centres in the country;

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

(d) the names of the districts especially of Andhra Pradesh where such centres are proposed to be opened; and

(e) by when these centres are likely to be made functional?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) No such centres are being run presently. However, under the Innovations in Technology Dissemination (ITD) Component of National Agricultural Technology Project (NATP), 334 Farm Information Advisory Centres (FIACs) are functioning in 7 Project States. Details are enclosed as Statement.

(b) No such proposal is under consideration at present.

(c) to (e) Do not arise.

Statement

State-wise locations of Farm Information Advisory Centres (FIACs) established under ITD Component of NATP

State/Districts		No. of FIACs
1		2
	Andhra Pradesh	**53**
1.	Kurnool	11
2.	Prakasham	12
3.	Adilabad	10
4.	Chittoor	20
	Bihar	**69**
5.	Muzaffarpur	16
6.	Madhubani	21
7.	Munger	09
8.	Rural Patna	23
	Himachal Pradesh	**33**
9.	Shimla	10
10.	Hamirpur	06
11.	Kangra	14
12.	Bilaspur	03
	Jharkhand	**41**
13.	Dumka	10
14.	Jamtara	04
15.	West Singhbhum	15
16.	Palamu	12
	Maharashtra	**45**
17.	Ahmednagar	13
18.	Amravati	14
19.	Aurangabad	09
20.	Ratnagiri	09
	Orissa	**55**
21.	Khurda	10
22.	Koraput	14
23.	Ganjam	22
24.	Sambalpur	09
	Punjab	**38**
25.	Gurdaspur	14
26.	Jalandhar	10
27.	Faridkot	02
28.	Sangroor	12
	Total	334

Indus-Water Treaty

2522. MS. MEHBOOBA MUFTI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Jammu and Kashmir's contribution to water sharing arrangements under the Indus water treaty is the largest;

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

(c) the restrictions placed on use of riparian water in Jammu and Kashmir under the treaty;

(d) the cumulative losses suffered by Jammu and Kashmir as a result thereof;

(e) whether the Government would consider compensating the State for these losses; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) No State-wise contribution to water sharing arrangements has been specified in the Indus Waters Treaty 1960. However, as per the Irrigation Commission Report (1972), the State-wise distribution of the drainage area of Indus basin in India is as given below:

Jammu and Kashmir	—	1,93,762 km^2
Punjab	—	50,304 km^2
Himachal Pradesh	—	51,356 km^2
Haryana	—	9,939 km^2
Rajasthan	—	15,814 km^2
Chandigarh	—	114 km^2
Total	—	3,21,289 km^2

(c) Under the Treaty, the waters of the Western Rivers (The Indus, the Jhelum and the Chenab) are to be received by Pakistan for their unrestricted use except for Domestic/Non-Consumptive Use and specified/restricted Agricultural Use, hydro-electric power generation and storage of waters by India. All the aforesaid uses are restricted in the case of each of the rivers, The Indus, The Jhelum and The Chenab, to the drainage basin thereof.

(d) to (f) Under the Treaty, India has been permitted storage of 3.6 Million acre Feet which has not been utilized by Jammu & Kashmir. Similarly, out of 13,43,477 acres of ultimate permitted irrigated cropped area, 8,11,568 acres could be developed during 2002-2003.

Development of Marine Fisheries

2523. SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposals for Development of Marine Fisheries in various States are pending with the Union Government;

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

(c) the funds released under the Centrally sponsored scheme for development of marine fisheries during the last three years and the current year, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) The details of proposals received from various States for Central assistance under different components of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on development of Marine Fisheries are furnished in Statement-I. The State-wise details of funds released under the scheme for the last three years and the current year are furnished in Statement-II. enclosed.

Statement I

Proposals received from State/UT Governments

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl.No.	Name of the State/UT	Fishermen Development Rebate on HSD		Motorisation of Traditional Craft	
		2003-04	2004-05	2003-04	2004-05
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	10.00	90.00	5.00	50.00
2.	Goa	—	64.34	1.10	5.00

1	2	3	4	5	6
3.	Gujarat	1425.00	Nil	6.94	Nil
4.	Karnataka	728.00	728.00	5.00	5.00
5.	Maharashtra	350.00	385.00* 2000.00**	Nil	Nil
6.	Orissa	170.724 (Back-log payment)	Nil	50.00	Nil
7.	Tamil Nadu	439.00	439.00	40.00	180.00
8.	Kerala	Nil	Nil	35.00	Nil
9.	Pondicherry	12.60	Nil	Nil	Nil
10.	Lakshadweep	Nil	5.00	Nil	Nil
11.	Daman and Diu	Nil	125.00	Nil	Nil

*State Governments' Budget provision.
**The total amount required during this year.

Statement II

Development of Marine Fisheries—Details of funds released during the last 3 years and current year

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	Name of the State/UT	2001-02	2002-03*	2003-04	2004-05
1.	Andhra Pradesh	20.00	—	—	—
2.	Gujarat	306.51	—	6.94	—
3.	Goa	15.45	—	—	64.34
4.	Karnataka	133.00	—	5.00	150.00
5.	Kerala	20.00	—	—	—
6.	Maharashtra	169.94	—	—	358.46
7.	Orissa	16.00	—	50.00	—
8.	Tamil Nadu	114.34	—	38.06	146.74
9.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	13.47	—	—	—
10.	Lakshadweep	2.50	—	—	—
11.	Daman and Diu	19.00	—	—	125.00

*Scheme was not in operation

Upper Tunga Project of Karnataka

2524. SHRI MANJUNATH KUNNUR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether approval was accorded to Upper Tunga Project of Karnataka by the Government; and

(b) if so, the present status of the project and the target fixed for its completion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) The Upper Tunga Project of Karnataka has not been approved by the Planning Commission. However, the project was considered by the Technical Advisory Committee of the Ministry of Water Resources in its 80th meeting held on 7.2.2003 and found acceptable subject to certain observations. As reported by the Government of Karnataka the project is proposed to be completed by end of 2005.

[Translation]

Foodgrain Procurement Policy

2525. SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV:
SHRI RAMDAS BANDU ATHAWALE:
SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the policy for procurement of wheat, rice and other foodgrains from the farmers;

(b) whether there is a need to review foodgrain procurement policy in various States;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to enforce uniform foodgrain procurement policy throughout the country;

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

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) The Food Corporation of India and State Agencies procure foodgrains conforming to Fair Average Quality Specifications from farmers at the Minimum Support Price (SMP) to offer remunerative prices and to check distress sale. The policy is uniformly applicable throughout the country.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) to (e) Does not arise.

Procurement of Wheat

2526. MOHD. MUKEEM: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of wheat in metric tonnes procured by the Government agencies in the country during the year 2003-04, State-wise;

(b) whether the procurement agencies have made the payment in respect of wheat procured; and

(c) if not, the steps being taken by the Government to ensure timely payment of the outstanding amount?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) A statement showing the total quantity of wheat procured by the Govt. agencies, state-wise, during the year 2003-04 is enclosed.

(b) No specific complaint of non-payment has been received.

(c) Does not arise.

Statement

Procurement of Wheat during Rabi Marketing Season (RMS) 2003-04.

(Quantity in thousand metric tonnes)

State	Procurement of Wheat
1	2
Bihar	1
Chhattisgarh	Negligible*
Delhi	12
Haryana	5123

1	2
Himachal Pradesh	1
Madhya Pradesh	188
Punjab	8938
Rajasthan	259
Uttar Pradesh	1214
Uttaranchal	066
Total	15802

*Negligible—Below 500 tonnes

[English]

Allocation of Funds for Development of Horticulture and Agriculture in NER

2527. SHRI TAPIR GAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of funds allocated, released and actually utilized for the development of horticulture and agriculture in the North Eastern Region (NER) during the Tenth Five Year Plan till date;

(b) the targets set and achievements made during the last two years, till-date State-wise;

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to increase the central funds to these States for the said purpose;

(d) the details of horticulture schemes sanctioned for Arunachal Pradesh during the last three years; and

(e) the funds spent on these schemes during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) State-wise details of funds allocated, released and actually utilized under various schemes of Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India for the development of horticulture and agriculture in the North Eastern Region (NER) during the Tenth Five Year Plan till date are given in Statement-I—IX enclosed.

(c) The Ministry of Agriculture has the mandate to spend atleast 10% of the allocation in the NE region.

(d) Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Technology Mission for integrated development of horticulture in NE States including Sikkim since 2001-02 to address all the issues related to development of horticulture in the state of Arunachal Pradesh. The Scheme is being implemented in a Mission Mode approach with its four Mini Missions. The Mini-Mission-I relates to Research and technology development is coordinated and implemented by Indian council of Agriculture Research. The Mini Mission-II relates to improving production and productivity is coordinated by Department of Agriculture & Cooperation and implemented by the Agriculture/Horticulture Department of the States. The Mini Mission-III relates to Post-harvest management, marketing and export is Coordinated by Department of Agriculture & Cooperation and implemented by National Horticulture Board, Directorate of Marketing & Inspection, National Cooperative Development Corporation, National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Limited and Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority. The Mini Mission-IV relates in processing is coordinated and implemented by Ministry of Food Processing Industries.

(e) The details of funds released under this Mission in the State of Arunachal Pradesh during the period 2001-02 till date is given below:

2001-02	—	927.85 lakhs
2002-03	—	1099.00 lakhs
2003-04	—	1220.00 lakhs
2004-05	—	525.00 lakhs

(Allocations for 2004-05 is Rs. 1500.00 Lakhs)

Statement I

Name of the scheme: Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture in North Eastern States, Sikkim, Jammu aand Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttaranchal

(Rs. in lakhs)

		2002-03			2003-04			2004-05		
		Alloc.	Rel.	Exp.	Alloc.	Rel.	Exp.	Alloc.	Rel.	Exp.
MM-I (ICAR)	North Eastern States	500.00	175.00	75.00	500.00	100.00	—	700.00	—	
MM-II (SFAC)	Assam	1424.08	1424.08	1424.09	1400.00	1400.00	1400.00	1425.00	525.00	
	Arunachal Pradesh	1099.00	1099.00	1099.00	1220.00	1220.00	447.65	1500.00	525.00	
	Manipur	687.36	687.36	687.36	638.00	638.00	200.00	1100.00	385.00	
	Meghalaya	865.85	865.85	865.85	937.00	937.00	387.00	1211.00	455.00	
	Mizoram	1271.76	1271.76	1276.76	1089.00	1089.00	590.00	1632.20	455.00	
	Nagaland	979.00	979.00	979.00	1256.00	1256.00	550.00	1875.00	667.10	
	Tripura	8215.00	8215.00	845.00	900.00	900.00	543.42	1012.80	402.50	
	Sikkim	857.14	857.14	857.14	1000.00	1000.00	456.41	1150.00	402.50	
MM-III (SFAC)	North Eastern States	1000.00	775.00	—	1000.00	200.0	775.00	1200.00	96.00	
(NHB)		2000.00	575.00	—	2000.00	500.00	590.887	1550.00	96.00	
MM-IV	North Eastern States	500.00	75.00	—	200.00	—	75.00	—	—	

Statement II

Name of the Scheme : Macro Management of Agriculture

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	States	2002-03						2003-04						2004-05	
		Allocation	Release	Unspent balance as on	Total Funds Available	Exp.	Unspent balance as on	Allocation	Releases	Total Funds Available	Exp.	Unspent balance as on		Allocation	Releases
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	500.00	463.20	17.57	480.77	298.05	182.72	400.00	317.28	500.00	466.12	33.88		500.00	250.00
2.	Assam	700.00	350.00	558.13	908.13	512.97	395.16	700.00	350.00	745.16	140.00	—		800.00	400.00
3.	Manipur	600.00	300.00	407.10*	707.10	290.00	417.10	600.00	300.00	717.10	515.92	—		700.00	350.00
4.	Mizoram	900.00	810.00	3.12	813.12	784.62	28.50	800.00	820.00	848.50	800.00	20.00		900.00	450.00
5.	Meghalaya	700.00	700.66	120.59	821.25	648.50	172.50	600.00	427.25	600.00	584.05	15.95		700.00	350.00
6.	Nagaland	1000.00	660.00	Nil	660.00	500.00	160.00	800.00	880.00	960.00	960.00	—		900.00	450.00
7	Sikkim	500.00	330.00	13.01	343.01	343.01	Nil	500.00	500.00	500.00	503.96	—		600.00	300.00
8.	Tripura	800.00	900.00	8.97	908.97	644.31	264.66	800.00	715.34	980.00	413.72	—		800.00	400.00

Statement III

Scheme on Watershed Development Project in Shifting Cultivation Areas—X Plan

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	State	Nodal Department	2002-03		2003-04		2004-05	
			Release	Exp.	Release	Exp.	Release	Exp.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	Agriculture	60.00	17.85	100.00	160.526	100.00	—
2.	Assam	Hill Area Development	345.00	360.00	350.00	395.000	65.00	—
3.	Manipur	Hort. & Soil Cons.	175.00	141.00	200.00	200.00	—	—
4.	Meghalaya	Soil Cons.	250.00	250.00	300.00	300.00	150.00	—
5.	Mizoram	Agriculture	480.00	480.00	490.00	490.000	150.00	—
6.	Nagaland	Soil & Water Cons.	440.00	450.00	260.00	300.00	150.00	—
7.	Tripura	Hort. & Soil Cons.	250.00	268.40	300.00	275.860	50.00	—
	Total		2000.00	1967.25	2000.00	2121.386	665.00	

Statement IV

Scheme on National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	State/UT	2002-03 Expenditure Incurred	2003-04 Expenditure Incurred	2004-05 Expenditure Incurred
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.000	134.804	134.804
2.	Assam	188.000	100.000	288.000
3.	Manipur	47.500	190.000	237.500
4.	Meghalaya	415.000	361.550	776.550
5.	Mizoram	360.000	410.000	770.000
6.	Nagaland	250.000	280.000	530.000
7.	Sikkim	90.000	191.120	281.120
8.	Tripura	177.000	307.512	484.512

Statement V

Scheme on Transport Subsidy on movement of Seeds to North Eastern States including Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Uttaranchal and Hill Areas of West Bengal

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	Year	Assam	Mizoram	Nagaland	Sikkim
1.	2002-03	66.39	6.53	1.06	2.19
2.	2003-04	90.82	—	7.53	4.67

Statement VI

Scheme on "On-farm Water Management for Increasing Crop Production in Eastern India"

Under this scheme, 30% subsidy on credit linked basis is provided to the farmers for construction of shallow tube wells with pumpsets, lift irrigation points, distribution of electric/diesel pumpsets etc. The scheme is being implemented in Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur and Mizoram. Under the scheme, subsidy component is released to NABARD by the Central Government, which in turn releases funds to commercial banks for further release to farmers. The state wise allocation and release of funds is as below:

(Rs. in lakhs)

Year	Arunachal Pradesh		Assam		Manipur		Mizoram	
	Alloc.	Rel.	Alloc.	Rel.	Alloc.	Rel.	Alloc.	Rel.
2002-03	173.00	0.00	897.00	0.00	173.00	12.975	138.00	0.150
2003-04	300.00	0.00	300.00	0.50	300.00	37.17	300.00	2.10
2004-05	248.10	0.00	438.00	7.40	249.75	0.00	139.13	15.15

Statement VII

Scheme on Technology Mission on Cotton

(Rs. in lakhs)

	Tripura		
Year	Allocation	Release	Expenditure
2002-03	13.00	9.62	7.50
2003-04	15.00	12.88	12.00
2004-05	25.00	12.50	—

Statement VIII

Scheme on Oilseeds Production Programme

(Rs. in lakhs)

Name of the State	2002-03		2003-04	
	Allocation	Releases	Allocation	Releases
Arunachal Pradesh	1.00	15.00	21.00	21.00
Assam	57.00	50.00	104.00	104.00
Manipur	36.00	30.00	72.00	72.00
Meghalaya	12.00	5.00	24.00	24.00
Mizoram	24.00	20.00	79.00	79.00
Nagaland	45.00	40.00	90.00	90.00
Sikkim	25.00	20.00	50.00	50.00
Tripura	30.00	27.00	60.00	60.00

Statement IX

Scheme on National Pulse Development Project

(Rs. in lakhs)

Name of the State	2002-03		2003-04	
	Allocation	Releases	Allocation	Releases
Arunachal Pradesh	15.00	5.00	15.00	15.00
Assam	15.00	6.00	50.00	50.00
Manipur	30.00	40.00	20.00	20.00
Meghalaya	15.00	15.00	15.00	15.00
Mizoram	51.00	51.00	25.00	25.00
Nagaland	37.00	37.00	35.00	35.00
Sikkim	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00
Tripura	37.00	37.00	30.00	30.00

Heavy Premium for Paddy and Chilly

2528. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government is charging heavy premium towards crop insurance for paddy and chilly;

(b) if so, the basis thereof;

(c) whether this crop insurance is optional or compulsory;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Union Government is considering to reduce the rate of premium for this crop insurance;

(f) if so, the details thereof and by when a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) No Sir, paddy being a food crop, flat rate of premium of 2.5% is being charged under National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS). Chilly is in the category of annual commercial/horticultural crops for which actuarial rate of premium is charged. The rate of premium for chilly crop viries from 6.10% to 15.80% depending upon the variability of past yield data.

(c) and (d) The Crop Insurance under NAIS is compulsory for loanee farmers in the areas and for the crops notified under the scheme. For others i.e. non-loanee farmers it is optional.

(e) No Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

(g) The premium rates can not be reduced arbitrarily, because they are worked out uniformally on the basis of a set methodology/principle.

A flat rate of premium is applicable for Paddy which is lower than the actuarial rate. Further, small and marginal farmers are getting subsidy on premium.

Delay in Submission of Bills

2529. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to delays in submission of bills under mid-day meal scheme by the FCI regions led to an avoidable charge of Rs. 35.86 crore on food subsidy during the period from August 1995 to July 2001;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any inquiry was conducted in this regard;

(d) if so, whether responsibilities have been fixed; and

(e) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken against those held responsible?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) The delays in submission of bills by the Regional Offices of the Food Corporation of India (FCI) under Mid-day Meal Scheme during the period August 1995 to July 2001 were mainly due to the delays in certification of the lifting of foodgrains by the revenue authorities of the concerned States. During the period 1995-96 to 2001-02 (July 2001), the payments received from the Ministry of Human Resources Development were less than the bills submitted by the FCI.

(c) to (e) Do not arise.

Vegetables and Fruits Available in Mother Dairy

2530. SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the vegetables and fruits available in Mother Dairy outlets in Delhi are costlier than prevailing market rates; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to provide quality products at reasonable rates to consumers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) No, Sir. Rates are competitive with the prevailing market rates and fixed on the basis of wholesale prices of Azadpur Mandi and retails prices of nine major retail mandis of Delhi on day-to-day basis.

(b) Mother Dairy always strives to provide best quality products at reasonable rates.

[Translation]

Assistance to Maharashtra for Development of Pandharpur

2531. SHRI RAMDAS BANDU ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to provide any assistance to Maharashtra Government for development of Pandharpur during the current financial year; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) The project for development of Pandharpur, Dehu and Alandi under the scheme of Integrated Development of Tourist Circuit has been sanctioned for central financial assistance of Rs. 684.73 lakhs during 2003-04. The components for development of tourist circuit includes:

(1) Construction of Darshan Mandap-cum-Dormitory with public amenities.

(2) Development of Sant Tukaram Temple at Dehu, Pune

(3) Civic amenities, repairs to ghats and construction of 5-septic tanks, etc. around the temple and Angad Shah Samadhi.

(4) Development works at Alandi—Bhagirathi Nala, repairs of roads from Siddhha Bet to old bridge, development of road from Nagar Palika to Ghat.

(5) Development of Siddhha Bet Bio diversity centre and meditation centre.

[English]

Shifting of CMFRI

2532. SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to shift the location of Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) at Vizhingam to Mandapam in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether aquarium at Vizhingam, part of CMFRI was also to be shifted;

(d) if so, whether the Government was aware of the fact that there was wide spread resentment against these decisions; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) The decision taken earlier to shift Vizhinjam Research Centre, is under review.

(b) While considering the X Five Year Plan proposal of the Plan scheme of the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute on 20th June, 2003, on the recommendations of the Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) it had been decided to relocate/merge six Research Centres with other existing Regional/Research Centres under CMFRI, including Research Centre at Vizhinjam to be merged with and shifted to Mandapam Regional Centre.

The reasons behind this decision were, *inter-alia* achievement of the research objectives of the Centre established in 1951 with regard to marine fish resources and stock assessment, molluscan and lobster culture and ornamental fish breeding; the present need for diversification of research activities needing upgraded facilities and critical scientific mass at a few Centres for achieving competitive edge at global level; proposal of establishing a national facility for upstream research in mariculture at Mandapam; constraints of operations with rented building and inadequate seawater facilities; presence of the Headquarters of CMFRI at Kochi as well as the Research Centre of the Institute at Kozhikode in the State of Kerala, thus adequately addressing the research needs of marine fisheries in the State.

(c) A decision was taken earlier to shift the Aquarium, which is a part of the Centre, but the matter is under review.

(d) and (e) For ensuring further indepth analysis towards a pragmatic decision, it has been decided to continue the Centre including the Aquarium on the existing basis till a final decision is taken.

[Translation]

Poaching of Wild Animals

2533. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of incidents of poaching of wild animals reported in the country including Rajasthan during the last three years and till-date. State-wise;

(b) whether the Union Government is providing any assistance to check such incidents;

(c) if so, the details of assistance thus provided, State-wise;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the number of cases registered under Wildlife Protection Act against the guilty officers in the country particularly in Rajasthan during the said period alongwith the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Protection of wildlife being the primary responsibility of the State Governments, the details of poaching incidents are maintained at the State level. The information available from the states on poaching cases is at Statement-I.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The details are at Statement-II.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) There has been no report of conviction of forest officers from the States, including the State of Rajasthan.

Statement I

State-wise Death of Animals in the Country

Sl.No.	Name of the State	Year	Tiger	Lion	Elephant	Leopard	Rhino	Peafowl
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2001	1	—	—	—	—	—
		2002	—	—	—	1	—	—
		2003	—	—	—	—	—	—
		2004	—	—	—	—	—	—
		Total	1			1		
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	2001	—	—	—	—	—	—
		2002	—	—	—	—	—	—
		2003	—	—	—	—	—	—
		2004	—	—	—	—	—	—
		Total			0			
3.	Assam	2001	—	—	—	—	10	—
		2002	—	—	—	—	5	—
		2003	—	—	1	—	6	—
		2004	—	—	—	—	1	—
		Total	0		1	0	22	
4.	Bihar	2001	—	—	—	—	—	—
		2002	—	—	—	—	—	—
		2003	—	—	—	—	—	—
		2004	—	—	—	—	—	—
		Total						

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
5.	Delhi	2001	—	—	—	6	—	—
		2002	—	—	—	—	—	—
		2003	—	—	—	—	—	—
		2004	—	—	—	—	—	—
		Total				6		
6.	Chhattisgarh	2001	—	—	—	—	—	1
		2002	—	—	—	—	—	—
		2003	—	—	—	—	—	—
		2004	—	—	—	—	—	—
		Total						1
7.	Goa	2001	—	—	—	—	—	—
		2002	—	—	—	—	—	—
		2003	—	—	—	—	—	—
		2004	—	—	—	—	—	—
		Total				0		
8.	Gujarat	2001	—	2	—	—	—	6
		2002	—	—	—	—	—	5
		2003	—	1	—	—	—	—
		2004	—	—	—	—	—	—
		Total		3		0		11
9.	Himachal Pradesh	2001	—	—	—	7	—	—
		2002	—	—	—	—	—	—
		2003	—	—	—	—	—	—
		2004	—	—	—	—	—	—
		Total				7		
10.	Jharkhand	2001	—	—	2	—	—	—
		2002	—	—	1	—	—	—
		2003	—	—	—	—	—	—
		2004	—	—	—	—	—	—
		Total			3			

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
11.	Karnataka	2001	—	—	12	—	—	—
		2002	—	—	3	—	—	—
		2003	—	—	5	—	—	—
		2004	—	—	6	—	—	—
		Total			26			
12.	Kerala	2001	3	—	5	—	—	—
		2002	—	—	5	—	—	—
		2003	—	—	2	—	—	—
		2004	—	—	3	—	—	—
		Total	3		15			
13.	Madhya Pradesh	2001	4	—	—	2	—	6
		2002	—	—	—	—	—	—
		2003	—	—	—	—	—	—
		2004	1	—	—	—	—	—
		Total	5			2		6
14.	Maharashtra	2001	17	—	—	6	—	3
		2002	3	—	—	1	—	—
		2003	—	—	—	—	—	—
		2004	—	—	—	—	—	—
		Total	20			7		3
15.	Meghalaya	2001	—	—	2	—	—	—
		2002	—	—	—	—	—	—
		2003	—	—	—	—	—	—
		2004	—	—	—	—	—	—
		Total			2			
16.	Mizoram	2001	—	—	—	—	—	—
		2002	—	—	1	—	—	—
		2003	—	—	2	—	—	—
		2004	—	—	—	—	—	—
		Total			3			

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
17.	Orissa	2001	—	—	7	—	—	—
		2002	—	—	2	—	—	—
		2003	—	—	6	—	—	—
		2004	—	—	7	—	—	—
		Total	0		22			
18.	Punjab	2001	—	—	—	—	—	—
		2002	—	—	—	—	—	—
		2003	—	—	—	—	—	—
		2004	—	—	—	—	—	—
		Total				0		
19.	Rajasthan	2001	—	—	—	2	—	—
		2002	1	—	—	2	—	—
		2003	—	—	—	—	—	—
		2004	—	—	—	—	—	—
		Total	1			4		
20.	Tamil Nadu	2001	—	—	5	26	—	3
		2002	—	—	3	1	—	—
		2003	—	—	5	—	—	—
		2004	—	—	1	—	—	—
		Total	0		14	27		3
21.	Uttar Pradesh	2001	20	—	1	28	—	2
		2002	1	—	—	—	—	1
		2003	—	—	1	—	—	—
		2004	—	—	—	—	—	—
		Total	21		2	28		3
22.	Uttaranchal	2001	—	—	2	6	—	—
		2002	—	—	—	4	—	—
		2003	—	—	—	—	—	—
		2004	—	—	—	—	—	—
		Total			2	10		

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
23.	West Bengal	2001	2	—	7	3	1	—
		2002	—	—	—	1	—	—
		2003	—	—	3	—	—	—
		2004	—	—	2	—	—	—
		Total	2		12	4	1	
	Grand Total		53	3	102	96	23	27

Statement II

Release of Funds to States

Sl.No.	State	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	140.595	153.825	167.2
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	299.225	193.225	280.79
3.	Assam	211.05	343.835	302.78
4.	Bihar	54.52	25	74.65
5.	Chhattisgarh	71.94	124.505	376.785
6.	Jharkhand	22.668	92.89	183.613
7.	Gujarat	127.2	90.365	52.14
8.	Goa	78.13	Nil	36.4561
9.	Haryana	15.64	18.75	24.84
10.	Himachal Pradesh	111.235	93.853	168.961
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	26	99.9	138.825
12.	Karnataka	649.694	981.577	1112.94
13.	Kerala	213.5	374.608	497.331
14.	Madhya Pradesh	571.56	982.772	1447.77
15.	Maharashtra	362.599	789.99	393.696
16.	Manipur	26.81	162.82	125.36
17.	Meghalaya	67.95	114.13	308.98
18.	Mizoram	149.045	240.6	231.836
19.	Nagaland	83.13	156.84	84.7

1	2	3	4	5
20.	Orissa	557.4	190.96	303.35
21.	Punjab	29.6	Nil	Nil
22.	Rajasthan	243.319	661.193	373.149
23.	Sikkim	30.45	132.76	108.92
24.	Tamil Nadu	131.23	332.37	291.76
25.	Tripura	47.41	104.88	261.265
26.	Uttar Pradesh	147.215	170.11	337.955
27.	Uttaranchal	173.37	352.985	426.3
28.	West Bengal	408.121	478.47	559.285
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	25.59	20.75	Nil
30.	Chandigarh	18.4	14	Nil
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	6.01	15.25	Nil
	Total	5100.606	7513.21	8671.64

[English]

Subsidy on Export of Foodgrain

2534. SHRI P.K. VASUDEVAN NAIR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the subsidy on the export of wheat and rice has increased considerably since the year 2001-02; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) The subsidy released for export of wheat and rice increased from Rs. 1368.37 crores in 2001-02 to Rs. 3621.26 crores in 2003-04. The year-wise details for the last three years are as under:

2001-02 — Rs. 1368.37 crores

2002-03 — Rs. 5742.69 crores

2003-04 — Rs. 3621.26 crores

Promotion of Tissue Culture

2535. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any tissue culture scheme was promoted in Gujarat under Central Scheme during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the funds allocated for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Government of Gujarat has not availed any assistance during the last three years from the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, although Government of India is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on "Macro-Management in Agriculture—Supplementation/ Complementation of States' efforts through Work Plan" which includes a component on establishment of tissue culture unit for fruit plants under which State can submit proposals for their felt needs.

(c) During this year (2004-05), Rs. 250.00 lakhs have been sanctioned under the Macro management scheme for integrated development of fruits by Govt. of Gujarat which includes promotion of tissue culture.

[Translation]

Turnover of FPI

2536. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':
SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the annual turnover of Food Processing Industries is presently averaging at Rs. 4500 crore;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the percentage of average annual increase recorded in the industry during the last three years; and

(d) the target for increase in the turnover of the industry in the next ten years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (d) As per the study conducted by the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER), food processing industries had been growing at 5.87% per annum during the 9th Plan period. The growth rate is estimated at 7.1% during the 10th Plan. Since food processing industries are both in the organized and unorganized sectors, the information about annual turnover of food processing industries is not maintained centrally.

[English]

Promotion of Sports in Karnataka

2537. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka has submitted proposals under Central schemes for promotion of sports in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when these proposals are likely to be sanctioned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-RESIDENT INDIANS AFFAIRS (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Under the scheme of "Grants for Creation of Sports Infrastructure", 40 proposals were received from the Government of Karnataka during the last 3 years. The present status of these proposals has been indicated below:

Year	No. of proposals received	No. of proposals approved with Central assistance	No. of proposals rejected
2001-02	16	5 (Rs. 66.45 lakhs)	2
2002-03	18	4 (Rs. 92.35 lakhs)	9
2003-04	6	1 (Rs. 30.00 lakhs)	2

The remaining 17 proposals suffered from various deficiencies and have been referred back to the State Government/Grantees for rectification. No proposal is pending with the Ministry for consideration.

[Translation]

Crop Insurance Scheme

2538. SHRI PARAS NATH YADAV:
SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR:
SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR DUBEY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to give 75 per cent grant on premium of the farmers to make the crop insurance successful;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has any proposal to implement crop insurance schemes for farmers as reported in 'Rashtriya Sahara' dated July 7, 2004;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the names of the insurance schemes;

(e) whether the crops affected due to flood are provided insurance coverage;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) the method to be adopted for assessment of compensation to be made through insurance; and

(h) the States where said scheme have been introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) 75% premium subsidy to small and marginal farmers is being paid under Pilot Project on Farm Income Insurance Scheme (FIIS). The scheme is being implemented since rabi 2003-04 on pilot basis in selected districts of the country.

(c) and (d) National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS), Pilot Project of FIIS and Rainfall Insurance (Varsha Bima) are being implemented, at present by Agriculture Insurance Company of India Ltd. (AIC).

(e) and (f) Comprehensive risk insurance which includes flood besides other natural calamities is provided to cover yield losses of insurable crops.

(g) If the actual yield of the insured crop for the defined area, falls short of the specified threshold yield, all the insured farmers growing that crop in the defined area are deemed to have suffered shortfall in their yield and hence become eligible for insurance compensation to the extent of indemnity under NAIS.

As per Pilot Project on FIIS if the actual income of the farmer falls short of the guaranteed income (product of average yield and MSP) of the farmers they become eligible for compensation to the extent of indemnity.

Under Rainfall Insurance, a relationship between the crop loss suffered by the farmers due to rainfall deviation and the indemnities is established. Based on this relationship the admissible claims are paid.

(h) The States/UTs where these schemes are being implemented are as under:

NAIS 23 States & 2 UTs:

Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Orissa, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamilnadu, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal, West Bengal, Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Pondicherry.

FIIS

Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Maharashtra and West Bengal.

Rainfall Insurance

Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh.

Minimum Support Price for Sugarcane

2539. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:
SHRI D.P. SAROJ:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the norms laid down for fixing the Minimum Support Price of sugarcane;

(b) whether these norms are not being followed; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) The Central Government fixes the Statutory Minimum Price (SMP) of sugarcane for each sugar season (October-September) payable by sugar factories to the sugarcane growers on the basis inter-alia of recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) which inter-alia takes the following factors into consideration:

(i) the cost of production of sugarcane.

(ii) the return to the grower from alternative crop and the general trend of prices of agricultural commodities.

(iii) the availability of sugar to the consumer at a fair price.

(iv) the price at which sugar produced from sugarcane is sold by producers of sugar; and

(v) the recovery of sugar from sugarcane.

(c) Does not arise.

National Agricultural Insurance Scheme

2540. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT:
SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of unit for assessment of crop loss in National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS);

(b) whether the Government of Madhya Pradesh has sent the proposal to the Union Government to consider Patwari halka number as a unit of NAIS;

(c) if so. whether the Government has accorded their sanction to the General Insurance Corporation for consideration Patwari halka number as a unit; and

(d) if not, by when a sanction is likely to be accorded?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) operates on the basis of area approach. The unit area for assessment of crop loss may be Gram Panchayat, Mandal, Hobli, Firka, Block, Taluka etc. which is decided by the implementing State.

The scheme also provides for assessment of loss on individual basis in case of specified localized calamities such as hailstorm, landslide etc.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. State Government of Madhya Pradesh has requested for reducing the unit area under NAIS from Tehsil to Patwari Circle.

As per provision of the scheme each participating State/UT is permitted to notify any unit area of insurance i.e. including Patwari Circle, if the implementing State has the capacity to undertake requisite number of Crop Cutting Experiments (CCEs), under single series of CCEs, for making assessment of yield.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Shortfall in Sugar Production

2541. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has decided not to import sugar despite a fall in its sugarcane crop;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether stocks of sugar and sufficient to meet future demands;

(d) if so, whether the Government has also stopped exporting sugar during current year; and

(e) if so, the quantum of sugar export had taken place during 2003?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) Sugar is on OGL (Open General License) and is freely improbable as per commercial prudence of importers.

(c) Adequate stock of sugar is available for domestic consumption in the country in 2003-2004 sugar season (Oct.-Sept.).

(d) and (e) Government does not undertake export of sugar. Sugar exports are undertaken as per the commercial prudence of the sugar factories taking into account the comparative realization from sale in the domestic and international market. The export of sugar for the sugar year 2003-2004 (Oct.-Sept.) as per the trade circles is estimated at 2.94 lakh M.Ts.

Rashtriya Krishi Bhima Yojana

2542. SHRI PRAHLAD JOSHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total funds released to Karnataka under the Rashtriya Krishi Bhima Yojana since its inception;

(b) the share of the Central and State Governments respectively during the said period; year-wise;

(c) whether these funds are fully utilized by the Government of Karnataka; and

(d) if so, the details thereof during the said period, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) Total claims amounting to Rs. 408.09 crores released to the farmers of Karnataka during the period of Kharif 2000 to Kharif 2003.

(b) The share of claim amounts paid by the Central and State Government are given as under:

(Rs. in crores)

Years	Central Govt.	State Govt.
2000-01	0.12	0.12
2001-02	60.08	60.08
2002-03 (for Kharif season only)	111.72	111.72

(c) and (d) The claims amounting to Rs. 408.98 crores have already been paid to the farmers of Karnataka. Year-wise claims paid are given as under:

(Rs. in crores)

Year	Claims Paid
2000-01	3.27
2001-02	136.00
2002-03 (Kharif season only)	268.82
Total	408.09

[Translation]

Impact of Forest Act, 1980 on Developmental Activities

2543. SHRI LALCHANDRA KOL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain developmental activities are coming to halt in tribal areas of the country due to implementation of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (c) Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 is a regulatory Act, not prohibitory. the Act provides for judicious non-forestry use of forest land irrespective of the area being tribal or non-tribal. Since 1980, permission for diversion of forest land for non-forestry purposes under the Act has been granted in respect of more than 11,000 developmental projects. As far as the tribal areas are concerned, the Central Government is committed for the development of the tribal villages at par with revenue villages and, therefore, has issued Guidelines on 18th September 1990, for conversion of forest villages into revenue villages under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. So far, 384 forest villages involving forest area of about 34024 hectare have been converted into revenue villages in respect of Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra. About 85% population of these forest villages is tribal. Further, one time clearance under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 has been granted in respect of project like underground drinking water supply, electricity, telephone lines etc. in tribal areas. In respect of big projects, Guidelines have been issued on 20-10-2003 under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, to set aside 5% project cost for development of indigenous skills of tribals, providing of basic amenities and services like education, health and sports facilities etc.

[English]

Setting up of Fishing Harbours

2544. SHRI JUAL ORAM:
SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of fishing harbours set up in the country at present, State-wise;

(b) whether any step is being taken to ensure quality and hygiene at each harbour;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government has received proposals from State Governments for setting up of some new fishing harbours in the States;

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

(f) the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) State-wise details of fishing harbours set up in the country are furnished at Statement-I enclosed.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. In order to modernized the facilities and incorporate hygienic and sanitation requirements, the State Governments and Port Trusts are provided with financial assistance to the tune of 50% of the project cost and 100% to the Union Territories for repair and renovation of the existing fishing harbours and fish landing centers under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme.

(d) to (f) Yes, Sir. State-wise details of the Statement proposals received and the reaction of the Union Government thereon are furnished at Statement II enclosed.

Statement I

Sl.No.	Name of the State	Completed/Commissioned
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Visakhapatnam
		Kakinada
		Nizamapatnam
		Bhavana Padu
		Veraval
2.	Gujarat	Mangrol stage-I
		Mangrol stage-II
		Porbundar
		Cochin
3.	Kerala	Vizhinijam stage-I
		Vizhinijam stage-II
		Puthiappa
		Munambam
		Neendakara
		Chombal
		Mopla Bay
		Thangassery
4.	Karnataka	Karwar stage-I
		Honnavar
		Tadari
		Mangalore stage-I
		Malpe stage-I
		Malpe stage-II
5.	Maharashtra	Sassoon Dock
		Mirkarwada (Ratnagiri)
6.	Orissa	Paradip
		Gopalpur
		Dhamra stage-I
		Naugarh (Astrang)
7.	Tamil Nadu	Chennai
		Tuticorin
		Mallipatnam
		Pazhayar
		Thondi
		Kodi Karai
		Vallinokkam
		Chinnamuttom
8.	West Bengal	Raychowk
		Fraser Ganj
		Digha stage-I
		Digha stage-II
		Sultanpur (Diamond Harbour)
9.	Pondicherry	Pondicherry
10.	Andaman & Nicobar	Phoenix Bay
	Total number of fishing harbours	44

Statement II

Sl.No.	Name of the State	Name of the fishing harbour	Action taken
1	2	3	4
1.	Gujarat	1. Okha	The State Government has been requested to confirm availability of environmental clearance.
		2. Veraval Stage-II	The State Government has been requested to consider an alternate location for development of the fishing harbour, as the existing one is already congested and over crowded.
		3. Umergaon	The Central Institute of Coastal Engineering for Fisheries (CICEF), Bangalore has been requested is to prepare Techno Economic Feasibility Report and the State Government has been requested to confirm availability of land, environmental clearance and adequate budgetary provision in the State Budget.
		4. Bhadeli Jagaglala	The Central Institute of Coastal Engineering for Fisheries (CICEF), Bangalore has been requested to carry out necessary investigations and to prepare Techno Economic Feasibility Report.
2.	Orissa	1. Chandipur	The Central Institute of Coastal Engineering for Fisheries (CICEF), Bangalore has been requested to carry out necessary investigations and to prepare Techno Economic Feasibility Report.
3.	Karnataka	1. Alvekodi	The State Government is yet to take final view on the project size.
4.	Tamil Nadu	1. Rameshwaram	The State Government has been requested to confirm availability of land, Environmental clearance and adequate budgetary provision in the State Budget.
		2. Poompuhar	The State Government has been requested to carryout detailed hydraulic model studies and also to confirm availability of land, environmental clearance and budgetary provisions in the State budget.
		3. Pazhyar	The State Government has been requested to confirm availability of land, Environmental clearance and adequate budgetary provision in the State Budget to share capital cost of the project.
		4. Mallipattinam	The State Government has been requested to confirm availability of land, Environmental clearance and adequate budgetary provision in the State Budget to share capital cost of the project.

1	2	3	4
5.	Andhra Pradesh	Nizamapatnam	The State Government has been requested to confirm availability of land, Environmental clearance and adequate budgetary provision in the State Budget to share capital cost of the project.
		Biyyaputhippa/ Anthervedipalem	The Central Institute of Coastal Engineering for Fisheries (CICEF), Bangalore has been requested to carry out investigation and to prepare Techno Economic Feasibility Report.
6.	Kerala	1. Thalai	In view of availability of one fishing harbour at Chombol and another coming up at Mahe both in very close proximity of the proposed fishing harbour, the proposal is not in the priority of the Union Government.
		2. Koyalandi	The State Government has been requested to confirm environmental clearance and adequate budgetary provision in the state budget to share 50% capital cost of the project.
		3. Beypore State-II	The State Government is to confirm completion of necessary investigations.
7.	Maharashtra	1. Agardanda	The State Government has been requested to complete model studies and forward the findings to CICEF for finalization of Techno Economic Feasibility Report.
		2. Deogad	The State Government has been requested to confirm availability of land, environmental clearance and adequate budgetary provision in the State budget for sharing cost of the project.
		3. Jivana Bandar	The State Government has been requested to submit detailed project proposals after techno economic feasibility studies/model studies together with statutory clearances.
		4. Karanja	-do-
		5. Dabhol	-do-
		6. Jaigad	-do-
		7. Borya	-do-
		8. Arnala	-do-
		9. Vijaydurg	-do-

1	2	3	4
		10. Harnai	The State Government has been requested to complete the necessary investigations and submit the revised Techno Economic Feasibility Report.
		11. Sakhrinate	-do-
8.	West Bengal	Petughat	State Government has been requested to complete necessary investigations and submit Techno Economic Feasibility Report together with confirmation of availability of land adequate budgetary provisions in the State budget.
9.	Goa	Vasco Bay (Proposal of Mormugoa Port Trust)	The Central Institute of Coastal Engineering for Fisheries (CICEF), Bangalore has been requested to carry out investigations and to prepare Techno Economic Feasibility Report.
10.	Daman & Diu	1. Vanakabara	UT Administration has been requested to update the cost and also confirm availability of land and obtain environmental clearance for the project.
		2. Nani Daman	The Central Institute of Coastal Engineering for Fisheries (CICEF), Bangalore has been requested to carry out investigations and to prepare Techno Economic Feasibility Report
11.	Pondicherry	1. Karaikal	The UT Government has been requested to confirm availability of land and obtain environmental clearance.
		2. Mahe	The Central Institute of Coastal Engineering for Fisheries (CICEF), Bangalore has been requested to carry out investigation and to prepare Techno Economic Feasibility Report.
		3. Yanam	The Central Institute of Coastal Engineering for Fisheries (CICEF), Bangalore has been requested to carry out investigation and to prepare Techno Economic Feasibility Report.

Rehabilitation Package for Relocated People

2545. SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the status of people who have been relocated from designated or proposed national parks and sanctuaries in the country during the last three years and till date;

(b) the number of people relocated during the above period and the number of people proposed to be relocated from such parks and sanctuaries in near future, State-wise;

(c) the details of standard rehabilitation policy of the Government for such people; and

(d) the money allocated, spent or proposed to be spent on the job by the Union Government and the respective State Governments, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a), (b) and (d) The implementation of relocation plan is the responsibility of the State Governments. The adaptation of the relocated families to the new environment is a long drawn process of socio cultural settlement. The Central Government provides financial assistance for the purpose of helping the State Governments in relocation of the people from National Parks and Sanctuaries. The details of financial assistance provided for the purpose during the last three years and till date by the Central Government and the number of families involved in relocation process are given in Statement enclosed.

(c) The rehabilitation policy of the Government, as envisaged in the National Wild Life Action Plan (2002-2016), provides for the preparation of a time bound programme to assist voluntary relocation and rehabilitation of people living in National Parks and Sanctuaries and its implementation through the State Governments.

Statement

Name of the State	Name of the National Park/Sanctuary	No. of families involved in relocation process	Amount of Central Assistance provided (in Lakhs Rs.)			Remarks
			2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	
Madhya Pradesh	Kuno Palpur Sanctuary	1400	300	—	—	Central assistance was provided from 1997-98. The total amount allocated from 1997-98 to 2000-01 was 742.28 lakhs
Madhya Pradesh	Panna National Park	584	—	210	374	
Karnataka	Nagarhole National Park	250	100	—	—	Central assistance was provided from 1997-98. The total amount allocated from 1997-98 to 2000-01 was 143.50 lakhs
Karnataka	Bandipur National Park	77	—	—	77	
Rajasthan	Ranthambore Tiger Reserve	111	—	145.92	—	
Maharashtra	Todoba Tiger Reserve	659	—	400	—	
Orissa	Similpal Tiger Reserve	81	—	—	81	
Karnataka	Bhadra Wild Life Sanctuary	736	300	300	206	Central assistance was provided from 1998-99. The total amount allocated from 1998-99 to 2000-2001 was 368 lakhs

Schemes under PDS

2546. SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of various schemes under Public Distribution System (PDS) available at present for Below Poverty Line families in West Bengal;

(b) whether the Government propose to introduce special schemes under PDS for the tribal areas; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) Under the Public Distribution System (PDS), foodgrains (rice & wheat) @35 kg. per family per month, kerosene and sugar are made available to BPL families at subsidized rates.

(b) and (c) No Sir. However, under the Guidelines issued for the expanded Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY), the State Governments have been asked to identify all the Primitive Tribal Groups as a priority group.

[Translation]

Pollution by Bokaro Thermal Power Station

2547. SHRI TEK LAL MAHTO: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken any steps to check pollution being caused by smoke and ash emitted out from chimney of Bokaro Thermal Power Station in Jharkhand;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government for treatment of diseases caused to local residents by said pollution?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Bokaro Thermal Power Station (BTPS), Jharkhand has two units, namely, BTPS 'A' and BTPS 'B'. As per the directions of Central Pollution Control Board, the Bokaro 'A' thermal power station has been closed down since 2002 due to non compliance of environmental standards. The Jharkhand state pollution Control Board has issued show cause notices and given directions to BTPS 'B' to bring emission from stack and effluent quality with in prescribed norms and for abating environmental impacts.

[English]

Financial Assistance for Sugar Mills

2548. SHRI NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received representation from Government of Punjab regarding grant of financial assistance to sugar mills/co-operative sugar mills in Punjab;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) The Government has received a representation from Government of Punjab requesting for financial assistance for sugar mills in Punjab. The requests are inter-alia:

1. One time financial assistance should be provided to sugar mills by Government of India enabling them to clean their arrears of about Rs. 100 crores of sugarcane;
2. Government of India should provide interest free loan out of sugar Development Fund to the Cooperative Sugar mills without any conditionality in terms of Government guarantee to enable them to expand their capacity and modernize their equipment.

(c):

1. For cane price arrears of 2002-03 sugar season, Government of Punjab have been offered assistance under the scheme of open market borrowings after complying with the condition mentioned therein.

   The conditions in brief are:

   (a) The State Governments would be extended financial support to meet the interest liability to the extent of difference between the Coupon Rate on the Bonds raised through additional market borrowings and 4% (the rate at which loan is being extended to the sugar mills).

   (b) The State Governments would, in turn, extend 10 year loan to the sugar mills with the ceiling interest rate of 4% per annum, this loan will have moratorium on repayment of principal and interest for a period of 5 years and would, thereafter, be repaid in 5 equal instalments.

(c) The above would be available to the mills in the cooperative and public sectors where the practice of announcing the State-Advised Prices of sugarcane exists all sugar mills in the States where no practice exists.

(d) The extent of open market borrowings would be determined on the basis of sugarcane price arrears in a given State.

(e) Any additional benefit, which a State Government may wish to provide, would be to the charge of the State Government concerned.

(f) The State Governments would make specific proposals to the Ministry of Finance seeking permission for access to additional open market borrowings.

2. Loans from Sugar Development Fund for modernisation and expansion of sugar mills carry interest rates of 6% to 9%. Government guarantee is not insisted upon in respect of these loans.

[Translation]

Setting up of Technical Consultancy Service

2549. SHRI HEMLAL MURMU: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has set up any technical consultancy service for promoting food processing and agro processing industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has taken any effective steps for the promotion of food and agro processing industries in the country, particularly in Jharkhand; and

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government has explored the feasibility of setting up of food and agro processing industries in the country, particularly in Jharkhand; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) (i) For promotion of upcoming agro processing units, the Government has announced on 8th July, 2004 in Parliament to allow under Income Tax Act, a deduction of 100% of profit for five years and 25% of profits for the next five years in case of new agro processing industries set up to process, preserve and package fruits and vegetables.

(ii) Present excise duty of 16% on dairy machinery has been fully waived for promotion of dairy processing industries.

(iii) Excise duty on meat, poultry and fish has been reduced from 16% to 8%.

(iv) Excise duty on food grade hexane used in edible oil industry has been reduced from 32% to 16%.

(v) For making value addition in palm oil sector, customs duty on refined palm oil are fixed at 75% whereas the same for crude palm oil remains at 65%.

(e) and (f) A seminar/workshop was organized on 16th and 17th July, 2004 to discuss about ways and means for development of food processing industries in Jharkhand. It has also been decided to set up a Task Force to suggest measures for development of food processing industries in Jharkhand.

Pump Canal Projects

2550. SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Pump Canal Projects which have been given clearance by the Central Water Commission with particular reference to Zarauli Project in Kaushambi district in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount sanctioned/released by the Union Government to the State Governments during 2003-04; and

(d) by when the projects are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) The Advisory Committee of the Ministry of Water Resources have cleared 13 Pump Canal Projects during the last ten years. Details of the projects are given in the Statement enclosed. The Jarauli Pump Canal Project was considered and accepted by the Advisory Committee in its 67th meeting held on

09.09.1997 for the 47.92 crore. Planning Commission accorded investment clearance in March, 1998.

(c) and (d) The amount released by the Union Government to various State Governments as Central Loan Assistance under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) for the Pump Canal Projects and their likely date of completion is given below:

Sl.No.	Name of Project/State	CLA provided during 2003-04 (Rs. in crore)	Likely date of completion
1.	Integrated Kollang (Assam)	1.125	X Plan
2.	Jarauli Pump Canal (U.P.)	5.06	March, 2005
3.	Changer Lift (Himachal Pradesh)	0.565	March, 2006

Statement

Sl.No.	Project Name	Name of the State	Major/ Medium	Estimated Cost (Rs. Cr.)	Benefits in hectare
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Bhima Lift Irrigation	Andhra Pradesh	Major	744	83,779
2.	Buridehang Lift Irrigation Scheme (Revised)	Assam	Medium	17.27	5,054
3.	Hawaipur Lift Irrigation Project	Assam	Medium	14.93	3,887
4.	Bhabour Sahib Lift Irrigation Project Phase-II (Revised)	Himachal Pradesh	Medium	11.42	3,432
5.	Jarauli Pump Canal Project	Uttar Pradesh	Major	47.92	39,748
6.	Chagalnadu Lift Irrigation Project	Andhra Pradesh	Major	43.05	14,165
7.	Lift Irrigation in Changer Area	Himachal Pradesh	Medium	28.37	3,041
8.	Tajnapur Lift Irrigation Project Phase-I	Maharashtra	Medium	23.46	3,622
9.	Bhupali Pump Canal	Uttar Pradesh	Major	60.53	34,605
10.	Kirmiri Darur Lift Irrigation Scheme	Maharashtra	Medium	27.89	2,443
11.	Sonapur Tomta Lift Irrigation Scheme	Maharashtra	Medium	32.18	2,441
12.	Rafiabad High Lift Irrigation Scheme	Jammu & Kashmir	Medium	35.60	3,932
13.	Bateshwarsthan Ganga Pump Canal Scheme (Phase-I) (Revised)	Bihar	Major	212.00	27,603

[English]

Setting up of Youth Commission

2551. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up a Youth Commission or Youth Welfare Board to look after the aspirations of the young community in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-RESIDENT INDIANS AFFAIRS (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (c) There is no proposal under consideration to set up a Youth Commission or Youth Welfare Board at present. However, a National Commission for Youth was set up by the Ministry in March, 2002 to study the areas of concern for the youth of the country (problems faced/likely to be faced by them), with particular focus on the problem of youth unemployment, suggest better implementation and coordination of the existing youth related schemes by various agencies while recommending new programmes and policies and, finally suggest measures for the implementation of the Plan of Action of the new National Youth Policy. The Commission has submitted its report to the Ministry on 16th July, 2004.

High Tech Post Harvest Technology Centre

2552. SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of High Tech Post Harvest Technology Centres have been approved to be opened in the country, State-wise and location-wise;

(b) whether any timer schedule has been fixed for opening of these centres; and

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the budget allocation for each centre?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (c) Eight new centres of All India Coordinated Research Project on Post Harvest Technology have been approved to be opened under 10th Plan. All new centres are due for launch in December, 2004. Details of location and budget allocation for centres are as given in the Statement enclosed.

Statement

(A)

Sl.No.	State	Location
1.	Uttar Pradesh	Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh
2.	Haryana	Chaudhary Charan Singh Haryana Agricultural University, Hisar.
3.	Kerala	Kerala Agricultural University, Thrissur, (Tavanur)
4.	Rajasthan	Rajasthan Agricultural University, Bikaner (Jaipur)
5.	West Bengal	West Bengal University of Animal and Fishery Science, Kolkata
6.	Tamil Nadu	Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Science University, Chennai
7.	Himachal Pradesh	Dr. Yashwant Singh Parmar University of Horticulture & Forestry, Solan
8.	Karnataka	University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad

(B)

Sl.No.	Name of the Centre	10th Plan Allocation (Rs. in Lakhs)
1.	AMU Aligarh	128.45
2.	CCSHAU, Hissar	100.57
3.	KAU, Thrissur (Tavanur)	110.47
4.	RAU, Bikaner (Jaipur)	106.81
5.	WBUA & FS, Kolkata	102.00
6.	TNVASU, Chennai	104.37
7.	Dr. YSPUH&F, Solan	99.85
8.	UAS. Dharwad	102.75

Environmental Clearance for Thermal Power Project

2553. SHRI P. RAJENDRAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether State Governments have been delegated with power for granting environmental clearance for Thermal Power Projects; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per EIA Amendment Notification S.O. 318(E) dated 10th April, 1997, powers have been delegated to State Governments for granting environment clearance for the following category of Thermal Power Projects:

I. Co-generation Captive Plants:

(i) Co-Generation Plants — All Co-generation Plants irrespective of the installed capacities.

(ii) Captive Power Plants — Upto 250 MW (both coal and gas/naphtha based) coming up separately and not along the main industry.

II. Utility Projects:

(i) Coal based plants upto 500 MW using fluidized bed technology subject to sensitive areas restrictions.

(ii) Coal based Power Plants upto 250 MW using conventional technologies.

(iii) Gas/Naphtha based plants upto 500 MW.

However, Thermal Power projects proposed to be located in a critically polluted area or within a radius of fifteen kilometers of the boundary of reserved forests, ecologically sensitive areas which include national parks, sanctuaries, biosphere reserves; and any State, would require environmental clearance from the Central Government, as per Notification S.O. 891 (E) dated 4th August, 2003.

Sports Facilities in Orissa

2554. SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated any special scheme for the development of the sports in Orissa;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the funds provided for the purpose;

(d) whether Berhampur Stadium in Orissa is under construction since last twenty years;

(e) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for inordinate delay;

(f) by when it is likely to be completed;

(g) the funds allocated for the purpose during current financial year;

(h) whether the Government has received any request from the Government of Orissa for construction of a new stadium; and

(i) if so, the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-RESIDENT INDIANS AFFAIRS (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) No Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) to (f) As per information furnished by the Government of Orissa, foundation stone of the Berhampur Stadium was laid during February 1986 and Rs. 1.09 crores have been so far spent for the construction. However, some galleries of the Stadium are yet to be constructed. Non-completion of the project is due to non-transfer of the land belonging to Ministry of Defence Construction of the remaining parts of the Stadium can be taken up only after the lands is made available.

(g) No funds are required to be allocated during the current financial year by the Government of India.

(h) and (i) Yes, Sir. Government of Orissa had submitted a proposal during September, 1999 for construction of Sports Complex at Berhampur. Since Government of India had already released Rs. 2.50 lakhs in March 1988 for construction of an Indoor Stadium at Berhampur and the said grant is still to be utilized for want of additional land, the proposal could not be considered.

Compensatory Afforestation

2555. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated any policy with regard to compensatory afforestation in the areas where the trees have been cut down due to some development work; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the directions, if any, issued for its implementation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) As per the Guidelines issued under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, the Central Government stipulates a condition of compensatory afforestation at the project cost over equivalent non-forest land or degraded forest land for non-forestry purpose. The compensatory afforestation is done by the respective State/UT Forest Department.

[Translation]

Animal Husbandry Awareness Programme

2556. SHRI SITA RAM SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering to launch any awareness campaign in order to boost animal husbandry in the country;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) The Government is not proposing any new campaign to promote animal husbandry in the country. However, the existing mechanisms provided under the Plan schemes of the Department and that available through the executive powers vested with the Department are being used to promote animal husbandry in the country.

Beedi Workers

2557. SHRI KRISHNA MURARI MOGHE:
SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Governments are not able to implement welfare schemes of Beedi Workers in an effective way in the absence of assistance from the Central Government as the Madhya Pradesh Government does not have the right to formulate laws independently in this regard;

(b) if so, whether the Government has received any proposal from the Madhya Pradesh Government for transferring the entire amount of welfare cess collected for the implementation of welfare schemes for Beedi Workers and the responsibility for implementation of all labour welfare related schemes to the State Governments;

(c) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) by when the said responsibilities are likely to be handed over to the State Governments for their implementation?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI SISH RAM OLA): (a) No Sir. Sufficient funds are provided by the Government under the Beedi Workers

Welfare Fund Act, 1976, which is a Central Act, for the implementation of various welfare schemes in the fields of Health, Housing, Education, Social Security and recreation for the benefit of the beedi workers and their dependents. As the responsibility for implementation of these schemes lies with the Central Government, no funds are being provided to any State Government for this purpose.

(b) Yes Sir.

(c) and (d) The Government collects cess on manufacture of beedi in the country under the Beedi Workers Welfare Fund Act, 1976, which is a Central Act. This fund is used on various welfare schemes for the beedi workers and implemented through nine regional Welfare Commissioners in the country. There is no proposal to transfer the amount of collected cess or the work of implementation of these schemes to the respective State Governments.

[English]

Tribals' Rights to Forest Produce

2558. SHRI G.V. HARSHA KUMAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has referred the case of tribals' right to forest produce to the Committee of Secretaries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when a final decision is to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) The matter of ownership rights on minor forest produce has been discussed along with other matters in the meeting of Committee of Secretaries held on 29.3.2001 and 25.3.2004. It was felt that some of the matters discussed fall within the purview of State Governments and it is for the State Governments to consider such recommendations. Ministry of Environment & Forests were required to take further necessary action.

(c) The State/UT Governments have been urged on 11-8-2004 to bring about a legislation conferring ownership rights in respect of minor forest produce on people from weaker sections working in forests.

Amendment In APMC Act

2559. SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has amended the APMC Act;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is also reviewing the Contract Farming Act; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) With a view to strengthen agricultural marketing system in the country, this Ministry had constituted an Inter-Ministerial Task Force on Agricultural Marketing Reforms. The Task Force in its report of 28.06.2002 has inter-alia recommended that State Governments should amend the State Agricultural Produce Marketing Regulations Act (APMC Act), wherever needed, to provide for the following:

(i) Enabling private and cooperative sectors to establish and operate (including levy of service charge) agricultural marketing infrastructure and supporting services.

(ii) Direct marketing of agricultural commodities from producing areas and farmer's fields, without the necessity of going through licensed traders and regulated markets.

(iii) Permitting "Contract farming" programmes by processing or marketing firms. The market Committee within whose jurisdiction the area covered by contract farming agreement lies, should record the contract farming agreements and act as a protector of producer's and processor's interests with due legal support in its jurisdiction.

(iv) Rationalization of levy of market fee by introducing single point levy of market fee in the entire process of marketing in the State. levy of market fee should be more in the nature of service charge based on the quality of services provided.

The Ministry of Agriculture also formulated a model law on agricultural marketing to assist the States in the enactment of the suggested reforms. The Model Act has been circulated to all State Government/UT. Administrations for further follow up action as the subject matter falls with in their purview.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. There is no Act on Contract Farming. However, in the model law on agricultural marketing formulated by this Ministry, a separate chapter on contract farming agreement has been included to provide for an institutional arrangement for registration of contract farming companies, recording of contract farming agreements and for a time bound dispute redressal mechanism.

[Translation]

Grant for Pipes

2560. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether only HDPE pipes of 75 mm diameter are admissible for grants under ISOPOM scheme for water conservation equipments whereas in the macro management made grant is available for all sizes of pipes i.e. PVC, HDPE, 75, 90,110. mm;

(b) if so, the reasons therefore;

(c) whether the Government propose to consider providing grant on all pipes up to the length of 800 metres under ISOPOM scheme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) The HDPE pipes of 75 mm diameter are supplied as a part of the existing sprinkler distribution component under Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM), to carry the irrigation water from water source to the field to avoid conveyance losses. HDPE pipes are more durable compared to other types of pipes and 75 mm diameter is considered to be adequate size for effective operation of the sprinkler system.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Question does not arise.

[English]

Losses to Assam due to Flood

2561. SHRI ANWAR HUSSAIN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of damages of crops, human life and properties due to flood in Assam during each of the last three years, category-wise; and

(b) the assistance provided to the State Government during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Quantum of damages to crops, human lives and properties due to floods in Assam is as under:

Sl.No.	Year	Damages to crops (area in million hectare.)	Human lives (lost innos.)	Damages to houses (in nos.)	Damages to public utilities (in Rs. Crore)
1.	2002	0.33	41	19,827	Not reported
2.	2003	0.382	30	4,641	189.55
3.	2004	1.258	251	5,89,000	Not reported

(b) Central Assistance provided is as under:

(Rs. in crore)

Sl.No.	Year	Calamity Relief fund and National Calamity Contingency Fund (Central share)	Additional Central Assistance	Non-lapsable Central Pool of Resources
1.	2002-03	83.92	1.50	26.57
2.	2003-04	88.12	22.60	8.78
3.	2004-05	147.52	—	—

In addition, the Government of India has also approved flood control/anti erosion schemes worth Rs. 62.68 crore for execution through Brahmaputra Board.

Food Parks

2562. SHRI ANIRUDH PRASAD ALIAS SADHU YADAV:
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:
SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:
SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of existing Food Parks in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government propose to open more food Parks in various parts of the country including Madhya Pradesh;

(c) if so, the details thereof indicating the likely cost to be incurred on this project;

(d) whether the Government has any mechanism to evaluate the performance of the existing Food Parks;

(e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the assessment made regarding existing Food Parks; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to improve the working of these Parks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) A statement showing the number of food parks in the country approved statewise for assistance by Ministry of Food Processing Industries is enclosed.

(b) and (c) The Ministry of Food Processing Industries does not set up food parks of its own. The Ministry provides financial assistance @25% for general areas and $33^{1}/_{3}$% for difficult areas subject to a maximum of Rs. 4 crores for specified common facilities as per plan parameters. The Ministry has approved 6 food parks in Madhya Pradesh The total cost outlay of the six projects is over Rs. 49 crores.

(d) to (f) All implementing agencies of food parks are required to send quarterly reports on physical and financial progress of the food parks. The Ministry monitors the progress of implementation of food parks. The last parkwise review was conducted in July 2004. There is progress in a number of food parks in terms of construction of common facilities and allotment of plots to prospective entrepreneurs. The Ministry of Food Processing Industries had assigned a study to Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India, Ahmedabad to assess the progress of 10 food parks & the report has been submitted to the Ministry.

Statement

Sl.No.	State	No. of Food Parks approved
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1
2.	Assam	1
3.	Bihar	1
4.	Chhattisgarh	1
5.	Haryana	2
6.	Jammu & Kashmir	3
7.	Karnataka	3
8.	Kerala	3
9.	Madhya Pradesh	6
10.	Maharashtra	5
11.	Manipur	2
12.	Mizoram	1
13.	Orissa	1
14.	Punjab	1

1	2	3
15.	Rajasthan	3
16.	Tamil Nadu	1
17.	Tripura	1
18.	Uttar Pradesh	4
19.	West Bengal	5
	Total	45

Buffer Zones

2563. SHRI LONAPPAN NAMBADAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that there is an unabated threat in maintaining the Buffer Zones of National Biosphere Reserves; and

(b) if so, the status of Buffer Zones around the National Biosphere Reserves in the country along with the measures taken at national and international level to protect and preserve these critical Buffer Zones?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) The Buffer Zones of the National Biosphere Reserves are inhabited by traditional communities who largely depend on locally available natural resources for their livelihood. The Central Government has allocated an amount of Rs. 35.00 crores to be spent on management of the existing 13 Biosphere Reserves and identified potential sites on 100% grant basis during Xth Plan Period. The scheme on the Biosphere Reserves is implemented by the respective State Governments through designated agencies to augment regeneration of resources, and developed alternate livelihood options for inhabitants of Buffer Zones, including management of cattle pressure. The activities are monitored by State Level Steering Committees and reviewed by National Level Committee.

Some critical reserves such as Gulf of Mannar and Sunderbans, where human pressure is very high, are also receiving international funding.

Fate of Surplus Employees of ICFRE

2564. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that a large number of employees of Indian Council of Forest Research and Education (ICFRE) have been declared surplus due to the alleged lapse on the part of the administration;

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

(c) whether resolution in this regard was passed and notified by the Government to convert ICFRE into an autonomous body;

(d) if so, the details of aims and objective behind such conversion;

(e) whether attention of the Government has also been drawn to the adverse impact of such decision on the service conditions of existing employees; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) 647 Central Government employees, who did not opt for the permanent absorption in the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE) on its conversion into an autonomous body, have been declared surplus vide orders dated 01-01-2001 and 19-02-2001.

(b) The employees had been given opportunity to exercise option for joining the autonomous body. Majority of the employees exercised their option in favour of autonomous body. Only 647 employees who did not avail the opportunity to exercise their option were declared surplus. There is no lapse on the part of the Government.

(c) The Indian Council of Forestry Research & Education, Dehradun, was converted into an autonomous body vide Order No. 1-8/89-RT dated 30.5.1991.

(d) The ICFRE was converted into an autonomous body with the following objectives:

i. To ensure the best method of application of all sources of scientific knowledge to the solution of technical and practical problems of forestry;

ii. To engage in basic research in areas where lack of fundamental knowledge impedes progress;

iii. To oversee and coordinate the activities and programmes of institutes engaged in forestry research and other organizations conducting research in related areas;

iv. To prepare the overall forestry research policy of the country, review it periodically, monitor the progress of research schemes and allocate resources;

v. To act as a clearing house for research results and other technical information pertaining to forestry research;

vi. To conduct other activities incidental and conductive to attainment of the above mentioned objectives.

vii. To support forestry education programmes.

(e) and (f) After conversion of ICFRE into an autonomous body, the employees who did not opt for absorption into ICFRE, continue to work in ICFRE on the terms and conditions of service as applicable to the Central Government Employees. There has been no adverse impact on service conditions of these employees.

Fluctuation in Export of Rice

2565. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU:
DR. M. JAGANNATH:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for sharp fluctuations in the exports of rice, particularly non-basmati rice in the recent past;

(b) whether the credibility of the country as a major rice exporter have suffered as a result of erratic supply;

(c) if so, the remedial measures taken by the Government; and

(d) the targets for export of rice both basmati and non-basmati varieties in terms of quantity and value?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) As fresh commitment for exports have been stopped with effect from 11.08.2003 because of liquidation of surplus stock, exports of non-basmati rice from Central Pool has come down during recent months, as compared to high level of exports in previous years.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) There are no quantitative restrictions on export of rice, neither are targets fixed for the same.

[Translation]

Livestock Census

2566. SHRI GIRIDHARI YADAV:
SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV:
SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD NISHAD:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government conducts livestock census on regular basis;

(b) if so, the year in which livestock census was last conducted;

(c) whether any livestock census has recently been conducted in the country;

(d) if so, the number of cattle especially milch and cross breed recorded in the country, State-wise;

(e) whether the population of animals has been decreasing every year;

(f) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(g) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Union Government to increase the number of livestock and also to improve their breed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The 17th Livestock census was conducted in 2003 with reference date 15th October 2003. All the States/Union Territories including Bihar have conducted the 17th Livestock census.

(d) The State-wise crossbred cattle population (Provisional) is given in Statement. The data on milch cattle are being compiled by different States/UTs.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

(g) The Government of India is implementing the following schemes to increase the number of livestock and also to improve their breed:

1. National Project on Cattle and Buffalo Breeding.
2. Central Herd Registration scheme.
3. Conservation of threatened breeds.

Statement

Table: Provisional Total Crossbred Cattle population-State-wise

(in 000)

Sl.No.	States/UTs	Total Crossbred Cattle
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1107
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0
3.	Assam	424
4.	Bihar*	853
5.	Chhattisgarh	253
6.	Goa	13
7.	Gujarat	634
8.	Haryana	573
9.	Himachal Pradesh	500
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	1296
11.	Jharkhand	145
12.	Karnataka	1602
13.	Kerala	1826
14.	Madhya Pradesh	315
15.	Maharashtra*	2699
16.	Manipur	69
17.	Meghalaya	23
18.	Mizoram	9
19.	Nagaland	243
20.	Orissa	1063
21.	Punjab	1531
22.	Rajasthan	464
23.	Sikkim	116
24.	Tamil Nadu*	3506
25.	Tripura	57
26.	Uttar Pradesh*	1804
27.	Uttaranchal	228
28.	West Bengal	1119
29.	Andaman & Nicobar	0
30.	Chandigarh	5
31.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0
32.	Daman & Diu	0
33.	Delhi	88
34.	Lakshadweep	2
35.	Pondicherry	65
	All India	22632

Source: Provisional results from State/UT Animal Husbandry Departments

Note: *For Bihar, data of only 12 districts are available. For rest of the 25 districts, projections have been made on the assumption that animal population per 1000 human population in the remaining 25 districts is same. For Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh, data of 1997 census have been repeated for few districts for which current census data are not yet available. For Tamil Nadu, 1997 data have been repeated as the census is being conducted now. For Arunachal Pradesh, separate nos. of crossbred cattle and indigenous is not available.

Cultivation of Bajra

2567. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL:
SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether ICAR has advised the farmers in Rajasthan that cultivation of Bajra is no more suitable;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the concrete steps being taken by the Government to extend relief to the farmers in Rajasthan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) No, Sir.

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

[English]

Assistance to Institutions engaged in promotion of Sports

2568. SHRI KIRIP CHALIHA: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is providing financial assistance to various institutions engaged in promotion of sports in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof particularly the North Eastern States including Assam during the last three years; and

(c) the details of modalities of utilization of funds by these institutions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-RESIDENT INDIANS AFFAIRS (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Under the Ministry's Schemes of (i) Grants for Creation of Sports Infrastructure; (ii) Grants of Rural Schools for purchase of sports equipment & development of playfield; (iii) Grants for promotion of Sports in Universities & Colleges; and (iv) Grants for installation of Synthetic Playing Surfaces, central assistance is provided to the State Governments, NGOs, Municipalities, Sports Associations/Federations, Schools, Colleges & Universities etc. for creation of various sports facilities for promotion of sports in accordance with the approved pattern. State-wise details of grants released during the last 3 years under the above mentioned schemes are at Statement I to IV.

Government also sanctions grants to Sports Authority of India (SAI) for promotion of sports in the country. Details of such grants released during last 3 years are at Statement V.

(c) Funds are released only on the basis of the Progress Report/Completion Certificate signed by the Government Engineer, Utilization Certificate countersigned by the competent Officer of the State Government, Audited Accounts and photographs in support of the ongoing works to ensure that the funds already released have been utilized for the purpose for which these were sanctioned.

Grants to Sports Authority of India are released on basis of Utilization Certificate.

Statement I

State-wise details of Central Assistance Released under the Scheme of Grants for Creation of Sports Infrastructure from 1999-2000 to 2003-2004

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	State/UT	2001-2002		2002-2003		2003-2004	
		Amount Released	No. of project	Amount Released	No. of project	Amount Released	No. of project
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	60.00	2	13.74	1	484.527	14
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	56.85	4	156.44	6	191.00	5

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
3.	Assam	50.00	2	73.50	3	17	2
4.	Bihar	0.00	0	0.00	0	0	0
5.	Goa	0.00	0	0.00	0	0	0
6.	Gujarat	3.89	2	0.00	0	0	0
7.	Haryana	37.00	2	1.20	1	40.17	2
8.	Himachal Pradesh	45.05	6	6.61	3	100.213	8
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	0.409	1	5.02	5	26.823	18
10.	Karnataka	31.45	4	82.20	14	58.7	8
11.	Kerala	1.66	1	0.124	1	13.018	4
12.	Madhya Pradesh	58.83	5	62.40	4	152.27	13
13.	Maharashtra	100.00	4	165.00	7	238.437	13
14.	Manipur	33.04	3	62.50	5	0	0
15.	Meghalaya	0.00	0	0.00	0	100.11	5
16.	Mizoram	0.00	0	57.75	11	136.323	21
17.	Nagaland	107.62	29	194.00	8	962.463	21
18.	Orissa	0.00	0	15.50	2	0.05	1
19.	Punjab	162.52	11	10.00	1	45.00	1
20.	Rajasthan	0.04	1	10.71	2	25.00	2
21.	Sikkim	0.00	0	0.00	0	0	0
22.	Tamil Nadu	79.05	5	97.011	8	170.369	22
23.	Tripura	0.00	0	0.00	0	0	0
24.	Uttar Pradesh	32.58	2	16.29	1	46.94	3
25.	West Bengal	10.00	1	28.00	2	20.07	15
26.	Delhi	2.52	1	0.00	0	0	0
27.	Chhattisgarh	0	0	0	0	78.50	4
28.	Jharkhand	0	0	0	0	0	0
29.	Uttaranchal	0	0	0	0	0	0
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.00	0	0.00	0	0	0
2.	Chandigarh	0.00	0	0.00	0	0	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
3.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.00	0	0.00	0	0	0
4.	Daman and Diu	0.00	0	0.00	0	0	0
5.	Pondicherry	0.00	0	0.00	0	0	0
6.	Lakshadweep	0.00	0	0.00	0	0	0
	Total	872.509	86	1057.995	85	2906.983	182

Statement II

No. of Schools/Central Assistance Provided for Basic Sports Facilities

(Rural Schools)

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	State/UT	2001-2002		2002-2003		2003-2004	
		Amount Released	No. of project	Amount Released	No. of project	Amount Released	No. of project
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0.00	0	1.12	1	0.375	1
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1.79	4	0.00	0	4.35	4
3.	Assam	14.00	19	8.673	14	30.884	41
4.	Bihar	0.93	1	1.716	2	3.295	3
5.	Chhattisgarh	2.58	3	6.398	7	1.133	2
6.	Delhi	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0
7.	Goa	2.02	2	0.85	3	0.00	0
8.	Gujarat	1.10	1	1.549	3	2.981	4
9.	Haryana	42.92	50	12.64	24	43.369	59
10.	Himachal Pradesh	33.25	32	9.97	12	5.725	15
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	0.90	2	1.00	2	3.178	3
12.	Jharkhand	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0
13.	Karnataka	18.57	19	25.08	29	16.754	26
14.	Kerala	4.01	6	2.26	4	0.00	0
15.	Madhya Pradesh	25.78	36	14.12	24	22.955	29

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
16.	Maharashtra	16.00	18	35.766	46	51.639	58
17.	Manipur	3.21	6	6.30	6	3.262	5
18.	Meghalaya	0.00	0	0.00	0	1.087	1
19.	Mizoram	0.00	0	0.75	1	0.00	0
20.	Nagaland	3.25	5	5.125	17	0.00	0
21.	Orissa	15.67	18	27.538	39	44.214	55
22.	Punjab	8.10	10	4.785	6	2.562	3
23.	Rajasthan	17.78	20	11.71	17	25.198	29
24.	Sikkim	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0
25.	Tamil Nadu	77.29	75	15.93	45	7.659	21
26.	Tripura	1.89	3	0.738	2	0.375	1
27.	Uttar Pradesh	14.29	22	21.05	29	39.609	47
28.	Uttaranchal	0.00	0	8.33	8	11.049	12
29.	West Bengal	38.45	43	88.55	102	77.981	106
30.	UTs—Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0
31.	Chandigarh	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0
34.	Daman and Diu	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0
35.	Pondicherry	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0
	Total	343.87	395	310.99	443	399.634	525

Statement III

State-wise details of Central Assistance Released under the Scheme of Grants for Promotion of Sports in Universities and Colleges from 1999-2000 to 2003-2004

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Sl.No.	State/UT	2001-2002		2002-2003		2003-2004	
		Amount Released	No. of project	Amount Released	No. of project	Amount Released	No. of project
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	55.06	17	58.089	16	87.824	27
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	2.70	1	0.00	0	0.00	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
3.	Assam	1.71	2	3.452	2	26.816	10
4.	Bihar	7.50	1	0.26	1	20.60	4
5.	Goa	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0
6.	Gujarat	2.70	1	8.00	3	18.279	10
7.	Haryana	15.49	9	3.02	3	10.313	9
8.	Himachal Pradesh	0.00	0	0.167	1	5.85	3
9.	Karnataka	99.03	50	50.94	22	39.358	35
10.	Kerala	6.77	6	8.27	5	39.80	18
11.	Madhya Pradesh	16.66	6	1.65	3	10.80	4
12.	Maharashtra	189.12	76	186.81	79	197.534	98
13.	Manipur	18.05	4	28.45	2	25.03	3
14.	Mizoram	0.00	0	0.00	0	10.72	4
15.	Nagaland	0.00	0	20.40	3	22.50	11
16.	Orissa	40.04	20	58.98	24	83.60	40
17.	Punjab	14.01	9	28.48	11	52.689	13
18.	Rajasthan	0.14	1	1.10	1	4.20	2
19.	Tamil Nadu	62.11	29	75.66	17	164.815	27
20.	Tripura	0.137	1	0.00	0	0.00	0
21.	Uttar Pradesh	46.01	22	60.24	14	101.564	41
22.	Uttaranchal	0.00	0	0.00	0	24.60	10
23.	West Bengal	16.69	9	44.09	19	79.865	42
24.	Delhi@	75.05	4	22.50	1	53.50	2
25.	UT Chandigarh	0.07	1	0.00	0	0.00	0
	Total	669.047	269	660.588	227	1080.257	413

Statement IV

State-wise details of Central Assistance Released under the Scheme of Grants for Installation of Synthetic Surfaces from 1999-2000 to 2003-2004

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	State/UT	2001-02		2002-2003		2003-2004	
		Amount released	No. of project	Amount released	No. of project	Amount released	No. of project
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0.00	0	100.00	1	00.00	0
2.	Haryana	0.00	0	0.00	0	30.00	1
3.	Himachal Pradesh	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0
4.	Jammu & Kashmir	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0
5.	Karnataka	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0
6.	Madhya Pradesh	144.955	2	0.00	0	0.00	0
7.	Maharashtra	0.00	0	0.00	0	50.00	1
8.	Manipur	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0
9.	Punjab	60.00	3	20.672	1	0.00	0
10.	Tamil Nadu	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0
11.	Uttar Pradesh	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0
12.	West Bengal	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0
13.	Delhi	180.045	4	0.00	0	0.00	0
14.	Chandigarh	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0
15.	Jharkhand	0.00	0	0.00	0	1.00	1
	Total	385	9	120.672	2	200.00	4

Statement V

Grants Released to Sports Authority of India during last 3 years.

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Year	Plan	Non Plan	Total
2001-2002	10316.00	1570.00	11886.00
2002-2003	9836.00	1597.00	11433.00
2003-2004	9808.65	1597.00	11405.65

[Translation]

Olympic Games

2569. SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to host the Olympic Games in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-RESIDENT INDIANS AFFAIRS (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) No decision has been taken in the matter.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Essential Commodities through PDS

2570. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the essential commodities are being supplied through Public Distribution System (PDS);

(b) if so, the number of items being currently supplied indicating per head allocation;

(c) whether the Government propose to link allocation to two children norm;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the efforts made to check corruption in PDS godowns?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) The Central Government presently makes available to the States wheat, rice, kerosene and sugar for distribution to the consumers under the Public Distribution System as per the following scales:

Foodgrains (rice & wheat): 35 kg. per family per month

Kerosene: The scale of issue ranges between 3 ltrs. to 12 ltrs. per card per month and varies from State to State and even from place to place within the State.

Sugar: The levy sugar quota of all States/UTs is calculated based on minimum per capita availability of 500 grams per person per month and is restricted to BPL families only for most of the States. However in the case of Hilly states a higher per capita availability is taken into consideration in view of special circumstances prevailing in their States.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Following measures have been taken to check corruption in the PDS:

(i) The Public Distribution System (Control) Order, 2001 has been issued on 31st August, 2001 under Section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 with a view to curb willful adulteration, substitution, diversion, theft of stocks from the Central godown to Fair Price Shops and at the premises of the Fair Price Shops etc.

(ii) States/UTs have been asked to actively involved the Gram Panchayats in rural areas and local bodies in urban areas in the monitoring of Fair Price Shops as measure of social audit.

(iii) A model Citizen's Charter has been issued to all the States/UTs for adoption.

BIS Marking for Household Appliances

2571. SHRI ATIQ AHAMAD: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to strictly enforce the regulation regarding Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) markings on common household appliances all over the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government making it mandatory for implementation of the BIS Act in order to ensure quality of products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) to (c) Keeping in view the safety of consumers, Government of India (Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion) has already brought 15 electrical products under mandatory Certification e.g. electrical immersion water heaters, electric iron, electric stove, electric radiators, switches for domestic and similar purposes, tungsten filament general services lamps, AC Watt-hour meters, PVC insulated cables for working voltages upto and including 1100 V etc.

(d) Mandatory Certification on products is normally enforced to ensure safety of common consumers keeping in view the aspects such as public health and safety. The final decision to bring any product under Mandatory Certification is taken by the concerned Ministry/Department of the Govt. of India.

Rengali Irrigation Project

2572. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made in the Rengali Irrigation Project of Orissa;

(b) the estimated cost and the amount spent so far on the project;

(c) the land likely to be irrigated on the completion of the project; and

(d) the time frame, if any, fixed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Rengali Irrigation Project is a part of the composite Rengali Multipurpose Project. The irrigation component envisages construction of barrage at Samal and two main canal systems on either flanks of the barrage. The barrage was completed in 1994 whereas the Right bank and Left bank canals are under construction.

(b) to (d) The latest estimated cost of the Project is Rs. 1892.50 crore (1992 price level) and an expenditure of Rs. 1067.24 crore has been incurred upto March, 2004. The total Cultivable Command Area (CCA) likely to be covered on completion of Phase-I of the Project will be 2,35,500 hectare and an additional 1,64,000 hectare under phase-II of the project. The project is scheduled for completion by 2013.

[Translation]

Technology by Scientists

2573. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN:
SHRI BRIJBHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH:
SHRI D.P. SAROJ:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken any steps to facilitate effective transfer of the latest technology in the field of agriculture to the farmers in the country particularly in Jammu and Kashmir and Uttar Pradesh in order to increase their yield;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government and the agricultural universities are engaged in arranging field demonstrations and training to the farmers;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the other steps being taken to improve the productivity in the country, State-wise; and

(f) the success achieved by the Government as a result of the measures taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) The steps taken for effective transfer of technology are given in the Statement enclosed.

(f) Agricultural Production is estimated to reach to a level of 212.05 million tonnes during 2003-04 and transfer of technology measures acted as one of the crucial inputs in the production process.

Statement

Steps taken for effective transfer of technology

Indian Council of Agricultural Research

— The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has established a network of 415 Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) including 9 in Jammu & Kashmir and 43 in Uttar Pradesh. The activities of the KVKs include technology assessment and refinement through on-farm trial/frontline demonstrations, and training of farmers and extension personnel.

— During 2003-04 these KVKs conducted 22,196 frontline demonstrations in order to demonstrate the production potential of improved agricultural technology on the farmers fields. Besides conducting training programme for 5.88 lakhs farmers to updated their knowledge and skills, the KVKs organized 59,988 extension activities with the participation of 11.87 lakhs farmers.

— ICAR has sanctioned funds for establishment of 44 Agricultural Technology Information Centres (ATICs) under 28 State Agricultural Universities (SAUs) and 16 ICAR Institutes including 1 ATIC in J&K and 4 ATICs in U.P., to provide a single window support system for availability of technology products, diagnostic services, technology information to farmers.

Extension

— States' efforts in technology transfer are augmented through ongoing schemes like mass media support to agricultural extension, Kisan call centres, organization of information support activities, involving NGOs and Farmer Organizations (FOs) in extension, farmers study tours, improving extension services for farm women.

— Kisan Call Centre located at Chandigarh and Kanpur caters to the farmers' queries from Jammu & Kashmir and Uttar Pradesh respectively. AIR-FM stations at Kathua (J&K) and Obra and Jhansi (U.P.) and Varanasi (Doordarshan) provide area specific broadcasts to the farming community. Four NGOs in Uttar Pradesh and one in Jammu & Kashmir are supported to take up location specific programmes. 612 farm women groups comprising of 17750 farm women in 12 districts of Uttar Pradesh are provided with training and extension support.

Plant Protection

— The Government of India, Department of Agriculture and Cooperation has adopted Integrated Pest Management (IPM) a latest technology in the field of plant protection. To implement transfer of this technology to the farmers, 26 Central Integrated Pest Management Centres (CIPMCs) in 22 States and One UT including 2 each in Jammu & Kashmir and Uttar Pradesh have been established.

— The Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, has also advised State Governments and Agricultural Organizations to adopt organic farming/Indigenous Technology Knowledge (ITK).

— Since adoption of IPM Technology, 8413 Farmers' Field Schools (FFSs) have been organized thereby training 34,339 Agricultural Extension Officers (AEOs) and 2,54,079 farmers. In this process 76.09 lakhs ha. area has been scanned under pest monitoring thereby releasing 19,489 million of bio-control agents while covering 56.63 lakh ha. under conservation and augmentation. During this period 35 number of season long trainings were conducted resulting in training of 1135 Subject Matter Specialists (SMS) of different States. The IPM technology advocated the use of bio-pesticides and eco-friendly pesticides. As a result, consumption of chemical pesticides in India reduced from 61,357 MT (Tech. Grade) during 1994-95 to 41,020 MT (Tech. Grade) during 2003-04. The crop production have increased due to implementation of this programme and improving environmental pollution with sound ecological balance.

Integrated Nutrient Management

— Under the National Project on Development and Use of Biofertilisers, Field demonstrations on the farmers field are organised to demonstrate the effect of biofertiliser use in different crops every year. At the maturity of crop, a farmers fair/ training programme is also organised and farmers are trained on the applied aspect of biofertiliser application and benefits of biofertilisers to the different crops.

— During the year 2003-04, (NBD-RBDCs) organized 70 field demonstration/farmers fair by their own and 70 such programmes were organised through the State Governments. These covered 30 different crops all over the country. In Uttar Pradesh 20 programmes were conducted during the period. RBDC, Hisar is also promoting biofertiliser use in J&K State. During the current year three training programmes on biofertilisers have been organised at J&K State so far.

Horticulture

— Horticulture Division is implementing a Centrally sponsored Scheme Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture in North Eastern States, Sikkim, Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttaranchal with a X plan outlay of Rs. 845.00 Crores, of which Rs. 585.00 Crores for NE States, Rs. 100.00 Crores for Jammu & Kashmir and Rs. 80.00 Crores each for Himachal Pradesh and Uttaranchal. Under the Mini Mission-I & II of the above Technology Mission steps have been taken for effective transfer of latest technology in the field of horticulture development through conduct of trainings, demonstrations, etc., besides providing assistance for expansion of area under horticulture crops and for developing infrastructure for improving their productivity.

Agricultural Implements & Machinery

— 100% assistance grant-in-aid is available to the State Governments, ICAR and State/Central organizations for the procurement of newly developed and specialized agricultural equipment and for contingency for conducting the demonstrations thereof under a Central Sector Scheme 'Promotion & Strengthening of Agricultural Mechanization through Training, Testing & Demonstration'.

— Under this scheme funds amounting to Rs. 392.58 lakh have so far been released to 20 State Governments and two Central Government organizations, of which Rs. 4.83 lakh and Rs. 16.17 lakh have been released to the States of Jammu & Kashmir and Uttar Pradesh respectively.

National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPRA)

— The National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPRA) was launched in 1990-91 in 28 States and two Union Territories based on twin concepts of integrated watershed management and sustainable farming systems. In the last two years, a total of 33695 hectares have been developed in Uttar Pradesh.

Eco-Restoration of degraded catchments of Jhelam, Chenab & Shivalik—J&K

— For the treatment of degraded areas watershed approach is followed and, therefore, all landuses viz. agriculture, forest and waste lands are being treated along with drainage line treatment as per need. An area of 4570 hectare has been developed and 3117 structures constructed in Jhelam and Chenab catchments during 2003-04. An amount of Rs. 7.32 crore has been released to the State.

Sodic land Reclamation Project—Uttar Pradesh

— World Bank assisted project for large scale reclamation of sodic soil was launched in Uttar Pradesh during the year 1993-94 for seven years. During this period an area of about 0.68 lakh ha. has been reclaimed with an expenditure of Rs. 313.70 crore. The phase II of the project was stared during 1999-2000 and so far an area of 1.26 lakh ha. has been treated with an expenditure of Rs. 555.90 crore.

Technology Mission on Oilseeds & Pulses

— Under the Centrally Sponsored Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM) being implemented from the year 2004-05, block demonstrations and Integrated Pest Management Demonstration (IPM) through State Department of Agriculture and Front Line Demonstrations through ICAR are being organized in order to disseminate information on improved production technologies amongst the farmers.

— ISOPOM is being implemented in 14 States for Oilseeds and Pulses including Uttar Pradesh. Jammu & Kashmir has been included for Maize Development Programmes under ISOPOM.

Animal Husbandry & Dairying

— Animal Husbandry & Dairying Department also undertakes steps for transfer of technology to the farmers in the field of Cattle and other Livestock, Fisheries, Poultry etc.

Transfer of Technology Component of Macro-Management Scheme—J&K

— 128 demonstrations on cropping systems approach on rice and wheat, 68 IPM demonstrations on rice & wheat, 4150 demonstrations on bio-fertilizers, 307 on green manure, 85 on fodder development, were organized during 2003-04 in Jammu Division. Besides, 57 farmers training camp, 49 demonstrations on vermiculture, 20 institutional training outside the State, 27 farmer training programmes on vegetable development, condiments and spices development, apiculture and mushroom production, 6 vegetable shows/ Exhibitions were organized during 2003-04 in Jammu Division.

Transfer of Technology Component of Macro Management—Uttar Pradesh

— The transfer of latest technologies to farmers to achieve higher productivity is attained by training of farmers and extension agencies and by organizing seminars, workshops, farmers fairs, visits, etc. During the year 2003-04, 300 farmers study programme, 284 seminar/goshties, 234 field days/agricultural exhibitions, 1360 women farmers training, etc. have been organized.

[English]

Increase in Storage Capacity

2574. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Andhra Pradesh State Warehousing Corporation has in accordance with the mutual agreement created 20 lakh MT of modern storage capacity for foodgrains;

(b) if so, whether 18.40 lakh MT space has since been handed over to FCI;

(c) if so, whether the Government has directed the FCI to enter into agreement with the State Warehousing Corporation for remaining 1.60 lakh MT space;

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

(e) by when, this agreement is likely to be finalized?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) No, Sir. However, Andhra Pradesh State Warehousing Corporation (APSWC) has entered into agreement with Food Corporation of India (FCI) for construction of only 18.40 lakh MTs godown against a capacity of 20 lakh MTs allocated to Andhra Pradesh by the Government under Seven Year Guarantee Scheme.

(b) a storage capacity of 17.50 lakh MTs has been handed over by APSWC to FCI.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) FCI has adequate storage capacity for storage of foodgrains in Andhra Pradesh.

[Translation]

Gas Connections under Eco Development Project

2575. SHRI RAGHUVEER SINGH KOSHAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether villagers in the vicinity of seven national parks have been provided the gas connections at a subsidised rate under the India Eco Development Project;

(b) if so, the details of the connections provided alongwith the subsidy given in each case, State-wise;

(c) whether the project has proved beneficial for the national parks and bird sanctuaries;

(d) if so the details and extent thereof;

(e) whether the Ministry has requested to continue the scheme of providing gas connection on subsidised rates to such villagers on a permanent basis; and

(f) if so, by when it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) Under the India Ecodevelopment Project six Protected Areas in six States have been provided gas connections. The State-wise details of gas connections along with subsidy provided, are given below:

S.No.	Name of State	Name of Tiger Reserve/ National Park	No. of Gas Connections	Subsidy
1.	Gujarat	Gir National Park	10638	75%
2.	Karnataka	Nagarhole National Park	7622	75%
3.	Jharkhand	Palamau Tiger Reserve	1708	75%
4.	Madhya Pradesh	Pench Tiger Reserve	1653	75%
5.	Kerala	Periyar Tiger Reserve	2183	75%
6.	Rajasthan	Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve	10037	75%

(c) and (d) The project was beneficial to Protected Areas since it reduced the firewood resource dependency of local people on such areas, resulting in enhancement of biodiversity conservation.

(e) and (f) Such activities are being forested in an ongoing manner under ecodevelopment component of the Centrally Sponsored Umbrella Schemes of the Ministry of Environment and Forests for wildlife conservation.

[English]

Eradi Tribunal

2576. SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Eradi Tribunal set up in 1986, to settle the Punjab-Haryana-Himachal water sharing disputes has not yet submitted any report;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) by when it is likely to be submitted to the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) The Ravi and Beas Waters Tribunal, also known as the Eradi Tribunal, constituted on 2nd April 1986 to verify the quantum of usage of water by the farmers of Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan from the Ravi Beas system as on 1st July, 1985 and to adjudicate the claims of Punjab and Haryana regarding the shares in their remaining waters, forwarded a report dated 30th January 1987. References seeking explanation and guidance on certain points of the report were made to the Tribunal in August 1987 and are under consideration of the Tribunal.

(c) The period for forwarding of further report by the Tribunal has been extended upto 5th February, 2005.

[Translation]

Sugarcane Price Policy

2577. DR. RAJESH MISHRA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is yet to finalize the uniform sugarcane price policy;

(b) whether the minimum support price of sugarcane paid to the farmers of Haryana is higher than that paid to farmers of Western Uttar Pradesh;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the remedial measures proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) Under the provisions of the Sugarcane (Control) Order, 1966, the Central Government fixes the Statutory Minimum Price (SMP) of sugarcane for each sugar season (October to September) payable by the sugar factories to the sugarcane growers. The basic SMP linked to 8.5% recovery is uniform. For every 0.1% point increase in recovery above 8.5%, the rate of premium is also uniform.

(b) The SMP is uniformly applicable to all the States in the country. However, the SMP payable by sugar mill varies from mill to mill depending on the recovery level.

(c) While the SMP for Haryana and Western Uttar Pradesh is fixed uniformly according to the above principles, it is possible that a mill in Haryana may be paying higher SMP than a mill in Uttar Pradesh if the recovery levels are different.

(d) Does not arise.

Afforestation in Aravalli Hills

2578. SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Aravalli hills in Rajasthan are becoming tree-less;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the persons held responsible for the same;

(d) whether the Government proposes to make the hills green again;

(e) if so, the schemes formulated in this regard;

(f) by when such hills are likely to be made green;

(g) whether the Government proposes to take assistance from common man and voluntary organizations in this regard; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (c) Forests of Aravalli hills including those in Rajasthan are generally subjected to biotic and a biotic pressures. However, continuous efforts are on to protect and develop the forests of the region in consonance with the available resources. persons involved in forest offences are dealt with in accordance with the provisions of law.

(d) to (f) The Ministry of Environment and Forests is implementing Integrated Forest Protection Scheme aiming at protection and conservation of forests, and National Afforestation Programme focusing on improvement and development of forests. In addition, an externally-aided project with the assistance of Japan Bank for International Cooperation titled "Rajasthan Forestry and Bio-diversity Project", dealing with afforestation and bio-diversity conservation is also being implemented in the State. It is difficult to fix a time frame for complete rehabilitation of forests or for complete greening of Aravalli Hills. However, efforts for protection and development of Aravalli forests have shown positive results, and as per State of Forest Report 2001 of the Forest Survey of India, there has been an increase of 3,478 sq. kms. in the forest cover of Rajasthan State between 1991 and 2001.

(g) and (h) People's participation is an integral component of Centrally sponsored afforestation programmes. The Ministry of Environment and Forests is encouraging Joint Forest Management (JFM) for eliciting participation of people and voluntary sector for the protection and development of forests on "Care and Share" basis. There were 3667 JFM committees in Rajasthan State covering an area of 3.76 lakh ha. of forests as on 31.07.2003.

[English]

Hovercraft Tourism

2579. SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Maharashtra proposed to set up a platform for hovercraft vessels near Gateway of India for promoting tourism;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith estimated cost involved therein; and

(c) whether possibilities of promoting hovercraft tourism through private sector participation has been examined;

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) No such proposal is under consideration of the Government of Maharashtra.

River-Linking Policy

2580. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Maharashtra through a resolution adopted by Legislative Assembly, sought certain changes in the river-linking policy of the Union Government; and

(b) if so, the details thereof along with reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) The resolution of Maharashtra Assembly demands that the State of Maharashtra be given equitable benefits by making necessary technical changes in the proposed national project for inter linking of river, to bring the waters of northern rivers into the deficit basins of Godavari, Krishna, Bhima and Tapi in Maharashtra, by means of tunnels or lift across the Vindhya Mountains. Financial provisions be made by the Central Government to the tune of 10% of the cost of Rs. 5,60,000 crore or the increased cost that may be updated in future, of national river linking project for irrigation development in State taking into account the water requirement of the State. The resolution further resolved that the Central Government be requested to take into account the strong feelings of the members of this house regarding injustice to the State of Maharashtra in distribution of water and give a concrete assurance in this regard immediately.

The Central Government envisages a comprehensive assessment of the feasibility of linking of the rivers of the country in a fully consultative manner.

[Translation]

Compliance of Pollution Norms

2581. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KUSHAWAHA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether various public sector and private sector factories such as Hindalco, Kanoria Chemicals, NTPC and Coal India set up in Sonbhadra district of Uttar Pradesh are strictly following pollution norms;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the steps being taken by the Government for ensuring compliance of pollution norms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) M/s Hindalco Industries Ltd., National Thermal Power Corporation, Coal India Ltd. and M/s Kanoria Chemicals in Sonbhadra, Uttar Pradesh have installed effluent treatment plants and air pollution control systems for achieving prescribed norms. However, M/s Kanoria Chemicals is not complying with the liquid effluent standards for Mercury and Hydrogen Chloride.

(c) The Central Pollution Control Board has directed Uttar Pradesh Pollution Control Board to take necessary action to ensure compliance with standards by M/s Kanoria Chemicals.

[English]

Introduction of Contract System for Cricket Players

2582. SHRI D. VITTAL RAO: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the contract system introduced for the cricket players has hit a road block; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-RESIDENT INDIANS AFFAIRS (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) As per information received from the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), the provisions in the draft Contract between BCCI and the Indian cricket players are still in the discussion stage with the players. Thus, the contract system has not hit a roadblock.

Coastal Area Development Fund

2583. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of funds allocated to the States from the Coastal Area Development Fund during each of the last three years, especially to Gujarat;

(b) whether the Government of Gujarat has sought more fund assistance from the Coastal Area Development Fund;

(c) if so, whether the Union Government have accepted the demand of the Government of Gujarat; and

(d) if not, the reasons for not according approval to the demands?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (d) There is no Coastal Area Development Fund

(CADF) and therefore allocation of funds under the CADF to the States does not arise. In addition, no request from the State Government of Gujarat has been received fro allocating fund from Coastal Area Development Fund during last three years. Government of India, Ministry of Agriculture are implementing two major watershed development programmes, namely, National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPRA) and Soil Conservation for Enhancing the Productivity of Degraded Lands in the Catchments of River Valley Project & Flood Prone River (RVP & FPF) through Macro Management of Agriculture (MMA). The funds are allocated for these programmes by the State Government from the overall fund allocated to the State under MMA including Gujarat. An amount of Rs. 55.51 crore has been allocated under these programmes to the State of Gujarat in last three years as per details given below:

(Amount in Rupees Crore)

Period	NWDPRA	RVP & FPR	Total
2001-02	15.00	4.99	19.99
2002-03	12.03	5.77	17.80
2003-04	13.15	4.57	17.72
Grand Total	40.18	15.33	55.51

Construction of Small Budget Hotels along National Highways

2584. SHRI M. APPADURAI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether ITDC propose to build small budget Hotels for tourists along the State National Highways; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) There is no proposal under consideration of ITDC to build small budget hotels along the State National Highways.

Five Star Eco-Hotels

2585. SHRI KAILASH BAITHA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the details of five star Eco-hotels in Delhi/New Delhi alongwith locations;

(b) whether operation of a five star hotel comes under the purview of industrial activities; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) Under the Guidelines of the Department of Tourism, Government of India for classification of hotels, there is no category of five star Eco-hotels. However, all categories of hotels including 5-star in the country are required to observe eco-friendly practices like energy conservation, water conservation, waste management, discouraging plastic and facilities for physically challenged persons, etc.

(b) and (c) All hotels including 5-star in the country are regulated by the rules, regulations and laws of the concerned State Governments and Central Government.

Agricultural Workers

2586. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has conducted any survey for determination of the existing number of the agricultural workers in the country including West Bengal;

(b) if so, the details thereof in respect of male, female and child labourers separately, State-wise;

(c) the rate of minimum wages prescribed for them and the manner in which it is implemented;

(d) whether the Government is considering the revision of existing minimum wages for agricultural labourers; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI SISH RAM OLA): (a) and (b) According to Census, 2001, the number of agricultural workers in the country including West Bengal is about 10.7 crore. The details in respect of male and female agricultural workers, state-wise, is at Statement. Sector-wise details of child labour are not maintained.

(c) to (e) The rates of minimum wages for agricultural workers in the Central Sphere and State sphere are fixed by Central and State Governments and range from Rs. 93.09 to Rs. 139.45 per day and Rs. 39.87 to Rs. 111.77 per day respectively. The minimum wages are revised by the appropriate Government from time to time and their implementation is enforced by Central Industrial Relations Machinery as well as State Envorcement Machinery.

Statement

Sl.No.	Name of the State/UTs	Number of Agricultural Labourers		
		Male	Female	Total
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	6453741	7378411	13832152
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	10329	8511	18840
3.	Assam	832508	431024	1263532
4.	Bihar	8730251	4687493	13417744
5.	Chhattisgarh	1262559	1828799	3091358
6.	Gujarat	2509651	2652007	5161658
7.	Haryana	717133	561688	1278821
8.	Himachal Pradesh	55658	38513	94171
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	190339	56082	246421
10.	Jharkhand	1485322	1365975	2851297
11.	Karnataka	2620927	3606015	6226942
12.	Kerala	1078354	542497	1620851
13.	Madhya Pradesh	3518368	3882302	7400670
14.	Maharashtra	4924034	5891228	10815262
15.	Manipur	49928	63702	113630
16.	Meghalaya	90888	80806	171694
17.	Nagaland	15985	14922	30907
18.	Orissa	2587196	2411908	4999104
19.	Punjab	1104140	385721	1489861
20.	Rajasthan	1055332	1468387	2523719
21.	Sikkim	8762	8238	17000
22.	Tamil Nadu	4256360	4381270	8637630
23.	Tripura	162640	113492	276132

1	2	3	4	5
24.	Uttar Pradesh	8245599	5155312	13400911
25.	Uttaranchal	190494	69189	259683
26.	West Bengal	5080236	2282721	7362957
27.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	4043	1126	5169
28.	Chandigarh	461	102	563
29.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	5429	9286	14715
30.	Delhi	11224	4549	15773
31.	Goa	15970	19836	35806
32.	Daman & Diu	347	976	1323
33.	Lakshadweep	00	00	00
34.	Mizoram	12775	14008	26783
35.	Pondicherry	42117	30134	72251
	Total	57329100	49446230	106775330

[Translation]

Improved Varieties of Paddy/Rice

2587. SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR DUBEY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of paddy/rice produced in the country during the last three years;

(b) the measures taken to increase the production and quality thereof; and

(c) the strategy drawn up to develop improved varieties of paddy/rice?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) the quantity or rice produced in the country during 2001-02 to 2003-04 is shown below:

(Quantity in Million Tonnes)

Crop	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
Rice	93.34	72.66	87.00*

*As per the advance estimates released on 5.8.2004.

(b) For increasing the production and productivity of rice in the country, ICDP-Rice is being implemented under Macro Management Programme where the states have been given flexibility to choose the components most suited to their agro-climatic conditions and local needs.

Under the scheme assistance is provided for propagation of improved production technology, hybrid rice production technology, integrated pest management through field demonstration, training of farmers including women; transfer of technology through electronic media and published literature; farm implements, installation of sprinkler irrigation system; varietal replacement; production of certified seeds, etc. as per the work plan of the State Governments. Besides, frontline demonstrations are also organized by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) on farmers fields.

(c) Strategy drawn up to develop improved varieties of Paddy/Rice is given as under:

- Major emphasis is being given for the development of Superior varieties of Rice that combine high yield with resistance/tolerance to diseases and inset, pest, etc.
- So far more than 690 high yielding rice varieties have been developed and released for cultivation through All India Coordinated Rice Improvement Project (AICRIP).

- Through hybrid rice network program, 17 rice hybrids have been released so far.
- High yielding salt tolerant varieties like CSR 10, CSR 13, CSR 27, CSR 30 have been developed by collaborating entire at Karnal. Among these, the latest variety CSR 30 released by CVRC as yamini is the first superfine grained basmati variety suitable for sodiac as well as normal soils.

Scheme for Digging of Tubewells

2588. SHRI SHISHUPAL PATLE:
SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has started scheme for digging of tubewells of medium depth in certain districts of States and have allocated funds for the purpose;

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

(c) the total number of tubewells to be installed and the quantum of expenditure to be incurred on this by the Government; and

(d) by when the work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Ministry of Water Resources has not started any scheme for digging of tubewells in States.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[English]

Locust Detected by DPPQS

2589. SHRI SURENDRA PRAKASH GOYAL:
SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA:
DR. RAJESH MISHRA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the vigilance being maintained by the Directorate of Plant Protection, Quarantine and Storage (DPPQS) to detect any locust built up during the last three years;

(b) the action taken to control locust; and

(c) the funds sanctioned to DPPQS and utilization thereof during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) The Locust Warning Organisation of the Directorate of Plant Protection, Quarantine and Storage (DPPQS) maintains continuous vigilance on locust activity in the Scheduled Desert Area (SDA). No significant locust build up has been reported during the last three years.

(b) Any locust infestation in groups/patches observed during survey is controlled by ground control operations using micro ULVA and vehicle mounted ULVA MAST sprayers.

(c) The funds allotted and utilized under plan and non-plan schemes for locust control are as under:

(Rupees in Lakhs)

Year	Plan			Non-Plan		
	BE	RE	Actual expenditure	BE	RE	Actual expenditure
2001-02	105.00	88.87	71.06	295.00	299.00	277.56
2002-03	38.00	53.20	53.24	296.00	334.00	270.94
2003-04	122.00	115.80	94.34	315.00	315.23	279.89

Foreign Assistance for Irrigation Projects

2590. SHRI RAJENDER KUMAR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether several international organisations are coming forward to fund irrigation projects in the States;

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

(c) the assistance provided to the State Governments by the Union Government for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) At present 16 irrigation projects are under implementation in various States with external assistance. A statement showing State-wise details of such projects is given at statement.

(c) The Central Government assists the State Government in formulation of proposals in desired format and its techno-economic evaluation.

Statement

State-wise details of ongoing Externally Aided Irrigation Projects

Sl.No.	State	Name of Projects	Funding Agency	Date of Agreement	Assistance amount in Million Donor Currency	Type of Assistance
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Andhra Pradesh Irrigation Project-III Cr. 2952-IN Ln-4166-IN	World Bank	03.06.1997	Credit. SDF 108.100 Loan US$ 130.00	Credit Loan
		A.P. Economic Restructuring Project (Irrigation component) Ln-4360-IN	World Bank	04.02.1999	US$ 170.00	Loan
		Modernisation on Kurnool-Cuddapah canal project	JBIC Japan	25.01.1996	Yen 16049.00	Loan
2.	Gujarat	Hydroplus Fuesegate System	France	10.12.1998	FF 34.74	Credit
3.	Himachal Pradesh	Minor Irrigation & Rural Water Supply Project	Kfw, Germany	31.10.2002	DM 5.20	Loan
4.	Karnataka	Karnataka Community Based Tank Management Project	World Bank	06.06.2002	SDR 80.00	Credit
5.	Madhya Pradesh	Rajghat Canal Major Irrigation Project	JBIC, Japan	25.02.1997	Yen 13222.00	Loan

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
6.	Maharashtra	Saline Land Reclamation Project Phase-II	EEC	11.7.1995	EUR 15.50	Grant
		Maharashtra Minor irrigation project	Kfw, Germany	31.12.1998	EUR 23.008	Loan
7.	Orissa	Orissa Water Resource Consolidation Project Cr. 2801-IN	World Bank	05.01.1996	SDF 186.800	Credit
		Orissa Minor Irrigation Project	EEC	3.7.1995	EUR 10.70	Grant
		Rengali Irrigation Project	JBIC, Japan	12.12.1997	Yen 7760.00	Loan
8.	Pondicherry	Modernisation of Tank Irrigation System	EEC	21.2.1997	EUR 6.65	Grant
9.	Rajasthan	Rajasthan Water Sector Restructuring Project Cr. 3603-IN	World Bank	15.3.2002	SDR 110.00	Credit
10.	Tamil Nadu	Tamil Nadu Water Resource Consolidation Project Cr. 2745-IN	World Bank	22.09.1995	SDR 161.900	Credit
11.	Uttar Pradesh	UP Water Sector Restructuring Project Cr. 3602-IN	World Bank	08.3.2002	SDR 117.00	Credit

[Translation]

Assistance to Madhya Pradesh for Various Schemes

2591. SHRI CHHATAR SINGH DARBAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of proposals submitted by the Government of Madhya Pradesh are lying pending with the Union Government seeking assistance for schemes like Development of National Parks/Sanctuaries, Tiger Reserves, Fire Safety for Forests, Welfare Schemes, Eco-Development, Forest-Development etc.;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons for not releasing assistance so far; and

(c) by when assistance is likely to be provided?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (c) The details of the proposals received by the Ministry of Environment and Forests from Government of Madhya Pradesh seeking assistance under different schemes and their current status are given in the statement.

Statement

Sl.No.	Schemes	Details of the Proposal submitted by the State Government of Madhya Pradesh	Current Status of these Proposals	When the assistance is likely to be released
1.	National Parks and Sanctuaries	Under the Scheme 'Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries' 22 Annual Plans of Operations (three for the National Parks and 19 for the Wildlife Sanctuaries) have been received during June 2004.	The proposals have been scrutinized and such proposals as were found to be incomplete and unsigned, were returned to the State Government with request to resubmit complete proposals.	Under the scheme, on receipt of valid proposals are the proposals are processed for approval and release of funds subject to availability of the budget and within the tenure of the financial year.
2.	Tiger Reserves	Under the 'Project Tiger' five Proposals (Annual Plan of Operations) have been received	All Proposals have been approved	A total of Rs. 300.00 lakh has been released during the current financial year
3.	Fire Safety of Forests	Under the 'Integrated Forest Protection Scheme' a Proposal has been received. The current funding pattern of this Scheme is 25% by the State and 75% by the Central Government.	State Government is required to make budgetary provision of 25% of the proposed cost of proposal under appropriate Head of Account to be eligible to receive 75% share from Central Government.	Under the scheme, on receipt of valid proposals the proposals are processed for approval and release of funds subject to availability of the budget and within the tenure of the financial year
4.	Animal Welfare Schemes	No such proposal is pending with the Ministry	Not applicable	Not applicable
5.	Eco-Development	Under the 'India Eco-Development Project' the State 1. Improved Protected Area Management 2. Village Eco-development 3. Environmental Education and Awareness 4. Impact Monitoring & Research	The proposals have been approved.	A total Rs. 65.45 lakh has been released to the State for these activities during the current financial year.
6.	Forest Development	Under the 'National Afforestation Programme' (NAP) 42 proposals have been received.	As many as 30 Proposals have already been sanctioned.	An amount of Rs. 3665 lakh has been released to the State Government since 2000-01.

Number of Farmers

2592. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of farmers in India;

(b) the number of farmers having in possession four or even less than four acre land; and

(c) the number of agricultural labourers in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) As per Agricultural Census 1995-96, the total number of Operational Holdings in the country is 115.58 million.

(b) The number of farmers having in possession four or even less than four-acre land is not available. However, number of operational holdings who are operating less than 2.0 hectare (approx. 4.94 Acre) of land, as per Agricultural Census 1995-96, is 92.82 million.

(c) The number of agricultural labourers in the country is 106.78 million, as per the Population Census, 2001.

Areas Identified for Horticulture Cultivation

2593. SHRI K.C. SINGH 'BABA': Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has conducted any survey to identify the areas where horticulture cultivation can be enhanced to derive maximum horticultural yields; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) No specific survey has been conducted by the Government of India to identify areas where horticulture cultivation can be taken up. However, the State Governments prepare annual Work Plans for taking up programmes on horticulture development under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes.

Attendance of Labourers in FCI

2594. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that in place of putting signature or thumb impression in the attendance register by the labourers working in the depots of the Food Corporation of India (FCI), only 'P' and '' is marked for their presence and absence;

(b) whether as a result of this practice proxy labour is in existence in FCI;

(c) if so, the State-wise and depot-wise details of the proxy labour detected in various depots of FCI during the last two years; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to check this practice?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) FCI has laid down a detailed procedure for marking attendance of labourers, including showing of identity cards, issuance of work slips, marking of Present/ Absent on booking-cum-output slip etc.

(b) Only stray cases of proxy labour have come to the notice of the FCI.

(c) One incident each of deployment of proxy labour has been detected at the FCI depots at Sirsa in Haryana Region and at Manmad in Maharashtra Region. Also, the Unit Incharge, CISF at FCI Central Storage Depot Debram, (FCI District, Siliguri) reported about intrusion of proxy labour in October, 2003.

(d) Apart from checking of identity cards, strict vigil is maintained by the FCI to check proxy labour.

[English]

Infrastructure of Consumer Forums

2595. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Orissa has requested the Union Government for grant of Rs. 1096 crores towards infrastructure development of consumer forums;

(b) if so, whether the Government has since examined the proposal; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken to ensure the release of funds to the Government of Orissa for the said purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) to (c) Department has not received any proposal for grant of Rs. 1096 crores towards infrastructure development of consumer forums from Government of Orissa.

Tourism Development in Gujarat

2596. DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any plan to develop "Tourist Circuits" connecting Rajkot, Somnath, Junagadh, Jamnagar, Dwarka, Porbandar and Bhavnagar in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to promote tourism in Saurashtra region of Gujarat by the Union Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) Destinations and Integrated Tourism Circuits are processed for implementation based on specific proposals received from State Governments. No such specific proposal has been received from the State Government of Gujarat.

(c) In Saurashtra the following projects have been sanctioned for development for the region.

Sl.No.	Name of the project	Amount sanctioned (Rs. in lakhs)
1.	Floodlighting of Somnath Temple	17.40
2.	Cafeteria at Porbandar	14.60
3.	Public conveniences at Upper Kot, Junagadh	8.78
4.	Tourist Reception Centre, Junagadh	12.18
5.	Floodlight at Lakhota Palace, Jamnagar	7.76
6.	Floodlighting at Dwarkadheesh Temple	8.21
7.	Sound & Light show at Somnath	93.77
8.	Wayside amenities in Sikka	15.00
9.	Dwarka Development Plan Phase I	47.80
10.	Dwarka Development Plan Phase II	41.11
11.	Ethnic Saurashtra Village, Anandpur Navagam (Rajkot)	27.00
12.	Tourist Reception Centre at Porbandar	12.18

Compensation to the Families of Victims of Wild Animals

2597. SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID:
SHRI HEMLAL MURMU:
SHRI SUNIL KHAN:
SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD:

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

(a) whether the Government provides compensation to the families of the victims of wild animals including elephants who destroy the crops and kill the people;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the criteria fixed in this regard;

(c) the number of such incidents which came to notice of the Government during the last three years and current year, till-date, State-wise and location-wise;

(d) the amount of compensation paid or proposed to be paid to the families of persons killed in such incidents during the said period, State-wise and Case-wise; and

(e) the steps taken to protect the lives of people from animals' attacks and to keep the animals in their habitats?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) The Central Government provides financial assistance to the State Governments for payment of ex-gratia relief to the victims of depredation by wild animals. The assistance is provided under three Centrally Sponsored Schemes, viz. Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries, Project Tiger and Project Elephant. The criteria for payment of ex-gratia relief are field by the concerned State Governments and vary from State to State. However, the Central Government has requested the State Governments for increasing the amount of ex-gratia payment in case of death or permanent incapacitation of any person by a wild animal to Rs. 1 lakh.

(c) The details of cases of depredation by wild animals are neither compiled nor collated at the Central Government level as these cases are not generally reported to the Central Government.

(d) Funds for ex-gratia relief are provided by the Central Government on the basis of annual plans of operation submitted by the State Governments under different schemes. Details regarding the financial assistance provided by the Central Government to different States are given in Statement enclosed.

(e) Steps usually taken by the State Forest Departments for mitigation of conflict between the wild animals and human-beings are as follows:

- Erecting barriers (trenches, electric fencing etc.) to stop straying of wild animals into agricultural fields, villages and other sensitive areas.
- Distributing crackers, search lights etc. among the villagers for casing away wild animals from agricultural fields.
- Engaging special wildlife squads in strategic locations for helping people in driving wild animals back into forests.
- Undertaking habitat-development works for wild animals within forests.
- Educating the people to live in harmony with wild animals.
- Undertaking eco-development works in villages situated on the fringe of forests for reducing their dependence on forests for firewood, fodder and grazing of cattle.
- Paying ex-gratia relief to the affected people for loss of human life, crop and houses.

Statement

Funds released under Centrally Sponsored Schemes for Ex-Gratia Relief

(Rs. in lakh)

State/U.T.	Project Elephant			Project Tiger			National Parks & Sanctuaries		
	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2001-02	2002-03	2004-04
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Andhra Pradesh	—	2.00	3.00	2.50	7.50	4.00	—	0.50	3.25
Arunachal Pradesh	7.00	7.00	7.00	—	—	—	11.00	2.00	1.80
Assam	8.00	18.00	23.00	0.50	0.50	5.00	—	—	—
Chhattisgarh	—	—	—	1.20	1.20	—	—	1.00	12.95
Himachal Pradesh	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Jharkhand	10.00	20.00	20.00	3.50	2.00	1.50	—	—	—
Jammu and Kashmir	—	—	—	-	—	—	1.00	—	2.91
Karnataka	17.00	10.00	20.00	1.75	0.50	5.00	—	—	—
Kerala	10.00	10.00	8.00	—	—	—	5.25	—	—
Madhya Pradesh	—	—	—	6.50	12.00	2.50	0.50	0.63	0.43
Maharashtra	—	—	—	0.50	—	—	—	—	2.00
Manipur	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1.00	—
Meghalaya	—	10.00	12.00	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mizoram	—	—	—	—	3.00	2.00	0.25	5.60	1.00
Nagaland	—	5.00	5.00	—	—	—	1.50	0.50	—
Orissa	20.00	39.50	30.00	0.50	0.50	4.00	3.40	2.15	2.70
Rajasthan	—	—	—	0.90	23.50	4.00	0.75	0.25	4.45
Sikkim	—	—	—	—	—		0.50	0.50	—
Tamil Nadu	20.00	10.00	30.00	—	1.50	2.00	—	3.00	2.00
Tripura	1.00	3.00	1.00	—	—	—	0.25	2.00	1.00
Uttar Pradesh.	—	—	—	3.00	1.00	—	—	0.20	0.20
Uttaranchal	10.00	19.00	12.00	10.00	—	5.00	1.60	12.885	10.55
West Bengal	26.00	15.00	20.00	13.00	1.00	3.00	4.50	4.00	4.00
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1.00	—
Total	129.00	168.50	191.00	43.85	54.20	38.00	30.50	37.215	51.24

Kisan Call Centres

2598. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:
SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a "Kasan Call Centres" scheme has been put into operation;

(b) if so, the details and objectives thereof; and

(c) the number of such call centres set up in the country as on date, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Kisan Call Centre scheme has been functioning from 21.1.04. The Call Centres can be accessed by farmers all over the country (except Dadra & Nagar Haveli) on common toll free number 1551. The calls are received at 12 Call Centres where agriculture graduates attend to agriculture graduates transfer the call to experts located in agriculture universities and other agriculture related organizations. The Call Centres are attended by agriculture graduates from 6 A.M. to 10 P.M.

and beyond these hours the calls are attended in the IVRS mode.

Since inception the Call Centres have received 436257 calls upto 31st July, 04.

The objective of the scheme has been to make agriculture knowledge available to the farmer as and when desired.

(c) The list is enclosed.

Statement

Kisan Call Centre location-wise call seats distribution

Sl.No.	Call originating State/Circle	Existing No. of Seats	Location of call termination
1	2	3	4
1.	Maharashtra	5	Mumbai
2.	Gujarat	3	Mumbai
3.	Goa, Daman and Diu	3	Mumbai
4.	Uttar Pradesh	5	Kanpur
5.	Uttaranchal	5	Kanpur
6.	Madhya Pradesh	5	Indore
7.	Chhattisgarh	3	Indore
8.	Karnataka	3	Bangalore
9.	Kerala	3	Kochi
10.	Lakshadweep	2	Kochi
11.	Andhra Pradesh	4	Hyderabad
12.	Himachal Pradesh	3	Chandigarh
13.	Punjab	3	Chandigarh
14.	Jammu and Kashmir	3	Chandigarh
15.	Delhi	3	Delhi
16.	Haryana	5	Delhi
17.	Rajasthan	5	Jaipur
18.	West Bengal	5	Kolkata
19.	Bihar	4	Kolkata
20.	Orissa	4	Kolkata
21.	Jharkhand	4	Kolkata
22.	Assam	3	Kolkata

1	2	3	4
23.	Nagaland	3	Kolkata
24.	Mizoram	3	Kolkata
25.	Manipur	3	Kolkata
26.	Meghalaya	3	Kolkata
27.	Sikkim	3	Kolkata
28.	Tripura	3	Kolkata
29.	Arunachal Pradesh	3	Kolkata
30.	Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry	5	Chennai
31.	Andaman and Nicobar	3	Chennai
	Total Seats	114	

Kolkata is counted as two locations, one for West Bengal, Bihar, Orissa, Jharkhand and the other for Assam, Manipur, Mizoram, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Sikkim & Tripura, Arunachal Pradesh.

Employment Exchanges

2599. SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR:
SHRI NAKUL DAS RAI:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of employment exchanges in the country, State-wise;

(b) the number of computerized employment exchanges out of them, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government propose to convert the scheme for computerizing all the employment exchanges into a centrally sponsored scheme in the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the measures taken/proposed to be taken to improve the entire working of employment exchanges in the country?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI SISH RAM OLA): (a) The number of employment exchanges in the country, State-wise is given in the Statement enclosed.

(b) The number of computerized employment exchanges, State-wise is indicated in the same Statement.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) 349 employment exchanges have already been computerized. The focus is also on Employment Exchanges offering career counselling and vocational guidance to the job seekers.

Statement

The number of employment exchanges State-wise and the number of employment exchanges computerized, State-wise in the country

Sl.No.	Name of the States/UT Government	No. of Employment Exchanges including UEIGB's (As on 31-05-2004)	No. of Employment Exchanges including UEIGBs Computerized (As on 31-03-2004)
1	2	3	4
1.	Andaman & Nicobar	1	1
2.	Andhra Pradesh	31	22*
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	10	1*
4.	Assam	52	2*
5.	Bihar	37	4*

1	2	3	4
6.	Chandigarh	2	1*
7.	Chhattisgarh	18	3*
8.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	1	0*
9.	Daman and Diu	2	1*
10.	Delhi	14	5
11.	Goa	1	1
12.	Gujarat	42	42
13.	Haryana	61	10
14.	Himachal Pradesh	15	3
15.	Jammu and Kashmir	14	0*
16.	Jharkhand	33	5*
17.	Karnataka	40	21
18.	Kerala	86	10
19.	Lakshadweep	1	0*
20.	Madhya Pradesh	58	9*
21.	Maharashtra	46	46
22.	Manipur	11	1
23.	Meghalaya	11	0
24.	Mizoram	3	1*
25.	Nagaland	7	0
26.	Orissa	40	14*
27.	Pondicherry	1	1
28.	Punjab	46	4
29.	Rajasthan	42	15*
30.	Sikkim	**	**
31.	Tamil Nadu	34	34
32.	Tripura	5	0
33.	Uttaranchal	23	10
34.	Uttar Pradesh	84	47
35.	West Bengal	75	35*
	Total	947	349

UEIGB: University Employment Information and Guidance Bureau.

*As on 31-05-2002.

**No Employment Exchanges functioning in this State.

[Translation]

National Child Labour Project

2600. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR:
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJI:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of central financial assistance provided to various states under National Child Labour Project (NCLP) during the last three years and the current financial year, alongwith the details of the assistance sought by the various State Governments for this purpose, State-wise; and

(b) the number of child labour likely to be benefited through this projects in the country during the Tenth Five Year Plan, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI SISH RAM OLA): (a) The amount of central financial assistance provided to various states under the Scheme of National Child Labour Project including Grant-in-Aid to Voluntary Agencies during the last three years is as follows:

Year	Amount (Rs. in crores)
2001-02	61.85
2002-03	65.10
2003-04	66.76

The amount of financial assistance provided so far during the current financial year is Rs. 29.60 crores.

The districts for implementing the scheme of NCLP are identified by the Government of India on the basis on the Census figures and funds are allotted to these districts as per the budget fixed for various activities under the Scheme.

(b) Under the Tenth Plan strategy, it is proposed to eliminate child labour from hazardous occupations through the focused action under the Scheme of NCLP & effective convergence with the Scheme of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) of the Ministry of Human Resource Development.

[English]

Fairs, Festivals and Exhibitions in States

2601. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to organise fairs, festivals and exhibitions in the States including West Bengal during 2004-2005 to promote domestic/International tourism; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith funds allocated and released to the State Governments, for the purpose during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Central Financial assistance is provided to State Governments on their request for organizing fairs, festivals and events. Details of funds allocated and released to the state governments project-wise during 2004-2005 is placed at Statement enclosed.

Statement

Statewise Allocation of Funds for Fairs, Festivals and Events during 2004-2005

Sl.No.	State Government	Details of the festivals	Amount Sanctioned (Rs. in lakhs)	Amount Released (Rs. in lakhs)
1.	Delhi	Qutab Festival	5.00	4.00
2.	Delhi	Garden Festival	5.00	4.00
3.	Jammu & Kashmir	Ambassador Cup Golf Tournament at Srinagar	10.80	8.64
4.	Jammu & Kashmir	Sindhu Darshan Festival, Leh	35.00	35.00
5.	Kerala	India International Boat Show, Kochi	15.00	12.00
6.	Arunachal Pradesh	Dree Festival	5.00	4.00
7.	Tripura	Neermahal Festival	5.00	4.00
8.	Tripura	Orange & Tea Festival	5.00	4.00

Loan from Sugar Development Fund

2602. SHRI PRAKASHBAPU V. PATIL:
SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:
SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT:
SHRI TUKARAM GANGADHAR GADAKH:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Maharashtra Government has set proposals for loan from the Sugar Development Fund;

(b) if so, the details thereof, particularly with regard to Sangli district;

(c) whether the Government have accorded approval to all the proposals of the Maharashtra Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the quantum of loan granted in each case; and

(e) if not, the number of proposals not approved/ pending alongwith the reasons for their pendency?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE

MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH SINGH): (a) to (e) The proposals received from the Government of Maharashtra for grant of loan for cane development from the Sugar Development Fund, district-wise, during 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04 and their present position are as indicated in the statement enclosed.

Statement

1.4.2001 to 31.3.2002

Sl.No.	Name of the Sugar Mill	Amount Sanctioned	Position of Proposal (Remarks)
1	2	3	4
	Ahmednagar		
1.	Dr. Baburao Bapuji Tanpure SSK Ltd., (Rahuri SSK Ltd), Distt: Ahmednagar, Maharashtra.	—	Rejected.
2.	Kedareshwar SSK Ltd., Distt: Ahmednagar, Maharashtra.	—	Information regarding Net worth. Awaited from the Sugar Factory.
3.	Dnyaneshwar SSK Ltd., Distt: Ahmednagar, Maharashtra.	Rs. 189.00 lakhs	A.A. issued on 17.6.03
	Pune		
1.	Someshwar SSK Ltd., Distt: Pune, Maharashtra Maharashtra.	Rs. 131.33 lakhs	A.A. issued on 5.2.04
2.	Sant Tukaram SSK Ltd., Distt: Pune, Maharashtra.	Rs. 279.00 lakhs	A.A. issued on 3.9.02.
3.	Bhima Shankar SSK Ltd., Distt: Pune, Maharashtra	Rs. 269.71 lakhs	A.A. issued on 19.3.02.
	Beed		
1.	Vaidyanath SSJ Ltd., Distt. Beed, Maharashtra	Rs. 105.57 lakhs	A.A. issued on 11.2.04
	Solapur		
1.	Swami Samarth SSK Ltd., Distt. Solapur, Maharashtra	Rs. 275.73 lakhs	A.A. issued on 11.2.04
2.	Lokmmangal Agro Industries Ltd., Distt. Solapur, Maharashtra	Rs. 193.34 lakhs	A.A. issued on 5.2.04
	Satara		
1.	Kisanveer Satara SSK Ltd., Distt. Satara, Maharashtra	—	Rejected.
2.	Krishna SSK Ltd., Distt. Satara, Maharashtra	Rs. 157.50 lakhs	A.A. issued on 24.6.03
3.	Jarandeshwar SSK Ltd., Distt. Satara, Maharashtra	Rs. 224.64 lakhs	A.A. issued on 3.9.02.

1	2	3	4
	Nagpur		
1.	Ram Ganesh Gadkari SSKJ Ltd., Distt. Nagpur, Maharashtra	—	Information regarding Networth Awaited from the Sugar Factory.
	Osmanabad		
1.	Natural Sugar & Allied Industries Ltd., Distt. Osmanabad, Maharashtra.	Rs. 137.36 lakhs	A.A. issued on 4.8.03
	Latur		
1.	Pannageshwar SSK Ltd., Distt. Latur, Maharashtra.	—	Information awaited.
	1-4-2002 to 31.3.2003		
	Ahmednagar		
1.	Shri Ganesh SSK Ltd., Distt: Ahmednagar	Rs. 115.11 lakhs	AA issued on 17.12.2003
2.	Chatrapati Sambhaji Raje Sakhar Udyog Ltd., Distt. Ahmednagar, Maharashtra.	Rs. 243.80 lakhs	A.A. issued on 11.02.04
3.	Saikrupa SSK Ltd., Distt. Ahmednagar, Maharashtra	—	Under Process.
4.	Nagar Taluka SSK Ltd., Walki, Distt., Ahmednagar, Maharashtra	—	Information awaited from the mill.
	Solapur		
1.	Chandrabhaga SSK Ltd., Distt. Solapur, Maharashtra	—	Under process.
2.	Vittalrao Shinde SSK Ltd., Distt: Solapur	—	Information awaited from the mill.
3.	Shri Vithal SSK Ltd., Venunagar, Distt. Solapur, Maharashtra	—	Information awaited from the mill.
	Satara		
1.	Rayat SSK Ltd., Distt. Satara, Maharashtra	Rs. 184.399 lakhs	A.A. issued on 6.10.03.
2.	Ajinkyatara SSK Ltd., Distt. Satara, Maharashtra	Rs. 153.31 lakhs.	A.A. issued on 5.2.04.
	Latur		
1	Balaghat SSK Ltd., Distt. Latur, Maharashtra	—	Information regarding Networth awaited from the Sugar Factory.
2.	Vikas SSK Ltd., Distt: Latur, Maharashtra.	Rs. 215.47 lakhs	A.A. issued on 5.2.2004
	Osmanabad		
1.	Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar, SSK Ltd., Distt: Osmanabad.	Rs. 239.99 lakhs	A.A. issued on 11.2.2004

1	2	3	4
2.	Shree Vittal SSK ltd., Distt: Osmanabad.	—	Revised proposal yet to be submitted by the mill.
	Kolhapur		
1.	Sadashivrao Mandlik SSK Ltd., Kolhapur.	Rs. 86.796 lakhs	A.A. issued on 11.2.2004.
2.	Shri Chhatrapati Rajaram SSK Ltd., Kasabe-Bawada, Distt. Kolhapur, Maharashtra.	Rs. 136.30 lakhs	A.A. issued on 4.12.03
3.	Deshbhakta Ranaparma Panchaganga SSK Ltd., Distt. Kolhapur, Maharashtra	Rs. 110.25 lakhs	A.A. issued on 5.2.04
4.	Bhogawati SSK Ltd., Distt. Kolhapur, Maharashtra	Rs. 155.52 lakhs	A.A. issued on 6.2.04.
5.	Sharad SSK Ltd., Distt: Kolhapur	—	Information awaited from the mill.
	Sangli		
1.	Manganga SSK Ltd., Distt: Sangli.	—	Information regarding Networth awaited from the Sugar Factory.
	Nanded		
1.	Jai Ambika SSK Ltd., Distt: Nanded, Maharashtra	—	Information regarding Networth awaited from the Sugar Factory.
2.	Hutatma Jaiwantrao Patil SSK Ltd., Distt: Nanded, Maharashtra	—	Information regarding Networth awaited from the Sugar Factory.
	Jalna		
1.	Rameshwar SSK Ltd., Distt. Jalana, Maharashtra	Rs. 268.185 lakhs	A.A. issued on 5.2.04
	Buldana		
1.	Anuradha Sugar Mills Ltd., Distt. Buldana, Maharashtra	—	Information regarding Networth awaited from the Sugar Factory.
	Jalgaon		
1.	Chopda SSSK Ltd., Distt. Jalgaon, Maharashtra	—	Information regarding Networth awaited from the Sugar Factory.

(*) Administrative Approval.

1	2	3	4
		1.4.2003 to 31.3.2004	
	Ahmednagar		
1.	Kukadi SSK Ltd., Tal. Shrigonda, Distt. Ahmednagar, Maharashtra	—	Information awaited from the mill.
	Pune		
1.	Ghodganga SSK Ltd., Ravsaheb Nagar, Distt. Pune, Maharashtra	—	Information awaited.
2.	Nira-Bhima SSK Ltd., Distt. Pune, Maharashtra	Rs. 206.32 lakhs	A.A. (*) issued on 23.4.04.
	Solapur		
1.	Makai SSK Ltd., Distt. Solapur, Maharashtra	—	Information awaited from the mill.
	Satara		
1.	Pratapgad SSK Ltd., Distt. Satara, Maharashtra	—	Information awaited from the mill.
	Latur		
1.	Shivajirao Patil Nilangekar SSK Ltd., Ambulga, Distt. Latur, Maharashtra.	—	Information awaited from the mill.
2.	Priyadarshini SSK Ltd., Tal. Udir, Distt. Latur, Maharashtra	—	Information awaited from the mill.
	Osmanabad		
1.	Shambu Mahadeo Sugar Allied Industries Ltd., Distt. Osmanabad, Maharashtra	Rs. 273.93 lakhs.	A.A. issued on 23.4.04.
	Kolhapur		
1.	Shree Tatya Saheb Kore Warana SSK Ltd., Warananagar, Distt. Kolhapur, Maharashtra	Rs. 203.40 lakhs.	A.A. issued on 23.4.04.
	Sangli		
1.	Dongrai Sageshwar SSK Ltd., Distt. Sangli, Maharashtra	—	Rejected.
2.	Sarvoday SSK Ltd., Distt. Sangli, Maharashtra	—	Under Process.
	Hingoli		
1.	Barashiv Hanuman SSK Ltd., Distt. Hingoli, Maharashtra	—	Under Process.
	Nasik		
1.	Niphad SSK Ltd.; Distt. Nasik, Maharashtra	—	Under Process.

(*)—Administrative Approval.

[Translation]

National Commission for Unorganised Sector

2603. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up a national commission for the unorganised sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when this commission is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI SISH RAM OLA): (a) to (c) No, Sir. However, a proposal to establish a National Commission to examine the problems facing enterprises in the unorganised, informal sector is under consideration of the Government. The proposed Commission will be asked to make appropriate recommendations to provide technical, marketing and credit support to these enterprises.

[English]

Problems of Farmers

2604. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR:
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the problems of agricultural credit, agricultural prices and technological and marketing support to farmers; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to mitigate the hardship of the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) In order to mitigate the problems of agricultural credit, prices, technological and marketing support to farmers, Government has undertaken a number of steps. Recently, Government has announced several initiatives for enhancement of Farm Credit.

Government is implementing Minimum Support Price Scheme to provide protection to the farmers against decline in market prices and to enable farmers to get remunerative prices for their products. Further government is implementing Market Interventions Scheme for various Horticultural commodities so as to prevent distress sale by the farmers. National Agricultural Insurance Scheme is being implemented to provide insurance coverage and financial support to the farmers in the event of failure of any of the notified crop as a result of natural calamities, pests and diseases.

In order to address the problem of post harvest management and storage of agricultural products, Government is implementing schemes for construction of cold Storages and Rural Godown.

Schemes are being implemented for production of agriculture and horticulture products in which assistance is given under various components.

[Translation]

Sensitive Posting for Tainted Officers

2605. SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of officers against whom C.B.I. inquiry is pending are holding sensitive posts in corporations and undertakings under the ministry;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Rural Godowns

2606. SHRI DINSHA PATEL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of godowns set up under central sector rural godown scheme in the country at present, State-wise; and

(b) the number of such godowns proposed to be set up in the country including Gujarat during 2004-05, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) The Ministry of Agriculture is implementing a Central Sector Scheme 'Capital Investment Subsidy for Construction/Expansion/Renovation of Rural Godowns' from 01.04.2001. The aim of the Scheme is to create scientific storage in rural areas to meet the requirements of farmers for storing their farm produce. Since the inception of the Scheme, 3731 projects for construction of new godowns with storage capacity of 91.91 lakh tonnes and 1120 projects of renovation of cooperative godowns of 13.02 lakh tonnes capacity have been sanctioned. State-wise details of the godowns constructed and renovated as on 31.03.2004 are given in the enclosed Statement I & II.

(b) During 2004-05, it is proposed to construct new storage capacity of 30 lakh tonnes and renovate 8.00 lakh tonnes of existing cooperative godowns. There is no State-wise allocation of funds under the above Scheme. Construction of rural godowns is to be decided by the entrepreneur on need basis and its economic viability as a bankable project. The benefit of Scheme is available throughout the country.

Statement I

Statewise Progress of Rural Godown Scheme as on 31.3.2004

(New Construction)

Cap. In tonnes

Sl.No.	State	2001-2002		2002-2003		2003-04		Total	
		No.	Capacity	No.	Capacity	No.	Capacity	No.	Capacity
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Andhra Pradesh	42	3300	266	1316000	194	820510	502	2139810
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3.	Assam	0	0	2	10339	20	34840	22	45179
4.	Bihar	101	10100	45	4950	12	2100	158	17150
5.	Chhatisgarh	0	0	82	393793	34	147655	116	541448
6.	Gujarat	0	0	97	89514	92	42519	189	132033
7.	Haryana	23	2300	121	1118639	21	-39433	165	1081506
8.	Himachal Pradesh	6	600	24	2400	0	0	30	3000
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	0	0	0	0	2	2050	2	2050
10.	Jharkhand	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
11.	Karnataka	26	4850	272	174825	300	298855	589	478530
12.	Kerala	10	4250	9	3840	9	3147	28	11237
13.	Madhya Pradesh	19	1900	167	115049	241	408776	427	525725

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
14.	Maharashtra	6	61000	32	71199	337	428622	375	560821
15.	Manipur	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
16.	Meghalaya	27	2700	0	0	1	7983	28	10683
17.	Mizoram	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
18.	Nagaland	0	0	0	0	1	1000	1	1000
19.	Orissa	0	0	24	186284	41	55609	65	241893
20.	Punjab	6	750	200	2464710	20	67604	226	2533064
21.	Rajasthan	22	2200	3	300	7	15356	32	17856
22.	Sikkim	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
23.	Tripura	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
24.	Tamil Nadu	16	1600	7	6425	9	23622	32	31647
25.	Uttar Pradesh	11	1100	70	441481	41	215293	122	657874
26.	Uttaranchal	5	1450	13	9000	2	2500	20	12950
27.	West Bengal	0	0	92	13225	500	131433	592	144658
28.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
29.	NAFED	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
30.	CCF	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
31.	UTs	0	0	0	0	1	1000	1	1000
	Total	320	98100	1526	6421973	1885	2671041	3731	9191114

Statement II

Statewise Progress of Rural Godown Scheme as on 31.3.2004

(Renovation of Godowns)

Cap. In tonnes

Sl.No.	State	2001-2002		2002-2003		2003-04		Total	
		No.	Capacity	No.	Capacity	No.	Capacity	No.	Capacity
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Andhra Pradesh	40	4300	11	450	0	0	51	4750
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
3.	Assam	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4.	Bihar	0	0	2	500	0	0	2	500
5.	Chhattisgarh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6.	Gujarat	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7.	Haryana	13	800	10	200	0	0	23	1000
8.	Himachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10.	Jharkhand	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
11.	Karnataka	0	0	1	100	0	0	1	100
12.	Kerala	2	200	4	670	1	400	7	1270
13.	Madhya Pradesh	12	1200	49	4900	47	63000	108	69100
14.	Maharashtra	0	0	0	0	129	261300	129	261300
15.	Manipur	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
16.	Meghalaya	3	300	0	0	0	0	3	300
17.	Mizoram	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
18.	Nagaland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
19.	Orissa	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
20.	Punjab	5	750	0	0	0	0	5	750
21.	Rajasthan	63	3700	18	900	0	0	81	4600
22.	Sikkim	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
23.	Tripura	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
24.	Tamil Nadu	1	300	1	300	0	0	2	600
25.	Uttar Pradesh	31	2400	99	7600	563	945468	693	955468
26.	Uttaranchal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
27.	West Bengal	0	0	15	1500	0	0	15	1500
28.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
29.	NAFED	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
30.	CCF	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
31.	UTs	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Total	170	13950	210	17120	740	1270168	1120	1301238

Dairy Projects in M.P.

2607. DR. RAM LAKHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any plan to open/ set up Dairy projects in Madhya Pradesh during the current financial year;

(b) if so, the locations thereof;

(c) by when they are likely to be set up; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (d) A project proposal covering districts of Betul, Dhar, Mandsaur, Gwalior, Bhind, Morena, Datia & Balaghat was received under Centrally sponsored scheme "Strengthening Infrastructure for Quality and Clean Milk Production". This has been approved by this Department with total outlay of Rs. 323.51 lakh and first installment of Rs. 61.67 lakh has been released.

National Dairy Development Board has approved a Perspective Plan 2005 for Bhopal Milk Union in Madhya Pradesh for Rs. 672.56 lakh. No financial assistance has been availed by the Union.

Amount Spent by Government on Tourism Projects

2608. SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY:
KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state the details of amount spent by the Government on various tourism projects in the States including Andhra Pradesh during the last three years, project-wise and year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): State-wise details of projects and amount sanctioned by the Ministry of Tourism during the last three years are given in the Statement enclosed.

Statement

State-wise Tourism Projects Sanctioned during 2001-02 to 2003-04

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Sl.No.	State/UT	No. of Project Sanctioned	Amount Sanctioned
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	14	1621.85
2.	Assam	19	1479.09
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	25	1407.80
4.	Bihar	15	1525.77
5.	Chhattisgarh	18	1348.00
6.	Goa	12	130.99
7.	Gujarat	21	1423.13
8.	Haryana	31	1673.07
9.	Himachal Pradesh	46	1119.28
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	11	1054.88
11.	Jharkhand	4	1189.00
12.	Karnataka	28	2089.91
13.	Kerala	28	2149.94
14.	Madhya Pradesh	39	1589.45
15.	Maharashtra	28	2683.49
16.	Manipur	3	87.68
17.	Meghalaya	10	198.44
18.	Mizoram	17	782.11
19.	Nagaland	14	1113.04
20.	Orissa	11	505.10
21.	Punjab	8	136.50
22.	Rajasthan	29	2748.51
23.	Sikkim	26	1606.16
24.	Tamilnadu	39	2432.49
25.	Tripura	16	780.70
26.	Uttaranchal	10	843.95

1	2	3	4
27.	Uttar Pradesh	15	1466.54
28.	West Bengal	32	1148.39
29.	Andaman and Nicobar	0	0
30.	Chandigarh	7	25.75
31.	Dadar and Nagar Haveli	3	11.77
32.	Delhi	37	3875.29
33.	Daman and Diu	5	319.57
34.	Lakshadweep	1	17.00
35.	Pondicherry	6	331.65
	Total	628	40916.29

Selection of Sportspersons for Olympic

2609. SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has reviewed the physical and technical preparedness of the Indian Olympic squad for the coming Olympic games;

(b) if so, the number of sportsmen and officials who will accompany the participant, event-wise;

(c) the criterion for the selection of sportsmen for the Olympics;

(d) the estimated expenditure to be incurred thereon; and

(e) the number of medals won in each category of sports in various international events, cost incurred for participation in these events during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-RESIDENT INDIANS AFFAIRS (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government has approved the participation of 75 sportspersons and 46 officials as part of the Indian Contingent. Government has also approved the participation of two youth camper and two personnel coaches/training partners. The event-wise details are indicated in Statement-I enclosed.

(c) For being eligible for participation in the Olympic Games, each team/sportspersons was required to attend the qualifying standards in the mandatory qualifying tournaments.

(d) Government has so far sanctioned an amount of Rs. 66.08 lakhs to Indian Olympic Association towards participation of Indian Contingent in the Olympic Game. Expenditure towards excess baggage, etc. will also be borne by the Government of India.

(e) The details of medals won by Indian Sportspersons in major international events during the last three years and funds released by Government is at Statement-II enclosed.

Statement I

Sl.No.	Discipline	Number of Sportspersons	coach/trainer	Managers	Doctor/ Masseur	Others	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Archery	6	2	1	—	—	9
2.	Athletics	18	7	—	2	—	27
3.	Badminton	3	1	—	—	—	4
4.	Boxing	4	2	—	—	—	6
5.	Hockey (Men)	16	4	1	—	—	21
6.	Judo	1	1	—	—	—	2
7.	Rowing	1	1	—	—	—	2
8.	Shooting	8	3	1	—	—	12
9.	Swimming	1	1	—	—	—	2

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
10.	Tennis	2	2	—	1	—	5
11.	Table Tennis	2	1	—	—	—	3
12.	Weightlifting	4	2	—	—	—	6
13.	Wrestling	7	3	—	1	—	11
14.	Yachting	2	1	—	—	—	3
15.	Doctors	—	—	—	1	—	1
16.	Meassure	—	—	—	1	—	1
17.	IOA Contingent	—	—	—	—	6	6
	Total Indian Contingent	75	31	3	6	6	121
18.	Youth Campers						2
19.	Personal Coach/training partners						2
	Total Participation						125

Statement II

Name of Event	Medal won				Funds released by Government for participation (Rs. in lakhs)
	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total	
XVIIth Commonwealth Games, 2002 held at Manchester, United Kingdom from 25th July, 2002 to 4th August, 2002	30	22	17	69	Rs. 59.22
XIV Asian Games, 2002 held at Busan from 29th September, 2002 to 14th October, 2002	11	12	13	36	Rs. 335.90
1st Afro-Asian Games held at Hyderabad from 24th October to 1st November, 2003	19	32	29	80	Rs. 6300.00 (*)
SAF Games, 2004 held at Islamabad, Pakistan from 29th March, 2004 to 7th April, 2004	101	59	31	191	Rs. 56.72

(*)The amount includes releases for conduct of the games also.

[Translation]

Reserved Post Lying Vacant

2610. SHRI LALMANI PRASAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of posts created in his Ministry and the departments thereunder, department-wise;

(b) the total number of employees belonging to Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes working in these departments alongwith the details thereof;

(c) whether the appointments have been made as per the reservation quota fixed for SC/ST and OBC;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) by when reservation quota for the said classes is likely to be filled up;

(f) whether any action would be taken against the officers for not filling up the reservation quota; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (g) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

National Sports Policy

2611. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:
SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:
SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:
SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD NISHAD:

Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has approved the National Sports Policy;

(b) if so, the salient features of the said policy; and

(c) by when it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-RESIDENT INDIANS AFFAIRS (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The following are the salient features of the National Sports Policy, 2001;

I. Broad basing of sports and achievement of excellence;

II. Up-gradation and development of infrastructure;

III. Support to the National Sports Federations and other appropriate bodies;

IV. Strengthening of scientific and coaching support to sports;

V. Incentives to sports persons;

VI. Enhanced participation of women, tribals and rural youth;

VII. Involvement of the corporate sector in sports promotion; and

VIII. Creation of greater awareness in promotion of sports.

(c) Sports Policy is already under implementation through various schemes of the Ministry.

Human Trafficking

2612. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:
SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:
SHRI S.D. MANDLIK:
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:
SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of USA has agreed to provide assistance to the Government of India to check/ stop human trafficking;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the estimated number of human trafficking from the country during the last three years and thereafter; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to check human trafficking in the country?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI SISH RAM OLA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Since trafficking generally takes place in a clandestine manner, it is difficult to estimate the number.

(d) A statement is enclosed.

Statement

The Government has taken the following steps to prevent trafficking of women and children:

(i) Drawn up a National Plan of Action (1998) and constituted a Central Advisory Committee to combat trafficking, rescue and rehabilitate victims of trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation, and activate legal and law enforcement systems to strengthen implementation of the ITPA.

(ii) Set up State Advisory Committees on Trafficking for the same purpose, developing authority and seeking to mobilise greater state resources in the fight against trafficking.

(iii) The Department of Women & Children Development (DWCD) has issued guidelines to the States for effective implementation of the Plan of Action and regularly reviews State action.

(iv) The DWCD is presently reviewing the existing legal framework including the Immoral Trafficking (Prevention) Act.

(v) DWCD has undertaken regional efforts, in alliance with NGOs, to create greater awareness of the dimensions of trafficking and increase sensitivity to victims among Government Departments, the police and judiciary, as well as within civil society at large.

(vi) The National Commission for Women is conducting active advocacy against trafficking in partnership with NGOs. It has conducted 20 workshops all over the country and has prepared a comprehensive Report on the subject.

(vii) Concerned State Governments have enacted legislation to prohibit Devdasi and prevent Jogin traditions of sexual exploitation.

(viii) Profiling NGOs that are engaged in tackling trafficking and helping to rehabilitate victims.

(ix) The DWCD has initiated a new scheme called SWADHAR for women in difficult situations applicable to victims of trafficking also. The scheme provides for shelter, counselling, medical assistance, vocational training to rescued victims.

(x) The DWCD had formulated a model grant-in-aid scheme for assistance to NGOs to combat trafficking in source areas, traditional areas and destination areas through prevention rescue and rehabilitation. Emphasis is placed on counselling, non-formal education and vocational training.

(xi) The DWCD has notified officers of the level of Inspector and above in the CBI as Trafficking Police Officers for investigation of inter-state trafficking cases.

(xii) The DWCD has proposed to the Ministry of Home Affairs to set up of a nodal agency for combating and monitoring of trafficking.

(xiii) The NHRC and DWCD have initiated a Survey on trafficking within the country. The study will also investigate the causal and behavioural aspects of all agents in trafficking. The DWCD has also commissioned a Survey to go into the magnitude of the problem, and estimate of the numbers involved and trafficking routes.

UNDP Funding for Food Security

2613. SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has signed any agreement with UNDP for funding food security programmes in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of assistance received by various States under the UNDP agreement during the last three years; and

(d) the details of the programmes the Government propose to undertake in future under the said agreement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND

PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Utilisation of Rain and Flood Water

2614. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that by harvesting rain and flood water the problem of irrigation can be solved effectively particularly in the States where floods are a regular feature;

(b) if so, whether the Government has drawn up any plans in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) Most of the water resources development schemes with storage are primarily planned with the objective of storing the water during the monsoon for use during subsequent period for various purposes. A number of multi-purpose schemes for flood control, irrigation and other purposes have already been planned and implemented. This aspect is duly considered by various agencies involved with water resources development & planning.

Master Plans by Brahmaputra Board

2615. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA:
SHRI M.K. SUBBA:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Brahmaputra Board has submitted to the Union Government Part-III of the Master Plan dealing with tributaries of Brahmaputra and Barak rivers in Assam and few rivers in Tripura;

(b) if so, the details alongwith earlier two parts thereof; and

(c) the cost involved in third part and the expenditure so far incurred on earlier two parts indicating the cost escalation, if any, incurred therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) The preparation of Sub-Basin Master Plans is a continuing activity of the Brahmaputra Board and the Master Plans prepared from time to time are submitted to the Government of India for approval. Master Plans after approval are sent to State Governments for implementation. The Board has identified 49 Nos. Sub-Basin Master Plans under Part-III of the Master Plan pertaining to tributaries of Brahmaputra and Barak rivers in Assam and a few rivers in Tripura. Out of the 49 Nos. Sub-Basin Master Plans submitted by Brahmaputra Board have been approved by Government of India. Earlier, the Master Plan under Part-I for main stem of river Brahmaputra and Part-II for Barak river and its tributaries which were submitted to the Government of India by the Brahmaputra Board were approved in 1997. The list of approved Master Plans is at Statement enclosed.

(c) The preparation of Sub-Basin Master Plans is a continuing activity and no specific estimates are made for their preparation. However in the approved EFC for continuing activities during X plan, a provision of Rs. 9.02 crore has been made for preparation of Master Plans. The expenditure made for preparation of Master plans Part I, Part II and Part III till date is Rs. 15.921 Crore.

Statement

List of Master Plans Approved by Government of India

Sl.No.	River	Name of Basin
1	2	3
A.		
1.	Brahmaputra Main stem	Brahmaputra
2.	Barak & its tributaries	Barak
B.		
1.	Buri-Dihing	Brahmaputra Basin
2.	Kopili-Kalang	Brahmaputra Basin
3.	Ranganadi	Brahmaputra Basin
4.	Dikhow	Brahmaputra Basin
5.	Puthimari	Brahmaputra Basin
6.	Dhansiri(s)	Brahmaputra Basin

1	2	3
7.	Pagladiya	Brahmaputra Basin
8.	Noa-nadi	Brahmaputra Basin
9.	Dikrong	Brahmaputra Basin
10.	Jia-Bharali	Brahmaputra Basin
11.	Disang	Brahmaputra Basin
12.	Champamati	Brahmaputra Basin
13.	Na-nai	Brahmaputra Basin
14.	Jinari	Brahmaputra Basin
15.	Jiadhal	Brahmaputra Basin
16.	Bharalu	Brahmaputra Basin
17.	Lohit	Brahmaputra Basin
18.	Majuli Island	Brahmaputra basin
19.	Jinjiram	Brahmaputra Basin
20.	Ghiladhari	Brahmaputra Basin
21.	Gumti	Rivers of Tipura (Barak Basin)
22.	Manu-Deo	Rivers of Tipura (Barak Basin)
23.	Muhuri	Rivers of Tipura (Barak Basin)
24.	Juri	Rivers of Tipura (Barak Basin)
25.	Dhalai	Rivers of Tipura (Barak Basin)
26.	Burima	Rivers of Tipura (Barak Basin)
27.	Khowai	Rivers of Tipura (Barak Basin)

[Translation]

Environmental Clearance to NTPC Project

2616. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the documents of NTPC project, Sipat in Bilaspur District relating to its technical modification and its likely impact on Bilaspur city in accordance with conditions of clearance dated January 14, 2000 have been received by the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether final environmental clearance for this project has been provided;

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

(e) whether permission for laying MGR (Korba to Sipat) rail line, needed for the project through forest land has been granted;

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

(g) by when the project is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) All the documents/details of the said NTPC Project at Sipat including maximum ground level concentration (GLC) values of various pollutants at the periphery of the Bilaspur city, details of super critical boiler technology and the changes envisaged due to this including change in unit size from 4x500 MW to 3x660 MW, requisite amendment from Madhya Pradesh Pollution Control Board regarding zero effluent charge and comprehensive rehabilitation plan have since been received.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Final environment clearance for this project has been accorded *Vide* letter No. J-13011/10/96-AI.II (T) dated 30th April, 2002 subject to implementation of necessary environmental safeguards.

(e) Yes Sir.

(f) The final approval for diversion of 60 ha. of forest land for construction of railway line and MGR system for the project has been issued on 30th June, 2004 subject to fulfillment of stipulated terms and conditions.

(g) Does not arise in view of replies to parts (c) and (e) above.

[English]

Amendment in Labour Laws

2617. SHRI SANTASRI CHATTERJEE:
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY:
SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR:
SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN:
SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:
SHRI MOHAN JENA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to enact comprehensive labour laws to safeguard the interests of the working class;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are also considering any plan for amending the labour laws in the era of liberalisation and to make our foreign trade competitive in the international market; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI SISH RAM OLA): (a) to (d) Various labour laws have been enacted by the Government to deal with different aspects of labour. They are comprehensive in nature and are amended from time to time keeping in view the emerging needs. it is a continuous process.

[Translation]

Non-Resident Indian Labourers

2618. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Non-Resident Indian (NRI) labourers in the world;

(b) whether these NRI labourers are facing a lot of difficulties for want of supporting documents;

(c) the number of complaints received in this regard during the last three years and thereafter; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI SISH RAM OLA): (a) Data on the number of Non-Resident Indian (NRI) labourers in the world is not maintained. However, the High level Committee on Indian Diaspora under the Chairmanship of Dr. L.M. Singhvi had estimated that three million NRIs in the Gulf region alone.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) Such specific data is not maintained. However, complaints received are enquired into and, if necessary, show-cause notices issued to the concerned recruiting agents. If they fail to furnish satisfactory replies, their registration certificates are suspended and even cancelled. The Protector-General of Emigrants also holds public hearings twice a week on Tuesdays and Fridays for hearing complaints/grievances between 11.30 A.M. to 12.30 P.M.

Scheme to Promote Research

2619. SHRI NITISH KUMAR:
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have drawn up any scheme to promote research in the field of agriculture;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the sources of funding to meet the expenditure to be incurred on the implementation of the scheme; and

(d) the amount of funds to be received from each source?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Besides, all the ongoing schemes/projects, which promote research in agriculture and allied fields, some new initiatives are also drawn up within the existing establishments to promote research. These are: Network Programme on Insect Biosystematics; Network Project on Transgenics; Network on Impact, Adaptation and Vulnerability of Indian Agriculture to Climate Change; Network on Organic Farming and Veterinary Type Culture.

(c) and (d) Government of India Grant allocated through Planning Commission on cent per cent.

[English]

Use of Endosulfan by Cashewnut Plantation Authorities

2620. SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has recently noticed any serious health problems in the local inhabitants due to the unrestricted use of Enosulfan by the cashewnut plantation authorities in Kasaragod district of Kerala;

(b) if so, whether the Government has appointed any investigating agency to look into the matter; and

(c) if so, the details and outcome thereof alongwith the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) The National Institute of Occupational Health (NIOH) has reported higher prevalence of unusual diseases like mental retardation, congenital defects and abnormalities of re-productive system in children in the affected villages of Kasargod district of Kerala. However, the Expert Group constituted under the Chairmanship of Dr. O.P. Dubey, Assistant Director General (Plant Protection), Indian Council of Agricultural Research, to assess the safety of Endosulfan has observed that there is no link established between use of Endosulfan in Plantation Corporation of Kerala (PCK) plantations and health problems reported in Padre village. Another Committee of Experts constituted by the Government of Kerala under the Chairmanship of Dr. P.K. Sivaraman, Additional Director of Health Services, Kerala has stated that it could not find any reason other than Endosulfan spraying to explain the reported health hazards.

In view of the lack of consensus amongst various experts on this issue which may have serious implications on public health, the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation has decided to revisit the issues pertaining to the safety of Endosulfan. The Government of Kerala has also been requested to conduct a detailed health and epidemiological study to ascertain and pinpoint the factors leading to the unusually high incidence of diseases in the cashew plantation areas of Kerala. The result of this study would form the basis of any decision regarding the future use of Endosulfan.

The Government of Kerala has, in the meantime, prohibited the aerial spraying of Endosulfan for all crops in Kerala and decided that Peria Division of Plantation Corporation of Kerala (PCK) would observe a pesticide holiday for a period of five years, PCK will undertake only ground based spraying of pesticides in their cashew plantation and all spraying operation of PCK in its cashew plantation will be carried out under the direct technical supervision of a joint Kerala Agricultural University and PCK Expert Group.

The Kerala High Court has also passed an interim order to the effect that:

> "Pending further decision by the Central Government in the light of the advice tendered to it by the Expert Committee appointed to consider the hazards of Endosulfan, the use of Endosulfan, or any of its formulation under any of the trade names, shall not be permitted within the State until further orders with liberty to parties to move for modification of this order in the light of the report of Expert Committee and the decision taken by the Government in the matter".

Mother Dairy

2621. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Mother Dairy has proposal to diversify its activities during the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the investment proposed to be made thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) Mother Dairy does not plan activities according to Five Year Plan. Annual Plans are made for product diversification and capital expenditure.

(b) and (c) The investment proposed for the current year is Rs. 65 crores. Diversification into fruit juices, tea and coffee whitners, pure ghee and milk in UHT pack is being attempted in the current year.

Misutilisation of Funds for Tourism Projects

2622. SHRI UDAY SINGH: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government is aware of misuse of funds by State Governments which were sanctioned for various tourism projects between 1992-2002;

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof;

(c) whether an internal report prepared by his ministry has revealed that such projects which were funded by the Union Government during 1999-2000 are still imcomplete and State Government have either diverted the funds or siphoned off several crores of rupees;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps the Government have taken/proposed to take to prevent such diversion and misutilisation of funds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) to (d) No State Government has reported misuse of funds released by Ministry of Tourism for tourism projects. However, there has been delay in implementation of some projects. Some projects have also been dropped on account of unavailability of land and other unforeseen circumstances. Funds released for dropped projects are adjusted against release of funds for other projects in the same State.

(e) State Governments/UT Administrations have been advised to complete the projects early. Monitoring mechanism in the Ministry of Tourism has also been improved to monitor the progress of implementation of projects.

Threat to National Bird

2623. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA
SHRI NAKUL DAS RAI:

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

(a) whether the Government is aware that National Bird 'Peacock' is vanishing due to commercial/religious use of its feathers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken to curb the activity and increase their population?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (c) No, Sir. There is no conclusive evidence to suggest that the peacock is vanishing due to commercial/religious use of its feathers. However, poaching for feathers is a threat to the populations of peacocks. Some of the important steps taken by the Government to save the populations of national bird from poaching and to increase its population are–

(i) Peafowl is included in the Schedule I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, thereby giving it highest legal protection. Hunting of peafowl is prohibited under the provisions of the Act.

(ii) The penalty for poaching of peafowl and illegal trade in its parts and products has been enhanced from minimum of one year to three years and maximum of six years to seven years. Provision has also been made for forfeiture of property of the habitual offenders.

(iii) Provisions have been made in the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 for establishing Community Reserves outside the National Parks and Sanctuaries with the help of people to provide protection to wildlife, including peafowl, in and around their natural habitats.

(iv) Export of peacock tail feathers is prohibited under the EXIM Policy, 2002-07.

Assistance for Development and Promotion of Environment Projects

2624. SHRI DEVIDAS PINGLE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any financial assistance has been provided by the Union Government to various States particularly Maharashtra for development and promotion and environment projects during each of the last three years and current years; and

(b) if so, the details of funds provided, State-wise and project-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details of funds provided, State-wise and project-wise are given in Statement enclosed.

Statement

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of the Scheme	Name of the State	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries	Andhra Pradesh	88.60	82.73	89.31	0.00
		Arunachal Pradesh	167.05	105.04	115.05	13.40
		Assam	70.55	162.14	93.68	24.75
		Bihar	4.52	0.00	24.65	0.00
		Chhattisgarh	36.94	92.03	295.93	0.00
		Goa	89.98	0.00	36.46	0.00
		Gujarat	127.20	90.37	52.14	4.20
		Haryana	15.64	18.75	24.84	33.10
		Himachal Pardesh	111.24	93.85	168.96	150.99
		Jammu and Kashmir	26.00	99.90	138.82	0.00
		Jharkhand	0.00	29.89	54.62	0.00
		Karnataka	388.26	599.02	693.96	318.66
		Kerala	107.90	198.98	188.37	0.00
		Madhya Pradesh	103.38	196.33	344.36	0.00
		Maharashtra	153.37	168.20	165.25	0.00
		Manipur	26.81	64.50	57.80	0.00
		Meghalaya	27.95	40.25	93.07	0.00
		Mizoram	133.65	235.60	231.84	159.39
		Nagaland	43.13	107.84	42.70	0.00
		Orissa	70.27	82.57	187.25	155.27
		Punjab	29.60	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Rajasthan	73.00	366.27	214.82	0.00
		Sikkim	30.45	132.76	108.92	21.40
		Tamil Nadu	75.23	136.11	139.76	67.80
		Tripura	46.41	101.88	245.26	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
		Uttar Pradesh	79.82	137.36	164.37	100.30
		Uttaranchal	38.13	77.99	96.39	0.00
		West Bengal	180.95	223.67	214.17	0.00
		Andaman and Nicohar Islands	25.59	20.75	0.00	0.00
		Chandigarh	18.40	14.00	0.00	0.00
		Dadra and Nagar Haveli	6.01	15.25	0.00	0.00
2.	Biosphere Reserve	Assam	14.35	21.96	0.00	0.00
		Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00	35.00	0.00
		Karnataka	43.60	0.00	75.86	12.58
		Kerala	40.36	35.79	78.46	0.00
		Madhya Pradesh	84.10	50.00	0.00	0.00
		Meghalaya	7.60	25.00	16.05	0.00
		Orissa	19.84	50.00	73.30	0.00
		Sikkim	37.90	42.23	50.90	0.00
		Tamil Nadu	27.41	6.00	40.23	0.00
		Uttar Pradesh	63.00	71.70	0.00	0.00
		Uttaranchal	0.00	0.00	61.90	0.00
		West Bengal	46.82	50.00	72.83	10.54
		Andaman and Nicobar Islands	81.71	0.00	49.99	0.00
3.	Industrial Pollution Prevention Project	Andhra Pradesh	455.87	323.76	0.00	0.00
		Chhattisgarh	—	158.27	0.00	0.00
		Gujarat	273.18	100.78	0.00	0.00
		Karnataka	535.23	438.20	0.00	0.00
		Madhya Pradesh (including Chhattisgarh)	187.07	121.49	0.00	0.00
		Rajasthan	529.57	36.96	0.00	0.00
4.	Association of STs and Rural Poor in Regeneration of Degraded Forests on Usufruct Sharing Basis	Andhra Pradesh	74.83	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Aruanchal Pradesh	32.82	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Bihar	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Chhattisgarh	64.71	0.00	0.00	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
		Gujarat	22.23	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Jammu and Kashmir	23.99	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Jharkhand	44.95	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Karnataka	50.05	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Madhya Pradesh	58.03	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Maharashtra	17.78	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Manipur	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Mizoram	14.28	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Nagaland	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Orissa	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Rajasthan	39.35	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Sikkim	30.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Tamil Nadu	—	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Tripura	12.90	0.00	0.00	0.00
		West Bengal	4.09	0.00	0.00	0.00
5.	National River Conservation Plan	Andhra Pradesh	113.00	0.00	0.00	1600.00
		Bihar/Jharkhand	0.00	25.00	0.00	0.00
		Gujarat	977.00	800.00	2254.00	700.00
		Goa	—	246.00	0.00	0.00
		Haryana	2300.00	237.00	0.00	0.00
		Karnataka	0.00	800.00	400.00	670.00
		Kerala	3.00	0.00	75.00	0.00
		Madhya Pradesh	0.00	0.00	1475.00	700.00
		Maharashtra	1492.20	700.00	1075.00	130.00
		Orissa	300.00	2639.50	167.00	0.00
		Punjab	1507.00	128.00	2270.00	0.00
		Rajasthan	0.00	2620.00	0.00	0.00
		Tamil Nadu	7341.80	4142.00	8448.00	3762.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
		Uttar Pradesh/Uttaranchal	4773.91	3814.00	2650.00	0.00
		Uttaranchal	0.00	327.00	200.00	0.00
		West Bengal	1641.00	2025.00	2135.50	500.00
		Delhi	6874.29	9185.00	0.00	0.00
6.	National Lake Conservation Plan	Andhra Pradesh	2.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Jammu and Kashmir	14.31	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Karnataka	279.00	178.52	508.00	0.00
		Maharashtra	400.00	100.00	70.00	0.00
		Tamil Nadu	302.50	0.00	50.00	0.00
		Rajasthan	—	600.00	600.00	0.00
		Uttaranchal	—	40.48	771.00	0.00
		West Bengal	—	300.00	0.00	0.00
7.	Area Oriented Fuelwood and Fodder Project	Andhra Pradesh	142.77	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Arunachal Pradesh	11.60	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Assam	69.06	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Bihar	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Chhattisgarh	88.20	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Goa	7.60	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Gujarat	170.56	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Haryana	296.03	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Himachal Pradesh	83.18	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Jammu and Kashmir	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Jharkhand	119.92	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Karnataka	203.45	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Kerala	48.57	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Madhya Pradesh	233.35	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Maharashtra	42.37	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Manipur	50.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Mizoram	48.11	0.00	0.00	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
		Nagaland	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Orissa	42.33	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Punjab	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Rajasthan	38.69	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Sikkim	46.51	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Tamil Nadu	127.75	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Tripura	52.58	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Uttar Pradesh	108.37	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Uttaranchal	41.66	0.00	0.00	0.00
		West Bengal	156.38	0.00	0.00	0.00
8.	Integrated Afforestation and Eco Development Projects Scheme	Andhra Pradesh	228.20	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Aruanchal Pradesh	86.36	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Assam	26.05	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Jharkhand	52.51	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Chhattisgarh	37.05	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Gujarat	398.17	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Haryana	30.01	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Himachal Pradesh	64.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Jammu and Kashmir	447.79	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Jharkhand	52.31	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Karnataka	151.49	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Kerala	390.86	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Madhya Pradesh	237.37	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Maharashtra	101.07	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Manipur	197.22	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Meghalaya	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Mizoram	68.39	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Nagaland	114.23	0.00	0.00	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
		Orissa	681.24	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Punjab	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Rajasthan	291.34	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Sikkim	110.25	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Tamil Nadu	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Tripura	51.33	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Uttar Pradesh	29.08	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Uttaranchal	369.11	0.00	0.00	0.00
		West Bengal	240.91	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Pondicherry	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
9.	Non Timber Forest Produce including Medicinal Plants	Andhra Pradesh	318.17	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Arunachal Pradesh	38.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Assam	85.53	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Bihar	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Chhattisgarh	90.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Goa	18.47	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Gujarat	139.97	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Haryana	59.33	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Himachal Pradesh	67.54	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Jammu and Kashmir	275.91	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Karnataka	72.24	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Kerala	44.03	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Madhya Pradesh	96.06	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Maharashtra	66.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Manipur	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Megahalaya	25.47	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Mizoram	82.84	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Nagaland	37.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
		Orissa	121.37	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Punjab	20.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Rajasthan	234.40	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Sikkim	167.53	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Tamil Nadu	19.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Tripura	12.48	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Uttar Pradesh	17.87	0.00	0.00	0.00
		West Bengal	88.64	0.00	0.00	0.00
10.	Tree and Pasture Seed Development	Andhra Pradesh	7.14	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Jammu and Kashmir	15.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Karnataka	21.87	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Nagaland	5.50	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Sikkim	11.63	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Tamil Nadu	12.40	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Tripura	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Uttaranchal	9.94	0.00	0.00	0.00
		West Bengal	3.65	0.00	0.00	0.00
11.	Conservation and Management of Mangroves and Coral Reefs	Andhra Pradesh	57.18	60.30	6.50	0.00
		Goa	8.63	7.15	19.40	0.00
		Gujarat	0.00	3.88	91.35	0.00
		Karnataka	10.56	17.80	17.35	0.00
		Maharashtra	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Orissa	41.42	58.28	17.00	0.00
		Tamil Nadu	9.52	0.00	95.72	0.00
		West Bengal	45.00	0.00	58.50	37.00
		Andaman and Nicobar Islands	25.55	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Andaman and Nicobar Islands	—	34.50	10.75	0.00
		Lakshadweep	14.70	5.50	0.00	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
12.	Conservation and Management of Wetlands	Andhra Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Assam	0.00	28.00	97.58	0.00
		Gujarat	0.00	26.45	0.00	0.00
		Himachal Pradesh	73.78	132.65	56.90	0.00
		Jammu and Kashmir	31.90	0.00	56.32	0.00
		Kerala	0.00	0.00	84.73	0.00
		Manipur	60.00	100.00	50.00	0.00
		Orissa	102.84	82.90	112.15	0.00
		Punjab	61.46	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Rajasthan	0.00	0.00	85.98	0.00
		Tamil Nadu	—	—	22.16	0.00
		Tripura	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
		West Bengal	—	0.00	52.70	0.00
13.	Forest Fire Control & Management/ Integrated Forest Protection Scheme	Andhra Pradesh	89.95	129.00	100.00	0.00
		Arunachal Pradesh	7.65	426.02	0.00	0.00
		Assam	9.96	376.60	130.00	0.00
		Bihar	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Chhattisgarh	105.00	150.00	100.00	63.05
		Goa	39.27	49.20	70.00	0.00
		Gujarat	74.50	75.00	50.00	0.00
		Haryana	37.91	70.00	59.22	0.00
		Himachal Pradesh	101.30	57.40	75.00	0.00
		Jammu and Kashmir	59.00	74.25	109.78	0.00
		Jharkhand	64.65	81.17	130.00	37.40
		Karnataka	27.00	77.00	75.00	0.00
		Kerala	38.60	83.50	150.00	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
		Madhya Pradesh	155.10	158.50	140.00	0.00
		Maharashtra	0.00	188.92	50.00	0.00
		Manipur	19.90	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Meghalaya	39.60	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Mizoram	31.30	574.12	267.78	0.00
		Nagaland	7.80	407.47	200.00	76.83
		Orissa	49.22	100.00	100.00	0.00
		Punjab	28.80	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Rajasthan	16.00	55.00	0.00	0.00
		Sikkim	40.08	358.63	102.00	0.00
		Tamil Nadu	40.05	100.00	110.00	0.00
		Tripura	43.71	692.13	0.00	0.00
		Uttar Pradesh	36.50	80.00	140.00	6.69
		Uttaranchal	74.50	98.07	150.00	0.00
		West Bengal	72.65	120.00	100.00	66.43
14.	Project Elephant	Andhra Pradesh	31.00	50.00	55.00	34.00
		Arunachal Pradesh	56.00	52.00	61.00	0.00
		Assam	94.50	116.00	134.10	91.00
		Bihar/Jharkhand	22.69	45.00	93.00	0.00
		Jharkhand	0.00	0.00	0.00	73.00
		Karnataka	81.00	93.00	149.66	102.00
		Kerala	82.00	111.88	188.28	104.00
		Manipur	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Meghalaya	30.00	41.00	64.00	49.00
		Mizoram	0.00	5.00	0.00	0.00
		Nagaland	72.13	49.00	42.00	0.00
		Orissa	102.03	108.39	116.10	80.00
		Tamil Nadu	40.00	71.26	117.00	84.00
		Tripura	1.00	3.00	16.00	0.00
		Uttar Pradesh/Uttaranchal	125.14	107.00	129.00	0.00
		West Bengal	95.00	86.47	119.95	70.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
15.	Project Tiger	Andhra Pradesh	21.00	21.00	22.89	0.00
		Aurnachal Pradesh	82.76	35.88	68.75	35.00
		Assam	46.00	65.70	75.00	0.00
		Bihar	50.00	25.00	50.00	0.00
		Chhattisgarh	35.00	32.48	80.25	0.00
		Jharkhand	75.65	18.00	35.99	50.00
		Karnataka	181.43	289.56	269.32	75.00
		Kerala	50.00	63.75	120.68	40.00
		Madhya Pradesh	472.18	786.44	1103.41	300.00
		Maharashtra	209.23	621.79	228.45	105.00
		Meghalaya	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Mizoram	20.50	98.32	67.56	60.00
		Orissa	126.81	32.88	151.91	75.00
		Rajasthan	170.32	294.92	158.33	37.50
		Tamil Nadu	16.00	125.00	35.00	0.00
		Uttar Pradesh	67.40	32.75	173.59	105.50
		Uttaranchal	181.83	168.00	200.91	0.00
		West Bengal	142.18	168.33	225.17	70.00
16.	Benificiary Oriented Scheme for Tribal Development (BOTD)	Karnataka	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Madhya Pradesh	300.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Maharashtra	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Orissa	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
17.	Eco Development Project	Andhra Pradesh	69.60	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Arunachal Pradesh	45.15	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Assam	43.81	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Bihar/Jharkhand	372.09	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Chhattisgarh	24.70	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Gujarat	332.56	0.00	0.00	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
		Himachal Pradesh	131.35	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Jammu and Kashmir	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Karnataka	1289.35	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Kerala	842.68	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Madhya Pradesh	875.76	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Maharashtra	46.40	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Manipur	9.15	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Meghalaya	17.11	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Mizoram	226.83	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Nagaland	28.45	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Orissa	42.60	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Punjab	12.27	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Rajasthan	307.70	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Sikkim	26.23	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Tamil Nadu	6.38	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Tripura	44.35	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Uttar Pradesh	118.99	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Uttaranchal	82.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
		West Bengal	970.58	0.00	0.00	0.00
18.	India Eco Development Project	Gujarat	300.00	386.00	669.00	253.91
		Jharkhand	326.00	273.00	259.91	0.00
		Karnataka	950.00	94.00	0.00	0.00
		Kerala	704.00	122.00	143.69	69.49
		Madhya Pradesh	644.00	250.00	374.15	65.45
		Rajasthan	228.00	448.00	403.79	0.00
		West Bengal	849.00	346.00	336.62	10.17
19.	Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETPs)	Andhra Pradesh	0.00	30.00	0.00	0.00
		Gujarat	60.50	95.00	98.20	66.70

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
		Karnataka	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Maharashtra	24.50	102.50	396.80	0.00
		Punjab	30.00	40.00	0.00	0.00
		Tamil Nadu	25.00	10.50	0.00	0.00
20.	National Afforestation Programme	Andhra Pradesh	99.00	835.00	1044.00	156.00
		Arunachal Pradesh	14.00	276.00	449.00	0.00
		Assam	0.00	0.00	558.00	139.00
		Bihar	0.00	0.00	188.00	0.00
		Chhattisgarh	77.00	589.00	1020.00	335.00
		Goa	0.00	0.00	64.00	0.00
		Gujarat	85.00	387.00	320.00	0.00
		Haryana	923.00	1058.00	776.00	167.00
		Himachal Pradesh	22.00	6.00	695.00	74.00
		Jammu and Kashmir	154.00	545.00	721.00	0.00
		Jharkhand	0.00	134.00	929.00	49.00
		Karnataka	43.00	157.00	1554.00	622.00
		Kerala	0.00	106.00	347.00	54.00
		Madhya Pradesh	1371.00	1381.00	1092.00	221.00
		Maharashtra	185.00	487.00	1191.00	64.00
		Manipur	0.00	24.00	508.00	0.00
		Meghalaya	0.00	0.00	0.00	245.00
		Mizoram	0.00	886.00	1585.00	267.00
		Nagaland	208.00	851.00	894.00	0.00
		Orissa	5.00	1314.00	596.00	42.00
		Punjab	25.00	25.00	174.00	0.00
		Rajasthan	129.00	445.00	556.00	0.00
		Sikkim	243.00	376.00	406.00	0.00
		Tamil Nadu	76.00	782.00	1464.00	61.00
		Tripura	26.00	318.00	397.00	73.00
		Uttar Pradesh	704.00	2001.00	2134.00	198.00
		Uttaranchal	4.00	234.00	581.00	25.00
		West Bengal	0.00	226.00	555.00	0.00

Development of Tourism in Andhra Pradesh

2625. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that Hyderabad in Andhra Pradesh has vast potentiality for promotion of tourism being a city of historical monuments and diamond trade;

(b) if so, whether the Government is also aware that the Government of Andhra Pradesh has sent a proposal in 2001 for inclusion of Hyderabad in the tentative list of UNESCO and declare it as a Heritage City; and

(c) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Sea Erosion in Karnataka

2626. SHRI D.V. SADANAND GOWDA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka has submitted a comprehensive Master Plan of Rs. 575 crores external funding to control and protect sea coast against erosion;

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

(c) the amount sanctioned to protect the sea coast against erosion along 300 kms of coastline in Karnataka?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) The Government of Karnataka submitted a comprehensive proposal for an estimated Cost of Rs. 575.00 crore in September 1997 which envisaged construction of new sea wall, reformation of sea wall, river bank protection and reformation of river bank protection. However, after due consultation with the Central Water Commission, the Government of Karnataka submitted proposal with an estimated cost of Rs. 135.95 crore in March 2003 for inclusion is the proposed National Coastal Protection Project (NCPP). As the NCPP has been planned for seeking external funding, an approach paper on coastal protection has been prepared and submitted to the Planning Commission for its consideration and onward transmission to Department of Economic Affairs for identification of suitable external funding agencies. In the meantime Ministry of Water Resources has taken up a centrally sponsored scheme for anti-sea erosion works in critical areas in March 2004 on pilot basis with an estimated cost of Rs. 20.64 crore, which includes anti-sea erosion works of Karnataka State also. The Government of India has released Rs. 50.00 lakh as the first instalment of the central grant to Karnataka during 2003-2004 to take up the identified anti-sea erosion works in the State.

[Translation]

Labour Organisation registered in Country

2627. MOHD. MUKEEM: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of labour organisation registered so far in the country, State-wise;

(b) the details of the organised and unorganised sectors in which these organisation are functional;

(c) whether the Government has stopped registration of General Labour Organisation; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI SISH RAM OLA): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Environmental Awareness amongst School Children

2628. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether environmental education has not yet become a part of the school curriculum in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps being taken to educate the children about environmental awareness; and

(d) the funds allocated for creating environmental awareness during the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) The Supreme Court in its Order dated 13.7.2004 directed that the syllabus prepared by NCERT for Class I to XII shall be adopted by every State in their respective schools. Further, the Court, appointed NCERT as a nodal agency to supervise the implementation of the Court's order. All the States as well as organisations like the CBSE and KVS are bound to implement the orders of the Supreme Court.

(c) Various steps are being taken to educate children about environmental awareness and they include:

(i) Setting up of Eco-clubs in schools

(ii) National Environment Awareness Campaign

(iii) Global Learning and Observation to Benefit the Environment (GLOBE) programme

(iv) Introduction of Environment Education in School System.

(d) The details of funds allocated for creating environmental awareness during the last three years, State-wise are given in Statement enclosed.

Statement

Details of funds allocated for creating environmental awareness during the last three years (2001-04), State-wise

S.No.	States	Funds allocated in Rupees
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	25315149
2.	Andaman and Nicobar	108300
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	1301770
4.	Assam	18343717
5.	Bihar	11761000
6.	Chandigarh	147504
7.	Chhattisgarh	12382646
8.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	124480
9.	Daman and Diu	76920
10.	Delhi	4523398
11.	Goa	6955708
12.	Gujarat	16196360
13.	Himachal Pradesh	14440366
14.	Haryana	10465470
15.	Jammu and Kashmir	14480492
16.	Jharkhand	10739126
17.	Karnataka	16934480
18.	Kerala	12241235
19.	Lakshadweep	22701
20.	Madhya Pradesh	27777019
21.	Maharashtra	21913655
22.	Manipur	5564360
23.	Meghalaya	1161350
24.	Mizoram	2072447
25.	Nagaland	1458870
26.	Orissa	25495610
27.	Pondicherry	1101544
28.	Punjab	17010424
29.	Rajasthan	6697523
30.	Sikkim	6219940
31.	Tamil Nadu	18622337
32.	Tripura	9713828
33.	Uttar Pradesh	22711800
34.	Uttaranchal	12156355
35.	West Bengal	15345710
36.	Central-level expenditure	58462252

Special Drought Relief Prices

2629. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH:
SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to announce special drought relief prices in excess of normal Minimum Support Price in view of the impending drought;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) the serious rainfall deficiency in July, 2002 necessitated additional expenses on cultivation of Kharif crops in 2002-03. In order to provide relief to farmers the Government, therefore, announced special drought relief price over and above Minimum Support Prices of Kharif crops of 2002-03 season. As the deficiency in rainfall in 2004 is much less serious than the deficiency in 2002, the Government have not announced any special drought relief price.

The Government has recently announced the Price Policy for Kharif Crops of 2004-05 season. Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for all the Kharif crops have been fixed at a level higher than those for 2003-04 season. A statement showing the MSPs of major agricultural commodities announced in recent years is enclosed.

Statement

Minimum Support Prices
(According to Crop Year)

(Rs. per quintal)

Sl. No.	Commodity	Variety	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02		2002-03 Special Drought relief price	2003-04	2004-05	(#)Increase in MSP 2004-05 over 2003-04
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1.	Paddy	Common	440	490	510	530	530	20	550	560	10(1.8)
		Grade 'A'	470	520	540	560	560	20	580	590	10(1.7)
2.	Jowar		390	415	445	485	485	5	505	515	10(2.0)
3.	Bajra		390	415	445	485	485	10	505	515	10(2.0)
4.	Maize		390	415	445	485	485	5	505	525	20(4.0)
5.	Ragi		390	415	445	485	485	5	505	515	10(2.0)
6.	Wheat		550	580	610	620	620	10	630	—	—
7.	Barley		385	430	500	500	500	5	1400	—	—
8.	Gram		895	1015	1100	1200	1220	5	1400	—	—
9.	Arhar (Tur)		960	1105	1200	1320	1330	5	1360	1390	30(2.2)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
10.	Moong		960	1105	1200	1320	1330	5	1370	1410	40(2.9)
11.	Urad		960	1105	1200	1320	1330	5	1370	1410	40(2.9)
12.	Masur (Lentil)*		—	—	1200	1320	1320	5	1500	—	—
13.	Sugarcane@		52.70	56.10	59.50	62.05	69.50	—	73	—	—
14.	Cotton	F-414/H-777/J34	1440	1575	1625	1675	1675	20	1725	1760	35(2.0)
		H-4	1650	1775	1825	1875	1875	20	1925	1960	35(1.8)
15.	Groundnut In Shell		1040	1155	1220	1340	1355	20	1400	1500	100(7.1)
16.	Jute	TD-5	650	750	785	810	850	—	860	890	30(3.5)
17.	Rapeseed/MU Stard		1000	1100	1200	1300	1330	10	1600	—	—
18.	Sunflower Seed		1060	1155	1170	1185	1195	15	1250	1340	90(7.2)
19.	Soyabeen	Black	705	755	775	795	795	10	840	900	60(7.1)
		Yellow	795	845	865	885	885	10	930	1000	70(7.5)
20.	Sunflower		990	1100	1200	1300	1300	5	1500	—	—
21.	Toria		965	1065	1165	1265	1295	10	1565	—	—
22.	Tobacco (VFC)	Black Soil (F2 Gr)	22.50	25.00	26.00	27.00	28.00	—	31.00	—	—
	(Rs. per kg.)	Light Soil (L2 Gr)	22.50	27.00	28.00	29.00	30.00	—	33.00	—	—
23.	Copra	Milling	2900	3100	3250	3300	3300	—	3320	3500	180(5.4)
	(Calender Year)	Ball	3125	3325	3500	3550	3550	—	3570	3750	180(5.0)
24.	Sesamum		1060	1205	1300	1400	1450	5	1485	1500	15(1.0)
25.	Nigerseed		850	915	1025	1100	1120	—	1155	1180	25(2.2)

@Statutory Minimum Price (SMP) linked to a basic recovery of 8.5% with proportionate premium for every 0.1% increase in recovery above that level. The SMP for 2002-03 includes the one time drought relief of Rs. 5 per quintal recommended by CACP.

*The MSP for masur (lentil) has been fixed from the crop year 2000-01.

#Figures in brackets indicate percentage increase.

Indian Athletic Team

2630. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether recently the Indian Athletic Team bound for Olympics were provided with dormitory accommodation by the Sports Authority of India, whereas the coaches and officials were lodged in VIP, airconditioned suits at the Jawahar Lal Nehru Stadium;

(b) if so, whether the diet given to the players was also of sub-standard quality;

(c) if so, whether the Government has ordered any enquiry in this regard;

(d) if so, the details and outcome thereof; and

(e) the action being taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-RESIDENT INDIANS AFFAIRS (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Yes, Sir. An Athletic Team comprising 15 Athletes, 3 Foreign coaches, 3 Indian coaches were provided accommodation (A/C) in the Residential Wing, Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium during the period from 8.7.2004 to 30.7.2004. Dormitory (A/C) accommodation was provided to the Athletes in Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium.

(b) No, Sir. Balanced diet based on nutritional requirements as per their energy expenditure and nutrient needs was provided.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Diversion of Funds

2631. SHRI RAMDAS BANDU ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether some States have diverted the funds provided to them by the Union Government for the construction of irrigation projects to some other heads;

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

(c) whether the Government proposes to withdraw the funds allocated to such States for construction of irrigation projects; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) The Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year ended March, 2003 has mentioned that some States have diverted funds to activities not connected with the Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP). State-wise details are given in the Statement enclosed.

(c) and (d) As per AIBP norms Central Loan Assistance (CLA) is released in two instalments of 50 per cent each. The next instalment of CLA is released only after Utilisation Certificate is received from the State Government for the previous instalment provided. The loan assistance provided to the States under the programme is recovered with interest by the Government of India in instalments as provided in the norms of the programme.

Statement

Sl.No.	Name of State	Amount
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1.87
2.	Bihar	30.55
3.	Chhattisgarh	1.60
4.	Gujarat	8.23
5.	Haryana	44.74
6.	Jammu and Kashmir	29.15
7.	Karnataka	22.08
8.	Kerala	0.36
9.	Madhya Pradesh	195.27
10.	Maharashtra	366.97
11.	Orissa	3.94
12.	Punjab	0.50
13.	Rajasthan	27.19
14.	Uttar Pradesh	7.54
15.	West Bengal	1.25
	Total	741.34

[English]

Coconut Cultivation

2632. SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received a memorandum from the Kera Karshaka Sangham, the organization of coconut farmers regarding the problems of coconut cultivation and suggesting solutions;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the response of the Government thereto;

(d) whether the coconut technology mission has been successful in its practical implementation; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The memorandum of Kera Karshaka Sangham is regarding grievances and problems faced by the coconut growers of Kerala like root (wilt) disease, mite infestation, lack of irrigation facilities, lack of assistance for fertilizers, import of coconut products and others.

(c) to (e) Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India is implementing the schemes namely, Integrated Development of Coconut Industry in India and Technology Mission on Coconut to address all the issues related to development of coconut in the country with a X plan allocation of Rs. 150 crores, of which Rs. 53.65 crores is for the implementation of the programmes under Technology Mission. The main objectives of Technology Mission on Coconut, which is being implemented in a mission mode approach since 2001-02 are (1) Development and adoption of technologies for management of insect pests and disease affected coconut gardens, (2) Development and adoption of technologies for processing and product diversification in coconut and (3) Market research and promotion of coconut products.

So far, an amount of Rs. 13.59 crores has been released to different States and Institutes including NGOs, farmers and entrepreneurs for 71 projects involved in development and adoption of technologies for integrated management of pests and diseases as well as for development and promotion of technologies for product diversification in coconut.

[Translation]

Assistance to States for Development of Tourists Spots

2633. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of assistance provided to State Government including Rajasthan for development of tourist spots during the last three years;

(b) whether the said amount has been fully utilized by the State Governments;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether some schemes from Rajasthan for tourism promotion are lying pending with the Union Governments; and

(e) if so, by when the schemes are likely to be approved and implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) to (c) State-wise details of funds released for projects sanctioned by the Ministry of Tourism in various States Union Territories including Rajasthan during the last three years are given in the Statement.

(d) and (e) Tourism projects are identified in consultation with State Governments/UT Administrations on yearly basis and sanctioned on merit subject to availability of funds. The process of identification of project of Rajasthan for 2004-05 has not been completed so far.

Statement

State-wise Tourism projects sanctioned during 2001-02 to 2003-04

(Rs. in Lakhs)

S.No.	State/UT	No. of Project Sanctioned	Amount Sanctioned
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	14	1621.85
2.	Assam	19	1479.09
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	25	1407.80
4.	Bihar	15	1525.77

1	2	3	4
5.	Chhattisgarh	18	1348.00
6.	Goa	12	130.99
7.	Gujarat	21	1423.13
8.	Haryana	31	1673.07
9.	Himachal Pradesh	46	1119.28
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	11	1054.88
11.	Jharkhand	4	1189.00
12.	Karnataka	28	2089.91
13.	Kerala	28	2149.94
14.	Madhya Pradesh	39	1589.45
15.	Maharashtra	28	2683.49
16.	Manipur	3	87.68
17.	Meghalaya	10	198.44
18.	Mizoram	17	782.11
19.	Nagaland	14	1113.04
20.	Orissa	11	505.10
21.	Punjab	8	136.50
22.	Rajasthan	29	2748.51
23.	Sikkim	26	1606.16
24.	Tamil Nadu	39	2432.49
25.	Tripura	16	780.70
26.	Uttaranchal	10	843.95
27.	Uttar Pradesh	15	1466.54
28.	West Bengal	32	1148.39
29.	Andaman and Nicobar	0	0
30.	Chandigarh	7	25.75
31.	Dadar and Nagar Haveli	3	11.77
32.	Delhi	37	3875.29
33.	Daman and Diu	5	319.57
34.	Lakshadweep	1	17.00
35.	Pondicherry	6	331.65
	Total	628	40916.29

[English]

Coconut Cultivation in Gujarat

2634. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the coconut cultivation has increased in Gujarat;

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

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to increase the domestic use of coconut and coconut products and set up coconut based industries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) Yes, Sir. The cultivation of coconut in Gujarat has been increased from 14232 ha. in 2001-02 to 15969 ha. in 2003-04.

(b) The cultivation district-wise details of area under coconut cultivation in Gujarat for the period 2001-02 to 2003-04 is given below:

(Area in ha.)

Districts	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
Valsad	3852	4077	4276
Junagadh	5622	5675	5772
Bhavanagar	2750	3035	3565
Kutch	396	437	490
Amerali	137	152	144
Surat	317	322	402
Jamnagar	261	265	304
Baroda	127	127	153
Navsari	262	275	290
Porbander	480	485	488
Others	28	31	85
Total	14232	14881	15969

(c) The Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India is implementing a scheme on Integrated Development of Coconut Industry including Technology Mission on coconut for the integrated development of coconut in India. Under the scheme, assistance is provided to the farmers, entrepreneurs and coconut processors for taking up market promotional activities which are aimed at increasing the domestic use of coconut and coconut products. Besides, assistance is also being extended for technology domonstration by setting up of pilot testing plants for integrated processing of coconut products as well as for setting up of new processing industries including fabrication and development of machinery for processing of coconut and coconut products.

[Translation]

Labourers in Agriculture Sector

2635. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':
SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the agricultural labourers are getting only 180 mandays work in the agriculture sector;

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

(c) the names of the States where maximum and minimum mandays of work have been fixed for agricultural labourers; and

(d) the details of such States in which such labourers get less than 100 mandays of work?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI SISH RAM OLA): (a) and (b) As per the survey conducted by National Sample Survey Organisation in 1999-2000 above 75.1% of the rural workers and 7.9% of the urban workers worked for 183 days or more in agricultural sector.

(c) and (d) Ministry of Labour and Employment is not aware of the fixation of number of days for agricultural labourers.

[English]

Task Force on Flood and Erosion

2636. SHRI NAKUL DAS RAI:
SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR DUBEY:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government proposes to constitute a high-powered Task Force to go into details of flood and erosion problems faced by the States particularly in view of devastating floods in Bihar and Assam;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when it is likely to be constituted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) As a follow up of the announcements made by the Hon'ble Prime Minister during his recent visits to Assam and Bihar, a 21-member Task Force has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Chairman, Central Water Commission. Besides Experts from Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Tripura, Bihar, West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh, the Task Force includes the officials from National Hydro-electric Power Corporation, Planning Commission, Ministry of Finance, Brahmaputra Board, Ganga Flood Control Commission, Central Water Commission and the Ministry of Water Resources. Two non official Experts have also been included in the Task Force.

The Terms of Reference for the Task Force include examination of the causes of the problem of recurring floods and erosion in Assam and other neighbouring States as well as Bihar, West Bengal and Eastern Uttar Praddesh, to review the measures undertaken so far to combat floods and erosion and to suggest short-term and long-term measures for management of floods and erosion control. The Task Force has also been asked to examine related international dimensions and suggest future course of action as well as to suggest Institutional arrangements for tackling the problem and the source of funding for the future action plan. The Task Force has been directed to submit its final report by 31st December 2004.

Database and Information Networking Programme

2637. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a request has been made for a sum of Rs. 55.85 lakh for implementation of a centrally sponsored scheme *i.e.* strengthening of Database and Information Networking Programme; and

(b) if so, by when the amount is likely to be sanctioned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) No, Sir. However Government has a Central Sector Scheme for Strengthening/Promoting Agricultural Information System for the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation.

(b) Does not arise.

Minimum Wages

2638. SHRI SHRINIWAS DADASAHEB PATIL:
DR. SHAFIQUR RAHMAN BARQ:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that in the recent past the dearness has increased but the minimum wages of the labourers remains unchanged;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government has issued instruction to the States to conduct a survey in this regard and refix the minimum wages; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI SISH RAM OLA): (a) and (b) In order to protect the minimum wages of the workers against inflation, the Government has introducted Variable Dearness Allowance (VDA) in all the scheduled employments in the Central Sphere. As regards States, most of the States/Union Territories have adopted VDA as a component of Minimum Wages. The VDA in both the Spheres is revised on the basis of increase in consumer price index twice a year effective from April and October.

(c) and (d) As the Minimum Wages are being periodically revised as per provisions of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 and the inflation is neutralized by adding Variable Dearness Allowance (VDA) to the wages of the workers, the need to conduct a survey in this regard is not felt necessary.

Higher Prices of Sugarcane

2639. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court upheld right of the State Governments to set sugarcane prices that mills are obliged to pay to farmers higher than the statutory minimum prices prescribed by Centre; and

(b) if so, the details of the verdict and its impact on sugar sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH SINGH): (a) and (b) In the Civil Appeal No. 460 of 1997 filed in the Supreme Court of India in the matter of U.P. Cooperative Cane Unions Federations Vs. West U.P. Sugar Mills Association and Others etc., the Hon'ble Supreme Court has held that States which have enacted legislations regarding regulation of supply and purchase of sugarcane have the right to fix prices for sugarcane purchased by sugar mills and which can be higher than the Statutory Minimum Price (SMP) determined by the Central Government. The impact, if any, would differ from State to the State depending on its legal framework, price fixed, the sugarcane availability and market price of sugar.

Review of Water Policy

2640. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has been urged by the experts to review and revamp water policy;

(b) if so, whether any modalities have been worked out in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN

YADAV): (a) to (c) The National Water Policy, 2002 adopted by National Water Resources Council on 1st April, 2002 has a provision for periodical revision as and when need arises. After the adoption of the Policy, observations/ views of a number of people have been received from time to time. Examination of these views did not call for immediate need for revamping the water policy. Being a regular activity, appropriate action is taken by the Ministry as per needs and as and when such views are received from experts and other people.

[Translation]

Pollution by Power Projects

2641. SHRI LALCHANDRA KOL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the nature and kind of pollutants emitted by power projects which pollute the environment; and

(b) the remedial measures taken by the Government to minimise the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) The Thermal Power Plants cause air and water pollution due to emission of pollutants like sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxide, suspended particulate matter and discharge of effluent from various plants activities. Fly ash is also generated as solid waste.

(b) The remedial measures taken to minimise pollution from thermal power plants include:

- Environmental Impact Assessment of power projects;
- Enforcement of prescribed environmental standards;
- Use of beneficiated coal;
- Time bound action plan for utilisation of fly ash; and
- Regular monitoring and legal action for non-complying units.

[English]

Revision of Minimum Support Prices

2642. SHRI JUAL ORAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering a proposal to revise the Minimum Support Prices of various crops in the country;

(b) if so, the crop-wise increase proposed to be made in the MSP of different crops; and

(c) by when it is likely to be done?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) The Government has recently announced to the Price Policy for Kharif Crops of 2004-05 season. Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for all the Kharif crops have been fixed at a level higher than those for 2003-04 season. A statement showing the MSPs of major agricultural commodities announced in recent years is enclosed.

Statement

Minimum Support Prices

(According to Crop Year)

(Rs. per quintal)

Sl. No.	Commodity	Variety	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02		2002-03 Special Drought relief price	2003-04	2004-05	(#) Increase in MSP 2004-05 over 2003-04
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1.	Paddy	Common	440	490	510	530	530	20	550	560	10(1.8)
		Grade 'A'	470	520	540	560	560	20	580	590	10(1.7)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
2.	Jowar		390	415	445	485	485	5	505	515	10(2.0)
3.	Bajra		390	415	445	485	485	10	505	515	10(2.0)
4.	Maize		390	415	445	485	485	5	505	525	20(4.0)
5.	Ragi		390	415	445	485	485	5	505	515	10(2.0)
6.	Wheat		550	580	610	620	620	10	630	—	—
7.	Barley		385	430	500	500	500	5	525	—	—
8.	Gram		895	1015	1100	1200	1220	5	1400	—	—
9.	Arhar (Tur)		960	1105	1200	1320	1320	5	1360	1390	30(2.2)
10.	Moong		960	1105	1200	1320	1330	5	1370	1410	40(2.9)
11.	Urad		960	1105	1200	1320	1330	5	1370	1410	40(2.9)
12.	Masur (Lentil)*		—	—	1200	1320	1320	5	1500	—	—
13.	Sugarcane@		52.70	56.10	59.50	62.05	69.50	—	73	—	—
14.	Cotton	F-414/H-777/J34	1440	1575	1625	1675	1675	20	1725	1760	35(2.0)
		H-4	1650	1775	1825	1875	1875	20	1925	1960	35(1.8)
15.	Groundnut In Shell		1040	1155	1220	1340	1355	20	1400	1500	100(7.1)
16.	Jute	TD-5	650	750	785	810	850	—	860	890	30(3.5)
17.	Rapeseed/MU Stard		1000	1100	1200	1300	1330	10	1600	—	—
18.	Sunflower Seed		1060	1155	1170	1185	1195	15	1250	1340	90(7.2)
19.	Soyabeen	Black	705	755	775	795	795	10	840	900	60(7.1)
		Yellow	795	845	865	885	885	10	930	100	70(7.5)
20.	Safflower		990	1100	1200	1300	1300	5	1500	—	—
21.	Toria		965	1065	1165	1265	1295	10	1565	—	—
22.	Tobacco (VFC)	Black Soil (F2 Gr)	22.50	25.00	26.00	27.00	28.00	—	31.00	—	—
	(Rs. per kg.)	Light Soil (L2 Gr)	25.50	27.00	28.00	29.00	30.00	—	33.00	—	—
23.	Copra	Milling	2900	3100	3250	3300	3300	—	3320	3500	180(5.4)
	(Calender Year)	Ball	3125	3325	3500	3550	3550	—	3570	3750	180(5.0)
24.	Sesamum		1060	1205	1300	1400	1450	5	1485	1500	15(1.0)
25.	Nigerseed		850	915	1025	1100	1120	—	1155	1180	25(2.2)

@Statutory Minimum Price (SMP) linked to a basic recovery of 8.5% with proportionate premium for every 0.1% increase in recovery above that level. The SMP for 2002-03 includes the one time drought relief of Rs. 5 per quintal recommended by CACP.

*The MSP for masur (lentil) has been fixed from the crop year 2000-01.

#Figures in brackets indicate percentage increase.

Assistance to West Bengal to Combat drought situation

2643. SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the assistance provided by the Union Government to West Bengal to combat the drought situation in the State during the last three years; and

(b) the action taken to clear the pending drought relief assistance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) No request for Central assistant in the wake of drought was received from the Government of West Bengal during the last three years.

[English]

Foodgrains for BPL Families

2644. SHRI TEK LAL MAHTO: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any scheme to provide 10 kilograms of rice per person per month at the rate of Rs. 2/- per kilo to the people living Below Poverty Line in the newly created States Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Uttaranchal;

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when this scheme will be implemented; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH SINGH): (a) to (c) No, Sir. However, under the Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY), wheat and rice are made available to the poorest of the poor families at a highly subsidized rates of Rs. 2/- and Rs. 3/- per kg. respectively. The number of Antyodaya families earmarked for identification in the States of Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Uttaranchal are 7.268 lakh, 5.693 lakh and 1.512 lakh respectively.

[English]

Compensation for Loss of Foodgrains

2745. SHRI NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Punjab has approached Union Government for grant of compensation by FCI for the loss on account of foodgrains damaged due to slow movement;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government of Punjab has submitted a claim of Rs. 194.39 crores towards reimbursement on account of losses.

(c) The Government has asked the Punjab Government to submit the relevant details of the damaged wheat to the FCI, with documentary evidence.

[Translation]

Flood Control Projects

2646. SHRI HEMLAL MURMU: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of flood control projects started and lying pending in the States especially in Bihar and Jharkhand;

(b) the expenditure incurred so far alongwith present status of the projects;

(c) whether the Government have taken any effective steps to complete the projects;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Govt. to check the recent floods in Bihar, Jharkhand and other parts of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN

YADAV): (a) to (d) Flood Management being a State subject, the investigations, planning and implementation of flood management schemes are within the purview of the respective State Governments. The Centre renders assistance that are technical, catalytical and promotional in nature.

The Central Government is also providing financial assistance to the State Governments for taking up critical flood management and anti erosion works. In this connection, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme to take up critical anti erosion works in the Ganga Basin States with an estimated cost of Rs. 178.85 crore (Central Share Rs. 136.17 crore) is presently under implementation. The scheme includes 13 nos. of schemes in Bihar, 14 nos. in Uttar Pradesh, 24 nos. in West Bengal and one each in Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand and Uttaranchal, out of which four schemes each in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar against which the Central assistance (Rs. 7.33 crore to Bihar and Rs. 8.95 crore to Uttar Pradesh) has been released to the respective Governments are under implementation. In addition, financial assistance is provided to the State of Bihar for maintenance of flood protection works on river Kosi; raising, strengthening and extension of embankments on Lalbakeya, Kamla, Bagmati & Khando rivers and improvement of drainage in ciritical areas of the country.

Further in order to assist the Govt. of Assam and other North Eastern States including Sikkim and North Bengal, the Ministry of Water Resources has formulated a Centrally Sponsored Scheme at an estimated cost of Rs. 166.68 crore with 90% as Central share and 10% as State share for taking up critical anti erosion/flood control schemes.

Brahmaputra Board has also taken up critical anti erosion schemes in Dholla Hathighuli and Majuli island in Assam and Pagladiya Dam Project which *inter alia* is estimated to provide protection against floods to an area of 40,000 ha.

(e) As a follow up the announcements made by the Hon'ble Prime Minister during his recent visits to Assam and Bihar, at 21 member Task Force has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Chairman, Central Water Commission to look into the problem of recurring floods and erosion in Assam and other neighbouring States as well as Bihar, West Bengal and Eastern Uttar Pradesh.

[English]

Vegetable Park

2647. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that vegetables and fruits are produced in abundant quantity at Oddanchatram, Dindigul District, Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to set up a vegetable park at Oddanchatram;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The Govt. of Tamil Nadu has intimated that there is no proposal to set up a Vegetable part at Oddanchatram of Dindigul District. However, there is a proposal to establish a wholesale Vegetable Market at Oddanchatram with all the required infrastructural facilities.

Youth Hostel

2648. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the ceiling prescribed for each unit of youth hostel under central allocation;

(b) whether the Government proposes to increase the allocation per unit during the current financial year; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-RESIDENT INDIANS AFFAIRS (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (c) No ceiling is prescribed for each unit of youth hostel under Central allocation. The construction of youth hostel is a joint venture of the Central and State Governments. As such, the State Government makes available 1.5 to 2.0 acres of developed piece of land, free of cost and the Central Government bears the entire cost of construction of the building.

Kisan TV Channel

2649. SHRI NARAYAN CHANDRA BORKATAKY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total allocation of funds for Kisan TV Channel during 2003-04 and 2004-05;

(b) the documentaries, telefilms, spots made by Agriculture Ministry and its different wings/bodies as well as directorate of Farm Extension during the last three years alongwith the money spent thereon, year-wise;

(c) the number of films in 16 mm, 35 mm video mode produced in different languages indicating those on subjects relating to North Eastern Regions during the last three years;

(d) whether the Government follow 10% allocation for North Eastern States;

(e) if so, the details of the total amount spent on North Eastern Region also indicating as a percentage of total IEC funds;

(f) whether the Government propose to produce film on Agriculture related subjects for North Eastern Regions;

(g) if so, the money likely to be spent thereon; and

(h) the nodal agency selected to implement IEC activities in North Eastern Region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) Allocation of funds for the Scheme of 'Mass Media Support to Agriculture Extension' pertaining to Kisan TV Channel is a follows:

2003-04	=	Rs. 17.01 crore
2004-05	=	Rs. 68.37 crore

(b) The Directorate of Extension under the Ministry of Agriculture undertakes preparation documentary films and spots for the education of farmers. During the last three years, 39 documentary films and 4 video spots have been made by them (Statement-I). The year-wise break-up of expenditure thereon is as follows:

2001-02	= Rs. 29.23 lakh
2002-03	= Rs. 77.68 lakh
2003-04	= Rs. 69.27 lakh

(c) No films in 16 mm and 35 mm were produced during the last three years. Video films produced in different languages on subjects related to North Eastern Region are:

1.	Monsoon Yatra	— Assamese
2.	Upland Rice	— English
3.	Bamboo Drip Irrigation	— English, Khasi
4.	Agmark Quickies	— Manipuri, Assamese

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. Ministry of Agriculture allocates a lump sum amount of 10% of its budget for North Eastern areas for implementation of various Schemes including schemes on Information, Education and Communication (IEC). The details of the total amount spent in North Eastern Region is given Statement-II.

(f) Yes, Sir.

(g) Approx. Rs. 10.00 lakh

(h) The Directorate of Extension, Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture is the Nodal Agency to implement IEC activities in Agriculture and allied sectors in North Eastern Region.

Statement I

List of Documentaries, Tele-films, spots made by Directorate of Extension, Department of Agriculture and Cooperation during the last three years

Sl.No.	Title	Version
1	2	3
	2001-02	
1.	Success stories on Watershed Management in A.P. (NWDPRA)	Eng., Telugu
2.	Nandanvan: Dryland Horticulture	Marathi

1	2	3
3.	Rajasthan mein Rashtriya Jal Grehen Vikas Karyakram: Jan Sehbhagi Vikas ke Ayam	Hindi
4.	Agmark (Quickies)	Urdu, Punjabi, Kannada, Assamese, Tamil, Marathi, Kashmiri, Sindhi, Kondkani, Telugu, Guj., Mal, Oriya, Bengali, Manipuri
5.	Kisan Mela Kharif	Kashmiri
6.	Kayakalp: 50 years of Agri in U.P.	Hindi
7.	Hopcom Success Story	Kannada
8.	Stories of Watershed Management	Marathi
9.	Vermi compost	Marathi
	2002-03	
10.	Impact of Excessive Use of Ground Water	Eng., Punjabi
11.	Dry Land Agriculture Technolgoy	Eng.
12.	Crop Production Technology on Rapeseed—Mustard	Eng., Hindi
13.	Cold Storage (Spot)	Eng.
14.	Grow more food through Green Manuring	Eng., Hindi
15.	Plant Zero-Till Ferti-seed Drill	Hindi
16.	Mushroom Utpadan Ek Safal Udyog	Hindi
17.	Harit Dhara	Marathi
18.	Mansoon Yatra	Eng., Hindi, Mal., Marathi, Kan., Guj., Assamese, Bengali, Telugu, Tamil
19.	Bhoo Suraksha	Eng., Telugu
20.	Drip Irrigation in Horticultural Crops	Eng.
21.	Oyster Mushroom	Eng.
22.	Off Season Vegetables	Hindi
23.	Integrated Pest Management in Vegetable Crops	Eng., Hindi, Kannada
24.	Alternative Land use System for Rainfed Area	Eng.
25.	Castor Crop (Production Technology)	Eng., Hindi
26.	Cumin Crop (Production Technology)	Hindi, Eng., Guj.
	2003-04	
27.	Upland Rice	Eng.
28.	Rajasthan Ke Krishi Kshetra Mein Mukhya Uplabdhian	Hindi

1	2	3
29.	Integrated Nutrient Management (Spot)	Eng., Hindi
30.	On Farm Water Management	Eng., Hindi, Tamil
31.	A Boon to the Poor (Cassava)	Eng., Hindi, Tel., Mal
32.	A Production Technology of Fennel	Eng., Hindi
33.	Pearls of Peasants	Eng., Hindi, Marathi
34.	Bamboo Drip Irrigation	Eng., Khasi
35.	Unseen Enemies	Eng., Hindi
36.	Himachal Pradesh Mein Chai Ki Paidawar	Hindi
37.	Dry Land Horticulture	Eng., Oriya
38.	New Coconut Hybrid Varieties	Eng.
39.	Grapes for Export	Eng., Hindi, Marathi
40.	Plant Tissue Culture	Eng., Mal.
41	Coconut Cultivation	Eng.
42.	Bio-Conservation of Medicinal Plants	Eng., Mal.
43.	Soochna Pradyogiki Ke Safal Prayog	Eng., Hindi

Statement II

(Rs. in crores)

Financial Year	Total Allocation for North Eastern States in Deptt. of Agriculture & Cooperation	Total Expenditure thereon for North Eastern States	Total Allocation for IEC under Directorate of Extension	Allocation for North Eastern States out of Coloum 4	Expenditure thereson for North Eastern States
2001-02	—	—	3.71	—	—
2002-03	216.75	167.77	5.42	0.15	—
2003-04	216.70	152.06	24.76	0.15	0.15 (Approximately 0.01% of total allocation for IEC)

[Translation]

Decline in Number of Migratory Birds

2650. SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether declining number of birds the world over has a direct impact on arrival of migratory birds in Bird Sanctuaries in India, especially Ghana Bird Sanctuary at Bharatpur (Kewaldev);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to check the same;

(d) whether the Government is aware that the Government of Russia are compelling the birds by flying gliders and forcing them to fly towards Iran due to which the Iran route is becoming easy for these migratory birds;

(e) if so, whether the Government propose to implement a similar scheme to attract these migratory birds to India; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Decline in the number of migratory birds that visit India is attributed to various factors including habitat destruction, pollution, war and hunting en route. The Keoladeo National Park being an important staging ground for migratory waterfowl including stocks, cranes, cormorants etc. has experienced the same phenomenon of decline due to above-mentioned factors. The rare and endangered migratory Siberian Cranes have stopped coming to the part after 2002.

(c) India is a signatory to the Convention on Migratory Species of Wild Animals. As international cooperation is essential for mitigating the causes of decline in bird populations all over the world, Government of India has expressed serious concerns at intrenational forums requesting the global community to take urgent ameliorative actions for the protection of migratory birds.

(d) No such report has come to the notice of the Government.

(e) There is no such scheme under the consideration of the Government.

(f) Does not arise.

Amount for Seed Development Programme

2651. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount provided by the Union Government to various State Governments for the Seed Development Programme in Government agriculture farms during the last three years;

(b) the financial assistance proposed to be provided to them by the Union Government under the said programme during the year 2004-05;

(c) the total number of agriculture farms running in losses, State-wise; and

(d) the remedial measures taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Setting up of Soyabean Plant

2652. SHRIMATI NEETA PATERIYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up soyabean plant in tribal areas of Madhya Pradesh particularly in Sivani District;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the details of existing soyabean plants in Madhya Pradesh; and

(e) the locations where new plants are proposed to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) The total number of solvent extraction plants including soyabean processing plants are ninety nine in the State of Madhya Pradesh. The existing installed capacity of the soyabean processing plants is much more than the production of soyabean in the state.

(d) Details of the existing solvent extraction plants including soyabean processing plants are given in the Statement enclosed.

(e) Question does not arise.

Statement

Details of the existing Solvent Extraction Plants including Soybean Processing Plants in Madhya Pradesh

Lic No.	Name of the Unit	Address	Capacity (MTPD)
1	2	3	4
843-A	A V Thomas Inds Prods Ltd.	Chickheda TFH Pandhurna, Chhindwara	300
689-B	Agro Solvent Prods Pvt. Ltd.	Govind Niwas Datia, Datia	250
663-AB	Alpine Inds Ltd.	V Pithampur, Dhar	150
1394-B	Alpine Inds Ltd.	V Bhatkhera Ponnemuch, Mandasur	1500
1343-C	Alpine Solvex (P) Ltd.	Mangaliagaon, Indore	500
1201-B	Ambika Solvex (P) Ltd.	New Indl. Area Jadra, Ratlam	150
1727-C	Ambika Solvex Ltd.	C/o M/s Raj Solvex Ltd. Vill. Kharakhedi, Mhow Road	0
1472-C	Ambika Solvex Ltd (Unit No. 2)	New Ind. Area Jaora, Ratlam	300
1570-B	Astha Industries Ltd.	Kalapipai, Shajapur	200
1707-B	Aventis Bio Feeds (P) Ltd.	Kosmi Industrial Area, Betul	0
858-AB	Bajrang Extrns. (P) Ltd.	Dhar, Dhar	40
605-B	Betul Oils & Flours Ltd.	Kosmi Indl. Area Betul, Betul	100
1571-A	Bhaskar Fxoils Ltd.	V Chheta Malasapura, Dewas	700
923-C	Bindal Agro-Chem Ltd.	19-B New Indl. Area Mandidlip, Raisen	150
949-B	Chordia Edible Oil (P) Ltd.	Nagpur Road Katangi, Balghat	60
1359-	Dewas Soya Ltd.	Pilot No. 96 & 97, Dewas	650
1439-C	Divya Jyoti Ind. Ltd.	Plot No. 19-39 Sector No. 3, Dhar	500
1701-C	Geepee Ceval and Investment (P)	101-P, Indl. Area Sector-1, Pithampur	150
224-AB	General Foods Ltd.	V Dhabli AB road Opp. RS. Indore	200
1306-C	Gujarat Ambuja Exports Ltd.	Plot 414-417 S. 3 Pithampur, Dhar	500
1421-C	HM Proteins Ltd.	V Sukhi Sewania the Huzur, Bhopal	500
889-C	Itarsi Oils & Flours Ltd.	Kheda Indl. Area Estate, Hoshangabad	100

1	2	3	4
718-B	K P Solvex Ltd.	V. Harshmauteh Niwari, Tikamgarh	100
1154-B	K S Oils Ltd.	A B Road Indl. Area Morena, Morena	300
647-B	Kaura Agro Inds (P) Ltd.	PO 9 Hathwans Pipariya, Hoshangabad	100
1563-B	Kartik Solvex (P) Ltd.	Plot No. 1 to 6 & 13 to 18, Ratlam	100
1175-	Khaitan Agro	Ratlam, Ratlam	400
1529-B	Khaitan Chem. & Fert. Ltd	Arunapuram Dhankheri Jor, Sehore	0
1502-C	Khalsa Overseas Ltd.	13 km Stone Indore Road, Khandwa	300
1291-D	Khandwa Oils	Siltia Pandhana, Khandwa	300
1173-	Kriti Inds. (I) Ltd.	Indl. Area No. 3 Dewa, Dewas	300
736-B	Krishna Oil Extrans. (P) Ltd.	V Gangahoni AB Road, Rajgarh (Biaora)	500
1309-	Laxmi Solvex	PB 51 AB RD V durgapura, Dewas	400
1194-	Madhumilan Systex Ltd.	AB Road Deweas, Dewas	900
1286-B	Madhyavari Exoill Ltd.	S-5, Saraswati Nagar Betul	200
559-AB	Maheshwari Protiens Ltd.	269 Nagda Dhansuta Road, Ratlam	100
1168-A	Marvel Agrox Ltd.	Champla Khedialot, Ratlam	600
812-E	Matri Ashish Veg. Prod (P) Ltd.	Pandlana Road, Khandwa	0
1469-E	Midex Overseas Ltd.	Indore, Indore	0
524-AB	Modern Bakeries (I) Ltd.	Maxi Road, Ujjain	60
769-C	MP Glychem Inds. Ltd.	V Dhobi the Niwas, Mandla	100
1310-	MP Glychem Inds. Ltd.	V Kamti the Gadarwaara, Narsinghpur	400
680-C	MP State Coop. O/s Grofed Ltd.	Banapara Sehore, Hoshangabad	200
800-AB	MP State Coop. O/s Grofed Ltd.	Nagzira, Ujjain	400
1041-A	MP State Coop. O/s Grofed Ltd.	Palatwada Markhahandi, Chhindwara	200
758-AB	MP State Coop. O/s Grofed Ltd.	Mustard Complex Jarerua, Bhopal	200
724-B	Narsinh E7A Prods. (P) Ltd.	V Khamtara the Narsingpur, Narsinghpur	100
1705-E	National Steel and Agro Inds. Ltd.	401, Mahakosh House, 7/5 South Tukoganj Nath	0
1352-B	Natraj Proteins Ltd.	Nagpur Kalan Ord FY Road, Hoskangabad	200
644-B	Oswal Protiens	P O Mandideep, Raisen	300
1170-	Param Industries Ltd.	Mangalia Gaon AB Road, Indore	300
1077-B	Prakash Solvex	V Kheda Pithampur, Dhar	150

1	2	3	4
1600-B	Pratiha Olvex (P) Ltd.	SVY No. 222 V 7 PO Piparria, Hoshangabad	200
380-AB	Premier Inds. (I) Ltd.	45/47 Indl. Area No. 1, Dewas	100
1626-AD	Premier Industries (India) Ltd.	45/47 Indl Area No. 1, Dewas	400
1538-A	Premier Proteins Ltd.	47-B/48-B Indl. Area No. 1 Dewas	500
1111-B	Prestige Feeds Mills Ltd.	49-C Indl. Area III, Dewas	300
571-AB	Prestige Foods Ltd.	6-B Indl. Area No. II, Dewas	100
1665-E	Prestige Foods Ltd.	30, Jaora compound, MYH Road, Indore	0
833-C	Prestige Soya Ltd.	48-B Indl. Area II AB Road, Dewas	300
1251-E	Prestige Soya Ltd.	Jaora Compound Indore, Indore	0
1666-E	Prestige Soya Industries	Plot No. 48-B Indl. Area No. III Bombay Agra Road	0
1675-B	Prestige Vanaspati Industries	30, Jaora Compound MYH RD, Indore	0
1295-B	Prime Solv Extrn Ltd.	Baghwaar Road, Karfli, Narsinghpur	250
1280-C	Progressive Extrn & Export Ltd.	Shri Mohan Parisar, 232, Raisen	200
1022	Pudumji Agro Inds. Ltd.	P B 23, V Kheri the Karfli, Narsinghpur	100
739-D	Rajani Extrns Ltd.	18-C Tejpur Bridge, Indore	50
1274-B	Rama Phosphates Ltd.	20/6 KM Indore Ujjain RD, Indore	600
1531-B	Ruchi Global Ltd.	Mahakosh House, Indore	0
1525-E	Ruchi International Ltd.	Indore, Indore	0
1719-B	Ruchi Soya Ind. Ltd.	Akodia RD, Indl. Area, Shujulpur, Shajapur	100
1035-ad	Ruchi Soya Inds. Ltd.	Mangalia Gaon, Indore	700
1401-	Ruchi Soya Inds. Ltd.	V Talwandi Chanda PE, Indore	1500
1012-B	Rukmini Solvex (P) Ltd.	Balaghat Road, Rajegaon, Balaghat	150
959-B	SKG Sol Extrns (I) (P) Ltd.	Kusmoda Opp. Malhotra Qtr., Guna	150
1386-C	SKG Solvex Ltd.	Sodhalpur Road Imberni, Hoshangabad	300
1287-I	S M Dychem Ltd.	Soya Complex, Vidisha	0
1079-	S M Dychem Ltd.	Soya Complex, Sanchi Road, Vidisha	600
687-C	Sagar Soya Prods. Ltd.	V Bhaina, Sagar	150
1459-C	Sam Inds. Ltd.	V Dakachya the Sanver AB Road, Indore	800
1299-B	Sanwaria Agro Oils Ltd.	24/28 Indl. Estate Khera, Hoshangabad	200
1575-	Satna Solv (P) Ltd.	V Tighra the Nagod, Satna	100

1	2	3	4
509-C	Shajapur Solv Extm. Ltd	A B Road, Shajapur, Shajapur	100
1264-C	Sharda Solvex Ltd.	Banskhedi AB Road, Shivpur, Shivpur	400
1718-A	Sharda Solvent Ltd.	Sadar Bazar Shivpuri	0
1426-C	Shiv Solvent Extn. Prod. (P) Ltd.	V Dehandi the Shujapur, Shajapur	200
877-C	Shoba Soya Oil Prods. Ltd.	V Lakhroni Tel. Patharia, Damoh	200
409-D	Shree Mansigha Oil Mills Ltd.	Pandhana Road PB No. I, Khandwa	100
1219	Shri Ishar Agro Ltd.	Plot No. 56-60, Indl. Area II, Dewas	500
1228-C	Siddahrth Soya Prods. Ltd.	PB 29, Pidgaon, Hoshangabad	500
1542-A	Sonic Biochem Extms. L (P) Ltd.	V Thadod Botalganj, Mandasur	150
615-AB	Surya Agroils Ltd.	No. I Indl. Area, Salamatpur, Raisen	10
55-AB	The Malwa Van & Chem. Co. Ltd.	Mohatta Nagar, Indore	50
658-AB	Tri-Star Soya Products Ltd.	Plot 5 Inld. Area, Maksi, Shajapur	500
989-B	United Soya Prods. Ltd.	Indl. Area Mandeep, Raisen	250
906-C	Varuna Agro Proteins Ltd.	TQ Ichhawoo Bhaukhedijor, Sehore	200
734-B	Vindhia Soya Ltd.	46-48 Indl. Area Khedia, Hoshangabad	100
277-AB	Vippy Inds Ltd.	28-30 Indl. Area AB Road, Dewas	300
1427-AD	Vippy Industries Ltd.	28-30 Indl. Area AB Road, Dewas	1000
		Total No. Units are 99	26810

0 capacity indicates plants not functioning.

[English]

Unfair Selection of Wrestlers for Athens Olympics

2653. SHRI G.V. HARSHA KUMAR: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received Court notice on the unfair selection of wrestlers for the forthcoming Athens Olympics;

(b) if so, the details and facts thereof; and

(c) the action being taken by the Government to correct the selection procedure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-RESIDENT INDIANS AFFAIRS (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Development of Tourism in A&N Islands

2654. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to develop tourism in Andaman and Nicobar Islands;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has received any proposal from private organization for setting up of a hotel in the Island; and

(d) if so, the action the Government has taken to clear the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) Development and promotion of places of tourist spots/ interest is primarily undertaken by the State Governments/ UT Administrations themselves. However, the Central Department of Tourism provides funds for development of different tourist places on the basis of field visits/ consultation with the States/UT Administrations concerned. During the 8th and 9th Plans 15 projects were sanctioned for central financial assistance of Rs. 450.02 lakhs.

(c) and (d) Construction of hotels is primarily a private sector initiative and the Government of India provides incentives and benefits to the private sector for establishing 1 to 3 star and Heritage Hotels.

[Translation]

Funds to States for Developmental Projects and Canals

2655. KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the amount allocated/released by the Union Government to the State Governments particularly in Uttar Pradesh for developmental projects and canals during the last three years;

(b) the details of works undertaken and the amount spent so far in this regard; and

(c) by when the work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Water Resources is releasing funds for the development of irrigation projects including dams and canals under the Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) and Command Area Development Programme (CADP). A sum of about Rs. 9230 crore has been released under these programmes during the last three years to the State Governments and out of this, about Rs. 1081 crore was released to the State Government of Uttar Pradesh. The Central Loan Assistance under AIBP is provided on year to year basis in two equal instalments. The second instalment is released after obtaining the utilization certificate for the first instalment released. The grant under CADP is provided quarterly as reimbursement. The work taken up under AIBP are construction of dams, irrigation canals including distributaries and cross drainage works. The works taken up under CADP are on farm development, improvement of drainage, construction of field channel, warabandhi and reclamation of waterlogged area. The works taken up under AIBP are scheduled to be completed in three to four years whereas completion of works taken under the CADP depends upon the annual plan allocation made by the Planning Commission and the funds provided by the State Governments.

Grant provided on Seeds

2656. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government provides grants on the seeds of less than ten years old only in Macro Management and ISOPOM schemes;

(b) if so, whether the Government is aware that in case of oilseeds and pulses there are no new developed seeds within ten years limit;

(c) whether the Government propose to remove this time limit; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) Under the Macro Management Scheme, grant is available on the seeds of less than ten years old only. However, there is a provision of relaxing the time limit of 10 years in special cases. In the Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm & Maize (ISOPOM), no time limit is fixed for the production and distribution of seeds. However, under the minikit programme of ISOPOM, which is meant to popularize newly released varieties of seeds, a time limit of ten years has been fixed.

(b) During the last ten years, a number of varieties/ hybrids of oilseeds and pulses have been released.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Question does not arise.

Central Authority of Rivers Water Distribution

2657. DR. COL. (RETD.) DHANI RAM SHANDIL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to constitute a Central Authority to curb the arbitrariness of States over the issue of rivers water distribution; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Akasmik Fasal Yojana

2658. SHRI S.D. MANDLIK: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has announced a short term Akashmik Fashal Yojana; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Before the start of Kharif season, Government has advised all the State Governments to prepare crop contingency plan to overcome the effect of any possible erratic behaviour of monsoon. Indian Council of Agricultural Research have published the bulletin "Drought Management Strategies" detailing contingent plan for alternate crops during drought situation, for the guidance of the State Governments. This bulletin has been made available to all the State Governments.

Illegal Boring in South Delhi

2659. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether despite a ban imposed on boring, illegal boring activities have taken place in South Delhi blatantly;

(b) if so, the details of complaints received against illegal boring by the Deputy Commissioner, South Delhi during the last two years and the action taken on each complaint;

(c) whether some of his officers are also actively involved in the illegal boring activities;

(d) if so, the action taken against erring officials;

(e) whether there is any proposal to conduct a survey of illegal boring in South Delhi; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) As per information received from the office of Deputy Commissioner, South District, NCT of Delhi, 89 complaints were received regarding illegal boring in South Delhi during the last two years. The illegal borings have been sealed by Deputy Commissioner, South Delhi and 32 vehicles were impounded which have been released after furnishing bank guarantee amounting to Rs. 1.00 lakh and bond by the owners of the vehicles.

(c) and (d) Deputy Commissioner, South District, NCT of Delhi received verbal complaints against two officials for conniving with the violators of ban imposed on boring activities. Both the officials have been transferred from South District. Departmental proceedings and other action as per law has been recommended against them.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) The number of complaints is not large enough to warrant such a survey.

Proposal from NGOs in Tamil Nadu

2660. SHRI R. PRABHU: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of proposal received from Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) working in Tamil Nadu particularly in Coimbatore and Nilgiri Districts are pending during the last two years;

(b) if so, the reasons for their pendency;

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Union Government to expedite clearance; and

(d) the items and areas for which grants are given by the Ministry to NGOs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-RESIDENT INDIANS AFFAIRS (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (d) The following schemes of the Ministry have a provision for providing grants to the Non-Governmental Organisations:

(i) Promotion of Youth Activities and Training: Under this scheme, grants are given for conducting Training Programmes, Entrepreneurship Development Programmes and Exhibitions for Youth. During the year 2002-03, two proposals each from districts of Coimbatore and Nilgiri were received but could not be considered due to lack of funds. During the year 2003-04, three proposals were received from Coimbatore, out of which one proposal was approved. The other two were not approved due to deficiencies. As such, no proposal is pending.

(ii) National Integration: Under this scheme, grants are provided for conducting National Integration Camps, Inter-State Youth Exchange Programmes, Symposia and Seminars, Multi-Cultural Activities, Youth Leadership Training Programmes and Communal Harmony Programmes. No proposal received from NGOs from the districts of Coimbatore and Nilgiri during the last two years under this scheme is pending.

(iii) Creation of Sports Infrastructure: Under this scheme, grants on matching share basis are provided to NGOs who are active in the field of sports and for creation of sports facilities viz. Outdoor/Indoor Stadia, Development of Playfields, Swimming Pools, Water Sports facilities, Skating Rinks etc. subject to receipt of viable proposals from the State Governments/UTs. One proposal was received from Coimbatore during the last two years and was found deficient in some respects. The NGO has since rectified the deficiencies and the proposal will be placed before the Grants-in-Aid Committee for consideration in its next meeting.

Adventure Tourism

2661. SHRI ANIRUDH PRASAD ALIAS SADHU YADAV:
SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA:
SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has formulated any scheme to promote adventure tourism destinations in various States;

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

(c) the revenue likely to be earned by the Government therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Ministry of Tourism extends Central financial assistance to the State Governments/Union Territories for the development and promotion of tourism projects including adventure tourism on the basis of proposals received from them subject to availability of funds and inter-se priorities.

(c) These projects are managed by the State Governments/Union Territories. The revenue earned from these projects goes to the State Governments/Union Territories.

Mechanised Fishing Boats

2662. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government is sanctioning and releasing funds for reimbursement on CED and HSD oil to mechanized fishing boats below 20 MTs length @ Rs. 0.35 paise per litre of diesel on the pattern of 80:20 by Union Government and State Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether due to hike in diesel price and non-remunerative fishing operation, motorized fishing boat operators are requesting for total exemption of sales tax on CED and HSD;

(d) if so, whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has made any request to the Union Government in this regard; and

(e) if so, the action taken or being taken by the Government on the request of Government of Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The component on Fishermen Development Rebate on HSD is operated under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Development of Marine Fisheries. The scheme cleared for implementation or Tenth Plan

envisages a rebate of Rs. 1.50 per litre HSD consumed by the eligible vessels. The rebate will be borne 100% by the Centre in the case of coastal States which have exempted Sales Tax on HSD and for the UTs. For States which are levying Sales Tax are to share 20% of the rebate.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The scheme under implementation by the Government is not linked to fluctuation in diesel price.

[Translation]

Parvati-Kali Sindh Chambal Project

2663. SHRI RAGHUVEER SINGH KOSHAL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has sanctioned Parvati-Kali Sindh Chambal Project under rivers-linking scheme;

(b) if so, whether the Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh Governments have proposed amendments to the said project;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government has agreed to the amendments proposed by them; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) The National Water Development Agency (NWDA) has prepared the Feasibility Report of Parbati-Kalisindh-Chambal Link Project as a part of National Perspective Plan for Water Resources Development prepared by the Government. NWDA has sent the Feasibility Report to the State Governments of Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh for their comments.

(b) The detailed comments of the State Governments on the Feasibility Report have not been received in NWDA.

(c) to (e) Do not arise.

[English]

Differential Rates of Interest of EPF

2664. SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH:
SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to offer differential rates of interest on Employees' Provident Fund to workers with different EPF deposits;

(b) if so, the details of the new scheme; and

(c) the reaction of the national level labour Unions thereto?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI SISH RAM OLA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

[Translation]

Cultivation of Medicinal Plants

2665. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KUSHAWAHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government provide assistance for cultivation of medicinal plants/herbs;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of persons benefited from cultivation of medicinal plants/herbs in the country particularly in Uttar Pradesh during the last two years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) The Government is providing assistance for the cultivation of medicinal and aromatic plants under the "Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Macro Management in Agriculture-Supplementation/Complementation of State efforts through Work Plan" which includes of integrated development of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants. Under the scheme, the State Governments have the flexibility to take up programmes for the development of agriculture and horticulture as per their priority and felt needs.

The National Medicinal Plants Board in the Department of AYUSH, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare is also providing assistance for the cultivation of medicinal plants.

(c) As per the information received from Government of Uttar Pradesh, the number of persons benefited in the state of Uttar Pradesh during last two years from cultivation of medicinal plants/herbs were 460 and 372

for 2002-2003 and 2003-2004 respectively. The state-wise information on number of beneficiaries during last two years is given in the Statement enclosed.

Statement

Number of persons benefited under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme in the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation

State	No. of Persons
Andhra Pradesh	985
Kerala	1500
Tamil Nadu	1350
Bihar	245
Jammu and Kashmir	659
Uttar Pradesh	832*
Madhya Pradesh	905
Punjab	508
Orissa	850
Rajasthan	1096
West Bengal	1200
Assam	318
Gujarat	412
Jharkhand	242
Haryana	962
Maharashtra	608
Karnataka	875
Uttaranchal	151
Total	13698

*Figure includes beneficiaries both under Central Sector and State Sector Scheme.

[English]

Agricultural Project by Foreign Countries

2666. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of agricultural projects being funded/ proposed to be funded by the foreign countries in the country particularly in Gujarat;

(b) the present status of such ongoing agricultural projects, State-wise;

(c) whether any fresh projects seeking external assistance have been received from any State Governments, especially from the Gujarat Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Storage Capacity of Reservoirs

2667. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of reservoirs in the country meant for irrigation; and

(b) the percentage of their total water carrying capacity available now due to shortfall in monsoon this year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) At the end of Ninth Five Year plan 4,525 large dams were cosntructed in the country to provide storage for meeting the requirements of irrigation, hydro power and for other purposes. The Central Water Commission is monitoring the status of storage of 71 impotant reservoirs. The overall storage in these 17 reservoirs as on 06.08.2004 was 39.28 billion cubic metre (BCM) which is 30 per cent of the total designed live storage capacity.

[Translation]

Pench Project in Madhya Pradesh

2668. SHRI CHHATTAR SINGH DARBAR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pench Project is proposed to be taken in Madhya Pradesh under Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when the project is likely to be started:

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Probably, the Hon'ble Member is referring to Pench Diversion Project of Madhya Pradesh which is an unapproved ongoing irrigation project. As per the norms for Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP), only such on-going major/medium irrigation projects are eligible for Central Loan Assistance under this programme which have investment clearance from the Planning Commission and in an advanced stage of completion. As the Pench Division Project does not have investment clearance from the Planning Commission, it is not eligible for AIBP funding.

[English]

Employment Commission

2669. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL:
SHRI K.S. RAO:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up an employment commission for creation of job opportunities for unemployed youth to the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the terms of reference of the commission; and

(d) by when it is likely to start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI SISH RAM OLA): (a) Ministry of Labour and Employment has no proposal for setting up of an employment commission.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

Emission from CNG Run Vehicles

2670. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) has expressed its serious concern over the steady rise in nitrogen oxide levels in the capital;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether CNG gains may be lost to rising levels of nitrogen oxide;

(d) if so, the details and extent thereof; and

(e) the steps taken/to be taken by the Government to check deterioration in emissions from CNG run vehicles?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA) (a) and (b) The Centre for Science and Environment in it's report on "Air quality gains from first generation reforms and challenges of second generation problems in Delhi" issued in July 2004 has expressed it's concern over the rise in nitrogen oxide levels in Delhi.

(c) and (d) The rising levels of nitrogen oxide levels may be attributed to various factors like emission from two gas based power plants, poorly maintained CNG buses and overall increase in vehicular population.

(e) Delhi Transport Department is taking measures to improve vehicular inspection and certification system for commercial vehicles, including diesel and CNG vehicles.

[Translation]

Assistance to States for Irrigation Projects

2671. SHRI K.C. SINGH 'BABA': Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the amount allocated to various State Governments for irrigation projects during last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether the allocation was inadequate;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to provide adequate funds for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (d) The allocation of funds to the States is made by the Planning Commission as plan allocations vis-a-vis demands of the States in the form of block loans and grants not tied to any individual sector or

project. Allocation to various sectors including irrigation are thereafter made by State Governments themselves. Additional funds for irrigatiion projects under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) and Command Area Development Programme (CADP) are also provided to the State Governments. The amount allocated/released by the Central Government as Plan allocations by the Planning Commission, Central Loan Assistance under AIBP and Central Assistance under CADP to various State Governments for irrigation projects during last three years State-wise are given in enclosed Statement I, II and III respectively.

Statement I

State-wise outlay approved by the Planning Commission

(Rs. in crore)

Sl.No.	State	Year-wise Outlay		
		2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1354.92	1459.01	1861.64
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.36	0.40	0.40
3.	Assam	55.83	53.29	41.80
4.	Bihar	473.00	456.55	409.35
5.	Chhattisgarh	240.97	274.95	211.32
6.	Goa	82.62	68.50	16.07
7.	Gujarat	1278.30	1190.32	1158.47
8.	Haryana	287.10	239.50	186.97
9.	Himachal Pradesh	11.80	11.83	15.99
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	71.64	37.34	78.50
11.	Jharkhand	—	290.00	290.00
12.	Karnataka	2698.70	2631.00	2752.91
13.	Kerala	146.00	110.00	100.00
14.	Madhya Pradesh	547.82	634.85	986.57
15.	Maharashtra	2335.21	3610.87	3527.87
16.	Manipur	72.29	53.10	51.00
17.	Megahalaya	4.50	2.00	1.70
18.	Mizoram	0.01	0.01	0.01
19.	Nagaland	0.00	0.00	0.00
20.	Orissa	480.37	512.65	426.74

1	2	3	4	5
21.	Punjab	323.13	175.87	160.25
22.	Rajasthan	356.77	462.34	336.40
23.	Sikkim	0.00	0.00	0.00
24.	Tamil Nadu	557.26	307.38	309.59
25.	Tripura	6.09	7.46	6.45
26.	Uttar Pradesh	950.48	824.81	920.36
27.	Uttaranchal	28.00	31.76	39.00
28.	West Bengal	170.02	165.48	79.70
	Total for States	12533.19	13611.27	13979.06
	Total UTs.	0.60	0.90	1.96
	Total States and UTs.	12533.79	13612.17	13981.02

Statement II

Central Loan Assistance Released under AIBP to States

(Rs. crore)

Sl.No.	State	CLA Released		
		2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	281.660	33.186	205.530
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	15.000	1.500	20.000
3.	Assam	14.521	16.274	19.2015
4.	Bihar	3.420	14.481	74.644
5.	Chhattisgarh	48.200	104.00	74.630
6.	Goa	58.000	0.000	2.000
7.	Gujarat	581.690	1000.330	650.359
8.	Haryana	0.000	18.000	7.735
9.	Himachal Pradesh	3.244	8.150	14.692
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	11.070	34.999	21.545

1	2	3	4	5
11.	Jharkhand	10.820	9.670	1.833
12.	Karnataka	492.500	620.850	266.478
13.	Kerala	11.275	5.665	31.000
14.	Madhya Pradesh	215.410	200.000	568.440
15.	Maharashtra	39.100	133.134	164.395
16.	Manipur	9.360	19.500	15.500
17.	Meghalaya	4.470	1.500	1.088
18.	Mizoram	2.000	0.750	9.300
19.	Nagaland	5.000	2.659	8.000
20.	Orissa	168.475	179.570	154.685
21.	Punjab	113.690	36.660	0.000
22.	Rajasthan	96.315	174.385	499.837
23.	Tripura	21.063	3.395	13.377
24.	Tamil Nadu	0.000	0.000	0.000
25.	Uttar Pradesh	354.690	359.000	274.785
26.	Uttaranchal	0.000	25.163	25.553
27.	West Bengal	38.608	28.133	3.144
28.	Sikkim	2.400	0.750	0.750
	Total	2601.981	3061.704	3128.501

Statement III

Central Assistance Released under Command Area Development Programme (CADP) to States

(Rs. lakh)

Sl.No.	Name of States	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	—	—	—
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	34.75	125.13	—
3.	Assam	35.00	—	—
4.	Bihar	300.00	—	—

1	2	3	4	5
5.	Chhattisgarh	46.32	148.45	174.64
6.	Goa	—	—	—
7.	Gujarat	—	—	—
8.	Haryana	2321.79	620.92	—
9.	Himachal Pradesh	155.95	182.21	118.07
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	171.22	344.00	417.09
11.	Jharkhand	—	—	—
12.	Karnataka	3423.84	2652.61	2653.87
13.	Kerala	507.94	—	108.31
14.	Madhya Pradesh	15.86	615.05	203.56
15.	Mizoram	6.88	9.14	9.11
16.	Maharashtra	744.72	331.33	214.61
17.	Manipur	—	211.03	124.15
18.	Meghalaya	—	11.34	15.99
19.	Nagaland	133.16	-	—
20.	Orissa	504.76	264.90	299.45
21.	Punjab	—	1622.00	1002.80
22.	Rajasthan	2654.66	2939.27	2038.30
23.	Sikkim	5.50	1.25	—
24.	Tamil Nadu	1336.14	2305.80	2025.85
25.	Tripura	—	—	—
26.	Uttar Pradesh	2274.19	2279.40	4738.91
27.	Uttaranchal	—	75.00	—
28.	West Bengal	—	284.00	—
	Total for States	14672.68	15022.83	14144.71

[English]

Flood Control in States

2672. SHRI GIRIDHARI YADAV:
SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether devastating floods occur in States due to several rivers originating from Himalayas and flowing through various parts of the country;

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

(c) whether the Government has formulated any scheme to control floods in these rivers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and assistance provided by World Bank and other international agencies for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Rivers originating in Himalayas namely Ganga and its tributaries mainly cause frequent floods in the States of Bihar, Uttar Pradesh & West Bengal while the Brahmaputra, Barak and their tributaries mainly cause floods in Assam, Arunachal Pradesh and Tripura.

(c) and (d) Though flood management is a state subject, the Central Government is also providing assistance to the State Governments including financial assistance for taking up critical flood management works.

As regards the projects on the tributaries of river Ganga, which flow to India from Nepal, the Government of India is having regular discussions with Nepal. In this context agreement has been reached with Nepal and a scheme at a cost of Rs. 29.34 crore has been approved to take up field investigations and preparation of Detailed Project Report on Sapta Kosi High Dam Multipurpose Project and Sun Kosi Storage Cum Diversion Scheme which *inter alia* will have substantial flood control benefits for North Bihar. The Joint Project Office and other field offices to take up the above work are being opened in Nepal in August 2004.

Further Kamla & Bagmati Multipurpose Projects on river Kamla & Bagmati are also under discussion with Nepal, though the Nepalese sides feels that these projects may not be feasible bedcause of social and environmental implications. This matter was discussed during the 5th meeting of Joint Term of Experts in June 2003 and is being followed up further.

Agreement has been reached to take up field investigations and preparation of DPR of 600 MW Burhi Gandaki Hyderolectric Project by an Indian agency on river Burhi, Gandak which is a tributary of river Gandak.

An understanding also exists between India and Nepal to extend the existing embankments on Lalbakeya, Bagmati, Kamla & Khando rivers into Nepalese territory upto the non-spilling zone and tie them up with high ground with corresponding strengthening of embankments on the Indian side.

As regards Brahmaputra, for effective flood control measures and to exploit the large hydroelectric potential, the Siang (Dihang) Dam Project and the Subansiri Dam Project to be taken up in three stages each, have been entrusted to National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC). Action has been initiated for execution of Lower Subansiri project by the NHPC while other projects are under various stages of investigations/approval. Similarly, Tipaimukh Multi purpose Project on Barak has since been entrusted to North Eastern Electric Power Corporation. Pagladiya Dam Project in Assam has been approved by the Government, which is being executed by Brahmaputra Board.

Further, as a part of non-structural measures for flood management, cooperation exists between India and its neighbouring countries Nepal, Bhutan & China under which the hydrological data is received which is utilized in formulating flood forecasts on the Indian side.

As regards assistance provided by World Bank and other International agencies, none of the ongoing externally aided projects is addressing flood control or having any component related to flood control.

[Translation]

Foreign Visits of Officers

2673. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV:
SHRI D.P. SAROJ:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the break-up of amount spent on the foreign visits of the officers in the undertakings and organisations under the Ministry separately during the last two years;

(b) the purposes of such visits;

(c) the efforts made by the Government to minimise such foreign visits; and

(d) the likely savings in the current financial year, as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH SINGH): (a) The break up of amount spent on foreign visits of the officers in the PSUs/organizations under the Ministry during the last two years is indicated in the statement enclosed.

(b) The above visits were in connection with conferences/seminars/workshops/training etc. organized by International Organisations like Food and Agriculture Organisation, Association of Food & Marketing Agencies, Singapore Port Authority, to establish warehouses abroad and for upgradation of knowledge, skills, technology and to attract the business at various International forums in the field of warehousing.

(c) and (d) The proposals of FCI, CWC etc. for the deputation/delegation/training abroad are scrutinized by the Ministry and expenditure incurred on visits of the officers for the projects undertaken abroad is kept within the limits of the funds sanctioned for purpose and visits are allowed to be undertaken only when essential. Savings in the current financial year cannot be quantified at this early stage.

Statement

Break up of amount spent on the foreign visits of officers in the Undertaking and Organisation under this Ministry

Undertakings/Organisation	2002-03 (Rs.)	2003-04 (Rs.)	Total (Rs.)
Food Corporation of India	6,03,101	4,38,708	10,41,809
Central Warehousing Corporation	21,07,000	9,59,000	30,66,000
Forward Markets Commission	—	7,72,468	7,72,468
Bureau of Indian Standards	4,39,236	22,57,188	26,96,424
National Cooperative Consumers Federation (NCCF)	1,62,125	1,80,089	3,42,214

[English]

Effect on Scanty Rainfall on Crops

2674. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:
SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH:
SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:
SHRI ARJUN SETHI:
SHRI ANIRUDH PRASAD ALIAS SADHU YADAV:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':
SHRI SHRINIWAS DADASAHEB PATIL:
SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:
SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP:
SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has identified the areas where there has been scant rainfall during the current year;

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

(c) the present status of monsoon in those areas and its impact on Kharif crop alongwith the loss suffered by the farmers due to the failure of monsoon;

(d) whether ICAR scientists have advised farmers to shift to cultivation of pulses, oilseeds, maize etc. instead of paddy and other crops which require more water;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) the specific steps taken by the Government to deal with the situation; and

(g) the total financial assistance/relief provided by the Union Government to States affected by less rain?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (g) A statement indicating State-wise details of rainfall position during the current South-West Monsoon (1.6.2004 to 4.8.2004), as reported by the India Meteorological Department (IMD), is at Statement-I.

During current South-West Monsoon, the cumulative rainfall for the country as a whole till 28th July was— 15%. With the revival of South-West Monsoon, there was significant improvement in rainfall activity during subsequent priod. Kharif sowing is still in progress. There is considerable improvement in States like Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Maharashtra and Punjab during last two weeks. Due to widespread rains in the first two weeks of August, some improvement is in evidence in Rajasthan also. It will be premature to indicate, at this stage, the impact on Kharif crops and Districts which may face distress.

A "Crop Advisory" has been issued to the States facing situation arising out of deficient rainfall during the current South-West Monsoon. Details are at Statement-II.

Interim demands raised by Governments of Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan, at a time when a serious drought was apprehended, require reconsideration by the States concerned, in the light of changed situation. However, second instalment of Central share of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) for 2004-05 (due in November) has been released in advance to the States facing situation arising out of deficient rainfall, to enable them to initiate necessary relief measures. 50,000 MTs of foodgrains to Madhya Pradesh and 1 lakh MTs of foodgrains to Rajasthan have been allocated for generation of relief employment, wherever necessary. Railways are transporting drinking water to affected towns in Rajasthan, free of cost. The Central Government is closely monitoring the situation and is in constant touch with the State Governments concerned.

Statement I

Statewise Rainfall Distribution

S.No.	State/UT	01.06.2004 to 04.08.2004			
		Actual (mm)	Normal (mm)	%DEP	CAT
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	A and N Island (UT)	858.5	948.8	-10%	N
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1203.0	1143.2	5%	N
3.	Assam	949.0	878.5	8%	N
4.	Meghalaya	4042.8	3773.1	7%	N
5.	Nagaland	426.6	786.2	-46%	D
6.	Manipur	370.3	539.0	-31%	D
7.	Mizoram	745.1	768.9	-3%	N
8.	Tripura	1098.7	906.1	21%	E
9.	Sikkim	880.1	1217.7	-28%	D

1	2	3	4	5	6
10.	West Bengal	713.2	737.4	-3%	N
11.	Orissa	603.9	605.1	0%	N
12.	Bihar	650.3	565.4	15%	N
13.	Jharkhand	378.0	582.1	-35%	D
14.	Uttar Pradesh	336.0	422.4	-20%	D
15.	Uttaranchal	726.9	652.6	11%	N
16.	Haryana	184.1	234.4	-21%	D
17.	Chandigarh (UT)	687.0	449.9	53%	E
18.	Delhi	151.1	333.8	-55%	D
19.	Punjab	168.8	258.8	-35%	D
20.	Himachal Pradesh	232.4	419.9	-45%	D
21.	Jammu and Kashmir	249.0	275.4	-10%	N
22.	Rajasthan	130.9	214.4	-39%	D
23.	Madhya Pradesh	382.1	507.2	-25%	D
24.	Chhattisgarh	599.8	643.6	-7%	N
25.	Gujarat	384.4	392.6	-2%	N
26.	DNH and Daman (UTs)	1902.4	1297.4	47%	E
27.	Diu (UT)	—	415.7	—	—
28.	Goa	1588.0	2031.9	-22%	D
29.	Maharashtra	552.7	588.4	-6%	N
30.	Andhra Pradesh	301.1	303.7	-1%	N
31.	Tamil Nadu	111.5	120.4	-7%	N
32.	Pondicherry (UT)	50.6	123.1	-59%	D
33.	Karnataka	455.8	503.8	-10%	N
34.	Kerala	1224.0	1555.1	-21%	D
35.	Lakshadweep (UT)	542.2	634.3	-15%	N

Categorywise No. of States/UT

Category	No. of States/UTs
1	2
Excess	3
Normal	17
Deficient	14
Scanty	0
No Rain	0
No Data	1

Statement II

Contingency Crop Plan

Meteorological Sub Division	Rains up to 15th July, 2004 (Sowing 15th-31 July)	Rains Delayed upto 30th July (Sowing 1-15 Aug)	Rains Delayed upto 15th August
1	2	3	4
Telangana (A.P.)	Pigeonpea (Maruti, ICPL 87, BSMR—386,185) Pearl Millet (Sabouri, ICTP 8203, Arranta, ICMV—221) Maize (Harsha, Deccan 103,109, 107 MMH-133, Prakash, Pro-311, Bio 9681) Surya, Morden, EC 68414, All hybrids)	Pigeon Pea Pearl Millet Maize Sunflower Intercrops (Pigeonpea+ Pearlmillet) Castor (All available varieties hybrids	Pigenopea Castor Moisutre conservation for safflower and rabi crops, fodder
Rayalseema (A.P.)	Groundnut (Bheemana, TMV-2, SB 11 Groundnut+Pigeonpea Intercrop	Groundnut (TMV2, ICGV—91114) Intercropping Groundnut+ Millet	Pearl millet (ICTP 8203, ICMW—221) Moong (MCG—295 MCG 40, PDM 54) Dual Purpose Sorghum (M-35-1-1, NTJ I, 2, 3, 4) Horsegram (AK21, Marukulthi, Local)
Vidarbha (M.S.)	Pigenopea (Maruti, ICPL 87, BSMR—386,185) Pearl Millet (Sabouri, ICTP 8203, Ananta ICMV-221) Maize (Harsha, Deccan 103,109, 107 MMH-133, Prakash, Pro-311, Bio9681) Sunflower (TNAU-SUP-10) Surya, Morden, EC 68414, Al hybrids)	Pigeon Pea Pearl Millet Maize Sunflower Intercrops (Pigeonpea+ Pearlmillet) Castor (All available varieties hybrid)	Pigeonpea Castor Mositure conservation for safflowers and rabi crops, fodder.
Marathwada	Sunflower (Modern, EC 68914, Surya and Hybrids) Pigeonpea (BSMR—376,	Sunflower Pigeonpea Castor	Sunflower Pigeonpea Castor

1	2	3	4
	BSMR—182, Maruti) Castor (All hybrids) Pearlmillet (MAU varieties) Pigeonpea + Pearlmillet intercrop Sunflower + Pigeonpea Intercrop Pearlmillet + Horsegram Intercrop Piegonpea + Clusterpearl Intercrop Castor + Clusterbean intercrop	Sunflower + Pigeonpea	Sunflower + Pigeonpea Sorghum fodder
Madhya Maharashtra	Sunflower (Morder, EC 68914, Surya and Hybrids) Pigeonpea (BSMR—376, BSMR—182, Maruti) Castor (All hybrids) Pearlmillet (MAU varieties) Pigeonpea + Pearlmillet intercrop Sunflower + Pigeonpea Intercrop Pearlmillet + Horsegram Intercrop Pigeonpea + Clusterpearl Intercrop Castor + Clusterbean intercrop + Setaria (small millet)	Sunflower Pigeonpea Castor Sunflower + Pigeonpea + Small Millet	Sunflower Pigeonpea Castor Sunflower + Pigeonpea Sorghum fodder
Haryana and Delhi	Pearlmillet (HHB 67) Moong Urdbean (Type 9) Cowpea Guar (HG 365) and also Vegetable type Cluster bean	Transplanting HHB 67 Variety of Pearl Millet Direct Sowing Pearlmillet	Moisture conservation toria sowing
Himachal Pradesh	Maize Moong Uradbean Vegetable Cowpea	Moong Uradbean Maize (fodder) Cowpea	Moisture conservation toria and other rabi crops
East Rajasthan	Sesame (RT—46) Moong (K-851, Rm-62) Sorghum (CSH6, 13, 9, 16, 14, 17 SPV96, CSV15, 10) Cowpea Fodder-V505, Pusa Dophasli, Pusa Komal	Sesame (RT 125) Moong (RMG—62) Sorghum as fodder Sorghum + Cowpea	Sorghum (fodder) Toria (TL—15) Taramira (T—27)
West Rajasthan	Pearl Millet, Moth Bean Moong	Fodder, Pearl millet, Jowar	Fodder mixed

1	2	3	4
West Madhya Pradesh	Maize (Short duration Navjot Sathi) Pigeonpea (ICPL 151, T-21 Kh-2, ICPL-87, ICPL-88039) Sunflower (Morden, Surya Manjira and all hybrids) Sesamum (Bhadeli, TGK-22, TGK-37) Cow Pea (Pusa Komal, Pusa Baisakhi) Castor (Ganesh, Varuna)	Sunflower Sesame (RT 46, TGK 22) Cowpea Castor Sudan Grass Mazie (African Tall) Grasses (Dinanth) and pearlmillet, sorghum as fodder	Sunflower Sesame (RT 46) Rajgira Castor Maize, Barja as fodder

Sethuparai Dam in Tamil Nadu

2675. SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that sub-standard material has been used in the construction of Sethuparai Dam in Periyakulam district in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, whether the Government 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 WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) As reported by the Government of Tamil Nadu no sub-standard material has been used in the construction of Sethuparai Dam in Periyakulam district in Tamil Nadu.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Rehabilitation of Narmada Dam Oustees

2676. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:
SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether swelling Narmada Dam waters inundated a number of villages including Hars and Chharera in Madhya Pradesh this year;

(b) if so, whether the Government of Madhya Pradesh has sought said from the Union Government for relief and resettlement of flood victims;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of villages inundated which had to be evacuated and the victims settled in safer places?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) As reported by Narmada Valley Development Authority, so far no village has been inundated. At the present dam height (245 metre) of Indira Sagar Dam (Narmada dam), 120 villages would be affected, out of which 100 villages have been completely evacuated and in the remaining villages which are only partially affected families are in the process of shifting.

(b) and (c) The State Government itself has made all the necessary arrangements and contingency plan is also in place to meet any eventuality.

(d) Does not arise.

Subsidy to Farmers for Drip Irrigation

2677. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government provides subsidy to the farmers for adopting drip irrigation system;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the area of land irrigated by the drip irrigation system in the country and the amount of subsidy provided during the last three years and thereafter, State-wise;

(d) whether mostly big farmers are getting the benefit under the said scheme;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(f) if the steps taken by the Government to ensure that benefit of subsidy reach to the small farmers also?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) The Government is providing subsidy to the farmers for adopting drip irrigation under the following Centrally Sponsored Schemes:

(i) Macro Management in Agriculture—Supplementation/Complementation of State Efforts through Work Plans.

(ii) Technology Mission for Integrate Development of Horticulture in the North Eastern States, Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir and Uttaranchal.

(iii) Intensive Cotton Development Programme.

(iv) Oil Palm Development Project.

Under the Macro Management Scheme, assistance is being given to the farmers @ 25 percent of the total cost of the system whereas under the remaining three schemes, assistance for drip irrigation is being provided to the farmers @ 50 percent of the cost to Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Trible, Small, Marginal and Women farmers and 35% of the cost to other category of farmers.

(c) The State-wise details of land irrigated under drip irrigation during the last three years under various schemes is given at Statement-I. The details of funds released/allocated to the State Governments is given at Statement-II.

(d) and (e) All categories of farmers are getting the benefit under the Schemes.

(f) With effect from 2000-01 the scheme guidelines were revised wherein the assistance for drip irrigation has been limited to a maximum area of four hectares per beneficiary.

Statement I

Area covered under Drip Irrigation through different schemes

(Area in ha.)

State	Macro Management (Target as per Work Plan)				Technology Mission on Horticulture				Cotton Development Programme				Oil Palm Development Project			
	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05(T)	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05(T)	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05(T)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Andhra Pradesh	6918	2279	—	—	—	—	—	—	20	—	12	—	2179	1948	—	4200
Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	—	—	110	100	248	500	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Assam	—	—	—	—	22	16	17	100	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	250
Bihar	500	141	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Chhattisgarh	444	227	—	100	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Goa	25	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	45	48	—	300
Gujarat	1600	1500	800	2900	—	—	—	—	508	416	235	300	22	193	—	450

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Haryana	226	—	236	200	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	30	—	—	—	—
Himachal Pradesh	111	85	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jammu and Kashmir	—	5	30	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jharkhand	179.00	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Karnataka	9091	—	2603	2666	—	—	—	—	114	62	32	53	275	335	—	1500
Kerala	880	180	180	88.88	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	59	277	—	400
Madhya Pradesh	1181	947	137	150	—	—	—	—	9	60	63	225	—	—	—	—
Maharashtra	13931	6645	—	444	—	—	—	—	460	230	248	400	—	—	—	—
Manipur	—	—	—	—	10	20	25	100	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meghalaya	—	—	—	—	28	—	55	60	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mizoram	—	—	—	—	—	50	20	150	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	300
Nagaland	—	—	—	—	60	55	100	50	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Orissa	250	—	285	250	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	400
Punjab	—	80	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rajasthan	1400	1000	1700	1200	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sikkim	—	—	—	—	30	30	—	50	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tamil Nadu	—	—	—	10	—	—	—	—	42	65	25	76	772	570	—	1900
Tripura	—	—	274	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	118	—	—	300
Uttar Pradesh	454	264	—	235	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Uttaranchal	100	100	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
West Bengal	—	—	—	99	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Daman and Diu	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Delhi	10	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lakshadweep	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Chandigarh	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Andman and Nicobar	57	—	—	14	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pondicherry	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	37377	13458	6245	8365.9	260	271	469	1010	1153	833	615	1084	3470	3371	5000	10000

T—Target

Statement II

Amount released to the State Governments

(Rs. in lakhs)

State	Marco Management (For the scheme as a whole)				Technology Mission NE States				Cotton Development Programme				Oil Palm Development Project (For the scheme as a whole)			
	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Andhra Pradesh	2250.00	1900.00	3800.00	3600.00	—	—	—	—	5.29	—	1.36	—	500.00	420.00	350.00	600.00
Arunachal Pradesh	219.50	463.20	317.28	500.00	110.00	28.50	70.68	142.00	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Assam	523.50	350.00	350.00	800.00	22.00	4.56	4.85	28.50	—	—	—	—	8.00	4.00	2.00	8.00
Bihar	1800.00	1250.00	900.00	1800.00	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Chhattisgarh	1339.02	1138.00	1600.00	1800.00	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Goa	200.00	162.20	131.04	200.00	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10.00	10.00	10.00	20.00
Gujarat	1900.00	1600.00	1150.00	2300.00	—	—	—	—	125.00	138.05	71.73	67.50	40.00	40.00	50.00	60.00
Haryana	1620.00	1600.00	1662.00	1600.00	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7.80	—	—	—	—
Himachal Pradesh	1800.00	1600.00	1585.15	1600.00	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jammu and Kashmir	900.00	1932.00	1680.00	1600.00	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jharkhand	1095.00	600.00	1200.00	1400.00	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Karnataka	5850.00	5338.00	5580.00	5700.00	—	—	—	—	23.10	12.24	6.35	10.00	90.00	90.00	80.00	200.00
Kerala	2313.54	2762.00	2348.00	2900.00	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	20.00	20.00	6.00	10.00
Madhya Pradesh	5000.00	4350.00	4400.00	4500.00	—	—	—	—	1.46	19.60	16.90	56.25	—	—	—	—
Maharashtra	9000.00	7612.00	8400.00	8200.00	—	—	—	—	58.02	58.65	27.93	45.00	—	—	—	—
Manipur	345.00	300.00	300.00	700.00	10.00	5.70	7.13	28.50	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meghalaya	202.74	700.66	427.25	700.00	28.00	—	15.68	17.10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mizoram	720.00	810.00	820.00	900.00	—	14.25	5.70	42.75	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7.00
Nagaland	776.80	660.00	880.00	900.00	60.00	15.68	28.50	77.55	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Orissa	1485.00	1250.00	1967.31	2300.00	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	20.00	14.00	6.00	5.00
Punjab	1035.00	850.00	—	1500.00	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rajasthan	5250.00	6700.00	6571.19	6800.00	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sikkim	422.00	330.00	500.00	600.00	30.00	8.55	—	14.25	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tamil Nadu	4500.00	3360.00	4275.00	4300.00	—	—	—	—	9.38	14.08	6.02	12.50	140.00	100.00	90.00	160.00
Tripura	630.00	900.00	715.34	800.00	—	—	1.14	—	—	—	—	—	7.00	6.00	8.00	10.00
Uttar Pradesh	7500.00	6885.00	7375.00	7000.00	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Uttaranchal	1400.00	1290.00	1600.00	1600.00	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
West Bengal	2500.00	1427.47	1920.00	2400.00	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	135.00	100.00	10.00	50.00	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Daman and Diu	45.00	—	—	25.00	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Delhi	—	80.00	50.00	100.00	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lakshadweep	90.00	100.00	50.00	100.00	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Chandigarh	50.00	—	—	25.00	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Andman and Nicobar	90.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pondicherry	135.00	100.00	—	100.00	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	63122.10	58600.53	62664.56	69500.00	260.00	77.24	133.67	350.65	222.25	242.62	130.29	199.05	835.00	704.00	602.00	1080.00

Compliance of Noise and Emission Norms

2678. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has extended the deadline for a segment of diesel genset suppliers to comply with noise and emission limits stipulated by the Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986;

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

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken for compliance of the noise and emission limits within the prescribed deadline?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) An extension of time of one year from 1st July, 2004 to 1st July, 2005 for the implementation of emission norms for diesel engines upto 19 KW has been given to those suppliers who have obtained. Type Approval Certificate for at least one of their engine models or have submitted the bank guarantee and also contributed towards the study being carried out by the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore for development of genset diesel engines to comply with emission limits. An extension for emission norms has also been given to engines in the range of 176 kW - 800 kW for four months upto 1st November, 2004. For implementation of noise standards for diesel engines, an extensoin of six months from 1st July, 2004 to 1st January, 2005 has been given.

(c) The Government has taken various steps for compliance of the noise and emission limits which include the following:

(1) Stipulated norms for emission and noise are made mandatory at the manufacturing stage itself.

(2) Testing agencies have been identified to check the compliance as per the procedure evolved by the Central Pollution Control Board.

(3) All the diesel engines (for genset application) and genset manufacturers are required to get their engines and gensets Type Approved before selling.

(4) The Central Pollution Control Board in coordination with the State Pollution Control Boards/Pollution Control Committees periodically monitors the compliance of the emission and noise limits for the gensets in use.

Agriculture Clinic/Technology Information Centre

2679. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Agri-clinic/Agri-technology information centers in operation in the country at present, State-wise;

(b) the nodal agency providing financial support and monitoring these clinics/centres; and

(c) the financial assistance provided by this agency to these centres during the last three years alongwith rate of interest charged thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) The number of Agri clinics in operation in the country as on 06.08.2004 is 1024.

— The number of Agriculture Technology Information Centre in operation in the country is 44.

— The State-wise information is furnished in Statement-I & II, respectively.

(b) The nodal agency providing financial support to the agri-clinic centres is National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) through Nationalized Banks, Regional Rural Banks and Co-operative Banks.

— The Scheme—Agri-clinic centres is monitored by Small Farmers' Agribusiness Consortium (SFAC), National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE) and NABARD.

— Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) is the nodal and monitoring agency for Agricultural Technology Information Centres.

(c) The financial assistance provided by NABARD to Agriclinics during the last three years is furnished at Statement-III.

— The rate of interest charged on the loan assistance varies from 10 to 15 per cent per annum.

— The financial assistance provided to Agriculture Technology Information Centres is furnished at Statement-II. The financial assistance has been provided to these Centres once through grants-in aids.

Statement I

Agri-Clinics in operation—Statewise

As on 6th August, 2004

Sl.No.	Name of the State	No. of Agriclinics and Agribusiness Centres
1.	Andhra Pradesh	92
2.	Assam	4
3.	Bihar	37
4.	Gujarat	88
5.	Himachal Pradesh	1
6.	Haryana	12
7.	Jharkhand	3
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	1
9.	Karnataka	174
10.	Kerala	8
11.	Maharashtra	198
12.	Madhya Pradesh	46
13.	Manipur	3
14.	Orissa	31
15.	Punjab	5
16.	Pondicherry	1
17.	Rajasthan	173
18.	Tamil Nadu	59
19.	Uttar Pradesh	67
20.	Uttaranchal	11
21.	West Bengal	10
	Total	1024

Statement II

State-wise List and Budget of 44 Agricultural Technology Information Centres

Sl.No.	State	No.	Agricultural Technology Information Centres	Sanctioned	Amount (Rs. in Lakhs)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1	Acharya NG Ranga Agricultural University, Hyderabad	43.325	43.325
2.	Assam	1	Assam Agricultural University, Jorhat	43.325	43.325
3.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	1	Central Agricultural Research, Institute, Port Blair	42.575	42.575
4.	Bihar	1	Rajendra Agricultural University, Samasitpur	43.325	43.325
5.	Chhattisgarh	1	Indira Gandhi Krishi Vishwa Vidyalaya, Raipur	42.575	42.575
6.	Delhi	1	Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi	43.325	43.325
7.	Gujarat	1	S.K. Nagar Dantiwada Agricultural University, Dantiwada	43.325	43.325
8.	Haryana	2	National Dairy Research Institute, Karnal	43.575	86.900
			Chaudhary Charan Singh Haryana Agricultural University, Hisar	43.325	
9.	Himachal Pradesh	3	Chaudhary Sarwan Kumar Krishi Vishwa Vidyalaya, Palampur	43.325	
			Dr. Y.S. Parmar University of Horticulture & Forestry, Solan	43.325	129.225
			Central Potato Research Institute, Shimla	42.575	
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	1	Shere-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology, Srinagar	42.575	42.575
11.	Jharkhand	1	Birsa Agricultural University, Ranchi	40.025	40.025
12.	Kerala	5	Kerala Agricultural University, Thrissur	43.575	
			Indian Institute of Spice Research, Calicut	43.325	
			Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Ernakulam	42.575	214.625
			Central Plantation Crop Research Institute, Kasargod	42.575	
			Central Institute of Fisheries Technology, Kochi	42.575	
13.	Karnataka	3	University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore	42.575	
			University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad	43.325	129.225
			Indian Institute of Horticultural Research, Bangalore	43.325	

1	2	3	4	5	6
14.	Madhya Pradesh	2	Jawahar Lal Nehru Krishi Vishwa Vidyalaya, Jabalpur	42.575	85.150
			Central Institute of Agricultural Engineering, Bhopal	42.575	
15.	Maharashtra	5	Marathwara Agricultural University, Parbhani	42.575	213.875
			Mahatma Phule Krishi Vishwa Vidyalaya, Ahmednagar	42.575	
			Dr. Panjabrao Deshmukh Krishi Vishwa Vidyalaya, Akola	42.575	
			Central Institute of Cotton Research, Nagpur	42.575	
			Balasaheb Sawant Konkan Krishi Vidyapeeth, Dapoli, Ratnagiri	43.575	
16.	Meghalaya	1	ICAR Research Complex for NEH Region, Barapani	42.575	42.575
17.	Orissa	2	Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture, Bhubaneshwar	42.575	82.600
			Orissa University of Agriculture & Technology, Bhubaneshwar	40.025	
18.	Punjab	1	Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana	43.325	43.325
19.	Rajasthan	3	Central Arid Zone Research Institute, Jodhpur	42.575	125.925
			Maharana Pratap University of Agriculture & Technology, Udaipur	40.025	
			Rajasthan Agricultural University, Bikaner	43.325	
20.	Tamil Nadu	2	Tamil Nadu, Veterinary & Animal Sciences University, Chennai	42.575	85.900
			Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore	43.325	
21.	Uttar Pradesh	4	Chandra Shekhar Azad University of Agriculture & Technology, Kanpur	42.575	168.475
			Narendra Dev University of Agriculture & Technology, Faizabad	43.575	
			Indian Veterinary Research Institute, Izatnagar	43.575	
			Indian Institute of Vegetable Science, Varanasi	38.750	
22.	Uttaranchal	1	Govind Ballabh Pant University of Agriculture & Technology, Pantnagar	43.575	43.575
23.	West Bengal	1	Bidhan Chand Krishi Vishywa Vidyalaya, Nadia	42.575	42.575
	Grand Total	44			1878.325

Statement III

Financial assistance provided to ACABC units during the last three years

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl.No.	Name of the State	2001-02			2002-03			2003-04		
		Total No. of units set up	Amt. of bank loan disbursed (Rs. lakh)	Amt. of refinance released (Rs. lakh)	Total No. of units set up (Rs. lakh)	Amt. of bank loan disbursed (Rs. lakh)	Amt. of refinance released (Rs. lakh)	Total No. of units set up	Amt. of bank loan disbursed (Rs. lakh)	Amt. of refinance released
1.	Andhra Pradesh	—	—	—	40	7.34	—	52	9.4	—
2.	Assam	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	0.72	—
3.	Bihar	—	—	—	17	3.11	—	20	3.6	—
4.	Gujarat	—	—	—	35	6.42	—	53	9.54	—
5.	Himachal Pradesh	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	0.18	—
6.	Haryana	—	—	—	5	0.91	—	7	1.26	—
7.	Jammu and Kashmir	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	0.2	—
8.	Jharkhand	—	—	—	1	0.18	—	2	0.39	—
9.	Karnataka	—	—	—	60	11	—	110	19.8	28
10.	Kerala	—	—	—	3	0.55	—	5	0.9	—
11.	Manipur	—	—	—	1	0.18	—	2	0.36	—
12.	Madhya Pradesh	—	—	—	18	3.3	—	23	4.14	14
13.	Maharashtra	—	—	—	60	10.8	—	116	20.88	—
14.	Orissa	—	—	—	10	1.8	—	21	3.78	—
15.	Pondicherry	—	—	—	0	—	—	1	0.21	—
16.	Punjab	—	—	—	2	0.36	—	3	0.54	—
17.	Rajasthan	—	—	—	40	7.2	—	129	25.97	—
18.	Tamil Nadu	—	—	—	20	3.6	—	39	7.02	—
19.	Uttar Pradesh	—	—	—	30	5.4	—	36	6.48	—
20.	Uttaranchal	—	—	—	3	0.54	—	8	1.44	—
21.	West Bengal	—	—	—	3	0.54	—	7	1.26	—
	Total	—	—	—	348	63.21	—	640	118.07	42

Note: (i) The scheme was grounded in the year 2001-02 and no disbursement was reported during the year 2001-02.
(ii) The rate of interest charged by various agencies varied from 10% to 15% p.a.

[Translation]

Remunerative Price of Paddy

2680. SHRI SHISHUPAL N. PATLE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the paddy farmers of the country particularly those of Maharashtra are forced to sell their produce at rates lower than the Minimum Support Price;

(b) if so, whether the Government are formulating any action plan to cover the loss incurred by the paddy farmers;

(c) whether the Government propose to fix higher Minimum Support Price of paddy to ensure remunerative prices of paddy to the farmers for the year 2004-2005; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard and by when it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) The main objective of price policy for agricultural produce is to ensure remunerative prices to the growers for their produce. With a view to encourage higher investment and production, and to safeguard the interests of consumers by making available supplies at reasonable prices, Government announces each season Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for major agricultural commodities. During the marketing year 2003-04 (October to September) the quantity of rice procured in the country as a whole till 2nd August, 2004 was 22.48 million tonnes as against 16.03 million tonnes till the corresponding date in the previous year. As regards Maharashtra, the procurement of rice till 2nd August, 2004 was 2.77 lakh tonnes compared with 1.33 lakh tonnes till the corresponding date in the previous year. A statement showing procurement till 2nd August, 2004 is enclosed (Statement-I).

The wholesale prices of agricultural commodities are constantly monitored and instances of market price ruling below the MSPs are referred to respective designated central nodal agencies for undertaking procurement operations. The designated central nodal agencies are required to intervene in the market for undertaking price support operations in case of the prices fall below the MSP level fixed by the Government.

(c) and (d) The Government has recently announced the Price Policy for Kharif Crops of 2004-05 season. MSPs for all the Kharif crops, including paddy, have been fixed at a level higher than those for 2003-04 season. A statement showing the MSPs of major agricultural commodities announced in recent years is enclosed (Statement-II).

Statement I

Progress in Procurement of Rice (Including Paddy converted into Rice)

(In lakh tonnes)

States/UTs	2003-04 (as on 02.08.2004)		2002-03 (Corresponding Period/Date)	
	Procurement	% Share	Procurement	% Share
1	2	3	4	5
Andhra Pradesh	41.57	18.49	25.55	15.89
Assam	0.17	0.08	0.00	0.00
Bihar	3.63	1.61	1.58	0.98
Chhattisgarh	23.02	10.24	12.18	7.57
Haryana	13.34	5.93	13.25	8.24

1	2	3	4	5
Himachal Pradesh	0.03	0.01	0.07	0.04
Jharkhand	0.02	0.01	0.00	0.00
Madhya Pradesh	1.09	0.48	1.59	0.99
Maharashtra	2.77	1.23	1.33	0.83
Orissa	1.218	5.42	7.52	4.68
Pondicherry	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Punjab	86.59	38.52	79.29	49.31
Rajasthan	0.41	0.18	0.40	0.25
Tamil Nadu	2.07	0.92	1.07	0.67
Uttar Pradesh	25.53	11.36	13.60	8.46
Uttaranchal	3.21	1.43	2.32	1.44
West Bengal	9.15	4.07	1.06	0.66
Others	0.02	0.01	0.00	0.00
Total	224.80	100.00	160.81	100.00

Statement II

Minimum Support Prices

(According to Crop Year)

(Rs. per quintal)

Sl.No.	Commodity	Variety	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	Spl. Drought relief price	2003-04	2004-05	#increase in MSP 2004-05 over 2003-04
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1.	Paddy	Common	440	490	510	510	530	20	550	560	10(1.8)
		Grade 'A'	470	520	540	560	560	20	580	590	10(1.7)
2.	Jowar		390	415	445	485	485	5	505	515	10(2.0)
3.	Bajra		390	415	445	485	485	10	505	515	10(2.0)
4.	Maize		390	415	445	485	485	5	505	525	20(4.0)
5.	Ragi		390	415	445	485	485	5	505	515	10(2.0)
6.	Wheat		550	580	610	620	620	10	630		

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
7.	Barley		385	430	500	500	500	5	525		
8.	Gram		895	1015	1100	1200	1220	5	1400		
9.	Arhar (Tur)		960	1105	1200	1320	1320	5	1360	1390	30(2.2)
10.	Moong		960	1105	1200	1320	1330	5	1370	1410	40(2.9)
11.	Urad		960	1105	1200	1320	1330	5	1370	1410	40(2.9)
12.	Masur (Lentil)*		—	—	1200	1300	1320	5	1500		
13.	Sugarcane@		52.70	56.10	59.50	62.05	69.50	—	73		
14.	Cotton	F-414/H-777/J34	1440	1575	1625	1675	1675	20	1725	1760	35(2.0)
		H-4	1650	1775	1825	1875	1875	20	1925	1960	35(1.8)
15.	Groundnut In Shell		1040	1155	1220	1340	1355	20	1400	1500	100(7.1)
16.	Jute	TD-5	650	750	785	810	850	—	860	890	30(3.5)
17.	Rapeseed/Mustard		1000	1100	1200	1300	1330	10	1600		
18.	Sunflower Seed		1060	1155	1170	1185	1195	15	1250	1340	90(7.2)
19.	Soyabeen	Black	705	755	775	795	795	10	840	900	60(7.1)
		Yellow	795	845	865	885	885	10	930	1000	70(7.5)
20.	Safflower		990	1100	1200	1300	1300	5	1500		
21.	Toria		965	1065	1165	1265	1295	10	1565		
22.	Tobacco (VFC) (Rs. per kg.)	Black Soil (F2 Gr)	22.50	25.00	26.00	27.00	28.00	—	31.00		
		Light Soil (L2 Gr)	25.50	27.00	28.00	29.00	30.00	—	33.00		
23.	Copra (Calender Year)	Milling	2900	3100	3250	3300	3300	—	3320	3500	180(5.4)
		Ball	3125	3325	3500	3550	3550	—	3570	3750	180(5.0)
24.	Sesamum		1060	1205	1300	1400	1450	5	1485	1500	15(1.0)
25.	Nigerseed		850	915	1025	1100	1120	—	1155	1180	25(2.2)

@Statutory Minimum Price (SMP) linked to a basic recovery of 8.5% with proportionate premium for every 0.1% increase in recovery above that level. The SMP for 2002-03 includes the one time drought relief of Rs. 5 per quintal recommended by CACP.

*The MSP for Masur (lentil) has been fixed from the crop year 2000-01.

#Figures in brackets indicate percentage increase.

Reservation Quota

2681. SHRI LALMANI PRASAD: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of posts created in the Ministry and each of its departments during the last three years and current year, till date;

(b) the total number of employees belonging to the Backward Class, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes working in each department;

(c) whether the appointments have been made as per the reservation quota fixed for these categories;

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

(e) by when the reservation quota is likely to be filled up;

(f) whether the Government propose to take action against the officers responsible for not filling up the reservation quota; and

(g) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) No post has been created in the Ministry or any of its departments during the last three years and current year, till date.

(b) Details may please be seen in the Statement enclosed.

(c) to (e) Yes Sir, the proper Reservation Quota is ensured by maintenance of Reservation Roster fixed for different categories.

(f) and (g) Do not arise.

Statement

The total number of Employees belonging to the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and backward class working in each Department of the Ministry

	Department	SC	ST	OBC
(A)	Ministry (Proper)	139	39	27
(B)	NAEB	17	02	03
(C)	NRCD	15	00	04
(D)	CCU	07	01	05

NAEB : National Afforestation and Eco-Development Board
NRCD : National River Conservation Directorate
CCU : Civil Construction Unit.

12.00 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI SISH RAM OLA): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy of the Consolidated Annuan Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Employees Provident Fund Organisation, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003, together with Audit Report theroen.

(2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

(3) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Employees' State Insurance Corporation, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003, together with Audit Report thereon.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT. 473/04]

(4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the V.V. Giri National Labour Institute, Noida, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the V.V. Giri National Labour Institute, Noida, for the year 2002-2003.

(5) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (4) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT. 474/04]

(6) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Board for Workers Education, Nagpur, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Board for Workers Education, Nagpur, for the year 2002-2003.

(7) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (6) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT. 475/04]

(8) A copy of the Employees' Provident Funds (Amendment) Scheme, 2004 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. S.O. 304(E) in Gazette of India dated the 4th March, 2004 under sub-section (2) of section (7) of the Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT. 476/04]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy of the Notification No. S.O. 801(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 7th July, 2004 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 60(E) dated the 27th January, 1994 issued under section 3 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT. 477/04]

(2) A copy of each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of section 63 of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.

(i) The Recognition of Zoo (Amendment) Rules, 2004 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 106(E) in Gazette of India dated the 9th February, 2004.

(ii) The Declaration of Wild Life Stock Rules, 2003 published in Notification No. S.O. 445(E) in Gazette of India dated the 18th April, 2003.

(iii) The National Board for Wild Life Rules, 2003 published in Notification No. S.O. 1092(E) in Gazette of India dated the 22nd September, 2003.

(3) A copy of the Notification No. S.O. 1091(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 22nd September, 2003 appointing the 22nd September, 2003 as the date on which section 6 of the Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Act, 2002 shall come into force, issued under section 1 of the said Act.

(4) A copy of the Notification No. S.O. 1093(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 22nd September, 2003 constituting the National Board for Wild Life consisting of the members mentioned therein issued under section 5A of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.

(5) A copy of the Notification No. S.O. 446(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 18th April, 2003 authorising all the officers not below the rank of a Deputy Inspector General of Police to exercise the powers of section 58E of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 issued under the said Act.

(6) A copy of the Notification No. S.O. 447(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 18th April, 2003 empowering the Director of Wild Life Preservation and Assistant Director, Wild Life Preservation for that Government and in case of a State Government, the Chief Wild Life Warden and all officers not below the rank of Deputy Conservator of Forests to exercise the powers of section 54 of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 issued under the said Act.

(7) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at item Nos. [2 (ii, iii) to 6] above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT. 478/04]

(8) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

(i) Review by the Government of the working of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands Forest and Plantation Development Corporation Limited, Port Blair, for the year 2002-2003.

(ii) Annual Report of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands Forest and Plantation Development Corporation Limited, Port Blair, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(9) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (8) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT. 479/04]

(10) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun, for the year 2002-2003.

(11) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (10) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT. 480/04]

(12) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Zoo Authority, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Zoo Authority, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003.

(13) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (12) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT. 481/04]

(14) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park, Darjeeling, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park, Darjeeling, for the year 2002-2003.

(15) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (14) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT. 482/04]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (6) of section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955:—

(1) The Public Distribution System (Control) (Amendment) Order, 2004 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 392(E) in Gazette of India dated the 29th June, 2004.

(2) The Edible Oils Packaging (Regulation) Amendment Order, 2004 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 363(E) in Gazette of India dated the 16th June, 2004.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT. 483/04]

12.01 hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Framework Agreement Adopted by the World Trade Organisation

[English]

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to make a statement on the proceedings of the Central Council Meeting of the WTO held in Geneva last month where a Framework Agreement was adopted by the Members on 1st August, 2004. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: It is a very important matter. Let us listen to the hon. Minister.

SHRI KAMAL NATH*: A copy of the Framework Agreement is being placed on the Table of the House.

As the hon. Members are aware, the Cancun Ministerial Conference of the WTO held in September, 2003

*(Also placed in Library. *See* No. LT 484/04)

[Shri Kamal Nath]

ended in a stalemate since consensus could not emerge among Member countries on major issues under the Doha Work Programme. Since the multilateral process is important to India, we have been taking an active part in the revival of the Doha process by interacting with both the developing and the developed countries. As a result of these efforts, the Framework Agreement adopted has ensured that the negotiations are back on track. It provides necessary guidance and parameters for further negotiations. The next Ministerial Conference is scheduled to be held in Hong Kong in December, 2005.

The issues before the General Council were the same as those before the Cancum Ministerial Conference. Besides taking stock of the progress of negotiations on major issues like Agriculture, Non-Agricultural Market Access and Services, review of progress on the development related issues like Implementation Issues and Special and Differential Treatment provisions was also to be made. A decision on the launch of negotiations on the four Singapore Issues of Trade and Investment. Trade and Competition Policy. Transparency in Government Procurement and Trade Facilitation was also required to be made.

Before participating in the Genreal Council, we held wide-ranging consultations with stakeholders, political parties and trade unions. The inputs we received in these constultations helped us to shape our strategy in the negotiations.

Sir, I am happy to announce to the hon. Members that we have been able to achieve all our major objectives in this Framework Agreement. In the crucial area of Agriculture it has been agreed that:

(a) All forms of export subsidies would be eliminated by an end date. This was a major demand of ours since the developed countries are extending support to hundreds of billions of dollars every year to their farmers resulting in artificially low process of their agricultural products. The commitment in the Agreement is, therefore, a positive achievement. At the same time, the flexibility available to the developing countries like India to provide certain subsidies for export of agricultural products would continue to be available for an even longer period, beyond the elimination of export subsidies by the developed countries.

(b) On trade distorting domestic support, it has been possible to ensure that an immediate commitment in the form of 20 per cent reduction in overall trade distorting support would be made in the very first year itself. Against this, during the entire implementation period of the Uruguay Round only 20 per cent cut was effected in domestic support. Besides, the permissible *de minimis* support in respect of development countries would be reduced from the present level of five per cent, while developing countries like India that allocate almost all *de minimis* support to subsistence and resource-poor farmers will not have any obligation to reduce their existing level of *de minimis* support of 10 per cent. Thus, our concerns relating to protection of the support we extend to resource poor farmers have been adequately addressed.

(c) The Blue Box hitherto uncapped, will be capped at five per cent from the first year of the implementation period itself. A modified Blue Box can be created only after agreement among Members on the criteria, which would be subject to negotiations.

(d) On market access, the Agreement envisages that higher rates of tariff will face higher levels of cuts. Since the reduction required is from bound rates, which in the case of India are usually much higher than the applied rates, we have an adequate cushion of comfort. On the other hand, developed countries, which do not have this cushion, will have to effect real and deep cuts. Thus market access for our products would increase.

(e) Further more, the following elements in the Framework provide us the necessary comfort:

(i) the principle of proportionality will enable developing countries to make lower rates of reductions as compared to countries;

(ii) we would have greater flexibility in the number of sensitive products and their treatment than that permitted to developed countries;

(iii) we are also eligible to designate an appropriate number of products as Special Products—this is available only to developing countries—based on our food and livelihood security or rural development needs;

(iv) the Framework Agreement also provides for use of a Special Safeguard Mechanism triggered by prices or quantity, against surge in imports which would safeguard domestic producers in developing countries;

(v) the Framework Agreement clearly stipulates that the negotiations will have to take into account the concerns of developing countries relating to rural development, food security and livelihood security needs as regards tariff reduction formula, the number and treatment of sensitive products, expansion of the tariff quotas and the implementation period.

In the area of industrial products, covered under Non-Agricultural Market Access negotiations, our concerns were mainly focussed on the twin issues of protection to the sensitive items, and to the nature of the sectoral approach—whether voluntary or mandatory. The introduction of specific langauge in the Framework Agreement ensures that any decision that may be taken in the future will take care of our concerns. The negotiation on a formula in this sector could lead to more market access for us in developed countries by bringing down peak tariffs and reducing tariff escalations in products of export interest to India, such as textiles and leather. The Framework, while providing for less than full reciprocity in tariff reduction commitments, also envisages additional flexibility in the treatment of some of the tariff lines, throgh either no cuts or through reduced cuts.

In the negotiations on Services, we have an offensive agenda, and in the Framework Agreement, it was possible to incorporate specifically an area of major interest to us namely, Mode 4, that is, movement of natural persons, trans-national movement of persons. The Agreement envisages furnishing high quality offers in sectors and modes of supply of interest to developing countries to be made in a time-bound manner.

The Framework Agreement has also made a firm commitment to addressing the specifically development-related issues like Implementation Issues and operationalisation of Special and Differential Treatment provisions on a time-bound basis.

One of our significant achievements in the Framework Agreement is the removal of three of the four Singapore issues on which we had objections, namely, Investment, Procurement and Competition. The fourth issue, Trade Facilitation, which continues to be on the agenda, is an area of special interest to us since what may be expected from this negotiation would be a continuation of our autonomous reform process in this area. Trade facilitation essentially means simplification and transparency in customs procedures, cutting down on transaction costs, etc. Reforms in the customs procedures of other countries as well and an effective cooperation mechanism between customs administrations would greatly benefit our exporters.

The Framework Agreement is the first major stage towards cunclusion of the Doha Work Programme since it lays down the principles and criteria. The next steps would be finalisation of modalities, including formulae for reduction in tariffs and domestic support, setting the actual date for elimination of export subsidies for agricultural products and giving shape and meaning to the various special provisions we have managed to incorporate in the Agreement.

We have been helped to a large extent by our ability to develop and maintain issue-based alliances with like minded countries. The G-20 alliance on Agriculture stayed together and met frequently to decide on the strategy. On Singapore Issue a significant role was played by the G-16. On the issue of Special Products the Group of 33 was our firm ally. We also made special efforts to develop common grounds on a number of issues with the G-90 countries, consisting of ACP countries, *i.e.* Asian, Caribbean and Pacific countries and the Least-Developed countries. The Five Interested Parties (FIPs) consisting of India, US, EU, Australia and Brazil played perhaps the most pivotal role in evolving consensus on the Framework in Agriculture. We are committed to continuing to work in close cooperation with other WTO Members and groupings on issues of interest to us in the next stage of negotiations.

We attach due importance to the smooth functioning of the multilateral trading system. We are determined to ensure that, as negotiations proceed based on the Framework that has been recently agreed upon, our core concerns continue to be adequately addressed. Our approch to the negotiations will be dictated by our national interests, especially our concerns for the millions of farmers who are dependent for their livelihood on agriculture, as also our objective of stimulating economic activity through export of our goods and services. We are determined to pursue our interest in this and other areas vigorously.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, there should be a full-fledged discussion on this.

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (Bettiah): The Speaker Sir, it is a policy related statement.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Let me speak.

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Firstly, you listen what I want to say. It is a policy related statement. You should fix time for it because we want to hold a debate on it ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You cannot speak without my permission.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria): Let the discussion be allowed on it.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This is an important subject. I shall allow a discussion on this. You give a notice. That is what I wanted to say.

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Hence I has requested you to listen me for a while.

MR. SPEAKER: Now you do not get angry, I have given my consent.

12.14 hrs.

ELECTIONS TO COMMITTEES

(i) Indian Council of Agricultural Research Society

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): Sir, on behalf of Shri Sharad Pawar, I beg to move the following:—

"That in pursuance of rules 4(vii) and 8(a) of the Rules of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research Society, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, four members from among themselves to serve as members of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research Society, subject to other provisions of the said Rules."

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That in pursuance of rules 4(vii) and 8(a) of the Rules of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research Society, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, four members from among themselves to serve as members of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research Society, subject to other provisions of the said Rules."

The motion was adopted.

(ii) National Oilseeds and Vegetable Oils Development (NOVOD) Board

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): Sir, I, on behalf of Shri Sharad Pawar, beg to move:

"That in pursuance of section 4(4)(e) of the National Oilseeds and Vegetable Oils Development Board Act, 1983, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two Members from among themselves to serve as members of the National Oilseeds and Vegetable Oils Development Board for a term of three years, subject to other provisions of the said Act."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That in pursuance of section 4(4)(e) of the National Oilseeds and Vegetable Oils Development Board Act, 1983, the members of this House do proceed to

elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two Members from among themselves to serve as members of the National Oilseeds and Vegetable Oils Development Board for a term of three years, subject to other provisions of the said Act."

The motion was adopted.

(iii) Central Building and other Construction Workers' Advisory Committee

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI SISH RAM OLA): Sir, I beg to move:—

"That in pursuance of section 3(2)(b) of the Building and other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1996 read with rule 11(2) of the Building and other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Central Rules, 1998, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from among themselves to serve as members of the Central Building and other Construction Workers' Advisory Committee, subject to the other provisions of the said Act and Rules made thereunder."

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That in pursuance of section 3(2)(b) of the Building and other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1996 read with rule 11(2) of the Building and other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Central Rules, 1998, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from among themselves to serve as members of the Central Building and other Construction Workers' Advisory Committee, subject to the other provisions of the said Act and Rules made thereunder."

The motion was adopted.

(iv) Employees' State Insurance Corporation

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI SISH RAM OLA): Sir, I beg to move:

"That in pursuance of section 4(i) of the Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948, read with rule 2A of the Employees' State Insurance (Central) Rules, 1950, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from among themselves to serve as members of the Employees' State Insurance Coporation, subject to other provisions of the said Act".

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That in pursuance of section 4(i) of the Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948, read with rule 2A of the Employees' State Insurance (Central) Rules, 1950, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from among themselves to serve as members of the Employees' State Insurance Coporation, subject to other provisions of the said Act".

The motion was adopted.

(v) Animal Welfare Board of India

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Sir, I beg to move:

"That in pursuance of sections 5(1)(i) of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, four members from among themselves to serve as members of the Animal Welfare Board of India, subject to the other provisions of the said Act."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That in pursuance of sections 5(1)(i) of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, four members from among themselves to serve as members of the Animal Welfare Board of India, subject to the other provisions of the said Act."

The motion was adopted

12.17 hrs.

CENTRAL EXCISE TARIFF (AMENDMENT) BILL*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Central Excise Tariff Act, 1985.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Central Excise Tariff Act, 1985."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, I introduce** the Bill.

[Translation]

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI (Bhagalpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, yesterday hon'ble Prime Minister ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Modi, I have committed myself to you. I will give you chance.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, no 'Zero Hour'.

MR. SPEAKER: There is no 'Zero Hour'. This is the time after Question Hour.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Listen, let him speak.

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (Bettiah): We are not interrupting him but I may also be given an opportunity to speak the fact once he finishes. I have the courts order with me. I may be allowed to speak after he concludes. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Sushilji, I have given you the opportunity to speak now you speak.

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, yesterday the hon. Prime Minister had, while delivering his speech from the ramparts of Red Fort, mentioned about code of conduct, code of ethics and code of best practices. Prime Minister has appointed such a person as Minister in his Cabinet who has been an absconded for the last five years and against whom the arrest warrant has been issued. Not only this much, he was dismissed by the then Prime Minister Shri H.D. Devegowda from his Cabinet eight years ago. I would like to know whether the Prime Minister do not take into account the report of an I.G. while inducting somebody in his Cabinet.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: But you do not refer to the details of the allegation. You may only mention it.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to say that Mohammad Taslimmudin supressed this fact from the Election Commission that non-bailable warrant stands against his name. If there was no non-bailable warrant against his name why did he apply for the transit bail. The accused goes to Patna after getting the transit bail. A high level meeting takes place at the Chief Minister's residence wherein the Government, in the presence of the accused takes the decision to withdraw the cases.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You have raised it. You can not make any allegation without following the procedure. You have mentioned it.

[Translation]

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI: Sir, I would like to know this much only as to how an abeconder for the last four years can become a Member of this House? Can he sit in the House? How can the Government of Bihar withdraw the cases against such person? The Home Commissioner there has also opposed this move of the Government. A.G. kept on scrutinizing the matter for 17 months but he failed to give any verdict. Yesterday, when this matter was raised by us, the Government of Bihar

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary Part-II, Section-2, dated 16.8.04.

**Introduced with the Recommendation of President.

intervened in the judicial procedure to protect the Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: No. This is not fair.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI: Sir, this is blatant and naked misuse of State power and this House should not allow it. The State Government should not be allowed to withdraw these type of cases. ...*(Interruptions)* There are nine cases against Mohd. Taslimudin.

MR. SPEAKER: This matter does not pertain to this House. This matter is for the State Government to deal with.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI: He is involved in 9 cases. He should be dismissed from the Cabinet. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You show that to me. I will deal with it. Please allow other Members also to speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI: Such a Ministers should be dropped from the Cabinet who has misused the State power. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Jha, I have told you already. When I call you, you go on shouting.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI: The State Government can not withdraw such cases.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You have made your point. It is more than enough. It is all right. Nothing more should be recorded.

...*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Shri Sushil Modi is the Member of this House and he has also been the Member of opposition in Bihar. He is very adept in. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing of what Mr. Modi speaks should be recorded.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Mr. Modi, you gave me your words. You are not keeping your word.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: The Speaker, Sir, I have the order of the hon. Court with me. The Chief Secretary of Bihar has written to the Principal Secretary of Prime Minister all the orders and cases relating to Mohammad Taslimmudin are withdrawn. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing is being recorded.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Aditya Nath Yogi, I will call you to speak on your matter.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: No notice is given. That is not being recorded. Nothing is being recorded.

...*(Interruptions)**

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*Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: I am repeatedly requesting all the hon. Members to please sit down. Please give up this bad habit of standing up every now and then. You must sit down first, Mr. Modi, Mr. Jha, please sit down. This is Parliament of India. Are you behaving like hon. Members of Parliament? Now, do not think that you can browbeat me and do whatever you like. I am trying to give equal opportunity to all of you. I gave him word. I requested him. He gave me his word. I have given him full time to speak. Even then, he is not co-operating and then, everybody is standing up all the time. Hon. Members have taken the trouble of giving notice on important issues. I am trying to give opportunity to those Members who have given notice in the possible manner and within the time available. We are not learning how to behave ourselves here. I am very sorry to make this comment. I am trying to give opportunity to Members on all sides here every time. I am committed to give opportunity to Yogi Adiya Nath. I will come to him. If you go on disturbing the proceedings of the House and do not allow others to speak, how can I give opportunity to Members to speak? I am repeatedly requesting you with folded hands. This is your House, not mine. This is the House of the People of India.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: So you behave properly.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I will not allow anything to be recorded which is sopoken without my permission.

*...(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Raghunath Jha will speak only on the subject for which he has given notice.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: He gave a notice. That is why I allowed him to speak. You are not super Speaker. I will not allow any Member to behave as a super Speaker.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will be recorded.

*...(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: I am not recording it.

*...(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Raghunath Jha, you have given notice on some other subject.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: It is not being recorded.

*...(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Modi, why are you worried? Nothing is being recorded.

*...(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: You are only repeating yourself. Nothing is being recorded. You cannot compel the Government to reply.

*...(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing is to be recorded.

*...(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (Nalanda): I have to add one thing in it. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Chaudhary Lal Singh may speak now. Nothing else would be recorded. I am not on this subject now. I am not going to allow anything on this. Shri Nitish Kumar, if you want to speak on any other issue, you can speak, but not on this.

*...(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: No other notice is being given.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have allowed him. No other notice has been given. Nothing of what he has said was recorded. I have given full opportunity.

...(Interruptions)

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*Not recorded.

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*Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Nitish Kumar, if I allow, you, I have to allow everybody else.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, if hon. Nitish Kumarji speaks, I will also speak.

MR. SPEAKER: I have allowed him.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I have not allowed him. Only Shri Lal Singh's statement will be recorded.

*...(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Nitish Kumar, you are my brother. Please think of me.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Nitish Kumar, I cannot allow you to speak on this. You have not given any notice on this. No notice has been given by you.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: You sit down please.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, give me an opportunity to speak for a while as I have yet to conclude. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Nitish Kumar, you give a notice tomorrow. I will allow you to speak.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH (Udhampur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, you are our custodian and I had requested you in your chamber that I was attacked on 2nd July. I would like to say that I was attacked thrice. First attack was made when I was the Minister of Health in the state. Thereafter I was attacked when I was contesting election. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: There is no need for so much details. You have stated about the situation.

[English]

The hon. Home Minister is here. He has listened to you.

[Translation]

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, justice is not being done to me. Where should I go and present my viewpoint? There is a threat to my life. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please listen to me. It seems that anybody can raise his voice and show his eyes.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I would request you to behave in the manner desired here. I have given you a chance. Please do not show your temper.

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH: No, Sir, I am not showing my temper. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: What is this going in this House? I am giving opportunity to everybody. You are not reciprocating. I am very much surprised to see this. What are the people saying about us?

Please be brief. Do not shout. I am saying that the hon. Home Minister is here. We are concerned about your situation. but you just cannot go on shouting. Do not show your temper. This is not the place to show the temper. Please address the Chair.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am sorry. I am not losing temper. I am facing problem. How should I put my views before the Government? Who will listen my problem? I was saying that I was attacked thrice as I mentioned to you also but so far as my security

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*Not recorded.

is concerned, hon. Prime Minister had inquired about my safety in a civil manner and he also did the same. You also sent a written letter. I would like to say that so far the security arrangement provided for me. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Do not force me. I will take action against somebody someday.

[Translation]

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH: Listen to me first.

MR. SPEAKER: I am speaking in your favour. I am saying it to the Home Minister.

[English]

On your behalf, I am requesting the hon. Minister to see it because from time to time, you are expressing your concern. He will call you, it is your personal matter.

[Translation]

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, wan't you listen to me?

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, you also convey my feelings to the hon. Home Minister on my behalf.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You please cooperate with me. I will do it. By shouting, you cannot do a lot. I will help you all many ways. Please help me and I will help you. I have told you that the House is sitting. You will get an opportunity. I have mentioned it during the condolence message. I will give you the opportunity. If you think that by disturbing the House you will get an opportunity earlier, you are wornq. Do not be under this mistaken assumption. You cannot brow-beat me.

[Translation]

SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN (Araria): Mr. Speaker, Sir, please listen to me also.

MR. SPEAKER: I have not called your name. You please sit down.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail): Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the House towards Hardiwar and Udhamsingh Nagar of Uttaranchal. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Lal Singh Ji, hon'ble Minister will call you and solve your problem through discussion.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: The public of Haridwar and Udhamsingh Nagar entire Uttar Pradesh is agitated and I would like to draw the attention of the House towards it. The Legislative Assembly of Uttar Pradesh has sent a proposal in this regard unanimously passed by the state Legislature to Central Government. Through you, I would like to request the House and especially the Central Government to amend the State Reorganisation Bill and include Haridwar and Udhamsingh nagar in Uttar Pradesh instead of Uttaranchal. Through you, I would like to plead this point strongly that Central Government should include the Haridwar and Udhamsingh Nagar in Uttar Pradesh by amending the state Reorganisation Bill.

[English]

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA (Lakhimpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the incident that happened in Dhemaji district of Assam yesterday was due to a serious security lapse bacause it has killed not only 13 persons including children, but also injured more than 22 persons. The incident took place on the eve of Independence Day celebrations and half-an-hour before that, there was another incident at Dhakuakhana. Both the incidents took place in the celebration area which ought to have been a highly secured place.

Sir, the State Government was well informed that there was a threat from extremists and there was likely to be some attacks by extremists during the Independence Day celebrations. In addition to that, after they were informed of the Dhakuakhana incident, the district authorities at Dhemaji did not evacuate the people including the children. As a result of that, this unfortunate incident happened and 13 people were killed including some children. The bomb explosion took place not only at Dhemaji, but there were a series of bomb blats in Assam. So, I would like to request the hon. Home Minister, through you, to make a statement on this and also institute a high level inquiry into the security lapse which led to such unfortunate incidents and book all the culprits who were involved in these incidents.

SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL (Dibrugarh): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I associate myself with the views expressed by him.

[Translation]

YOGI ADITYANATH (Gorakhpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the hon'ble Health and family Welfare Minister towards the recommendation made by the Medical Council of India to derecognise B.R.D. Medical College, Gorakhpur. For the third time, Medical Council of India has recommended to derecognise B.R.D. Medical College, Gorakhpur. In 1998-99, the inspection of Gorakhpur Medical College was conducted by N.C.I. and Medical Council of India and it had apprised the college administration and Uttar Pradesh Government about the shortage of teachers, insufficient number of bed, shortage of Para-medical staff and hostel facility. The then State Government submitted a certificate in this regard to the Union Government and then the recognition of the college was restored. The same situation arose in the year 2002-2003. However, this time Medical Council of India recommended to derecognise the B.R.D. Medical College without inspecting the college and standards being observed by it. This is the only Medical College in Western Uttar Pradesh having a population of around 6 crore. At this time about 500 patients suffering from Encephalitis are undergoing treatment in Gorakhpur medical college. More than 50 deaths have taken place there. Uttar Pradesh Governments lacadisical approach is responsible for this situation. Due to the indifferent attitude of Uttar Pradesh Government, the only medical college of Western Uttar Pradesh is on the verge of closure. Why the people of Uttar Pradesh bear the brunt of indifferent attitude of Uttar Pradesh Government. Through you, I would like to request the Central Government to issue a notice for the State Governments of Uttar Pradesh and cancel the recommendation to direcognise the B.R. Medical College in public interest and aslo to make arrangements for vaccination to control Encephalitis in that area.

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Yogi ji has raised a very important matter. I would request the Central Government to ignore the recommendation to derecognise the said medical college.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I know that. You do not bother about it. You know very well that it is under the Medical Council of India.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the allegation levelled by him that in Uttar Pradesh. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: That has been allowed. Why are you not accepting it.

SHRI MOHAN SINGH: He has stated that it is happening because of Uttar Pradesh Government. The new Government in Uttar Pradesh has come to power this year only, before the saffron Government was in power there for the last eight years.

MR. SPEAKER: Please leave it. It's enough. You do not agree with this allegation.

SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Their Government was in power there at that time.

MR. SPEAKER: You deny the allegation levelled.

YOGI ADITYA NATH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to speak one thing on the part of the Government that one year is sufficient for the appointment of teachers. The shortcoming in the college can be removed in a year.

MR. SPEAKER: Your views have been recorded. Ministers are present here.

[English]

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN (Kasaragod): Sir, I would like to place before this House some serious issues that the people of Kerala are facing. Since, there is a full-fledged discussion, I would like to say a few words on these issues.

There was a severe drought last year in Kerala. The State has lost hundreds of acres of land and crores and crores of rupees. Not only that, you see, there was severe flood situation also and again not only the paddy cultivation was lost but the cash crop cultivation was also lost to a very great extent. It has also come in the newspapers that it has severely affected the State of Kerala and hundreds of farmers have committed suicide as a result of this grave situation.

Sir, it is very sad to say that Kerala is not included in the list of severely drought affected areas. I would also like to place before this House a few lines on these issues. Out of 1,570 revenue villages, 960 villages have been severely affected and 556 villages are partially affected by drought. About thousand houses are fully damaged and about two thousand houses are partially damaged. Around 50,638 hectares of paddy field has been completely lost. The total loss in agricultural sector comes to about Rs. 1,43,146 crore. In addition to this, there

[Shri P. Karunakaran]
was a severe damage to the cash crops in almost all the districts. The drought and floods created huge loss of revenue and human lives. In the agricultural sector, this has contributed to worsening of the situation, especially the suicide by hundreds of farmers and agricultural workers.

The production in different fields, let me say, has declined to a large extent. In the case of paddy, there is a very poor yield. The production declined from 30 per cent to 100 per cent. In the case of arecanut, it has declined from 20 per cent to 30 per cent. The production in pepper has declined from 25 per cent to 80 per cent and production in banana has declined from 25 per cent to 70 per cent. The cardamom crop, especially in Waynad and Idukki districts, has declined from 20 per cent to 60 per cent. The production in coffee has declined to 65 per cent. There has been a decline in all other crops.

Of course, the hon. Agriculture Minister has made it clear that there was a lapse on the part of the State Government. But forgetting these technicalities and giving due importance to the issues which the people of Kerala are facing, the Government has to take adequate and urgent steps. If the Government of India does not take adequate and urgent steps and if immediate assistance is not provided, no doubt the people of Kerala, especially in the agricultural sector, will be in a disastrous position. So, I would like to place these issues before the Government and request it to take them seriously.

[Translation]

SHRI SURESH CHANDEL (Hamirpur, H.P.): Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to draw the attention of the House towards the six hostages held in Iraq out of which 3 belong to our country. And two of them Shri Tilakraj and Shri Antaryami belong to my parliamentary Constituency in Himachal Pradesh.

Sir, they have been held as hostages for more than 25 days. The efforts made by the Government so far for their release are insufficient. My submmission to the Government is that the situation of their families is deteriorating day-by-day. A few days back they demonstrated on the road. Thereafter, they were being assured that the hostages will be released very soon but still they have not been released. Their families were compelled to sit on hunger strike. Their situation is deteriorating day-by-day. Their condition is very serious and pitiable. Government is giving statement in this regard but it is neither satisfying the families of the hostages nor the local people. I request the Government to take firm action in this regard immediately. 25 days is not a short span of time. Therefore, appropriate step should be taken immediately for the release of both the members of those families. We would like the Government to give a statement in the House in this regard so that the House could also be taken into confidence on this issue.

[English]

SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA (Sangrur) Sir, please allow me to speak on this. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: No. You all can associate without uttering any further sentence.

Shri Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa, Shri Bikram Keshari Deo and Shri Avinash Rai Khanna are all associated with this matter.

Now, Shri Ramji Lal Suman. This issue has already been discussed. Please be brief.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, at the very outset of this Session, the House has expressed its concern for the suicides being committed by farmers of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Vidarbha and Kerala on a large scale. Not one or two but large number of such incidents have taken place in which thousand of farmer's have committed sucidies. And the trend is still going on. Three-four days ago newspapers reported about the suicides committed by several farmers of Andhra Pradesh. Yesterday, also there was a news item about the suicide committed by a farmer of Andhra Pradesh.

Through you I want to tell the Government that their is unrest among farmers. I want to know the efforts made by the Government in this direction after such incidents came to light. Through you, I request the Government to give a statement in this regard.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Shri Krishnadas. If you all co-operate, I will allow all the Members who have given a notice.

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS (Palghat): Sir, just before me, my colleague, Shri Karunakaran has mentioned about the serious situation which the farming community in Kerala are facing. We are having a full-fledged discussion

today afternoon. So, I do not want to go into the details. The situation is very severe. For the two consecutive years, some districts of Kerala have been declared as the drought affected districts in Kerala. The Government of India had declared 14 States in the last year as the drought affected States but Kerala had been excluded.

Now, the hon. Minister of Agriculture in his reply during the Question Hour has mentioned that he would take up the matter to resolve the problems faced by the farming community of Kerala. At that itme, he mentioned that the Government of Kerala has not given the details to the Government of India in a proper manner. I must say that the people of Kerala should not suffer for the lapse of the existing Government of Kerala because Kerala is a part of our country. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Of course, very much so.

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: Of course, the Government of India can take up the matter with the Kerala Government on its own. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The Agriculture Minister has expressed his concern, I am sure.

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: We are having a discussion on this subject today afternoon. So, I would like to raise it at that time.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you very much for your co-operation.

Now, Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan. You kindly speak on Vallarpadam Container Terminal.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Finance Minister in his Budget speech has mentioned that the work relating to Vallarpadam Container Transshipment Terminal would be started this year. Tenders have been invited but the Central Government is delaying it by not giving its sanction. If sanction is given, then the work will be started. There is inordinate delay on the part of the Central Government which leads to some other suspicion among the people of Kerala that there is some lobby working behind the Central Government not to give sanction to Vallarpadam Container Terminal. So, I request the hon. Minister to give the sanction early.

We are not truly represented in the Government and we, irrespective of party affiliation, all supported the Government but they are doing nothing. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Very critical support.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: The Finance Minister has even declared in his Budget speech that this would be given topmost priority.

But they have not done it. They are simply denying. What for? What is the purpose?

MR. SPEAKER: Very well, something will come during your intervention in the Finance Bill during the Budget discussion.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: I request the hon. Minister, and also I request Shrimati Sonia Gandhi to use her good office to see that the Vallarpadam shipment container terminal is sanctioned without delay because some foreign multi-national companies have offered tenders and they will withdraw them. They are not giving the sanction simply for technical reason. So, I request you, Madam, to use your influence as the Chairman of the UPA Government to see to it that this is sanctioned.

MR. SPEAKER: You can only address the Chair.

Now, Mr. Veerendra Kumar, you can only associate.

SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR (Calicut): Hon. Speaker, Sir, I am associating with the hon. Member, Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan, but I have one more point. This Vallarpadam trans-shipment container terminal was sanctioned in the Budget. The hon. Finance Minister said that it would be given. But now we learnt that the matter is referred to another Cabinet Sub-Committee. The issue must be taken up, but it was referred back.

MR. SPEAKER: You cannot explain what they discuss in the Cabinet.

SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: The apprehension is that some multi-national company is interested in this and they want to divert the whole thing. So, hon. Speaker, Sir, the Union Government must at least give us Vallarpadam terminal as Onam gift. Onam is coming now in Kerala. It can be given as an Onam gift. It should not be delayed any more.

MR. SPEAKER: I am sure they will welcome your suggestion.

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, railway line intersects the national highway at 34 places in Bihar. People there have to face lots of problems due to lack of flyover. The Surface Transport Ministry has received a proposal from Railway to build road overbridges at 34 places and the complete report of Bihar has also been received and it has been lying pending for years.

Sir, through you I want to request that this report mentions a particular place whose border is adjacent to Nepal border. People have to face severe problems here. Raxaul headquarter is a subdivisional headquarter which is near Birganj, a big town. Trains get delayed there for two to four hours and the foreigners have to face a lot of problems.

Therefore, through you I want to tell the Government of India that a road is ready from Indo Nepal border to Raxaul, Sugauli, Motihari, Dighwara, Hajipur Sarai, Ekhara Gumti and several other places and, it is nearby Karpuri Thakur College but people have to face problems as approach road has not been constructed. I request the hon. Minister to accept the proposal immediately, send it to Bihar Government and release its share so that work can be started there.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Ramdas Bandu Ahtawale, you have not given notice.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, thousands of employees and workers of the Central Public Sector Undertakings have not been paid their statutory dues—gratuity, provident fund as well as salaries. The workers are not getting their salaries for months together in Hindustan Cables, Hindustan Steel Construction Corporation, National Projects Construction Corporation and in a number of other such public sector undertakings. As a result of that, a number of workers have died of starvation also.

The total statutory dues to the workers and the employees will be about Rs. 2,000 crore.

The statutory dues like gratuity, provident fund and salaries are not being paid to the workers. The hon. Minister of Labour is here. He should respond to this.

The workers who have retired and those who are still working are not getting their salaries. The workers who were retired have not yet received their gratuity and other statutory dues like provident fund amount. Even workers who were retired three years ago are yet to receive their gratuity and provident fund. I urge upon the Government to take immediate measures so that the workers of Central public sector undertakings who are not getting their salaries in a number of units and workers who were retired in the past three years get their statutory dues like gratuity, provident fund and salaries without further delay. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I am sure, the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs would bring it to the notice of the Minister concerned.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: The Minister of Labour is here. He should respond. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Everybody who has given a notice would be allowed to speak if you please co-operate.

SHRIMATI MINATI SEN (Jalpaiguri): Thank you, Sir.

Probably you know that the North Bengal is known as a flood-prone zone, especially the plains of Darjeeling, the Alipurduars Dule division of Jalpaiguri district and the entire Cooch Behar district. All the rivers coming from Bhutan except the Teesta are coming down towards North Bengal. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This is an important issue. You can raise it during the debate.

SHRIMATI MINATI SEN: As a result huge quantities of debris reach the plains along with the tremendous flow of the hilly rivers and get deposited in these river beds. The direction of the rivers are getting changed. All the industries, forestry, agricultural land, sanctuaries and tourism along with people's lives and assets would be in danger. I urge upon the Government through you to please form an Indo-Bhutan Joint River Commission in consultation with the Royal Government of Bhutan.

MR. SPEAKER: It is a very serious matter.

Shri Madhusudan Mistry, do you want to say something now? Or, would you take part in the debate?

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY (Sabarkantha): I would take part in the debate.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Francis George, this matter has already been raised.

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE (Idukki): Sir, as has been pointed out by my colleagues from Kerala, Kerala is facing an unprecedented situation in which more than a hundred farmers have committed suicide. The districts of Vayanad, Idukki and Palakkad have been mainly affected. It has been admitted by the hon. Minister of Agriculture that Kerala's case is a peculiar case and he has agreed to a discussion on this.

The main point is that because of the price fall of cashew and spices, the farmers of Kerala have been adveresely affected. You know that Kerala's cultivation is mainly of these crops. These crops, require massive re-plantation and rejuvenation and funds have to be allocated for that. Without liberal Central assistance nothing is going to happen. You know very well the condition of the State's finances.

Natural rubber used to get fair prices but that too has now started sliding down because of a recent decision of the Government. The Commerce Ministry recently decided to remove port restrictions on imported rubber. Earlier, rubber used to come only through Kolkata and Vishakaptanam ports. Now, anybody can import rubber through any port and this has caused a massive cut in the price of natural rubber. This is going to lead to a massive collapse of the total agriculture sector of the State of Kerala. So, I rueqest the Government to give a thought for providing massive assistance or a massive package for re-plantation of the major crops like coconut, coffee, tea, pepper and cardamom. There has to be a massive re-plantation with Government assistance and steps have to be taken to re-impose the port restriction as far as import of natural rubber is concerned.

Thank you very much.

13.00 hrs.

[Translation]

SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN (Jalgaon): Mr. Speaker, Sri, through you I want to draw the attention of the Minister of Railways towards a very important issue. Banana is the Chief produce of Jalgaon district of Maharashtra. The maximum quantity of bananas in Delhi come from Jalgaon. Freight rates were not increased till last year but this year the farmers are doing agitation as freight rates have been increased substantially. They stopped the trains there. Most of the farmers are in very bad situation. Earlier the cost of one wagon ways rupees 28 thousand and 940 and its cost in Delhi's market was rupees 28 thousand and 942 but today its freight rates are Rs. 47 thousand 268. Due to this the farmers can not bring their produce here.

Through you, I request the hon. Railway Minister that the subsidy that was given last year should be continued and freight rates should be reduced.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat, your name is last in the list.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Thank you very much.

MR. SPEAKER: No, this is your right.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, inflation is increasing continuously since UPA Government came into power. Congress gave the slogan- "Congress ka hath Gairbon ke sath". It seems the prices of the commodities used by the general public have been increasing since the UPA Government came into power. The prices of vegetables fruits, oil, pulses, and gas are skyrocketing. Freights rates have increased due to hike in prices of petrol and diesel. The prices of vegetables have increased due to increase in freight rates due to which farmers can not bring their produce to markets.

It is difficult for the public to survive in such a situation. I request the Government to arrest inflation and reduce prices.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you for your kind cooperation.

13.01 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.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: We will now take up Matters under Rule 377.

(i) Need to ensure early clearance for the Government of Karnataka's project proposal on 'Sustainable Management of Environment and Forests'

SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI (Gulbarga): Sir, a proposal titled Sutainable Management of Environment and Forests for Karnataka II Phase of JBIC project was forwarded by the State Government to the Government of India on 15th May, 2002. The total cost of the project is Rs. 780 crore spread over a period of five years.

The Ministry of Environment and Forests has approved the proposal and after obtaining necessary cleanrace from the Ministry of Home Affairs and Planning Commission it has been forwarded to the Department of Economic Affairs for seeking external assistance. A three-way meeting between the State Government representatives. Ministry of Environment and Forests and the Japan Bank for International Cooperation was held to discuss about external funding and loan package. Considering the number of suggestions made during the fact-finding mission of the JBIC on 28th and 29th May, 2003, a revised proposal for Rs. 997.21 crore has been sent to Government of India on 5.8.2003. The proposal was further revised to Rs. 946.37 crore and re-submitted to Government of India.

As this proposal is still pending with the Government of India. I urge upon the Government to kindly take early action for approval of the proposal.

(ii) Need to implement 'one rank-one pension' scheme for Defence personnel

[Translation]

SHRI SURESH CHANDEL (Hamirpur, H.P.): Mr. Deputy Spaker, Sir, there are lots of anomalies in the pension of defence personnel who have retired in the past and who are retiring now and due to which there is a lot of dissatisfaction among the defence personnel. Ex armymen have been requesting to implement 'one rank one pension' principle for the last few years. I also requested the same in 12th and 13th Lok Sabha. Now as a Member of 14th Lok Sabha, I am requesting to remove this anomaly.

The hon. Defence Minister constituted a special Committee after receiving the recommendations of Fifth Pay Commission, and it was to give its recommendations to solve this problem but it has not been solved till date. Officers cadre has been given some relief but there are lots of anomalies in the pensions of retired personnels of various ranks from lower cadre. Through you, I request that principle of 'one rank one pension' should be implemented soon.

(iii) Need to develop the unused airports at Amarda road and Jharsuguda in Orissa with a view to promote tourism, trade and industry in the area

[English]

SHRI JUAL ORAM (Sundergarh): Sir, a large number of domestic airports constructed in the country during Second World War are lying unused. There are two such airports—one at Amarda road and Jharsuguda in the State of Orissa. These airports are very spacious. If these airports are properly developed and included in the air map of India, large number of tourists will come to see the places of tourists interest around these areas. The airport at Jharsuguda will give a boost to tourism and industrial sector as no other airport is located nearby. The air passengers from Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and western Orissa will exclusively use that airport. Besides promoting tourism, the Jharsuguda airport with promote trade and industry in these mineral rich areas. As the airport is already in existence there, the Government will not have to spend much on paying compensation to land oustees while acquiring land.

I request the Government that the non-operational airports located near Jharsuguda and at Amarda Road since Second World War time be developed as full-fledged airports at the earliest.

(iv) Need to take steps for ensuring early completion of the Mogra Irrigation Project at Rajnandgaon in Chhattisgarh

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KARUNA SHUKLA (Janjgir): The proposed Mogra Project at Rajnandgaon in Chhattisgarh has got approval from Central Water Commission in-principle. Mogra Project is a medium project and its estimated cost is Rs. 76 crore. It is proposed to irrigate 9000 hectare of Kharif crop and 2500 hectare of Rabi crop *i.e.* a total of 11,500 hectares irrigation through this project. About 140 hectares of Forest land under this scheme falls under submerged area. Approx. 3.55 crore rupees have been spent on this project till March, 2004. The approval for the first phase of Mogra Barrage has been received from the Ministry of Environment and Forests. As per the terms

and conditions of the approval of first phase, Environment and Forests Ministry has demanded an amount of Rs. 12 crore from the Ministry of Water Resources.

Therefore, I request the Central Government to release the said amount to the concerned department as early as possible so that the said project could be completed and farmers could get its benefit.

(v) Need to clear BSNL's backlog of cases for new telephone connections and introduce mobile SIM services at Indore in Madhya Pradesh

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN (Indore): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Indore city is the industrial capital of Madhya Pradesh. Subscribers are facing a lot of problems in getting new telephone connections due to unavailability of drop wire, wavelength, mobile SIM etc. The Department had given an assurance to provide the mobile SIM for Indore city but that has not been made available till now. At present, BSNL is not in a position to provide any type of connection immediately.

Therefore, through you, I would like to request the Central Government to issue directions to improve the communication system of Indore so that immediate relief could be provided to the subscribers of Indore.

(vi) Need to set up a Central Government run hospital in Madurai, Tamil Nadu

[English]

SHRI P. MOHAN (Madurai): Madurai city is geographically located in the middle of Tamil Nadu. The business and other activities around southern part of Tamil Nadu take place in Madurai. The recently inaugurated High Court Bench in this town also attracts thousands of people. The city is also known as Temple city. Tourists from all over India and international tourists select this city as base for both religious tours, namely, Rameshwaram, Kanyakumari, Srirangam as well as for entertainment tours, namely, Kodaikanal, Thekkadi etc. The steady rise in tourist inflow in the city has posed health problems. There is one State Government Hospital and very few private hospitals in this city. These hospitals are not sufficient to cater to the need of southern part of Tamil Nadu. The condition in Government hospital is pathetic and proper medical facilities are not available in this hospital. The rise of dreaded diseases like HIV, Cancer and Diabetes in and around this area is not possible to be controlled by State Government hospital. There are many Central Government employees who do not get proper medical facilities. Besides there is no Central hospital in Tamil Nadu except JIPMER in Pondicherry. Hence, there is an urgent need for setting up a Central Government Hospital in Madurai which is of the standard of All India Institute of Medical Sciences.

I urge upon the Union Government to initiate suitable action in this regard.

(vii) Need to provide compensation to the people affected in a fire incident in the Indian Oil Depot at Baitalpur in Deoria Parliamentary Constituency, Uttar Pradesh

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, on 30th June a massive fire broke out in the Indian Oil Depot at Baitalpur in my parliamentary constituency, Deoria. Due to the fear of fire, people of adjoining areas fled their homes. Property belonging to thousands of people was destroyed in this fire. The department has not compensated the affected people. The department has also failed to provide jobs to the wards of those people who land was acquired for establishing the Depot.

I therefore, request the Government to take necessary steps to compensate those people who have suffered in the fire or whose land was acquired for the establishment of the Depot.

(viii) Need to widen and raise the land level of National Highway No. 77 between Janar and Saidpur in Bihar with a view to protect the people of Sitamarhi from floods

SHRI SITA RAM YADAV (Sitamarhi): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, 25 lakh people of Sitamarhi district of Bihar State remain cut-off from the rest of the country for four month every year due to erosion of NH-77. This is perhaps the first district in the country which remains cut-off from other parts of the country for four months. Floods can be prevented by widening and raising the level of National highway-77 between Janar and Saidpur lying on Muzaffarpur-Sitamarhi road. It is very important to complete the bridge on Bagmati river which is under construction for the last eight years and also to undertake repair work of dilapidated bridges. Hon'ble Minister of Surface Transport has inspected the area and given priority to it.

Through this House, I would like to request the Government to construct the said bridge and road within a year to provide relief to the people of Sitamarhi.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Only the approved text will go on record, not the whole speech.

(ix) Need to Review the Guidelines of National Horticultural Board with a view to make them beneficial to small and marginal farmers

SHRI C. KUPPUSAMI (Madras North): Sir, original guidelines of National Horticultural Board, as approved by the Cabinet, were very helpful and beneficial to small and marginal farmers. However, unnecessary changes were effected without the Cabinet Committee's approval, and are detrimental to the interest of farmers.

Instead of supporting marginal-farmers-friendly-projects, high-cost projects facilitating big industries and corporate houses are being implemented.

Hence, I urge upon the hon. Minister to review the whole policy and bring forward farmers-friendly scheme and 20 per cent subsidy as promised by the National Horticultural Board in December, 2002.

(x) Need to utilize the amount accruing from Small Savings Schemes in Bijnore District, Uttar Pradesh, for Local Development of the area

[Translation]

SHRI MUNSHI RAM (Bijnore): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, a Small Saving Scheme is being run for the people of Bijnore district in UP for the last 10 years. The amount collected so far under this scheme should be utilized for the development works of the farmers of the area, leading to their economic development. As the small farmers of this district are unable to purchase seeds, means of irrigation and fertilizers to grow crops, they should be given all these facilities under the small saving scheme.

The Union Government is requested to implement this scheme at the earliest.

(xi) Need to take steps for promoting industrial development and re-opening the closed Padrauna Sugar Mill in Gorakhpur, Eastern Uttar Pradesh

SHRI BALESHWAR YADAV (Padrauna): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Eastern Uttar Pradesh, especially Gorakhpur has found no place in the industrial map of the country. Due to this it has become the most backward area. Factories and industrial units established in the past are now lying closed. For example, sugar mills in Padrauna, Kathkuiana Gauri Bazar (Uttar Pradesh) and one in adjoining area of Marautha, Bihar under NTC are lying closed. Gangotri Enterprises which was started in 1998-99 in non-existent now. The unemployment graph of this area is on the rise and every year, there is an increase in the number of people living below the poverty line.

Therefore, I request the Government to ascertain the reason for the non-survival of industrial units there and to take remedial steps. Secondly, steps should also be taken to restart the Padrauna Sugar Mill.

(xii) Need to permit the Government of Himachal Pradesh to Levy two per cent generation cess on Power produced by the State

[Translation]

PROF. CHANDER KUMAR (Kangra): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of hon'ble Minister of Power that Himachal Pradesh has got the power generation capacity of 20,810.57 megawatt. At present 3942.07 megawatt of power is being generated and after the completion of 25 Hydro Electric Projects that are under construction 7059.14 megawatt of power would be generated. This electricity is also only 50 percent of the State's capacity, however, Himachal Pradesh is not getting the benefits of these projects. Many States are progressing with the help of electricity generated in Himachal Pradesh, whereas Himachal Pradesh is not being developed equally. People of the State are poor. Firstly, the natural conditions of the State are difficult and secondly it is not getting its due share in the power generated there. Sir, I request the Hon'ble Power Minister that Himachal Pradesh should be given the right to levy generation cess at the rate of two percent on the power generated by these projects with the use of state water in Himachal Pradesh.

14.21 hrs.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

Flood and Drought Situation in the Country

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, we shall take up discussion under Rule 193.

Shri Prabodh Panda.

SHRI PRABODH PANDA (Midnapur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, at the very outset, I must thank you and also the hon. Members of this august House as this important issue which is related to crores of people of our country has been taken up for discussion today.

It is quite unfortunate that while this matter was taken up for discussion earlier on 22nd and 23rd July, 2004 in this august House, unwanted situation caused at that time led to dropping of this discussion. But it is better late than never. So, I must thank the Chair and the hon. Members for taking up this discussion today. It has become a usual practice of our House to discuss this matter each and every year. We are discussing the situation of natural calamities, particularly drought and flood situation in our country. Sir, when this subject was taken up for discussion and it was listed in the List of Business on 22nd and 23rd of July, 2004, the drought situation in our country was very much alarming. It was apprehended in most parts of our country that there would be a serious drought situation which would be even more serious and severe in comparison to the earlier drought situations. While the matter was taken up at that time, the Union Government have also announced some programmes to meet the challenge. Now, the situation has little bit improved. At that time, due to the scanty rains, the situation was alarming in the States like Punjab, Haryana, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir. Himachal Pradesh, west Uttar Pradesh, west Rajasthan, west Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and even southern parts of West Bengal. The situation improved since 23rd July, 2004 due to the revival of the south-west monsoon and it is expected that the situation may improve gradually. But, damage has been done. Since the good initial monsoon trapped the farmers into early sowing, the opportunity turned into loss due to drought-like situation at the time.

How would the loss be made up? The farmers who have already sown are in a state of total frustration. Today itself, the hon. Minister of Agriculture, during the course of his reply to a Starred Question, made some remarks and also replied to some points. But this is not enough.

The problematic situation is there for the farmers who have already sown. Now, there is improvement in the situation with the revival of the monsoon. But the seeds that had already been sown, their crops have damaged. So, the Government of India should think over it, it should lay great emphasis on it and come out with certain programmes for late sowing, for cultivation and other things.

On the other side, there is a severe flood situation in various parts of our country. At that time itself, during 22nd and 23rd July, the situation in Bihar, the situation in Assam, the situation in large parts of North-East and even in the northern parts of West Bengal was serious. The Indo-Bhutan border of Assam witnessed one of the worst floods of the decade following the incessant rains and a dam burst in Bhutan. The southern reservoir of the Krishna Hydel Project in Bhutan had breached. Almost all the dam breaches worsened the flood situation in Barpeta, Nalbari and Kamrup districts claiming lots of lives and affecting as many as five million people of the State. The world's largest river island Muzli was cut off from the rest of the country and the river Brahmputra was overflowing. So, the situation in Assam is very grim.

Sir, the hon. Prime Minister himself paid a vist to the State of Assam and did the aerial survey of the situation. He not only paid a visit there but was kind enough to visit the flood situation in Bihar and some other parts of the country.

Sir, the situation in Bihar is horrible. So far as I know, 19 out of 37 districts of State got submerged. The hon. Members from Bihar may be knowing better. I also got the opportunity to have an aerial visit of some parts of Bihar. These 19 districts of Bihar are: Darbhanga, Khagaria, Samastipur, West and East Champaran, Sitamarhi, Madhubani, Seohar, Muzaffarpur, Begusarai, Saharsa, Madhepura, Katihar, Purnea, Kishnaganj, Supaul, Araria, Vaishali and Bhagalpur. Almost all the northern parts of Bihar got affected. All the rivers flowing in northern Bihar are coming from Nepal, like Gandak, Burigandak, Kamala, Bagmati, Mahananda, Bular, Kosi, and Karesh, Mainly the water flowing from Nepal caused such a severe damage. Most of the districts and even the District Headquarter got submerged.

The casulty reported was 190, but it would be more. Even more than 300 persons might have died, and thousands and thousands of cattle would have died. Houses, schools and colleges had collapsed. The pressure of water mounted so muct that most of the banks and embankments got breached. Railway lines and National Highways got breached. I think, more than two crore people of Bihar got affected. The flood situations in Bihar and Assam seem to be cases of national disaster. This should be considered as of paramount importance. It is known to us that the Union Government—hon. Home

[Shri Prabodh Panda]

Minister himself is present here—had set up a task force. They had released some materials and funds from the National Calamity Relief Fund to meet the situation. Even the respective States are trying to meet the situation. They have requested the Union Government to release sufficient relief materials to meet the situation. But how far it has been done, has to be discused, and we would know whether the Government is prepared to meet the challenge adequately or not.

Even in Arunachal Pradesh, unabated rains made the situation grim in four districts, namely, Lahit, East Kamang, East Siang and some parts of Dibang Valley. In my State of West Bengal, the northern part of the State got affected consisting mostly of the districts of lower part of Darjeeling, Siliguri, Cooch Behar, Malda, Dinajpur and Jalpaiguri. The course of some of the rivers coming from the Himalayas is getting changed. We have been talking about the problems of Ganga erosion or Ganga-Padma erosion.

Now, it is an apprehension that the course of Ganga may be changed. If that happens, a serious situation may arise. Even the southern part of Bengal will be put in a serious crisis. Calcutta City and the Port itself would be in danger. So a serious situation is there. In West Bengal, Punarvaba, Aatri, and other rivers are now overflowing. I would like to know what is the programme to meet these challenges in two ways, namely, the temporary measures to deal with the situation and the measures for solving the problem permanently. What is thinking of the Union Government in this regard, that should be discussed.

We are talking about the Meteorological Department. On many occasions, the Meteorological Department of India has misled the people. I had seen a news item in the papers a few days back wherein hon. Minister, Shri Kapil Sibal, had himself admitted that the Meteorological Department has not been able to forecast monsoon proplery mainly for want of adequate equipment. If the Meteorological Department is not able to predict proplery, then the people, particularly the farmers are misled. So technology of the Meteorological Department should be upgraded so that they can predict properly. Even this year people living in areas where serious drought was apprehended got misled due to the wrong predictions of the Meteorological Department. Initial good monsoon tempted the farmers for early sowing but ultimately they got frustrated. Therefore, I would like to say that the release of sufficient material and funds to meet the situation in flood-affected areas is a must.

I think something should be said about the agricultural loans. The former Government made a declaration that the interest of the agricultural loans of the farmers living in drought-affected areas would be waived. But it has not been done so far. So, I demand that both in flood and drought affected areas, the interest on agricultural loans should be waived and the short term loans should be converted into long term loans.

As regards the Bihar and Assam situation, we should think something for a permanent solution. For that, our Union Government should take initiatives to have a dialogue with the Nepal and Bhutan Governments. I think 20 years ago, there was a proposal before the Union Government for initiating a discussion with the Nepal Government so that a reservoir can be constructed at Gunthar and Sisapani. The embankment of the river should also be strengthened. But that proposal has not been discussed so far. So, some sort of discussion for a permanent solution should be held with the Nepal Government.

The same issue should be taken up with the Government of Bhutan. I would like to know as to what discussions have taken place with the Governments of these two States and also whether Government of India is emphasising the need for a solution of this issue or not.

Another point that has gained ground over the years in regard to control of floods is the inter-linking of river waters. The former Government and also some people interested in the subject had cited inter-linking of rivers as a permanent solution to this problem of floods and droughts. I beg to differ with that view. It is because most of the rivers, including those of the South, have got silted. If there had been no siltation and the courses of the rivers had not got changed, then we would not have faced this problem of flood and drought as we are facing today. Inter-linking of rivers is not the solution to this problem. This would rather invite more complications and create more problems. I think, to tackle this problem, it would require excavation of rivers at some places, de-silting in certain places and setting right the embankments in certain places. These problems should be attended to and reviewed.

I would like to request the Union Government to have a meeting with all the political parties and interested groups to meet this challenge. With these few words, I am initiating the discussion and I hope that the discussion would be fruitful and some concrete measures would

emerge out of this discussion that would help in solving this perennial problem facing our country.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY (Sabarkantha): Sir, thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to speak on this issue of flood and drought situation in the country. I will confine myself to the flood situation in the State of Gujarat. Just more than a fortnight ago, or maybe, till the end of July, the people of Gujarat were very much worried about the fact that they might have to face the worst drought situation because of lack of rain. But in the last 20 days, it has been raining heavily in the State, one can say that it is virtually pouring in Gujarat. Floods have already created a havoc in South Gujarat and from there it has now spread over to the north and North-Eastern part of the State. It is not only that, due to this, the rivers in south and north Gujarat have started over-flowing resulting in the flooding of the villages in these areas. Many areas have received more than 100 per cent rainfall. Already there are parts of Gujarat where there have been 23 inches rainfall in 24 hours and 24 inches of rainfall in just 18 hours. There has been cloud bursts. A tornado has hit Gujarat and roofs of houses have been blown off. More than 185 people have already lost their lives on account of floods in the State. Lakhs of people have been affected and thousands have been rendered homeless. Torrential rains have damaged the railway tracks and also the highways. It has damaged almost all the infrastructure. Besides that, it has damaged the crops which were sown in the north and south of Gujarat and some parts of the north-eastern Gujarat. In some parts, there was not enough rain in the beginning of July and the farmers could not sow them. Now, there is already rain which has not stopped for nine to ten days. They have, in fact, missed the sowing season in some parts. The situation is quite demanding. The Government has carried out the relief work, but, it has not been up to our expectations and specially to my expectation. Now, I will just divide this subject into two or three points.

I would like to draw your attention to one important point. Gujarat has always had either flood or cyclone or earthquake or a drought. There is history that in the western part of India, particularly in Gujarat, either one part or the other is affected either by one calamity or the other. And this has become a regular phenomenon. Every year, one type of calamity or another struck the State. I fail to understand how, year after year, the administration and the State Government machinery faces such a situation. It is not only that. My friend has just referred to the Meteorological Department and the scientific advancement. In fact, I commend some of their work as I am a regular watcher of the weather reports. Sometimes, it is not in their hands as well. But what is irritating to a person like me is that despite enough warning to the administration, the administration fails to take preventive measures. Take the example of cyclone in Gujarat a few years back. The administration was well warned by the International Meteorological Department. It was known that the cyclone was coming and yet, the administration failed to take enough measures. As a result, 5000 people lost their lives in the Kutch and Saurashtra regions. In the case of drought, at least, there is some time to prepare themselves, but flood and earthquake provide little time for the administration to take steps. Nonetheless, if you compare the natural calamities striking our region and some parts of our country and the calamities which have been striking developed countries, you will find that the loss of lives is very little in developed countries in comparison to a country like India. If you compare the cyclones striking the western or eastern coasts of the US or, for that matter, other European countries, the loss of lives is more in our country.

I was a member of the Standing Committee of Science and Technology and we were puzzled to note one thing. We were not able to understand that despite enough warning and despire intimation well in advance, why our people have not developed a scientific mind. The kind of scientific attitude which is required is completely missing, specially in taking preventive measures in order to reduce damage to life and property. Now, in the absence of that, we find that more lives are lost and there is a lot of more damage to the property, agricultural crops, infrastructure and so on. As a result of it, in fact, it creates more burden on the State Government as well as the Union Government. In order to find a way out of the calamity which is occurring in one State or the other, if I am not wrong, the Tenth Finance Commission, in fact, recommended to create a Calamity Relief Fund. And there was another fund which is not called the National Contingency Calamity Fund which is with the Agriculture Ministry. Now, a number of States have been allotted funds from the Calamity Relief Fund in which 75 per cent of the money comes from the Centre and 25 per cent money has to be provided by the State itself. Here, the money is provided to a number of States in the country in order to carry out the relief measures immediately. They have not got to wait till they request the Central Government to send the team to assess the situation, then the team goes back to the Centre and then they channel the money and then the State Government carries out the relief work. In order to find

[Shri Madhusudan Mistry]

out a solution to this problem, The Tenth Finance Commission has created—I am not sure whether it was the Ninth or the Tenth Finance Commission—this mechanism. Looking at the whole history of the number of States which were dealing with the natural calamities, their share is fixed by the Commission. They get this money well in advance.

14.53 hrs.

[SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN *in the Chair*]

It is not only that. The CRF has a provision that if I want to draw 25 per cent more money as an instalment for the coming year also, I can do that in order to meet the relief work.

I would like to draw your attention to two points now. Firstly, on the very spending of the Calamity Relief Fund over the years, the C&AG has found that, instead of helping the people to build their damaged houses and provide them cash doles and other things which are of immediate necessity during such a natural calamity, most of the State Governments have begun to use the Calamity Relief Fund in order to create infrastructure for which the money is given from their regular budget. There are a lot of other things which have come up in the expenditure from the Calamity Relief Fund. As a result of them, there was a very strict remark passed by the C&AG against a number of State Governments.

The second thing was that many State Governments did not put their 25 per cent share in that. What they generally do is that they simply draw the money from the Calamity Relief Fund of the Central Government. They are using only that money and not anything else. The people, in fact, suffered due to the natural calamities. Except getting a cash dole, there was nothing. There was a very big problem in restoring their own houses and buildings which had been damaged. Even there were certain other things which they needed immediately.

The same is the case with regard to the NCCF. Many State Governments immediately rush to the Central Government saying that the Central Government has to give the demanded money. Many other Governments as also my own State Government this time presented memoranda to the Union Government asking it to provide nearly Rs. 3,465 crore from the NCCF and from its own Budget. I would just take five more minutes. I will not take much time.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: There are so many Members who want to speak.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: Madam, I know that there are so many hon. Members who want to speak. But these are certain crucial issues, which, in fact, many other Members may be raising.

A person like me feels that there is the tendency on the part of the State Governments to put a very inflated demand because it is the money which will come from the Central Government. So, in assessment of that, there is a tendency to put even the other infrastructure money in making the demand in order to get the money from the Central Government. There is some kind of a political consideration that they create an inflated demand. They create an impression in the minds of the people that they have demanded so much of money from the Union Government and the Union Government has given only this much.

There is the other aspect also. The Union Government belongs to one party and the State Government belongs to a different party. As a result of that, there is a kind of political manipulation which you may find in most of the memoranda that have been presented to the Union Government. Even if there are two Governments belonging to the same party, what I have found is this. In respect of Gujarat, even when the NDA Government was at the Centre and the BJP Government was in Gujarat, the demands were never ever weighted *in toto*. It is not only that. Many a time, it was hardly 10 per cent, 15 per cent and 30 per cent money that was provided to the State Government. I do not buy the argument which my Government has advanced to the Central Government. I say this because there are Rs. 49,000 crore as debt. It is because they carried out a lot of relief works and other works. The States have to spend the money from their Budget at the cost of development work. The State Government has incurred this debt after the Fifth Pay Commission gave its recommendations. The State Governments have to borrow the money to meet their regular and Non-Plan expenditure. As a result of this, they have to borrow the money which has again resulted in payment of increased amount. They pay more than Rs. 5000 crore towards interest from the State Government's side. Nonetheless, I must also say that we raised almost 80 per cent of our expenditure from our own resources. If you take the total money which is given by the Government of India to the Government of Gujarat, it does not exceed more than 20 per cent. That also includes our share from the Finance Commission.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: Let me finish it. It is a very important subject. First of all, we speak less. It is not only that. That entire State has been affected.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: I have no objection. But even from your own party, more than ten Members are there to speak.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: I am just coming to the other points. Our State Government has made three demands to the Union Government. The first demand is to waive the interest, on the loan in respect of the Central Government. I would request the Central Government that it should waive the interest rate only on the condition that the State Government should put an equal amount of interest money and spend the money in carrying out relief work in respect of the flood-affected people. Only then, should the Central Government waive the interest of the Government of Gujarat. It should also put a moratorium on the principal amount of loan, which the Central Government has given to the Government of Gujarat, for three years. I will also like to put a condition that the Government should agree to this only after seeing the relief work carried out by the Government of Gujarat in respect of the flood-affected people. Nonetheless, I support this in the sense that as much help as is possible should be given to the Government of Gujarat.

My final point is this. The hon. Home Minister is here. We have the Policy and Disaster Mitigation Institute which, I think, has been founded very recently. This has to be very seriously taken. There is an attempt to create a Special Force which can meet the eventuality in a disaster situation. Those people should be very well trained. It is not only that. All the resources should be available to them to impart training and everything. All should go hand in hand. We should find some kind of a permanent solution to this because this takes a major chunk of our financial resources in meeting the relief work either due to one kind of a calamity or another kind of a calamity. I support it.

On behalf of the people of Gujarat, I would request that the Government of India should be very generous in helping the people of Gujarat, the flood-affected victims, the industries which had an infrastructure and all the other industries which had been damaged due to this calamity.

With these words, I conclude. I thank you for giving me this opportunity.

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (Bettiah): Are you asking it for Mr. Modi?

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY (Sabarkantha): It is not the question of Mr. Modi. We are asking it for people, not for Mr. Modi. ...*(Interruptions)*

Madam Chairman Sir, please do not talk with each other.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: That is why I am speaking that it should be monitored and everything should not be left to Mr. Modi only.

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Madam Chairman, I do not want to give a speech. Mr. Mistry is a good speaker of English. If the people of his state listen to him or watch him on T.V., they would think what language he is speaking. If he had spoken in Hindi, the people of his state would have understood that he is speaking for them.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: Please leave it to me.

15.00 hrs.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA (Surat): Madam Chairman, severe flood situation is prevailing in the entire country and in Gujarat and crores of people have been affected thereby. Since this issue is under discussion, I would like to make a few submissions on the views expressed by our hon'ble member Shri Pandaji and Shri Madhusudan ji. Serious situation like Bihar and North-East is prevailing in Gujarat. The rain which was to be fallen in one year has been recorded in just three days and the most affected districts due to this were Surat, Navsari, Balsar and Bharuch of Gujarat. Baroda district was so affected by these floods that the areas which were already in the grip of flood had suffered heavy losses and more than about 200 lives have been lost in these floods. Not only this, thousands of people of Gujarat have been taken to the safer places. Checkdam Bridges, National and State Highways have been affected badly. Nearly 8480 k.m. of roads have been damaged. Around 150 small and big irrigation projects have been affected and more than 4000 chedkdams and reservoirs with the capacity of providing fresh drinking water to people, too have been affected by these floods. Gujarat has suffered extensive damage by this flood and the information regarding the loss

[Shri Kashiram Rana]

suffered by Gujarat has been given to hon'ble Prime Minister. As hon'ble Member, Madhusudanji has told that Gujarat is a such state where every year one or the other natural calamity keeps occurring. Sometimes cyclone, floods and sometimes drought. Since 1998 all the natural calamities that have occured, have caused a loss of Rs. 6500 crore. Besides, people have lost their lives. Despite Rs. 2392 crore have been provided from Natraul Calamity Relief Fund or Natural Calamity Contingency Fund. Besides the funds provided by the State Government has also helped fully to reconstruct all those districts that have been affected by cyclone or earthquake or floods. Even then, every year some or the other calamity occurs. The Chief Minister and Agriculture Minister of the State have met hon'ble Prime Minister and submitted a Memorandum regarding the losses suffered this time. It has been demanded to provide immediate relief for the slum dwellers and to repair the roads. In Surat city 60,000 slums have been damaged extremely due to the floods. It is good thing that the administration had shifted people staying there to safer places and made arrangement for their food etc. We have made an estimate that due to floods there has been a loss of Rs. 3500 crore. I fully remember that when the memorandum was given to hon'ble Prime Minister in this regard, he had assured me and our Chief Minister to provide assistance. There has been a loss of more than 3500 crore rupees and approximately 200 people have lost their lives. The rains have still not stopped there. It has been raining further last 10 to 15 days at some or the other place. It is raining every day in one districts or other. Recently so much of rain has been recorded in Panchmahal and Dahod that the State Government had to request Government of India to provide help from the Military there. Bhavnagar too has recorded a lot of rain. Earlier it was expected that the State would be facing a situation of drought and we had already made an memorandum for that, but later on the situations changed completely and flood occurred there. That is why the State Government has demanded a relief of Rupees 3500 crore from the Government of India, to resettle the slum dwellers and to repair the damaged roads. Hon'ble Prime Minister has announced only Rs. 55 crore. The State Government has announced a compensation of 50,000 rupees to the families of deceased. We request the Prime Minister in this respect, accepted it and announced to provide Rs. 50,000 to the families of each person died. But we have been provided the assistance of Rs. 55 crore which is very less, whereas we had demanded Rs. 3500 crores.

The Prime Minister was proposed to visit Gujarat on the 10th of August. All the preparations in this regard were made but the Prime Minister did not visit. There must have been some or the other season. Then it was announced that Respected Mrs. Sonia Gandhi is visiting Gujarat on the 12th of August. The flood affected pepole and poor workers, were waiting for the arrival of Mr. Prime Minister of Shrimati Sonia Gandhi to go there to assess the situation so that we could get assistance from Government of India. But neither Prime Minister nor respected Shrimati Sonia Gandhi arrived there. Instead of Rs. 3500 crore only 55 crores of rupees have been announced. This is not right. We want that the same packages be given to Gujarat as has been provided to other states suffering from floods or droughts. As our colleague Shri Pandaji has just said that a temproary package, as referred to be also given to Gujarat as well. So that the flood affected people may feel that they have also been provided with the assistance from the Government of India to reconstruct their infrastructure. But this has not happened. I feel that justice has not been done to Gujarat. The Chief Minister of Gujarat has demanded the assistance of Rs. 3500 crores in the memorandum submitted to the Government. The industries as well farmers have suffered extensive losses. They required assistance. Out of the total loss of Rs. 3500 crore of Gujarat, 2200 crores or loss was suffered by industries. The powerloom industry of Surat has been inundated in water upto eight to ten feet. The entire industry has been submerged in water and it has suffered great losses. If we do not provide assistance to industry that has suffered losses alongwith agriculture it could lead to further losses. I had met the hon. Minister of Agriculture on Thursday as well as today and I am happy that Agriculture Minister assured me that keeping in view the losses the farmers in possession of land upto two and half hectares would be provided fertilizers and seeds. This assistance would be provided through the depots of the Government of India to the State Government. However, no announcement for providing any assistance to industry has been made. The farmers, needs seeds and he does not get the seeds in the market and he does, it is at such a price that he is unable to afford. Industry too whether it is powerloom industry or diamond industry or gold braced industry or the industries of Surat and South Gujarat too need an assurance of assistance by the Union Government on the lines of the assurance of assistance given regarding agriculture by the hon. Minister of Agriculture. If timely assistance is not provided to the industry, it would be meaningless afterwards. Hence through the House I would request the hon. Prime Minister to provide compensation package to Gujarat in view of

the damage caused by the floods. It is a question of humanitarian relief and lives of thousands of flood affected people. It is not an issue of a particular state or a particular party be it BJP, Communist Party or Congress Party. If assistance is provided to the people of Gujarat, it would be the assistance of the poors, labourers and humanity. State Government is unable to provide assistance to thousands of loods affected people with its limited resources. Further it has also been facing the resource crunch due to natural calamities being faced during last four to five years. The relief provided to it from Natural Calamity Fund or Contingency Fund is too meagure in view of the situation faced by them. I urge upon the Government to fulfill the demand that has been made through the memorandum submitted to Union Government by the State Government for the rehabilitation of the flood affected people.

I am confident that the Union Government would make an announcement very soon for providing an assistance of Rs. 3485 crores demanded by the State Government as has been said by hon. Mistriji. I hope that hon. Prime Minister would make an announcement to this effect druing the course of ongoing debate itself. There is also a need to waive off one year's interest on the loan given by the Union Government and also to put a moratorium on this loan repayment for three years has not been stated earlier. State Government is not in a position to carry on with this economic burden. Several industries were covered under the insurance policies but insurance claim is neither settled timely nor it is given as due. The Government or RBI should direct the insurance companies to pay the insurance claim immediately so that industries could get relief to a certain extent. Not only this, I would also like to mention that alongwith farmers, small scale industries should also get interest free loans under such difficult situation so that the people could feel that though they has been rendered resourceless by nature, they may again be able to mobilise them again with the assistance provided by the Government as well by their own efforts. This is a not a question of providing assistance alone. The Union Government and the State Government are the guardians of the people. Hence the State Government, NGO's and we the representatives of the people are trying to combat this crisis arising out due to natural calamity. Hence I would like to request the Union Government to provide assistance to the State Government as has been demanded by it through its written memorandum to the centres.

With these words, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

[English]

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS (Palghat): Madam Chairman, every year we are debating on the situation arising out of droughts and floods in the country. So, this year also, we are having a discussion regarding flood and drought situation in the country. This is also a part of the unity in diversity of our country. Some parts of the country are facing severe drought situations and some other parts of the country are flooded. Many valid points have been covered by my earlier speakers. So, I am not going to repeat all those points. Every year we are discussing this. The main point that is coming out of the discussion is that there should be a scientific approach towards these natural calamities like droughts and floods. We are living in an electronic era. Though we cannot anticipate everything, yet we can anticipate something. So, a scientific approach must be there to tackle the situation and to anticipate all these natural calamities. Every year, while we are discussing this point, it is not at all adequate to address the real situation.

Madam, let me come to my State. I am coming from Kerala. In the morning itself, while replying to one of the questions, our hon. Agriculture Minister has mentioned this. The drought and flood situations in Kerala are somewhat different form the drought and flood situations in other parts of the country. Kerala is facing a very severe drought situation. Whenever a Central team or somebody else comes, they see very beautiful greenery there, although we are facing a very severe drought situation all the time. That is not our fault. It is the gift of nature. Due to this, Kerala is suffering more than the others. So, I can say here, in this august House, that for the last three consecutive years, the Government of Kerala has declared some of its districts as drought-affected districts. This year, unfortunately, after the arrival of monsoon, some parts of our States are facing flood situation. For the last three consecutive years, this severe situation is being faced in Kerala.

There is drought situation in Kerala for the past three consecutive years. At the end of March, 2004, the prevailing situation in the State is as follows. Out of 1570 revenue villages in the State, 966 villages have been declared as severely-affected and 536 as partially affected. Almost all revenue villages have been declared affected by drought. In the 966 villages, which are severely affected by drought, the drinking water is supplied through tanks and lorries. I must say here that in some parts of may constituency, Palghat, which is in the middle of Kerala, water is distributed through tanks and lorries.

[Shri N.N. Krishnadas]

That is the severe drought situation we are facing in Kerala. Whenever anybody comes to Kerala to watch or see all these things, he cannot see the traditional drought symptoms. He will see geenery everywhere. That is the gift of nature. This is the geographical scenario. That is why we are suffering.

Then, paddy sown in 57,638 hectares of land has been completely spoiled resulting in losses—it is a preliminary calculation—amounting to more than Rs. 300 crore. It is in the case of paddy only. The aggregate losses, comprising all the sectors of agriculture, will come to more than Rs. 2000 crore in one year. So, for the last three consecutive years, it has been declared as severely drought-affected district of the State. There have been recurring instances of forest fires and loss of wildlife due to lack of drinking water in Kerala. Wildlife is the wealth of the nation.

Then, Madam, as far as rainfall is concerned, the overall deficiency compared to the immediate last year, up to March, 15, 2004, was about 70 per cent. This is the situation regarding rainfall. That is why, all the MPs from Kerala, irrespective of the political differences and the Government of Kerala approached the Union Government to seek the assistance to tackle this continuous drought situation. But, unfortunately, I must say in this august House that not even a single paisa has been allotted to the State for tackling this situation. With all respect, I must say that the hon. Agriculture Minister mentioned while addressing a Press Conference somewhere out of Delhi—I think it appeared in the newspapers last week—that the State of Kerala does not have such serious situation and there is no assistance to that State.

So, I would like to ask this question. Is Kerala not part of the country? Why are we neglected like this? Even this morning the hon. Minister of Agriculture has mentioned while replying to a question that the Government of Kerala is not seeking assistance in the prescribed format. Whatever it may be, despite all these things, even though the Government of Kerala committed a very serious lapse in its duty or failed to convince the Union Government about the real situation, why should the people and the farming community of Kerala suffer? Why should they suffer? So, this is our humble request to the Union Government that it should be very well taken care of. The Union Government should send a study team immediately to evaluate the real situation in Kerala. This is our humble request.

Madam Chairman, the second thing, which I must say, is that more than 1000 farmers have committed suicide in Kerala. Suicide is taking place in Kerala which is the most socially developed State in the country. Everywhere we are considering that Kerala is a model State. In that State, within the last two years, more than 100 farmers have committed suicide. We have placed this matter before the Parliament many times, but we are not getting anything. So, this is the situation. This negligence should not take place. The Government of India should treat Kerala as one of the part of the country. But unfortunately I must say in this august House that both the past and the new Governments are not addressing the very serious situation in Kerala in a proper manner. So, this is our humble submission, this negligence should not be continued.

Due to the severe drought, the loss suffered by the major crop, paddy, has been calculated to be at Rs. 300 crore. Now, I am coming to coconut and arecanut. Once a coconut tree is affected by drought or flood, them it would take many, many years to grow up another coconut tree. The arecanut tree is also like that. So, that is the situation Rs. 100 crore has been calculated as the loss on this account. Cash crops like pepper, cardamom, coffee, tea and rubber have been affected. This will be a far reaching consequence. Everything has been affected. So, this is a very serious situation. So, we demand the Union Government to treat Kerala as part of the country. A very-very serious attention should be paid to address the situation in Kerala.

With these words, I conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Madam Chairman, I would like to thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on behalf of my party Samajwadi Party on the issue of flood and drought. The issue of flood and drought are being discussed not olny this year but they are discussed every year during this session. However, we have yet to find a permanent solution to this probolem. We say it as natural calamity. However a section of the people do not subscribe to the view that it is a natural calamity. They consider it as made calamity for China whose problem was similar to that of our's in this regard but has now been completely solved it. The issue of flood and drought is very serious as it causes losses of billions of rupees alongwith the loss of lives of hundreds of people and the losses causes by this natural calamity can not be compensated by the Government. All are

aware that the flood prone and drought prone areas have already been identified. We also know that the rivers originating in Nepal cause the flood in Bihar and Eastern Uttar Pradesh faces the fury of flood every year. The entire world is aware that 77 percent of the land area of Bihar is flood affected. Out of a total flood affected area of India, 16 percent fall in Bihar. Drought prone areas like flood prone areas have also been identified. I am of the opinion that there is a need to find permanent solution to this problem as was stated by me earlier also but meaningful and sufficient efforts have not been made in this regard.

Madam Chairman, I have figures with me. In 1951, one crore hectare of land in our country was flood affected which increased to two and half crore hectares in 1960, 3.4 crore hectares in 1978 hectares and seven crore hectares in 1980. This way the flood prone area in our country is increasing with each passing year and I am of the opinion that required efforts have not been made to check floods.

Hon. Prime Minister has stated that though the immediate steps to check the flood are taken in the country but permanent solution is not found out to this problem. I would like to congratulate him for that. He has also stated that a task force would be constituted in this regard which would submit its report after months. I would like to inform this august House that the Government of India had announced National Water Policy in the House on 1st April, 2002 in which the same old concepts and provisions were adopted in regard to controlling floods that have gone inpertinent in modern times and that only leads to compounding the problem. No new solution was found by us. As I told earlier that some efforts were made in the past also as flood is a perennial phenomenon. Some steps were taken prior to independence. Hon. Rajendra Prasad also took some steps in this direction. In 1954 when Shri Gulzari Lal Nanda was the Minister of Irrigation at that time also a flood policy was framed. But I do not know as to what extent we pursue that policy. This is such a serious issue because floods have caused havoc all over the country. Floods have caused havoc in Bihar, Assam, Gujarat and Arunachal Pradesh. I hail from the State some parts of which are affected by flood and some parts of of which are in the grip of drought. Sometimes the Central Government shirks its responsibility passing on the buck to the State Governments that it is a State matter. Sir, through you, I would like to submit to the Government that the State Government have limited financial resources and with those limited resources it is impossible to deal with flood and drought situation of this magnitude. I am neither a technical expert nor a scientist but in view of the suggestions given by the several hon. Members here, and as I mentioned earlier that we know the regions of the country very well where water is available in abundance and the regions where there is scarcity of water. I am of the view that we can get rid of flood and drought situation by diverting water from where it is available in abundance to the areas where there is scarcity of water. We should do this on priority basis.

Madam Chairman, unfortunately this year the forecast of Meteorological Department also failed like the predictions of exit polls. The forecast of meteorological department failed completely. Though drought affected areas received some rainfall after 20th of July yet it was not enough to undertake plantation of paddy seedlings. However, it was good enough for growing fodder for cattle. Had this rainfall been received in the last week of June or first week of July, it would have been useful to some extent. But the farmers were not able to reap the benefits at all due to delay in arrival of Monsoon as the farmers have sown their crops in accordance with the forecast of the meteorological Department. As per release of the Meteorological Department out of 524 districts there was not famine like situation in 288 districts. The Home Minister is present here and I would like to request him to kindly see to it as these figures do not seem to be correct. The flood and drought situation will have far reaching consequences because the crisis cell agency has predicted that due to floods GDP is likely to decline by two and half percent. It means that our economy will suffer.

Madam Chairman, I was saying that it will have an impact on our entire economy. At the time of presentation of budget it was claimed that agriculture will be encouraged and the Planning Commission has also made it clear that it is not in a position to allocate more then Rs. 450 crore for agriculture sector. Therefore, I can say that the efforts which should have been made to deal with the problem of this magnitude have not been made and we are lacking in our efforts. It needs further consideration.

Madam, I have some figures with me. In 1947 availability of water in Brahmaputra and Sabarmati basins was 1300 cubic metre and 300 cubic metre respectively. It means there is a need to divert water from the areas

[Shri Ramji Lal Suman]

where it is available in abundance to the areas where there is scarcity of water. Surplus water should be divereted to the areas where there is shortage of water. The annual availability of water in India is 4000 cubic metre. 1867 billion cubic metre water is available for use and out of which 432 billion cubic metres water is ground water but today only 690 billion cubic metre water is being brought in use and rest of the water flows waste. Water storage capacity is 177 billion metre. In this way 175 billion cubic water can be available for use by linking the river basins. The Government set up the National Water Development agency in 1982 and its report is also available. Several countries of Europe, America and Asia have solved this problem permanently by linking river basisn but we could not make any head way in this direction.

Madam, in the end I want to submit that in our country drought and flood are two major problems and deaths due to flood and drought reported by newspapers day in and day out are heart rendering. On the one hand some parts of our country are in the grip of drought and at the same time other parts of our country are affected by severe flood. I hail from Uttar Pradesh and eastern part of Uttar Pradesh are badly affected by flood. Like Bihar, Eastern part of Uttar Pradesh is also affected by natural calamity. Out of 49 districts the State Government has declared 30 districts as drought affected and the State Government has limited resources. Despite this fact the State Government is considering to defer debt recovery from the farmers of drought affected districts.

Madam, during the Question Hour the reply given to a question by the Government mentions that the funds provided by the Government to the State Governments are meagre. Uttar Pradesh is a large State having a population of 17 crore. Had it been a separate nation, it would have been the seventh largest nation state in the world. As per the figures with me, Rs. 66.68 crore has been released to Uttar Pradesh to deal with the natural calamity which is a meagre amount. The Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav, met the hon. Minister of Agriculture recently. Prof. Ram Gopal Yadav, our leader of Parliamentary group asked a question in this regard during the Question Hour today. The State Government will assess the loss suffered by the State due to flood and drought and send a detailed report to the Union Government. I request the hon. Minister of Home Affairs to kindly do justice with State of Uttar Pradesh. I hope that this debate will not be merely a formality but a permanent policy would be framed so that this august House may not have to reiterate every year that it is concerned about drought and flood situation in the country, otherwise we will be not doing justice to the affected people.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the issue being discussed today is an issue of national importance. Floods and droughts are no new problem for this year only, they have been occurring since long. The issue is discussed in the House and still we don't reach at any conclusion. That is why today we must rise above partylines in this debate and treat it to be a national problem. We must focus our talks towards finding a permanent solution for this because every year there are discussions about relief. The rainfall in Bihar in last few days have broken the records of flood level of the year 1987. It is no doubt unexpected and unprecedented. I would like to give an example of a river here. The Water Resources Minister is sitting here. He must have got the authentic information. The hon. Home Minister is also sitting here. I would like to give example of a single river here. Kamala river flows from Nepal. Kosi, Kamla, Andhwara, Bagmati, Gandak, Mahananda and several other rivers are flowing from Nepal. Here I would like to talk about Northern Bihar particularly. In all the 21 districts of North Bihar floods play havoc. Three to four crore of people are directly affected and about five crore people are partially affected by this. Every year there are floods in six months and droughts in remaining six months. Today over 16 districts of Bihar are affected by drought. In the entire country seven states are affected by floods and 11 states are affected by drought, and that is why, it is an issue of national importance. The Parliament should reach at some conclusion by rising above the limits of the parties to form a uniform view point. The Government should take it seriously, as it is a very sensitive issue. Lakhs of people are at the risk of losing their lives, they have no food to eat or clothes to wear. River banks have broken. After the loods receded a situation of epidemic has arisen. People lead a very miserable life due to all these problems. Crops worth crores of rupees are destroyed. All the roads, infrastructure, be it schools, roads, transport got disrupted from District Head quarters. All the contacts have been snapped completely. When water level goes down during floods or drought, poor people and farmers are distressed. Today it requires to be given a thought. I am giving an example of Bihar. There is a place called Singhli along Kamla river, 80 cms of rainfall was recorded over there, and after that again 444. Cms. of rainfall expected during the whole season or over a period of

five to six months, was recorded in just three days. Northern Bihar is under the grip of floods, and in Southern Bihar 16 districts are affected by drought. People are clamouring for succour. The situation is very grave. What progress has taken place so far. Army's helicopters and boats were made available by hon. Home Minister to help people in Bihar in the situation of National calamity but unfortunately it is proving to be a drop in the ocean. What can the Government do people who need help are waiting on the river banks, whatever food etc. is airdropped, falls into river water. Due to this, relief does not reach needy people. It's a problem of distribution, the Government cannot do much even if it wanted to do because at some places people are climbing on trees. Lives of lakhs of people are at risk at some higher place of land. There is no fodder for animals. People are dying of snake bites as well as diseases. The death casualty reports we are getting now include those also who died of snake bites. Snakes too will climb up to higher places, riverbanks, because there is water all over. Even the houses too are filled with water, so everybody would like to go to higher places and climb trees as well. People are dying of poisonous cobra bites. More people are dying of snake bites than drowning. There have been many such heart rending incidents which are very serious. Our constituencies are completely flooded. All the 22 blocks in Madhubani districts are also similarly flooded. We have visited Jhanjharpur constituency by helicopter. After trying to have a halt at various places we managed to halt for five minutes at Jhanjharpur. About ten thousand people came over and told us that they didn't have even polythene sheets. Polythene is required to take shelter from sun as well as rains.

Jha ji hails from my neighbourhood constituency. He knows what is the situation in Sheohar, Bettiah and Motihari. Hon. Member Sitaram Singh ji is here. Hon. Members from Purnia, Katihar, Vaishali, Muzaffarpur and Gopalganj, are also here. I would like to say that situation in Darbhanga, Madhubani, Samastipur and other districts and 21 districts of Northern Bihar is very serious. I would like to mention what has happened till now because I want that we should discuss on a permanent solution, be it Kamla river, Kosi space river or Bagmati river. Since 1962 there have been discussions for making High Level dams and for generating hydro electricity from the area where Nepal has a water catchment area, and by this way control water too. Silt coming from there should be checked too, and irrigation facility should be porvided by making a canal. Same kind of proposal was there in 1962 as well as 1955.

As you know, during this period a three tier Bhakhra Nangal proposal and came, and at that time it was a plan that a three tier project should be started. There was a talk in this regard. In the year 1946 along with Bhakhra Nangal Dam there was a three tier project to be started over Kosi river. In 1950 it was also finalised. Later it was revived in 1953. It was divided into two parts, one was multi purpose high level Dam and the other was to put embankment on both sides to prevent shifting of the course of river inundation as well as prevention from floods.

[English]

Embankment on both sides to prevent inundation, overflooding and shifting of courses. Secondly there was a proposal to make a barrage with cannals on both sides for irrigating lands in Nepal and Bihar.

[Translation]

But the irony is that, though Bhimnagar Barrage was made on Kosi river, Eastern and Western canals were also carved, but till today a high level dam has not been constructed on Kosi river. Had a High level dam been constructed over kosi river then 3300 megawatts of Hydro power would have been generated from this single river, and if Bagmati, Gandak, Kamla, Adhwara group had been taken together then 9 thousand megawatts of electricity would have been generated and this could have solved the power scarcity of the whole country today. Power available to us is very costly, it costs Rs. 3 per unit, whereas the hydro electricity produced at the proposed dam would have been available for just between 17 to 25 paise per unit. This is the question of whole nation. Besides meeting local requirement surplus electricity would have been supplied to other states for consumption. This would have opened opportunities for employment. I have laid emphasis on this because it would improve all other infrastructure also.

I want to know as to what has happened till now? I did not want to discuss about the Government of 1975. In the year 1975, the then Government of India had stopped the proposed construction of high levels dams accepting the Additional Secretary in the irrigation department of the Ministry of Agriculture Shri C.C. Patel's letter No. 7.12 suggesting that electricity produced at that time did not have market for conusmption. In 1975 the Government of India had given an excuse of non-consumption of electricity generated and non-requirement of irrigated water for irrigation. This kind of irresponsible

[Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav]

and immature report is the reason why Bihar is ruined. The Central Government is fully responsible for this.

I would like to give one more example in this regard. What was the statement given by the Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee in 2003? The report coming from the Prime Minister's office prevails. You can see the mentality of Bureaucracy. How for they are irresponsible towards flood affected people and what kind of anti-people mentality they have. While reply to the Calling Attention Motion in this House on 17.12.2003, the then Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee had said that major part of the requirement of electricity in Bihar was being met through Central utility agencies. Besides, during 10th and 11th Plan periods, there estimated cost was Rs. 18,700 crore for excuting Power Projects in Bihar under National Thermal Power Corporation. The Corporation is planning to set up three special projects of total 4480 megawatt capacity. Besides, additional electricity would be made available to these areas from hydel projects of North-Eastern region. Hydel Power will generate additional electricity. The problem is not of the availability of power but of its excessive consumption. As a matter of fact the report of 1975 is same as the one which has come on 17.12.2003. The problem is how to consume power generated through hydel power projects. The same report which was prepared by Shri C.C. Patel, Additional Secretary of Agriculture and Irrigation Department of the Government of India in 1975 has been recast after 35 years. Whenever we take up this issue with the Members of the ruling as well as opposition sides, they feel irritated because it is a matter of their outlook.

15.58 hrs.

[SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN *in the Chair*]

India has not developed but everybody is laying emphasis on the development of India. Urban area is also not being developed. There is congestion in cities. There is no development in the villages. Gandhiji told that the spirit of India lies in villages. What is happening now is that crops are getting ravaged in innumerable villages. Floods and drought have made the lives of lakhs of people hellish, but no attention has been paid towards this. I want to know the decision taken on this issue. What is the outcome of Indo-Nepal talk in this regard. I had raised a question in Lok Sabha in this regard on 7th April, 2003. My question was replied by Shri Arjun Charan Sethi, the Minister of Water Resources. In my question I have asked about the construction of multipurpose dams projects on Kosi, Kamla, Balan and Bagmati rivers of Bihar which originate from Nepal. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The time allotted to you is over. Please conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: I am only submitting facts. I am telling the same what has been stated by the Government ...*(Interruptions)* This is a very serious matter. We have attachment with our country. So have to face floods every year. I am not making a speech for the sake of speech. I am putting facts for the consideration of Government. ...*(Interruptions)* Our State has been the worst affected State. The issue of floods and drought is being discussed here. Bihar has been worst affected State.

16.00 hrs.

I am saying so because I raised this issue. Now I would like to submit before you the reply given to my question. It is stated in the reply, "Yes, Sir, efforts are being made to set up the Joint Project Office to start zonal survey and prepare a comprehensive project report on Sapt Kosi High Dam Multipurpose project and San Kosi storage and diversion scheme, although there is no such proposal regarding Kamla and Bagmati rivers". The proposal is concerning Kosi river. The proposal concerning Bagmati and Kamla rivers is under consideration. The matter has not been considered. A sum of Rs. 29.34 crore has been provided during Tenth Plan for zonal survey and for preparing a camp relief project report and there is a proposal to complete the zonal survey work and preparation of comprehensive project report in thirty months after setting up the Joint Project Office. We heard the reply of Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunshi in the course of discussion. I say that this Government has a positive thinking. What I want is that if the Government has a positive attitude, it should fix the date for setting up the joint project office. Efforts are being made at some places. The UPA Government is making efforts. The Government has a positive approach. The Joint Project Office will be opened by India and Nepal. The engineers of the two countries will do the survey work jointly and prepare the detailed project report. The time schedule of thirty months has been given for this purpose. This reply was given in 2003. Thirty months time was sought two years back. Raghunath Jha ji had rightly said that the Government should declare a timeframe within which detailed project report would be prepared. So far only announcements are being made. Rs. 30 crore have been provided. Salarly

for Engineers and expenditure to be incurred on establishment survey are included in it. DPR expenditure is not included in it. For DPR, a sum of Rs. 24,500 crore has been sought. I want to know when will that amount a provided? This has to be decided by the Government. I want to know whether the Government is really serious about this long term project. I want to say that unless a final solution is found, the high level dam can not be constructed. Unless proper water management is ensured, our country can not prosper. Similarly unless proper river water management is ensured, irrespective of availability of water in the rivers, our country can not prosper. What will be the outcome of river-linking? Water of the Himalayan rivers originating from Nepal terrain does not meet even 20 percent of our irrigation requirement. Average irrigation in the entire country is forty percent, but from these rivers not even 20 per cent requirement is met. Floods have ruined us. Water gives us life and it also causes havoc. Unless proper water management is ensured our country can not prosper. I shall conclude by saying that a project should be framed by making a unified unit of ground water, rain-water and river water. The High Level dam should also be constructed. Hydro-electricity can be generated and crores of people may get employment and moreover power management and shipping management can also be ensured. Waterways from Haldia to Nepal via Kolkata can be opened. This will help save diesel because shipping will become cheaper mode of transport. Similarly, multipurpose high level dam is useful in many ways. So, if you have to protect Bihar, Assam and West Bengal and other flood prone areas, then the Government should hold talks with Nepal and Bhutan and should get a detailed project report prepared for construction of high level dams. Funds should be provided for this purpose. The hon. Home Minister who takes care of immediate relief, knows that Rs. 10 thousand crore is given annually in Natural Calamity Fund. Rs. 5 thousand crore is given in cash. The dependents of those who lost their lives by drowning or by snake bite in flood affected areas, are provided Rs. 50,000 each. The damage caused to houses due to floods is yet to be assessed. The Chief Minister of Bihar had said that the loss was to the tune of Rs. 72 billion. So far no assessment has been made about broken roads, national highways, schools. There has been a general assessment in regard to the destruction of houses, crops, microlevel assessment has not been done in regard to all the districts. The Central team visited there between 4th to 7th August. I would like to know about the finding of the survey conducted by the Central team work and also about positive steps taken to fulfil the demand for compensation.

We do not want to go on begging every year in the name of compensation. We do not like talking relief and assistance. We do this only under compulsion. Compensation is no solution to this problem. We want a permanent solution to the problem. People in lakhs of number are being made dependent on others by providing relief. This will make the country weak. That is why we are in favour of finding a permanent solution to the problem. We want high level dam. We want construction of dams on Bagmati, Nunthar, Kamla which originates in Nepal, Sisa Pani, Kosi and Barah rivers. This will also enable us to find a permanent solution to the problem of floods and subsequently we will also get hydel power that way we can ensure supply of power to drought affected areas of Bihar. Irrigation will also be ensured and ultimately the problem of floods will be solved permanently.

SHRI RAJESH VERMA (Sitapur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to speak under Rule 193 on behalf of the Bahujan Samaj Party on the serious situation of floods and drought prevalent in the country. Several honourable Members have given their suggestions on this serious problem and thereby they have raised the problems of their States. I also associate myself with them and put forth my views. Flood is a serious problem in this country. Several states are facing the fury of floods. There are some states which were facing drought earlier but now they are facing worst situation of floods.

We have held much discussion on Bihar. The situation in Bihar is alarming and floods have played havoc over there. Situation has worsened so much that dozens of districts are affected. Financially people are so hard-bitten that virtually they are starving.

I come from Uttar Pradesh. This State is facing drought, not floods. Our Chief Minister Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav has declared 30 districts of the State as drought hit. I would like to urge upon the hon. Home Minister to get a survey report proposal on the drought situation of the State. Our State is mostly affected by drought. Sarda river flows through several districts adjoining the Sitapur district under my Parliamentary Constituency. Sarda river originates in Pilibhit. From Pilibhit it flows through Sitapur Bahraich, Lakhimpur and Barabanki. Sarda river causes not only floods to these five districts but also causes large scale soil erosion. Even this year the river has engulfed hundreds of villages due to soil erosion and thousands of acres of agricultural land have been washed away by it. Thousands of acres of land under Sitapur, Barabanki, Bahraich, Lakhimpur

[Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav]

and Pilibhit districts of my constituency have been washed away. My home district is adjoining Sitapur. This is Lakhimpur district which is to the left of Sarda river. The former Irrigation Minister Shri Om Prakash had laid the foundation of a dam over there. However, our district was discriminated against in this matter. The laying of foundation stone was done on the one side and dam construction work is going on at present at the border of Lakhimpur. The Uttar Pradesh Government has no proposal to construct a dam in Sitapur district.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, if dam is constructed on the one side of a river, the other side will naturally face floods and erosion and that area will face destruction. I would like to urge upon the hon. Home Minister and Hon. Agriculture Minister to instruct the State Government to get the dams constructed at both the sides of a river. After the early rainfall in our State farmers planted paddy saplings. But by now the drought situation has taken alarming proportions. Paddy crops are standing and farmers are compelled to use them as fodder. Now if there is no rainfall there then paddy crops will definitely be used as fodder.

Our state did not receive rainfall in the beginning due to which farmers could not grow saplings. But now there is so much rainfall that whatever little crops were there they have been washed away. In this situation the Union Government should make an ambitious plan. Today's ongoing debate must yield some positive result and after the House, the Government should call an all party meeting and the representatives of drought and flood and cyclone affected States should be called and the representatives of the concerned departments should also be called in the meeting so as to find out some permanent solution to the problem of drought and flood. Just now Yadavji has mentioned about implementation of several schemes. I agree with him, but I have a suggestion to make. Silt is collecting in the bedments of rivers flowing through our State. These are required to be desilted. Dredging and desilting of rivers is required. If we enact a law and thereby deepen the rivers big then water will stay at low level in the rivers. Our river beds are rising due to siltation. If we deepen the rivers in a planned manner we will definitely get a relief from floods.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to conclude by giving some suggestions. I would urge the Centre to provide relief to the farmers of the drought affected States.

I would like to add one more point. Our State is facing drought and thousands of crores of rupees of farmers are outstanding against mill-owners. I would like to urge upon the Agriculture Minister that the outstanding dues of farmers should be cleared on priority basis. I have met the hon'ble Agriculture Minister and he has assured me in this matter, but only assurance will not serve the purpose. I would once again urge upon the hon. Minister to arrange for payment of outstanding dues of farmers of our State which is facing worst kind of drought.

With these words I conclude.

SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA (Sangrur): Sir, the House is discussing an important matter. Shri Ramjilal Suman has made a very good point and we need to delve on it. Drought and floods are a perennial feature of the country but their area is widening now. We discuss the matter every year in the House irrespective of the fact which party rules the Centre. Generally it has been seen that if Centre is ruled by one party the State is ruled by other party, both of them try to put the responsibility on each other. This is not a political issue. Hon'ble Member, Shri Yadavji has told an important thing that the matter needs to be considered seriously irrespective of political affiliations. We suffer financial losses in terms of lives and cattle every year on account of these calamities which run into billions of rupees, solution of these problems should be found out. All the hon. Members made references of their respective states. Same is the case with my State Punjab to which I belong. When there is drought situation, people of Haryana spend a lot of money on installing tubewells to tap underground water to get a crop. But Punjab is losing on this count because the water level has receded too much there. There is a common trend of installing tubewells in large numbers in our country. So far as the parametres for installation of such tubewells is concerned, the Government should change them. Punjab is a small State but it still contributes more than 50% in the Central foodgrains pool.

Secondly, I would like to say that Punjab has suffered huge losses on account of floods and this has become a recurring phenomenon. This loss is not the direct result of the heavy rains but it is also due to flowing down of water in these river from above. River Ghagghar traverses Punjab and Haryana. Heavy flow in this river cause harm to both Haryana and Punjab. At the moment, there are 360 villages which are affected in our state. Crop on thirty five thousand areas has been devastated. Thousands of cattle are either missing or have died. A proposal was received in 1980 for construction of dam over river Ghagghar but that area is under Haryana territory. We

know that Haryana as well as Punjab require water Both Punjab and Haryana can get water provided the dam is constructed there. There was not a single major project at that time. That project was worth 1200 crore rupees. We may have differences with Haryana as the State has a big share in the area of land covered under the project. The aim of such projects should be to avoid incalculable loss being suffered in their absence.

I, accompanied by our party President Shri Prakash Singh Badal and Area MLA captain Kamaljeet Singh inspected the site. Hearing from others or going through reports is another matter but we ourselves saw their pitiable condition. Nobody can remain unmoved on seeing their plight, even then, I am surprised as to why not a single person was given even a single paisa? Leave aside compensation, No immediate assistance was provided to those who lost everything. I met Hon'ble Prime Minister to talk to him in this regard. He told me that there is a set procedure for it and that they did not receive any report from the State Government. I would like to request that the people there should be provided some relief. They are even deprived of their bare necessities like food to eat, place to live in and clothes to over themselves. The State Government and the Central Government has not yet provided any sort of assistance to them. Hon'ble Minister is present here. I would like to request him to take note of it. Haryana too his its share in that. They suffered huge losses. They should be provided some relief as early as possible. Those who have lost everything should be provided assistance. Though report in this regard is still awaited from the State, some immediate relief should be provided to the people in the meantime.

[English]

SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU (Rajapur): Sir, like every year or most of the years, this year again, we are facing, not so unique, problems of drought-flood-drought syndrome which are confronting us most of the time of the year. This year, the losses are also phenomenal. Bihar alone has demanded Rs. 15,000 crore; the State of Gujarat has demanded something like Rs. 4,000 crore; Punjab, the hon. Member was just now saying, would need probably another few thousand crores; and Kerala has demanded Rs. 3,000 crore. Maharashtra again has suffered a huge loss because of floods and probably all parts of India have been flood-hit. If we add all these figures, we will realise that every year, the losses we are suffering because of floods, are also phenomenal and that we really need to do something concrete about it. Otherwise, every year, the same phenomenon repeats. We are only talking about different figures, different dimensions of the problem. But flood is a real problem before us.

There is a very interesting study which has been carried out by Dr. Bibek Debroy of the Rajiv Gandhi Research Foundation. He studied all the 600 districts of India to find out why some districts are more backward than the rest of the districts. He has come to the conclusion that the root cause of backwardness of a district is flood and not drought. Those districts, which are flood-hit, are the ones, which are more backward than the rest of the districts because, as it happens, because of floods, the entire infrastructure gets wiped out and we have to reconstruct it again. Probably, floods by themselves are not bad because floods perform a very important ecological function. They bring in very rich silt and the soil gets reinvigorated. But in India, because of huge population wherein we have now added 1.1 billion people, we have a serious problem of flood and in other parts, at the same time, drought is the problem.

In Maharashtra—my friend was telling about Vidarbha—we have some of the very rich cotton crops in the country. That region has some districts, which are flood-hit, and some districts have got the drought problem.

If we take India as a whole, we have this problem. If you take States, in some parts of a State there is a flood problem and in other part of the same State, there is also a drought problem. Take for instance, Rajasthan. Some parts of Rajasthan are suffering because of drought and some parts of Rajasthan are suffering because of flood. So, we have to come out with a concrete action plan to deal with this problem.

Sir, I was just going through a study—I would request the Government to come out with a White Paper on this—as to how much money we have spent so far on drought relief as well as on flood control. That gives a very revealing figure. The same amount could have been saved. This is an amount of money that we have lost in terms of asset loss, in terms of income loss and land in terms of restoration work that need to be carried out. If we really try to do something concrete on this, I think, that would be a great opportunity for us. This is the time that we should plan to do it, and I am sure, the Government is thinking of doing it.

Sir, Maharashtra is a State which is neither in the northern part of the country nor in the southern part of

[Shri Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu]

the country. In fact, Maharshtra divides the country into southern part and the northern part. It is standing in the middle of the northern and southern India. Therefore, it has also one of the most richest parts of the country. This is the range of Syadri which is in Maharashtra, like in Kerala. Therefore, this is the part which we really need to protect now. There is a changing cropping pattern and there is a changing weather pattern because of the changing climate. In fact, an inter-goernmental panel on climate change has also said that the climate is really changing, and therefore, some hot spots that we have in the country need to be protected to make sure that we do not get, all the time, affected by the change of climate. We need to protect them. Therefore, I would also request the Government to make sure that it comes up with some hot spots on such bio-diversity, which we really need to protect.

Sir, we have seen that in the last few years, in my own estimation, an amount of more than Rs. 1 lakh crore have been spent only on drought relief and flood relief measures. This is a phenomenal amount. This amount would be equal to one-third of the total amount of money that our Government spends every year on the Budget. Therefore, we really need to have a comprehensive plan to carry on these objectives.

This is not a problem which is unique to India alone. The United Nations also highlighted this as a major problem. In fact, the United Nations thought it proper for the first time, to come out with the project called "Water for people, water for life". Here, they have highlighted that the 'next few decades, the problems in the world over will be really centring around water'. In India, which is a sub-continent, we really need to tackle it because we are one single country. Maybe, Jammu and Kashmir is in the northern part and Kerala is in the southern part, but we are part of one same Union of the country, and therefore, we must make sure that this problem is solved by our people within the country.

In the process of doing it, we can probably help and also create new opportunities on navigation, we may be able to create new opportunities on irrigation and we may be able to create new opportunities on power generation. Shri Anant Geete, who was also the Minister of Power would also tell you. We need an additional 50,000 MW of power in the next 25 years so that the thermal-hydro ratio, which is so adverse today, is properly corrected. Therefore, we really need a massive programme, a massive action plan now to deal with this war-like situation.

Sir, when we talk about water problem, we really need to tckle it in a holistic way. We need water conservation measures, we need a little initiative to make sure that for nullah bunding, water conservation work even in some little places is encouraged. The Finance Minister has announced that he wants to start a scheme to refurbish one million tanks that are there in the country.

So, I would request the Government to again come out with a proper White Paper as to what is the potential of these small and middle initiatives. We should not be taken in by that fact that this problem is going to be solved just because we do this. It is absolutely necessary. But what is the potential of this and what is the limitation of this? We should know it. It should not happen that we concentrate only on that and finally we come to know that this is not going to solve the problem in totality.

Secondly, we also need some mid-term actions. There are several States in the country which do not have enough resources. Therefore, some of their programmes which they started are not completed. I think, we really need a programme whereby the Central Government offers assistance so that the State level projects could be completed. One of the projects that has not yet been completed is Kooshta Valley Project in Maharashtra which really needs completion. That one project would have helped us to solve the problems in a big way.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now.

SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU: Sir, I am just concluding

MR. CHAIRMAN: Many hon. Members have given their names to participate in the discussion, and the time is very limited. Please cooperate.

SHRI S. BANGARAPPA (Shimoga): He is speaking very well.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He is speaking very well, there is no doubt about it. This is not a question of speaking very well but it is a question of time.

SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU: Mid-term action is also called for to complete the on-going projects which need to be completed. While we do this, we need a long-term action to find out how the problem can be solved.

Another dimension of the problem is that the Punjab Assembly had already revoked the agreement which was

subsisting. It has created a different type of problem. To solve such a problem, we really need a different type of action. To deal with the water problems of India, we need a national focus. In Assam, the per capita availability of water is high and the sub-soil water is so much that there is a problem, whereas in Tamil Nadu, the sub-soil water has gone down, which has created a separate set of a problem. In Punjab also, there is a problem. The per capita availability in Penar Basin is as low as 300 whereas in Brahmaputra Basin, it is as high as 18,000. So, we really need to solve this problem by bringing them together. For that, we need a national vision.

Water is mentioned in the Constitution of India, though the subject is with the States. But the same Constitution provides that if there are inter-State disputes, then Parliament can make a law and that law will not even the subject to judicial scrutiny. So, we really need a national focus for this problem. I am happy that yesterday, the Prime Minister, while speaking from the Red Fort, has talked of this; we really need to look at it as a national resource. I hope that we really take concrete action on this.

Otherwise, some more time will pass-by and again flood will come, which will remind us of the problem. Normally, in India, we do not trouble trouble until trouble troubles you. Let it not be the phenomenon as far as this is concerned.

I thank you for having given the time. I understand that these things are taken note of.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

Now, Shri Kirip Chaliha. Hon. Members may kindly remember that a lot of hon. Members will have to participate in the discussion. So, please stick to the time allotted. That will be very helpful.

SHRI KIRIP CHALIHA (Guwahati): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I do not intend to take any more time than what is needed. I would not like to dwell on any of the theoretical conceptions. I would not like to make dreams in the Parliament. I would like to stick to only concrete things.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

SHRI KIRIP CHALIHA: We are discussing the flood and drought situation in the country. To make time available to other hon. Members, I would restrain myself from mentioning anything on drought. Many hon. Members have spoken on that. I would not like to waste the time of the House by once again repeating the problems relating to the States, which they have mentioned, except by saying that I fully share the agonies of people who have suffered from drought and who are suffering from flood. I come from the State of Assam.

[Translation]

I would not like to draw any comparison with Bihar, as Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav has said that the condition in my state is less grim than his state Bihar. But this a fact that my state has also been facing severe flood problem for the last many years. This problem has assumed the magnitude beyond proportions. Hundreds of people in our state have been rendered homeless. I am speaking in Hindi because Members raised objections over my speaking in English. They are of the opinion that one should speak in official language too. But I am in the habit of it.

[English]

Flood is the curse for Assam. My friend has tried to make water an economic concept. I do not know it is an economic concept; I would rather go by the other theory, the basic theory, that is, what is life. Water is life. The world civilizations which have thrived civilizations have thrived around places where river water was available. These are the basic facts which are known to everybody. Rivers are an esential part for a civilisation to thrive on. But just as rivers had built civilizations, at times, rivers do turn hostile and finish civilization. Rivers change their courses. If you play with nature, nature turns hostile. The story of flood in Assam cold have been like dealing wrongly with nature. We cut down trees; we do not take necessary steps for ecological balance. We play with nature and so, nature unleashes fury, and nature becomes ferocious. It becomes something like an angry God or Goddess like Kali and starts destroying.

[Translation]

flood in the river, one should understand, is just like the stages of pregnancy in women before child birth the fullness of a river, or for that matter all rivers, is an indivisible essentiality. As is during the pregnancy stage of women. It is a cycle. Similarly in river also

[English]

there are different stages. Sometimes it is dry, at other times it is full and then it overflows and creates havoc.

[Shri Kirip Chaliha]

[Translation]

Both are inseparable parts of the nature. We have to see as to how to tackle it and for that

[English]

the political will of the Government is essential and on this premise only I would very briefly like to mention one or two points for your consideration.

I must say that the flood problem in Assam has not been dealt with seriously at all. It has been dealt in a very casual, ritualistic manner. As a result of this the younger Assamese or Norht-Eastern boys get alienated from the mainstream and they think that the people in other parts of the country are not prepared to listen to them and merge them in the mainstream. This results in, I would say in a very condemnable but true term, schizophrenic alienation of the people of Assam and North-East. You will be surprised to know that the insurgents there talk like this,

[Translation]

when floods hit here, money is not provided to us. Entire funds are provided to Bihar, UP and Rajasthan.

[English]

they do not know the truth. They do not understand that same complaint is there in these states also.

[Translation]

It so happens ...*(Interruptions)* Which outsiders speak, we listen to them but they do not understand its.

[English]

Each State talks of its own neglect. Maharashtra thinks that it is being neglected. Similarly, Rajasthan thinks that it is not getting anything from the Central Government. They do not understand that the basic remedy lies in the fact that

[Translation]

there is shortage of natural resources. We should try for the proper way out to takle the natural calamities. For that people from every state should it in their own manner.

[English]

Every State suffers because of this. Somehow, we have not been able to develop the political will that is needed to solve this problem in a holsitic manner.

So far as flood in Assam is concerned, the first person who showed some interest in it and treated the flood problem as a national problem was Shrimati Indira Gandhi. In 1980, she formed the Brahmaputra Board. She thought that this would be a very scientific body to deal with flood. Today, the Brahmaputra Board does not have a permanent Chairman or a permanent Vice-Chairman. Top four prime posts in the Bramhaputra Board are lying vacant. Nobody is looking after this Board. It has become something like a white elephant. It had a master plan worth Rs. 36,000 crore at that point of time, that is, in 1988. It is a huge money and this money was supposed to have been spent in stages on things like construction of flood water reservoirs, flood water channelisation through canals, making dams, etc. It is also not right that you just construct hydel power stations. If you neglect the floods and insist on power, it may be counter-productive. We have seen this in Assam. There are other problems also.

Environmentalists go to the Supreme Court and plead that dams should not be constructed. The Upper Suvansiri and Dehang projects which required constructions of dams for controlling floods in Assam have been held up because of the Supreme Court's indulgence. I do not the biggest problem that we do not have time to discuss our national problems. So, I would just like to add one or two points and then conclude my speech.

The flood in Bramhaputra has to be tackled. It should be tackled not as a State problem but as a national problem. That has been more or less the consensus here. It is not a case of water management but a case of preventing tragedy. It is a question of putting an end to one of the Indian States' agony. The prolems of both flood and drought must be tackled as the national problems. Once they become the national problems, the funding process becomes easier and acceptable.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI KIRIP CHALIHA: Sir, this is my maiden speech in this Parliament. Please give me one more minute.

Sir, flood problem has to be tackled as a national problem. As has been submitted by all other speakers, this discussion should not be taken as a ritual. Under your Chairmanship and in the presence of our Home Minister, this historic decision should be taken and flood in Assam should be declared a national problem. One last word, Sir, when floods take place, the national highways are washed away totally. The linkages between Kolkata, Delhi and Assam get breached. There is a psychological breach also. There is a flood of human emotions to quite similar to outward manifestation of floods. We have to be very cautious with these breaches that take place time and again on various things. There may come a time when these Bailey bridges may not be able to bridge the gap. We have to see that these breaches are removed. Under your Chairmanship, we want some concrete decision this time.

[Translation]

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI (Bhagalpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, how much time is allotted to me?

MR. CHAIRMAN: 15 minutes.

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI: Mr. Chairman, Sir, discussion is being held on flood and drought and the entire country knows that Bihar and Assam are at present hit by flood. The situation in Bihar is worse than Assam. Almost 2 crores and 11 lacs people *i.e.* 25 percent out of the population of 8 crores have been affected in Bihar. Out of the 8200 Gram Panchayats of 20 districts, 2700 Panchayats are affected by floods. 25 percent population and 25 percent Panchayats have been affected by floods.

Sir, as per the official figures given on 5th August, 2004 flood has destroyed 6 lac 91 thousand and claimed 605 lives in Bihar. No such devastating flood has occured in Bihar during last 25-30 as 40 years. Bihar had suffered maximum loss in the flood that hit the state in 1987. Thereafter, only this time the State has witnessed such a devastatinig flood. Two months are still left. Although the level of flood water is receding, there is a possibility of flood again by the end of September.

Sir, I mean to say that such a devastatinig flood has not occured in Bihar during the last two decades. The local people seek permanent solution for this problem instead of relief work being undertaken by the Government. The local people categorically stated during the visit performed by Prime Minister and Central Team to take stock of flood situation that they want permanent solution instead of relief.

Sir, I am not saying this, only to criticise but I would like to say that in the Union Cabinet there are about ten ministers belonging to Bihar still could not get that much attention as was expected. In the past people used to blame that Bihar is being treated in a step motherly way but now in the present situation Bihar is being meted out step motherly treatment at the hands of Ministers belonging to Bihar itself.

Sir, I have full sympathy with Assam. About 50 lac people are flood affected and hon'ble Prime Minister has provided an assistance of Rs. 180 crore to the state while about 2 crore 11 lac people are flood affected in Bihar but the state has been given an assistance of only Rs. 160 crore. This is a paltry amount. It seems to me, since the Prime Minister was elected from Assam, he visited this state before going to any other state and with the same reason he provided utmost relief to Assam while he should have visited Bihar first. After ten days of his visit to Assam he visited and provided an assistance of Rs. 160 crore to Bihar and Rs. 180 crore to Assam.

[English]

SHRI KIRIP CHALIHA: The official figure is 1,32,00,000. I have the report of the Government of Assam. I am just correcting it.

[Translation]

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I only want to say that Bihar should have received more amount of assistance. The present situation of providing relief to the flood affected people is that each flood affected family may not have got even one gram of foodgrains provided as relief if we look into the average and exact data of the relief distribution. Therefore, I would not go into the details and data. 4 lac 37 thousand meters polythene sheet have been provided for 25 lac affected families. If one metre of polythene sheet is provided to each flood affected family it will only be a drop of water in the ocean. All this is obvious from the incidence of godown loot by a dozen people.

Sir, people are looting godowns and law and order situation has arisen in the distribution of relief materials. As a result police had to resort to firing in Patepur and a person named Paswan was killed there. The situation has deteriorated to the extent that even an MLA or an MP and any Minister is not in a position to visit that place. They can visit the place in helicopter because the people there are belligerent seeking immediate relief. The relief being provided there is only nominal. Bihar Government has demanded Rs. 8000 crore and we are one with the RJD Government on this issue. Bihar Government has demanded Rs. 8000 crore which should be given to the state and if it is not provided to the State the condition of the road particularly between Patna and Darbhanga cannot be improved. Flood has damaged the roads and it took almost a month in opening this road for traffic. Roads and houses in the area have been damaged. Therefore all these things need to be improved. In the same way there is drought situation also in the state. About 16 districts are drought hit.

[English]

They have demanded a compensation of Rs. 285 crore from the hon. Prime Minister.

[Shri Sushil Kumar Modi]

[Translation]

When the Prime Minister visited Bihar he did not give any other assurance except that a central team would visit and conduct a survey. It is not known as to when the said team will come, give its report and when will it be constructed. ...*(Interruptions)* Assam has been given Rs. 180 crores. You may give Rs. 500 crores to Assam, I am not against it. But despite the fact that Lalu Prasad is Minister of Railways at present and Digvijay Singh and Jai Prakash have been Ministers, Bihar got only paltry amount of 115 crores and Assam got 180 crores rupees. An amount of Rs. 8000 crores sought by Bihar Government should be provided. I request all the Union Ministers from Bihar to urge upon the Government to provide the amount of assistance.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, 50 years have lapsed since we had discussion with Nepal whatever Government may have been in power. Only our office is going to be opened on 17th August in the last 50 years. What benefit is going to be derived therefrom. All of us are cheating the public. At the time of occurance of flood it is said that discussion is being held. Sir, one office has been opened. An amount of Rs. 30 crores was sanctioned by Shri Suresh Prabhu and Anant Geete during the tenure of NDA Government about which Shri Jai Prakash ji is beating the drums. You have not increased even a single paisa in this amount of Rs. 30 crores. After the 55 years of independence, only one office is going to be opened in Virat Nagar on 17th August ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: You should at least congratulate for this. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI: Sir it will take 30 months to prepare a detailed project report. Where from the money will come?

[Translation]

How much time will be taken in its completion? Through you, I would like to make a submission to the Government. ...*(Interruptions)* You kindly keep silent. The affairs of Nepal will continue whatever their Circumtances, they will prevail but I am happy that the issue of interlinking of rivers has been reviewed. Whereas the Government of Bihar was earlier opposing Shri Suresh Prabhu Saheb on interlinking, just four days ago the Water Resources Minister of Bihar has given a statement that work to interlink the Kosi and the Gandak be started. If these two rivers are interlinked, two third of the flood problem of Bihar can be solved. I am glad that you have given your consent to Shri Suresh Prabhu and the NDA Government. I would like to say that it took 50-60 years to negotiate with Nepal, but during the period of construction of dam in Nepal, efforts to interlink the Kosi and the Gandak in Bihar should be undertaken. Jhaji, please be quiet, let me speak.

The third thing, I would like to say is that flood control and irrigation are state subjects. If the Central Government do not extend all out support in all the efforts of flood control, do not take up this work in their hands besides providing relief to the flood affected areas then if new Government is formed in Bihar tomorrow or any other Government is formed there, it will not be able to complete it. Therefore, the works of flood control as well as irrigation should be taken by the Central Government in their hands. The fourth point I would like to submit is that the embankments in Bihar. ...*(Interruptions)* these embankments run upto 3500 kms. Now the Government has run out of funds for repairing these embankments. I would like to suggest one thing, Raghuvansh Babu is present here, that if there is no provision of construction of roads on the embankments under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana and if approval is granted under the said scheme to construct road on the embankments, the Central Government will provide funds. When road would be constructed over the embankment it would not only strengthen the embankment but height of the embankment would go up and facilitate the movement of people on it. We people had called on Atalji, when you were in power, we sought to do it. Fourthly, the Bihar Government should waive all kinds of loans provided to the farmers besides deferment of loan recovery in the famine and flood affected areas. The Central Government should provide assistance in this regard if required.

[English]

The embankment have been built by the Zamindars. Now the State Government says that they are not concerned with the embankments which have been built by the Zamindars.

[Translation]

They are called Zamindari embankments. Their length is also more than 100 thousand km. Therefore, they have become fragile and nobody takes care of them. They are old ranging from 50 to 70 years. They should be repaired.

Lastly, I would like to submit that electricity is needed in Bihar in view of the drought. The Bihar Government has stated that 200 additional MW should be given to us from Central pool. Sayeed Saheb said during his visit in the State that they had not received any such proposal. I was suprised to know this. Who is the culprit, the Bihar Government or the Central Government morning Sharad Pawarji was replying and when he replied to the question relating to drought, Bihar did not find any mention there in. Not even a single district is flood affected in the Central Government's list. Either the Bihar Government did not send a report or the Central Government is doing step motherly treatment with Bihar. During the Question Hour, no discussion was held on drought. Therefore, I would like to submit that efforts should be made to solve the problem of drought and flood rising above the party affiliations. No efforts were made during the last fifty years. Finally I want to say that till talks are held with Nepal, such arrangements should be put in place in Bihar so that the fury of the flood could be lessened. Floods cannot be checked. Now, I would like to say just one thing more before concluding when India became Independence in 1947, 25 lakh hectares of land was affected by floods and in 50 years since then

[English]

The flood prone area has grown three times. Now, it is 68 lakh hectares

[Translation]

What I mean to say is that the flood prone area in Bihar, instead of decreasing in the ratio of the funds spent on control of Floods in the state; has in fact increased from 25 lakh hectares to 68 lakh hectares.

Floods in Bihar is no longer an issue just confined to this state only, rather it has become a national issue. Bihar cannot make progress unless and until the Union Government squarely takes it upon itself to provide full assistance to Bihar to tackle floods. I think the king maker is sitting here. Laluji says he is the king maker, he was instrumental in making as many as three Prime Ministers, present Government owes its survival to him. If the Central Government does not provide Rs. 8 thousand crore, then, I think that all the ministers from Bihar should tender their resignations from the council of ministers and help Bihar to get its due. If the Government does not provide assistance then there is no reason to be in the council of ministers. Assistance is urgently required to lessen the fury of the flood.

[English]

SHRI VIJAYENDRA PAL SINGH (Bhilwara): Sir, I am on a point of informatioin. I will take just one minute. ...*(Interruptions)* An emergency situation has arisen in my constituency. ...*(Interruptions)* I will just take one minute. It is on flood situation. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record except Shri Mahboob Zahedi's speech.

...*(Interruptions)**

SHRI VIJAYENDRA PAL SINGH: Sir, I am on a point of information. ...*(Interruptions)* Mr. Chairman, Sir, can you just give me one minute? A kind of emergency situation has arisen in my constituency. ...*(Interruptions)* I have just spoken to the Collector of my constituency. Actually it is a drought situation which has been turned into a flood situation. There is a village in my constituency which has been marooned because of floods in the last two days. We thought that we will be able to get them out. But we have not been table to get them out.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is not permissible under the rules. You can raise it in a proper form not in this way.

SHRI VIJAYENDRA PAL SINGH: We are discussing the problem of flood. This is an emergency situation. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is not permissible under the rules. You can raise it in the proper form.

SHRI VIJAYENDRA PAL SINGH: People have been marooned. We do not know how to save them. It is a situation that I want to bring to the notice of the Home Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: The rules will not permit you.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI S. BANGARAPPA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Minister is ready to respond. ...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): I have understood the problem. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VIJAYENDRA PAL SINGH: A village called Raghunathpura has been marooned. ...*(Interruptions)*

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*Not recorded.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: I have understood the problem. I will reply to it. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VIJAYENDRA PAL SINGH: We want some help immediately. Otherwise, we will not be able to tackle the situation. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: If this kind of situation has arisen there, the State Government can write to us. We will certainlly help them with helicopters and other things. This kind of decision cannot be taken on the floor of the House. Let the State Government come in a regular way and we will help the State Government with equipments, helicopters and all those things.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you. But this is not the proper way of raising.

SHRI VIJAYENDRA PAL SINGH: We are discussing the flood situation. It is an emergency situation which has arisen there. Mr. Chairman, Sir, do you mean to say that we should not intervene like this? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is not the proper way of raising this issue. There are rules. Under the rules we can do that.

SHRI VIJAYENDRA PAL SINGH: This is the situation which has happened. I just want to put it across to the hon. Minister.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Anyhow, the hon. Minister has replied. Let it go on like that. But it should not be a precedent.

[Translation]

SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI (Katwa): Mr. Chairman, Sir, we have had discussions on these twin-problems—flood and drought in the 11th, 12th, 13th and 14th Lok Sabha. This year, at least five states have been affected the flood and eight states by drought. In Assam, the situation is all the more alarming, out of 27 districts there 26 districts are affected by the flood.

17.00 hrs.

I do not want to repeat what our hon. Members have already said. What they said is all-true. I want to submit one thing. I had visited Bihar and had an aerial survey of the situation, thereafter I met the Chief Secretary of the state. He gave me a book which contained figures. I asked him whether these figures were based on assumptions or facts. He said they were based on assumptions. 19 districts are fully marooned in floodwater. Darbhanga Medical College is also fully marooned. They had no figures about loss of livestock. When I asked him about the number of people died in these floods he told me that 135 people had died. When I asked how he knew about it, as nothing can be seen from above, he said this is based on assumption. The real picture would emerge only after the floodwater recede. I think that more than 300 people have died. This is also assumption. We are discussing about flood and drought for quite some time now. Bihar is the right palce for the discussion on flood. If you undertake an aerial survey of Bihar, you will find that flood and drought are happening there at the same time. I have been raising this issue for the last three-four years. Can there be any long-term programme to tackle this problem? Can there be any scheme? The rivers origianting from Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh are causing flood in the state. This situation prevails all over the Himalayan wing (region). When the waters flow to the lower region, they cause floods. I have requested the Government to hold talks with Nepal and Bhutan in this regard. Rivers originating from Bhutan are causing flood in Bengal and Assam. Water from Nepal bring about the same situation in Bihar. ...*(Interruptions)* I will not take much time. I wish to congratulate this Government for providing more budgetary allocation to agriculture in this year's budget. No other Government made that much allocation earlier. What is most important is what would be the long-term plan to control flood and drought. He has rightly said about meteorological system that it is also based on assumption, when it starts raining then only they make forecast about rains. We need to improve our metrological system. De-silting work should be undertaken. Bengal, Farakka and Murshidabad embankments develop cracks during rainy seasons resulting in inundation of thousands of villages and this year we are waiting for this tragedy to happen. Three villages are likely to be swept away in floodwaters. In my constituency there are many villages from where people had participated in the freedom struggle. These villages are also on the verge of extinction due to flood. The stretch of national highway No. 34 passing through that region may still remain there, rest of the area in the flanks stretching up to 22 ft. in width will get submerged. I want to know as to what will be the long-term and short-term programme of the Government? It is good that the Government is making efforts to provide relief. But with the assistance provided as of now, situation cannot be improved. A task force has been deployed there, its good, but a rapid task force should replace it there. I, therefore, urge upon the Government to make sure that development and destruction may not follow each other in a cyclic pattern as has been going on for quite sometime. I, therefore, request the Government through

you that still there is time to improve the above situation. One thousand crore rupees for each of these works are required. I do not know who will execute these works. De-silting work is not a big job, it should also be carried out.

[English]

There is very little money left for maintenance of river embankments and desilting of rivers. Therefore, I would request the Government to pay attention to these aspects and take a very quick decision on this. If they do these two things properly, we would not be discussing the subject of flood next time.

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you very much for allowing me to participate in this discussion under Rule 193 regarding flood and drought situation in the country. As has been rightly said by many hon. Members here, we have been discussing this matter many a time when a natural calamity occurs in any part of this country.

Sir, some three weeks back, the discussion was more confined to drought situation though certain parts of the country were also engulfed in flood. Today, of course, the situation is a bit changed, no doubt, but the situation is very grim. In Orissa, specifically, till the last week of July, large parts of the State were facing drought because there was very scanty rainfall. Out of 30 districts, more than 22 districts were facing severe drought, but towards the last week, I think, since the 28th of July, we have been experiencing incessasnt rain and today, the news is, more than 16 districts are flooded. The situation is very grim in Sambalpur, Sonpur, Cuttack, Puri, Kendrapara, Jagatsinghpur and other districts. These districts are covered under Mahanadi system. In other parts, because of overflowing of rivers like Subarnarekha, Budabalang, Baitarani, Brahmani etc., Balasore, Bhadrak, Jajpur and many other districts of Orissa are under flood.

But here the problem is though we have experienced incessant rain, the flood situatoin is very grim today in Orissa, yet the early variety of paddy has totally been destroyed, in more than 18 districts, because they did not get adequate rainfall in June and in the early parts of July. The total khariff crop is destroyed.

I would like to draw the attetion of this House that these are natural calamities. As human beings, since generations, the mindset is to face natural calamities either in Orissa or Assam or Bengal or Bihar or Uttar Pradesh or Himachal Pradesh or Rajasthan or whichever part of this country we come from. The problem here is how the Central Government is attending to this problem. What is the mechanism available today to which the Central Government should attend to?

We all know that water is a State subject. As has been rightly mentioned here, unless a dispute arises between two States, the Centre cannot intervene. The new idea that was put forth by the former Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee was inter-linking of rivers. That is a very big idea. That idea is also not a very new idea. Say, forty years back, this was also being discussed in this country by eminent engineers like Shri K.L. Rao and Shri A.N. Khosla. They had put forth this idea in the early 60s. Dearth of funds was one of the main reasons why it was not done.

As Shri Suresh Prabhu was mentioning here—he was at one point of time looking after that aspect—I would like to draw the attention of this House that we have two types of rivers in this country, the Himalayan rivers and the Peninsular rivers. Some are perennial rivers beause of the glaciers and some are rain fed. Incessant rains cause floods.

I am reminded of early 40s when Baba Saheb Ambedkar was the Minister for Development, when most of the freedom fighters were imprisoned in jail. During 1943-44, at that time a letter was written by Dr. Harekrushnan Mahtab from Ahmadnagar Fort. It was sent to Thakkar Bapa and through him a matter was raised before Baba Saheb Ambedkar, who was then the Central Minister, 'that Mahanadi River is the tragedy of Orissa. When Damodar Valley Corporation is being formed to tame Damodar River, when Mississippi Dam Project is coming in the United States, why nothing should be done for Mahanadi'. That is how the Hirakund Multi-purpose Dam came into being. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, in 1948, laid the foundation stone for Rs. 100 crore Hirakud Dam Project. After that, already fifty years have passed, but Mahanadi basin is still facing floods every year whenever we have incessant rains.

Building big dams do not check floods as now-a-days because of climatic conditions. Suddenly at certain pockets we have cloud bursts, suddenly there is heavy rainfall and there is a flash flood. The embankments also do not protect the villages and towns from floods.

As was said because of silt the river beds are rising. I have three-four suggestions to make before the Government. One is that there is need to erect check

[Shri B. Mahtab]

dams on the tributaries. Instead of building big dams on big rivers, it is necessary to have check dams on the tributaries, which bring in lot of water into the rivers and they also bring in lot of silt. So, NABARD and different other financial and engineering departments should be engaged to build check that a mechanism, a body should be formed for dredging of the rivers. As has been mentioned by my senior friend, who has been here for the last more than five terms, dredging is necessary.

But, we have to decide about dredging the sand from river-bed and also as to where it should be thrown out. Should we push the sand to the sea or should we throw the sand out of the river to the other side the embankment? That is to be decided both by the Central Government and the State Government. At the same time, mouth of the river should be widened. We come from the eastern part of the country unlike you, Sir, who is from the Western Coast. In the eastern part of the country most of the river mouths are turned because of the south-west monsoon which are turned to North. That creates a problem in discharging the flood water into the Bay of Bengal. This is the main problem why it is necessary to open the mouths, to widen the mouths and to dredge the mouths of different rivers in the Easter Coast, so, also, I think, my friends in the Western Coast can give certain suggestions.

It is necessary to construct barrages in the big rivers. In Orissa, a number of projects are already there. Designs are there to connect different rivers not by building bigger dams but by building different barrages which will provide irrigation to the fields and, at the same time, can check floods to some extent, not as is expected, which will be done by big dams.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI B. MAHTAB: I should mention about the drought situation too. Loss of monsoon leads to drought. There is no doubt about it. But the ground water is depleting day by day because of the cash crop and because we are not that much educated about recharging our ground water. I think the Central Government should look into it. During the last six years of NDA's rule, has come up with a lot of projects to recharge the ground level. But it needs better funding. I think this UPA Government should take up this work in a bigger way.

Distribution of funds, as I told earlier, needs better monitoring. Today—I am saying today, which is 16th of August—the representation is pending before the Central Government for certain amount which the Orissa Government had asked for drought and flood for last year, *i.e.* for the year 2003-04. We are yet to get reply. We have received some funds but we are yet to get a reply why the rest of the amount has not been released. We invariably also demand that such and such a person should visit this place or that place we know that. Unless and until an official team visits the place after three months or four months, that too twice or thrice or four times, no money is released. There should not be, must delay. A mechanism has to be built, has to be developed. Unless that is done, we cannot get adequate support from the Central Government. With these words, I would request the Central Government to provide adequate funds to Orissa for drought and also fro the alarming situation that has arisen in Orissa because of flood.

SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI (Bapatla): Thank you, Sir, for giving me an opportunity to participate in a very important discussion, which is of national importance, about drought and flood situations in our country.

India is definitely believed to be a land of diversity. True to this, we have one part of our country submerged under water and we have another part of our country which is crying out for water. That is the drought situation which we are facing in Andhra Pradesh today. I would like to bring to your notice Andhra Pradesh is crying today. I would like to bring to your notice that Andhra Pradesh is crying out for water today. Agriculture supports a majority of our population justifying the saying that India lives in its villages. The slightest agricultural stress, I should say, has a disproportionate impact on the well-being of our people.

The performance of Indian agriculture, I do not need to tell the well-informed people sitting here, is largely at the mercy of the rain god. Lack of rain every few years has been leaving thousands of hectares of land barren. Sixty per cent of India's cultivable land is rainfed and I must say here that agriculture has always been a gamble with the monsoon.

Although a failed monsoon only affects a quarter of our GDP, it affects a large part of our population because as we have been seen earlier, most of our population is dependent on agriculture. A substantive part of our cultivable land is also dependent on irrigation which in turn is dependent on the river waters and the rivers are in turn dependent on the water which they get from the rain.

Though, year after year, we have been facing a drought situation, preparations to fight such a situation only begins after we are started in the face by a situation like this, by a situation as bad as the drought. And this year, the south-west monsoon has left at a very dismal note thereby giving my State, Andhra Pradesh less than the normal rainfall steering the State towards another drought spell which would be a fifth in succession.

Andhra Pradesh, in totality, has about 40 rivers big and small accounting for about 2.746 tmc of water. Out of which, the two major rivers—Krishna and Godavari—account for 84 per cent of the water. But unfortunately, it is these two rivers which are entangled or embroiled in either inter-State or inter-district conflicts. Looking at Krishna, three major States share the water of Krishna, which is Maharashtra in the Krishna basin; Karnataka with its Almatti and its Narayanpur dams in the middle Krsihna basin; and Andhra Pradesh which is in the lower Krishna basin with its Nagarjunasagar, Jurala and Srisailam dams. Unless water is released from the upper basin to the middle basin and from the middle basin to the lower basin, we in Andhra Pradesh do not get water at all. As you must have seen in the papers lately, the farmers of Karnataka did not want to release water to Andhra Pradesh until their dams are full. Fortunately for us this year, since the rain god has been kind to us, there have been good downpours in Karnataka, which in turn made their dams full and since they had to release some water, we had waters flowing into Andhra Pradesh. Otherwise, we were in a very dimsal state and we were literally at the mercy of the Karnataka State.

The Bachawat Tribunal was allowed Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh to share waters at a ratio of 1:3 that is one part goes to Karnataka and three parts to Andhra Pradesh. Unless Karnataka dams are full, we do not get water. Water has to be released by the 15th of July to our farmers in Andhra Pradesh when the farming activity or the sowing begins. The sowing has to begin by the 15th of July. By the end of October, the farmers have to reap, they have to do harvesting and take the grains back home by the last week of October beause usually in November and December, the coastal Andhra Pradesh is affected by the cyclonic spell. Unless we have water by the 15th of July, we are in a very sad state of affairs. This year, water has been released pretty late and the farmers are very apprehensive about the situation they are facing today.

The change of guard however has not changed the fortunes of the farmers. Against a normal rainfall of 37.1 mm, the coastal Andhra Pradesh, this year, has received only about 1.4 mm rainfall. The Telungana area, which normally receives 37.1 mm raitfaill has only received about 3.1 mm rainrall. The Rayalaseema area again has only received a paltry quantum of 1.3 mm rainfall as against 12.4 mm rainfall annually. So, we are really in a very desperate situation as we would call it today.

The farmers of Andhra Pradesh are not only having to brave the adverse weather conditions but they are also having to brave the depleting underground water resources.

This stressful gloom is driving the farmers of Andhra Pradesh to the brink of suicide as they are unable to pay back the debts which they have incurred from the commercial banks, from the co-operative banks and from the private moneylenders also.

Above all, we also have spurious fertilisers and seeds, which are flooded in the market by companies which are selling them in the market. This again is driving them almost to the brink of suicide. They also do not have any scientific help when it comes to sinking tube wells or bore wells because they believe that they will find water to save them from this dire situation, but ultimately without any scientific reason or scientific help, they go on drilling or sinking tube wells. They are just depleting the underground water resources and they absolutely do not find water resources.

So, instead of relying only on the provisions made in the Budget to provide relief to the farmers, I would request the Union Ministry of Agriculture to come forward with a special package for the farmers in Andhra Pradesh to shoulder them and also give them some kind of an education regarding the alternate farming.

Also, alternate employment should be provided to this farming community in a very intensive drive for Food-for-Work Programme. Also, according to me, the development of country's water resources should be given utmost priority. So, my sincere request to this Government would be to pay attention to look towards these grey areas and to lend them a helping hand. Apart from this, we also need good and strong laws to tackle the problems of suprious seeds and fertilisers.

We also need crop insurance. There are disparities in crop insurance. Some crops are insured at some premium and some other crops are insured at a different premium. Instead of that, if we have a uniform crop insurance premium, I think that should be ideal.

[Shrimati D. Purandeswari]

Another thing that I would like to tell you here is that crop insurance is at present at the Mandal level. But if they are down to the village level, I think that would help the farmers a lot. So, I would request this Government to kindly give humane look towards this direction, specially towards Andhra Pradesh and to consider some very useful packages for the farmers suffering in my State.

[Translation]

SHRI KISHAN SINGH SANGWAN (Sonepat): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the issue which we are discussing here is a very serious issue. Other members have also expressed concern over it as we have been discussing this issue every year since Independence. Hon. Member Shri Suresh Prabhu Ji has just told that crores of rupees have been spent by the Government on flood and drought. The geographical situation of the country is such that somewhere flood occurs and somewhere drought, somewhere we have hilly region and somewhere plains. Some part or the other of each state gets affected either by flood or drought. The same situation is prevailing almost in every state of the country.

So far as it is concerned with our state Haryana, 14 districts are fully in the grip of drought and five districts are facing flood resulting to a loss of crores of rupees. Ambala, Kaithal, Zind, Kurkshetra and Fatehabad, all these areas are marooned in flood water. Scores of villages and cities have been swept away in the flood-water. Poor Dalits and backward people have lost their basis. Loss of crores of rupees has been suffered. The condition of fields is very bad. 14-15 districts are in the grip of drought and they have been facing drought every year. Today during the zero hour, the Government gave an awkward reply to question No. 2 stating that there was drought but now it has some relief as rains have started there. Therefore, nothing can be said in this regard. In a way, the reply was evasive in nature. Lakhs of acres of land could not be ploughed as irrigation facility was not available also the farmers got nothing as compensation. Lakhs of farmers have suffered losses but the Government did not care for them.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the dispute among Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan and Delhi over the water-sharing is old. Work on the S.Y.L. (Satluj-Yamuna Link) in Haryana has been going on for the last 37-38 years but the problem of water is still persisting. There was also a dispute between India and Pakistan over the issue of water in 1947 which India got settled at the time of partition by purchasing it in Rs. 110 crore but the country has not got a single drop of water so far. At the time of Joint Punjab, a Committee was constituted on the water sharing in 1961 under which Haryana and Punjab were given 35 lakh cubic water each. Since the division of Punjab in 1966, the water-row between the two countries has been going on. Several commissions were set up to resolve this dispute. This issue also came up before the Planning Commission. Several Chief Ministers entered into agreements. Even several Prime Ministers had signed many agreements in this regard like Rajiv-Longowal agreement etc. The statement made by late Rajiv Gandhi was also laid in the House. Late Indira Gandhi laid the foundation stone of the S.Y.L. canal. Several agreements were signed but each time the share of Haryana got reduced and Haryana did not get a single drop of water. Thousands of rupees of Haryana and the Central Government have been spent so far on the construction of this canal. The entire 121 km. long canal has been constructed in the states of Haryana and Punjab, only 6 km. canal still remains to be constructed. This canal has been under construction for the last 37-38 years but not the work on it has been stalled due to dispute. Despite spending thousands of crores of rupees, the problem of water faced by Haryana and Punjab could not be solved.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, this issue concerns four states but the Central Government is taking it lightly. When this dispute was not settled at lower level, it went to the Supreme Court and there also it hangs in balance. Two months back the Supreme Court gave a verdict in favour of Haryana and directed the Central Government and Punjab Government to implement it under a time-bound programme. However, a strange situation has arisen before the country now. The Chief Minister of Punjab convened a special session of the Punjab Assembly and got a bill passed within two hours and on the same night the Governor also appended his signature to that bill. All the agreements which were signed in the last 37-38 years became null and void as a result of that. The Punjab Government neither cared for the verdict of the Supreme Court nor the decisions taken by the late Prime Ministers namely Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi of the party to which he himself was belonging to and this has created a constitutional crisis. If any state takes decision unilaterally in this manner, haw the Constitution of this country can be upheld? However, India has also signed various agreements with other countries of the world, on the pretext of defence. Some agreements are on air defence and some are on trade. It could not be that the decision is taken unilaterally. I feel that a conspiracy is being hatched in this case. The Governor has no power

to put his singature on the bill within the space of that night itself as this issue concerns all the four states. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now.

SHRI KISHAN SINGH SANGWAN: Sir, I am concluding.

[Translation]

This is a major crisis which is faced by the farmers of Haryana and Rajasthan. People are raising their voice against this decision. The tension which is brewing up among the people of two regions could take a serious turn but the Central Government is not intervening in this matter. The Centre should have dismissed the Government of Captain Amrinder Singh and a law-suit for treason should have been initiated against him beause he has hurt the spirit of our federal structure and has also snatched the legitimate share of the four states but nothing of that sort is happening and this case is being dragged on due to which the situation is very tense in both the states. People are ready to take to streets. I, therefore, request through you that the Central Government should immediately intervene in this matter so that Haryana and Rajasthan get their share of water.

[English]

SHRI D.K. AUDIKESAVULU (Chittoor): Mr. Chairman, Sir, thank you very much for giving me an opportunity to participate in the discussion.

Another drought looms in the country. Most parts of the country have suffered a deficit rainfall over the past six weeks since the monsoon set in over Kerala and even Kerala did not receive adequate rainfall. The position of Andhra Pradesh it still worse with hardly 25 per cent of the expected rainfall this year. For the last four years, there is drought and farmers in several parts of Andhra Pradesh are in great distress. There is not only crop failure on account of drought but also no remunerative prices for the produce. The result is mass suicides by farmers reported not only from Andhra Pradesh but also from Karnataka, Orissa, Maharashtra, Tripura and even Punjab. The main causes of suicides are crop failure, indebtedness, high rate of interest on loans, drought, social and economic insecurity, etc.

The drought relief assistance given to Andhra Pradesh since August, 2003 is only Rs. 140 crore in cash and 7.2 lakh metric tonnes of foodgrains. The assistance is too meagre in view of hardships the farmers are facing since the last four years on account of drought.

The first official trip of Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, to Andhra Pradesh promised so such, but finally delivered only a little. The State Govenrment, which was banking heavily on this trip to get liberal Central assistance, would surely be disappointed with the help it finally got from the Centre.

The State Government had submitted a 19-demand memorandum to the hon. Prime Minister, but he responded only to a couple of them, that too not in adequate measure. As against the State's request for getting financial assistance running into thousands of crore for its drought relief and development programmes, the hon. Prime Minister granted a mere Rs. 60 crore from the Calamity Relief Fund. Further, the State Government had asked for 12.6 lakh tonnes of foodgrains towards food for work programme, but the hon. Prime Minister sanctioned only 1.82 lakh tonnes.

The hon. Prime Minister, however, has declared that he was greatly distressed by the plight of farmers in Andhra Pradesh and would work towards creating the much-needed support system for agricultural sector and thereby getting rid of scourge of mass hunger and poverty in the State. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI D.K. AUDIKESAVULU: Sir, this is my maiden speech. So, please give me a few minutes more. ...*(Interruptions)*

The continuous drought in Andhra Pradesh for the last four years has broken the backbone of Andhra Pradesh farmers. The whole agriculture sector is in bad shape. Besides low quality, spurious seeds are also the factors causing distress to farmers. The failure of monsoon this year would put farmers to further hardship. Moreover, the Karnataka Government's adamancy and refusal to discharge water in Krishna river by lifting gates of Alamatti dam, aggravated the plight of farmers as the sowing operation in the all important Kharif crops has also failed.

Though paddy transplantation is in full swing under the Godavari area, not even six per cent of the area is sown under the Krishna area. Only 1.5 lakh hectare is

[Shri D.K. Audikesavulu]

covered under paddy so far against the normal 25 lakh hectares.

Sir, there is hardly any water in Srisailam and Prakasam barrages as there is no discharge of water in Krsihna river by the Government of Karnataka. The Members of Parliament of Telugu Desam Party staged a *dharna* in front of the statue of Mahatma Gandhi in the Parliament House complex on 16th July, 2004 demanding that the Government of Karnataka should release water from the Almatti dam to the Nagarjunasagar dam, as the State of Andhra Pradesh was faced with acute drought conditions. But it fell on deaf years. I think no State can claim exclusive rights over a river that flows through it. A State cannot take sovereign rights upon itself when the interest of other States are involved. I am very happy that the priorities have been given to agriculture this year in the Budget. But not a world has been spoken to waive loans of farmers which is the root cause of deaths of farmers.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Audikesavulu, if it is a lengthy statement, you can lay it on the Table.

SHRI D.K. AUDIKESAVULU: Sir, I am concluding. The farmers are still dependent on monsoons. Apart from this situation, the farmers in Andhra Pradesh are migrating from the State. The Government of Andhra Pradesh has announced free power. Before even hundred days of its assuming power in the State, the consumption of power has gone up to three times as it was made free and ultimately all the farmers are suffering the problems of low voltage. The meters are burning and the farmers are migrating to other States for doing even labour work.

The Union Government should come out with a special financial assistance of Rs. 1,000 crore to Andhra Pradesh to enable them to write off the loans and interests payable by small and marginal farmers. The Government should take action to double the rural credit and improve in the working of the cooperative banking system. The Government should also the action to improve water management and assist in completion of pending irrigation projects in Andhra Pradesh besides investing in rural infrastructure.

The Polavaram project estimating more than Rs. 9,000 crore and the Devadula irrigation project should be declared as national projects and the Centre should fund them for early completion in the public interest. The farmers who are in debts should be given the benefits of rescheduling of loans in default to enable them to become eligible for fresh credit.

Sir, lastly there is drinking water problem, especially in my constituency. There is no drinking water in the holy city of Tirumala, the abode of Lord Balaji. All the bore wells have been dired up. Hence I request the Central Government come to the rescue and give necessary assistance.

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA (Lakhimpur): Thank you Mr. Chairman for giving me this opportunity. I shall mostly confine myself to the flood problem of Assam and Aruanchal Pradesh for which I am mostly concerned. The problem started due to consistent rains in the hills of Arunachal Pradesh and also in China, Nepal and Bhutan making most of the rivers in Brahmaputra and Barak Valley flowing above the danger level from the last week of June. For 15 days most parts of Assam remained disconnected by rail and road communication and the entire State seems to be a cluster to islands.

About the number of affected people, more than 1.5 crore population has been affected and more than seven lakh houses have been damaged out of which 3,000 houses have been fully washed away. There is an urgent need of giving alternative rehabilitation programme for these affected people. More than 200 persons have lost their lives. There is no count of the animals that have been lost.

Sir, the problem of Assam has a different dimension. Most of the rivers carrying unfertile sand have covered the agriucltural lands and it has made the entire cultivable land unfit for cultivation and human habitation. This is another aspect which the Ministry of Home Affairs has to deal with.

There is the Department of Disaster Management under Home Ministry. We have experienced this time that the disaster management team has miserably failed because they are not equipped to face the situation. They could not rescue people. They do not have the speedboats to run in the fast-flowing rivers. Even the Army which is deployed was unable to go to the places to rescue the people.

Therefore, this Disaster Management Department should be fully equipped. It is to be located in every district headquarters. They should be given all sorts of equipment and they should have sufficient number of trained personnel who have the capacity to go to the affected areas and rescue the people.

Sir, there is another issue that in the affected districts, this problem is of recurring nature. There should be some raised platforms where the people can be brought and given shelter. There should also be sufficient reserves of food material because the entire State is cut off from the other parts of the country. Also, there should be maintenance of health teams during the period. At least for six months from April onward, they should be maintained. It will give a boost to the moral of the people who have been facing this recurring problem.

My second point is about the change of course of rivers. The satellite imagery system could visualise that most of the rivers of the country are changing their courses. Mostly the rivers in the North-East are flowing from China and Bhutan, and rivers of Bihar are flowing from Nepal and they have changed their courses. Now, that situation is not being taken care of.

The Brahmaputra Board was entrusted to eolve a flood management mechanism and also the training of rivers. Only some embankments are built and some investigation is made on the top of the hill for construction of dams, but what about the management for maintaining channel of the river? There is no definite channel of the river mantained. All the rivers are filled up with silt and sand. Now, that is the major problem faced by the flood affected States. I think, this problem should be tackled very seriously in the national interest.

Sir, the National Calamity Contingency Fund and Central Relief Fund are there and the Tenth Finance Commission has recommended that every State has a specific share and that share has to be given to the State. If the total number of affected people or the amount of effect of such a calamity is more, the NCCF cannot cope up with the situation. I would submit that the problem of a particular State is the problem of the country and therefore, the NCCF should be given to deal with the entire situation of flood and drought in all the States, irrespective of its size, irrespective of its population and irrespective of financial allocation to the particular State.

Sir, the Task Force has been constituted, but we do not know its Terms of Reference. What will be permanent solution of the problem? The permanent solution should be dredging of the river. In one point, there should be huge embankments, as suggested by some hon. Members, to control the flow of the river. For example, the Brahmaputra River, which is creating flood problem since Independence, is flowing in a 25 kilometre stretch of land while the normal stretch of the Brahamputra River is only one kilometre. Since there is no channel maintained, there is no dredging done, there is no desiltation done, the Brahamputra River is not being controlled. I will give only one or two more suggestions.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Member, your time is over. There are a lot of Members who want to speak.

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Sir, I will co-operate with you. I am only raising two or three points more.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude and co-operate.

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Sir, this Brahamputra River is not a State river only. It has internatioinal dimensions. Some of the rivers are flowing from China, mainly the Brahamputra River, and some other rivers come from Nepal and Bhutan. The problem of flood should be taken as a national problem. It should not be left only as a State problem. I hope, the problem of flood will be taken as a national problem of the country.

Every year we are wasting money in the name of Plan funding, in the name of flood control and flood relief. The entire money is wasted because every year whatever we invest in those flood affected areas, it is being washed away. It is a regular phenomenon. Therefore, it is in the national interest that it should be taken as a national issue and the entire problem should be tackled at the Central level.

There is one more problem. This is a cropping season in Assam and many of the cultivators could not go for cropping. Now, the Rabi season will start. The Government should send immediate relief material for those affected farmers, especially the seeds for Rabi crops. The people whose houses have been fully washed away in the floods, they should be given relief at least for six months. It is because they have no other source of livelihood.

Lastly, I would like to mention about the animal husbandry. Those farmers whose entire animal flock has been washed away, they should be given some additional relief, so that they can have their livelihood, which was lost as a result of the national calamities.

With these words, I hope that the Government will come forward with some specific plans and programmes for a permanent solution of the flood problems. They should try and channelise the rivers, train and desilt the rivers, and some additional relief should be given to the farmers who are affected by the recurring flood situation in Assam.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Raghunath Jha, you have only five minutes at your disposal. Please cooperate with the Chair.

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (Bettiah): Sir, you have given me five minutes and five minutes from my side.

[Translation]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, this House is debating on a very important issue. On one hand, some parts of the country are affected by flood and some are affected by drought, on the other, Hon. Members have expressed their concern about their respective states and about the country as well. The problem has no longer confined to one state or for that matter, one nation but it has become an international problem. The loss which Bihar suffers every year is due to the river flowing from Nepal. Some parts of Bengal and some parts of Eastern Uttar Pradesh are also affected by it. Not only from Nepal, but the rivers flowing from Tibet and China are also causing floods in this part of the country. It is unfortunate that 20 districts of North Bihar are severely affected by flood. West Champaran, East Champaran, Gopalganj, Sheohar, Sitamarahi, Darbhanga and Madhubani districts are severely affected by it. All roads are broken there. National Highways have also been broken. Rail Lines have been washed away. Hon. Sushil Modi has just told that houses of seven lakh poor people have collapsed due to the flood as per the count so far. I fear that more houses may also collapse. So many poor people have lost their shelters and nobody is there to take care of them. Hon. Home Minister who looks after the Disaster Management is present here, I humbly request him not to leave Bihar at the mercy of the state government since the rivers flowing from Nepal are causing havoc in the State. Has the Bihar Government the right to hold talks with Nepal in this regard? I, therefore, suggest that a joint commission should be set up comprising the representatives of the Government of India, Nepal Government and Bihar Government so that a way out could be found to this problem. Prime Minister paid a visit to Bihar. I am happy to know it and I appreciate him that he saw for himself the poverty of Bihar and a trial of destruction left by the devastating floods and drought. The Bihar Government has demanded from the center Rs. 8,000 crore to make up for the damage caused by the flood to land, roads, crops, houses etc. It has also caused loss of life and property. About 700 people have died due to floods. Prime Minister has announced an assistance of only Rs. 115 crore from the CRF, this is just like a drop in the ocean. I think that it is a mockery.

Sir, I want to congratulate the Government of India especially Jai Prakash ji for he had identified seven places for opening offices under the Indo-Nepal Joint Project Office of Sapt Koshi high dam and Sun Koshi storage dam diversion project and these offices would keep a monitoring on both the countries. One out of them is to be inaugurated by the hon. Minister on the 17th instant, I congratulate him for that but what about other places and the time by which the said office is likely to be opened at the remaining places. Because, the projects are underway at there 6 places also. In the beginning, one is to start on Koshi and Saptkoshi but here our area is severely affected by the river Gandak which flows from Nepal into Bihar. There are rivers belonging to river-systems of Bagmati, Kamla and Adwara and there is also river Mahananda which cause damage in the area. Whether any action has been taken to hold talks with Nepal in this regard? Please take action on it otherwise Bihar is not likely to get rid of this problem and poverty in Bihar cannot be eradicated. On such occasions, we remember our mass leader Shri Karpoori Thakur, I had the occasion of sitting with him in the Bihar Assembly for 20 years continuously, either on the ruling side or the opposition side, Karpoori Thakur always used to say that until and unless the Government of India takes up the issue of solving the problems of floods with the Nepal Government in an effective manner, poverty cannot be eradicated from Bihar. ...*(Interruptions)*

I have just started speaking. I am concluding. Since this is an important matter, I therefore, request you to let me speak, I am also not speaking anything irrelevant. I, therefore, request you to kindly consider it. I want to know as to by when the Detailed Project Report will be completed in this regard as 30 months time was given two years back in 2001 to complete. The number of estimated projects therein was 83 and an expenditure of Rs. 24,500 crore was estimated to be incurred. Whether there will be any deliberations with the Planning Commission to enhance the budgetary provision for the purpose? It if is sanctioned, I will be highly obliged to him.

My second submission is that we have already asked the Ministry of External Affairs to find a long lasting solution and the Hon. Minister may tie up with them. We have already asked them to open offices at seven places viz Bada Kshetra, Virat Nagar, Lahan, Kurge, Janakpur, Kathmandu and Chatra and make them operational early so that simultanerously work may be started at these places.

One thing I want to bring to the notice of the Government is that information network is functioning as usual. As the Exit Poll was predicting the victory for BJP at all the places but instead we have came to power. There should be a better coordination between Nepal, Delhi and Bihar and for that we will have to tone up our information network so that forecast of flood and rains can be made in time and arrangements could be made to avoid loss. Therefore, we want the Central Government should hold talks with the Nepal Government in Kathmandu to find a long lasting solution to this problem.

Seondly, river basin in our state of the rivers Gandak and the Kosi should be interlinked first. Major projects may be taken at some later stage. This will be highly beneficial for us. Thirdly, as regards strengthening of the embankment, we agree with Sushil Modiji that we should make the embankment pucca and construct roads on them. The canals should also be desilted. Another point is that dozens of villages in Bihar are being eroded due to Surpentine rivers. By diverting these rivers these villages can be saved. For this, the Government of India should provide assistance. Through you, we want to put forth this demand. You are sitting here, Shri Jayprakash Narayan Yadav of Bihar is the Minister of State in the Ministry of Water Resources, I want to tell him that he belongs to Bihar. ...*(Interruptions)* I am concluding.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Member, your time is over. You have taken more time. We will have to take a decision and I would like to know the sense of the House.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: The time for the debate may be extended. The sense of the House may be taken for this.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: There are a good number of speakers who want to speak on this issue.

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: The time of the House may be extended by an hour.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take a decision now. Shall we extend the time by one hour, that is till 7 O'clock.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: The sense of all the parties may be taken in the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): Sir, I was under the impression that for discussion under Rule 193, two-and-a-half hours are given. Now, we are discussing this matter for the last so many hours. Therefore, it would be difficult for me to adjust the time because I have other Cabinet meetings on very important issues to attend. If the discussion has to be continued, I seek your permission to leave the House. My colleague will be sitting here.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The sense of the House can be taken. I would like to know whether we should extend the time to 7 p.m. or 6.30 p.m.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Would you like me to leave at 6.30 p.m.?

18.00 hrs.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Mr. Chairman, Sir, you may take the consent of all political parties on this because this is a very important debate. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: I have no objection for the discussion going up to seven o'clock today, or for two-three hours afterwards also. The only thing I seek from you is permission to leave the House at 6.30 p.m.

SHRI KIRIP CHALIHA: The Minister may be allowed, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay. The time of the sitting is extended till seven o'clock.

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am concluding within two minutes. ...*(Interruptions)* I want to speak on minor irrigation ...*(Interruptions)* Why Bihar and Jharkhand have been left out in this regard. I want to ask why Bihar has been left out. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Member, please conclude. The time is extended for others not for you. Your time is over.

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: My submission is that Bihar should also be include in the AIBP scheme so that we would conserve water by constructing small check dams and ponds and use that water in times of crisis ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Member, your time is over. The extension is meant for others.

I now call Shri Shailendra Kumar to speak.

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: I want to say only one thing. ...*(Interruptions)* I am concluding by saying just one thing. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am extremely sorry, I cannot allow you to continue. Please conclude.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: The Government of Bihar is reeling under heavy debt. We have to repay interest amounting to Rs. 24 thousand crores per year. The loan of Punjab which is an economically sound state has been waived of. Besides, the loans of other states have also been waived. I want to request to waive of the loan of our state also, and release the eight thousand crores of rupees demanded by the Government of Bihar so that roads could be repaired and other things could be done. Bihar has contributed a lot towards formation of the Government, so we should be duly rewarded for that. With these words I conclude now.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am thankful to you for allowing me to participate in the debate on flood and drought. Hon. Members of all the parties have put forth their views on flood. Flood is not only a natural calamity, rather it is a human tragedy regarding which the hon. Members of all the parties should make collective deliberations rising above the party politics. Here, a number of members have said that there are certain rivers originating from the Himalayas in Nepal, some of them originate from China, Tibet.

18.02 hrs.

[SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV *in the Chair*]

As the hon. Presiding officer Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav ji has just said about a project, I would also like to associate myself with that and say that the Government should consider it seriously so that we would overcome the recurring crisis of floods.

It is not a hidden fact that the rivers as the monsoon advances. But as regards floods, it is caused by three things. The first is uncontrolled urbanisation, as in the case of Jammu and Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh. This is a major cause of it. The second is felling of forests and the third is mining. These three things cause the havoc of floods. During floods the Central Government provide lakhs of rupees of the states and spend crores of rupees, but we do nothing before the floods. And whatever damage is done after the floods, we spend more on post flood rehabilitation.

We should make preventive arrangements before the floods. 16 percent of Bihar's area is affected by floods as the hon. Members have just said. Before independnece, under the Chairmanship of the then Governor Shri Hald, Dr. Rajendra Prasad and other senior members had stressed that the embankments were of no use. They had also negated the utility of embankments. After independence, the provision of embank the small rivers is another major cause of flood. The report of the Department of Meteorology is like a mirage. Out of 524 districts 288 have been declared as famine free whereas the fact points to the contrary. If you look at the report it is totally wrong. Whatever crops the farmers are sowing they are drying. There is a saying in the villages—ka varsha jay Kirshi Sukhane" meaning thereby that there is

no use of rain when the crops have already dired. The forecast of the Department of meteorology proves totally wrong. The farmers are delaying the sowing of seeds. It is so late that the pulses crops or the paddy crop—both are being affected directly. There was a target of paddy cultivation on 80,000 hectares of law in Uttar Pradesh which appears impossible now. Similarly, in one third area it has not been possible to sow pulses crops. In such a condition, the farmers has to face a big problem. The Government today talk of bufferstock in order to tackle any emergent situation. The Government will also have to pay attention to the quantum of bufferstock available in the country and the states in order to tackle the flood and drought situation. The bufferstock should be utilized timely so that the need people could direclty get the benefit of this. Today 30 districts of Uttar Pradesh are drought affected and this number cannot decrease rather it may increase because drought situation is always there. The Government of Uttar Pradesh also is conducting a survey of other districts and gradually declaring them as drought affected. Under these circumstances, the Central Government should send a team there, here I am referring to Uttar Pradesh as I am elected from there. The hon. Minister is sitting here, he should order a survey to identify which of the areas are flood and drought affected. Financial assistance should be given according to the survey report because financial resources of every state are limited. Chief Minister has met the Minister of Agriculture. He has met Shri Ajit Singh and Shri Amar Singh also. Today only the leader of our party Prof. Ram Gopalji has asked a supplementary question from the Minister of Agriculture in this regard. He has given the assurance. I would like to tell the Home Minister that every possible assistance should be given immediately to tackle the situation of drought in Uttar Pradesh. At present Uttar Pradesh Government is tackling the situation with whatever resources they have with them. Sharing of Yamuna water is also one important aspect for the situation of drought. I would like that Government should take initiative and resolve this problem so that the problem of irrigation can be solved particularly in the drought affected districts of west Uttar Pradesh. The amount of 66.8 crores rupees which you have sanctioned to Uttar Pradesh Government is like a drop in the ocean Government of Uttar Pradesh has demanded a package of Rs. 18 thousand crores. Uttar Pradesh is the heart land of our country and we should provide financial assistance to them. All that I would like to say today is that the Government should think seriously on utilising the rain water, under ground water and flood water and resolve the situation of drought and flood. My constituency Chail and particularly the Allahabad-Dobra area is located between the Ganga and Yamuna rivers. But inspite of two rivers this area is drought affected. A project sponsored by the State Government has been sent to the Central Government in which these projects of Gurali and Saidpur have been included. I would like that the Central Government should give attention towards it so that the land can be irrigated there. With the conclude my speech and request the Government to take appropriate steps in this direction.

SHRI KHIREN RIJIJU (Arunachal West): Mr. Chairman, Sir, All the members have talked about the other states in today's discussion, I will speak about Arunachal Pradesh in brief because Assam, Bihar and other states have already been mentioned here but Aurnachal Pradesh has not been covered because it is a far—flung area. Media cannot go there. Its news is also not covered by the press. The Government do not get full knowledge about it. That is why nobody is concerned about it. If we look at the situation in Arunachal Pradesh. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PRABODH PANDA (Midnapore): I have mentioned about Aurnachal Pradesh.

SHRI KHIREN RIJIJU: What I am saying is that some hon. Members have mentioned about Arunachal Pradesh. But I am asking about the extent of damage.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Prabodh Panda has already mentioned about Arunachal Pradesh.

[Translation]

SHRI KHIREN RIJIJU: Our Chief Minister has provided all the information to the Honourable Home Minister as to how much damage has been caused in Arunachal Pradesh and they have to grant us relief of Rs. 525 crores in all. We are not aware of the views of Ministry of Home Affairs and Government of India so far in this regard. I have visited my constituency. My colleagues, who are also members of Parliament went there. People asked us there to raise the matter in Parliament and to find out whether the Union Government is listening to our problems or not. When Hon. Prime Minister visited Assam, I wrote him a letter in which I requested him to make an survey of the area in Arunachal Pradesh, but he could not there because he had no time. Even then I hope that the Union Government will do something because the area of Aruanchal Pradesh is

[Shri Khiren Rijiju]

quite vast but it is sparsely populated. So far 15 persons have been killed and over 1,50,000 people have been affected. This is an enormous damage to Arunachal Pradesh which has a small population. Road communication, tele-communication and the life of the common people has been affected there but if 15 persons have been killed and 25 persons have been injured in Arunachal Pradesh then it is a very big thing because the population of Arunachal Pradesh is very small. Hon. Home Minister is sitting here. One Committee headed by an officer of the Home Ministry was constituted. That Committee has not visited Arunachal Pradesh so far. They should visit the state but before that, relief, emergency relief package should be given as early as possible because more than a month has passed since then. We have mentioned this in writing also.

They say it is like a drop in the desert for Assam and Bihar. But nothing has been given to us.

Therefore, at least, immediate relief should be given to Arunachal Pradesh by the Central Government. People there have a feeling of alienation; whether it is the BJP Government or Congress, if the Central Government behaves in this manner, the people there are bound to develop a feeling that they are being alienated. Therefore, it is my request to the hon. Minister of Home Affairs that the Government should take up this matter seriously.

A large part of Arunachal Pradesh is covered by forest. Therefore, relief material reaches there at a very tardy pace. Pawan Hans helicopter of the State Government, is being used for providing relief to the people. I request the Central Government to provide the state with at least two helicopters so as to ensure quick relief to the people there.

Just now, or hon. Member from Assam has said that it should be declared a national calamity. We believe that if there is no flood in Aruanchal, there cannot be any flood in Assam, for 80 percent flood water in Assam flow down from Arunachal. Some quantum of flows down from China and some from the hills of Arunachal Pradesh also as a result of snow melting there. Therefore, this little relief will do no good there. You will have to take it serioulsy. Arunachal Pradesh is large in area with a small population. It is also relatively a new found state. Therefore, it should be paid special attention.

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH (Udhampur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak. I would like to make some suggestions, as the entire time is generally consumed by a few.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please express your view.

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH: I would express my view only. Our Parliament is for entire India. It should be kept in mind that all states are equal. We would be pleased if those states get more who have suffered greater losses but it does not mean that 20 members from a single state should get the opportunity to speak and not even a single member from some other states may get the opportunity to speak. This is my submission. But it hapens most of the time.

Bot flood and drought are problems for the country. Centre has been allocating funds to states since 1947 to check flood and drought but these have become a recurring phenomenon there. Funds were allocated to some states for flood relief and to some states to meet the challenges posed by drought. You gave many packages and made many schemes. I would like to draw the attention of hon. Minister of Home Affairs. I would like to know from the Government as to whether it has enquired as how much of the funds allocated were actually spent to serve the purpose for which these were allocated. You are the Minister of Home Affairs. If the proper utilisation of fund is not monitored under you, nothing will be gained out of it. You say that you have been allocating the funds quite liberally, and have done so this time also and will continue to do so. But you should ensure its proper utilisation also. The entire funds should be spent on farmers and labourers who suffer from flood and drought every year. Those who spend the funds are seems to be getting richer but the plight of the poor gets worse year after year. Therefore, if you don't monitor the utilization of funds, nothing will be gained despite making numerous schemes and canals. Because of siltation rivers have drifted away from their banks. They are covering both the sides. Why it is happening? Forests have been cleared which has led to this plight. You say that society has become imbalanced. It is bound to be so. I am talking about Jammu-Kashmir. The salary you are paying to your employees is quite enough. The salary of the employees in your flood control division is enough.

[English]

This is the height of it.

[Translation]

Why did drought occur? The ponds built by our ancestors have not been maintained by you. While making an aerial survey you must look at the ponds built by our ancestors which you have damaged. These ponds helped in maintaining the ground water level. You caused destruction of forests and ponds. The Government are talking about drought, the people will suffer even more due to drought. The Government have installed tube wells to exploit ground water which less to drought. A lot of water goes to Pakistan every year. The Government should not over-exploit ground water. Water table is depleting due to exploitation of ground water. Sometimes there are no rains and sometimes it causes devastation. It is happening so because our system is not in order. I would like to request the hon. Home Minister that he should ensure first that whatever funds the Government are providing. ...*(Interruptoins)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Lal Singhji please conclude now. Come to the point.

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH: Whenever I get an opportunity, I am asked to conclude in the very beginning. I am only raising the points. I am sorry to say that we are not given an opportunity to speak.

[English]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, you are my custodian also.

[Translation]

You are not custodian of any particular Member rather you are custodian of the House. My submission is that whenever we come to speak, the time of five minutes, two minutes or three minutes is noticed. Others speak for hours together and express their views fully. When a Member from Jammu and Kashmir is speaking, there is no time for him.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are wasting time, please come to the point.

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH: To whom will the Government listen if it do not listen to a representative of a state which has lost the lives of 70,000 of its youth? The State which has always been suffered. We are in flood round the clock. It is not good if the Government will not pay attention towards us. I would like to submit that power supply is totally cut off due to flood for the last so many months. I have come here after walking for five days. Houses of the people have submerged. Land of the people is on the banks of the rivers. They have no employment so that petty farmers opted for cultivation of paddy along the river banks but the entire land along with the crops have been washed away by the flood.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are speaking on the cause and the problem, speak about solution also.

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH: I have spoken about the solution, the Government can assess it. I have said that corruption should be checked, theft is a biggest crime. There should be monitoring of the amount, which is actually utilized. Earlier, the cost of the wire was 70 creates for Rs. one lakh and now this year 72 crates are being purchased for Rs. 2 lakhs Industrialists are making money at the cost of farmers.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is the solution to the problem of flood and drought?

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH: Please protect the nullahs. I would like to request to maintain the water bodies to prevent drought. Roads have been caved in and damaged due to floods. I would like to inform the 'House' that the cost of construction of roads in hilly areas is hundred times more than the cost in plain areas. Bihar is facing great crisis. The Government give as much funds to Bihar as it deem appropriate, but the due funds should be given to Jammu and Kashmir also. Projects should be prepared for solving the problems and honest persons should be deployed for implementing these projects. Otherwise it is of no use if there are scams. In the end, I would like to thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

[English]

*SHRIMATI MINATI SEN (Jalpaiguri): Hon. Chairman Sir, the people of West Bengal have a unique identity. There is a natural difference between the floods occurring in the Himalayan areas and North Bengal and the floods occurring in other parts of the country. Ravaging floods of North Bengal affect the roads, human resources, animal resources, agricultural lands, tea estates, forest areas, sanctuaries, etc. The man-made resources, resources created by the 3-tier Panchayati Raj and the State Government are devastated by floods. You must be knowing that the best plantation crop of India is tea. From the tea gardens Government of India earns crores of rupees as foreign exchange every year. Now dolomite

*Translation of the speech originally delivered in Bangla.

[Smt. Minati Sen]

powder mixed water is entering the tea gardens. Tea plants get ruined as a result of that. New plants cannot be grown. Fertility of the land is declining. Not only the tea gardens, but other agricultural lands are also getting damaged. Several acres of forestlands and thousands of trees are also getting damaged. Several acres of forestlands and thousands of trees are inundated. In the year 1950, 1952, 1954, to combat the menace of flood, the State Government did some efforts. Dams were constructed surrounding Jalpaiguri, Alipurduar, Cooch Bihar and Tufanganj. A master plan was to be chalked out. In 1956-66 the Irrigation and Water Resources Ministry of the State Government adopted a master plan for the rivers Mahananda, Tista, Jaldhaka, Torsa and Raidak. After the flood of 1968 the Central Government set up a working committee constituting 10 members to look into the causes of recurrent flood in North Bengal. It gave its report too. In 1971, Flood Forecast Centre was set up for North Bengal. In the 80s, a new problem cropped up. The rivers emanating from the Bhutan border like Gathia, Dina, Kuchi Diana, Reti, Pagli, Mujnai, Titibangri, Jayanti, these all are small rivers. Earlier used to have no role in floods. So what is the reason for such ravaging floods in the area? Reasons are many. Rampant deforestation is taking place in Bhutan. Also roads are being constructed, habitations are being set up, dolomite is being excavated unscientifically, social erosion is increasing, rivers are changing their courses. During the floods that occurred in 1993, 1996, 1998 and 2000 Cooch Bihar and Jalpaiguri were affected much—Bhutan was also affected. Hundreds of people died there—everything got flooded. Then rescue operations were undertaken by Indian Government.

Jalpaiguri and Cooch Bihar link the North-East States with the rest of the country. So if communication is disrupted, there can be security problems.

It is not possible for the State Government to solve this problem of flood single-handedly. In fact this is not a State-level problem. This is a national problem—problem of two sovereign States. So the Central Government has to take the initiative to set up Indo-Bhutan Joint River Commission—I had said this in the Zero Hour.

The combat the problems of floods and soil erosion, more funds should be allocated—Centre should not quibble about that. The Government should rise above party politics to do this job for the sake of people.

In this context, I would like to mention that the National Highway Authority of Government of India is constructing a 4-lane road called the East-West corridor which will pass through the flood prone area of Jalpaiguri. It will cover the forestlands, the wild life sanctuaries, the tea gardens—as a result of which there may be some problems in the future. So I would request them to rethink about the proposal and come forward with an alternative plan.

[Translation]

SHRI SITA RAM SINGH (Sheohar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, first of all I would like to thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on the most important issue before the country. Bihar is the second most populated state in the country. A major part of its population is ruined by floods and the rest by drought. It is a great irony that almost 20 districts of Bihar are badly affected by flood. Sir, you are aware of this as your own district is also one of them. Twenty districts are completely affected by flood and they are Bettiah, Motihari, Sheohar, Sitamadhi, Darbhangah, Madhubani, Khagadia, Samastipur, Gopalganj which are adjacent to Nepal border. According to the official data as also on the basis of my own experience, I can say that a population of more than 2 crores is affected by flood. As per official figures as quoted by Sushilji and Raghunath Jhaji also it has ruined 65 lakh hectares of land. The issue of flood is a long debated one. I want to say that the degree of destruction this year is much higher than in previous years. This destruction is not for the first time in Bihar. Bihar has faced such disasters and destructions earlier also. What I want to say is that the Government of India has not addressed the problem in a proper way. Whenever the matter came up, it was limited only to speeches. There has been no endeavour to give it a shape. The most surprising aspect is that the expenditure which the Government of India is talking about. The most surprising aspect is that the Government of India provide 8 or 10 thousand crores of rupees every year against which rupees 25,000 crore is not a big amount for getting rid of the problem of flood once and for ever. Bihar can be saved completely with the funds even lesser than what we spend in two-three years. In my opinion any Government which came into power at the Centre after independence is responsible for the ruins whatsoever. It is injustice to take it as a state problem and not providing assistance, on the plea of it being a smaller state. First of all the Government should accept that this is a national issue. The Government should have a nation-wide discussion on this issue. The Government remained in power for years after years; Bihar and neighbouring states including Assam and other states faced the disaster, but we suffered by most. I want to be straight forward, instead

of delivering long speech and wasting precious time of the House. I want to come to the main point and ask whether the Government would give shape to what they are dreaming for the welfare of the people. Sir, have the Government apprised itself of the problem of the flood in Bihar? Are the Government technically ready to tackle the problem of flood in Bihar? Have you formulated any scheme for it? Right now, Shri Raghunath Jha was saying our friend Shri Jay Prakash Yadav is a Minister he is setting up offices for certain projects. Of course, it pleased me. The hon. Home Minister was present here; perhaps he has left. He will reply to this debate.

First point is that whether the Government will be technically ready to take up the matter with the Nepal Government? The Government of India will first have to have will power for this. Most of the devastation in caused from Nepal side, that is why I am emphasizing on Nepal. Crores of people including lakhs of farmers are badly affected by this. Will the Government of India formulate any scheme in a time bound manner?

The second point is that the people of Bihar, especially the farmers are most affected. In the morning, the hon. Minister of Agriculture was speaking but we did not get any chance to express our views. Hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is present here. I would like to tell him that the farmers in Bihar are facing great difficulties. The farmers took loans for their crops, Justice demands that their loans should be waived. What relief will they get if you waive the interests only. What will happen to the principal component of loans? Will they be in position to arrange repay it? They have no crops which may help them repay the loans. The floods have devastated their crops, how can they repay the loans? Therefore, I want to say that their loans should be waived. Other Members have also expressed such views. Almost 7-8 lakhs houses of poor people have collapsed. In this regard, I would like to say that the hon. Minister should announce one house for each family instead of constructing them under the Indira Awas Yojana. The Bihar Government is not table to do this. Bihar Government has sought a relief of Rs. 8000 crore. I think, this amount is quiet insufficient. Recently the hon. Prime Minister visited the flood affected areas of Bihar. You are aware of all this as you belong to that place. The Government of India have allocated Rs. 115 crore for this purpose. You understand the degree of devastation which Bihar has suffered but the Central Government do not. Bihar has been neglected for years for which the Government of India have been least concerned. When the Bihar Government of India have been least concerned. When the Bihar Government made its demand, other states also came forward as its competitors but Bihar has not got anything.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to urge that every state should be given relief funds but Bihar has not got its share as yet. Bihar should get its share. The Bihar Government should get the funds as per its demand. I do not want to repeat, but would say that permanent solution to the problem of flood may certainly bring solution to the water and power crisis which will benefit the state altogether. It should not be neglected. I am sure that when this time the Government of India reply to this debate, they will reply with full confidence and take concrete steps to do some work.

[English]

SHRI NARAYAN CHANDRA BORKATAKY (Mangaldoi): Sir, while sharing the agonies of the people affected by floods in other parts of the country. I shall confine myself to the flood situation of Assam.

Floods occur in Assam every year but the floods this year have been massive. More than half of the population has suffered from floods. Around 200 persons have died. Even a large number of cattle have vanished. The flood situation in Assam is really dismal at this point of time. Even the national parks like Kaziranga, Orang and Manas are all under flood water. Anyone can imagine the plight of the wild life in these national parks.

Sir, the major reason for the flood in Assam is release of massive water by the Government of Bhutan. As in the past years, the Government of Bhutan has released huge amount of water from the Kuristo Dam Project. This sudden release of water inundated the entire lower Assam districts and created massive havoc. There are even reports that the Kuristo Dam has broken because of which there was massive outflow of water.

Sir, due to massive deforestation and cutting of trees in the Bhutan and Arunachal Pradesh areas, there have been flash floods resulting in soil erosion, which has resulted in the destruction of standing crops and houses in the valley areas of Assam. Heavy rains in the upper Arunachal Pradesh areas and having no system to control the excess water in the catchment areas has resulted in the floods of Assam. Non-repairing of embankments and dykes by the Government of Assam in time has resulted in many of these being breached at several places.

[Shri Narayan Chandra Borkataky]

Heavy silting of the river beds over the years and the total absence of dredging in the main rivers has resulted in the river bed getting higher. This has resulted in reduction of the water retaining capacity of the rivers. The silting has also occurred due to absence of any river activity such as plying of vessels and ships.

Again, the non-completion of the main multipurpose dam projects in Assam, such as, the Pagladiya Dam Project, the Barak Dam Project, the Gerukamukh Dam Project has been another reason for early massive flood in Assam. The State Government in Assam has, over the years, totally failed to plan ahead of the floods. The entire administration is treating the manner casually and is showing a collous attitude.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can lay your written speech. You make your suggestions now. You only mention about the main points.

SHRI NARAYAN CHANDRA BORKATAKY: My suggestion is that floods in Assam should be declared as a national problem so that the matter can be directly tackled by the Central Government at the national level. The Government should take up the inter-linking of river projects so that the excess water during high flood season can be effectively drained out. Effective soil protection measures should be taken up so that many habitat and agricultural areas which are now on the verge of being lost in the river can be protected. Steps should be taken to protect the landslides on the main Shillong—Silchar National Highway section. Effective steps should be taken to keep the vital communication links alive during the flood season and steps should also be taken for resuming the waterway communication links between Dibrugarh and Kolkata *via* Bangladehs so that if the rail or road communication is broken during the flood season, this vital communication link would remain. The Government should think about certain flood and soil erosion protection schemes that could be directly implemented by the Central Government. The Central Government should take up the issue of the release of sudden water with the Government of Bhutan. Misuse and diversion of funds should be stopped and the Brahmaputra Board should be made effective.

SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO (Purulia): Sir, in every Monsoon Session of Parliament, we discuss the flood and drought situation of the country. People face a lot of trouble in such situations. Flood affects immediately and drought effect continues for a long time. Members, in every Session, give suggestions but the response of the Government is very minimum.

I would concentrate myself on the situation prevailing in West Bengal. The northern part of West Bengal was affected by flood but now drought-lime situation is prevailing there. The western part of West Bengal is also suffering from drought and only 20 per cent of kharif crops have been sown. Therefore, relief measures should be taken up immediately. I endorse the views of Mr. Panda. As suggested by Mr. Panda when he initiated the discussion, the interest on loans to agriculturists should be waived, short-term loans should be converted into long-term loans. Food-for-work Programme should be started and assistance for alternative farming should be given immediately.

SHRI ARUNA KUMAR VUNDAVALLI (Rajahmundry): Sir, ultimately, whether it is flood or drought, it is only because of mismanagement of water. I live in Rajahmundry on the bank of the river Godavari where, in front of my own eyes, 2000 TMC of water go into the sea every year. We have been seeing that for 0.60 TMC of water, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka were fighting, Supreme Court cases were there, the Chief Ministers were coming to the roads, fasting and all that. Here, in front of my eyes, I see that every year, 2000

[Translation]

TMC water is flowing into sea. For utilizing this water, the Andhra Pradesh Government has said that they would complete all the irrigation projects within five years. The Government has drawn up an action plan for this purpose. We shall request the Central Government that if they use satelite technology for this purpose, better channels can be constructed. Satelite technology can easily identify mapping out of canals.

[English]

We can understand that easily. The Central Government should give top priority to all the irrigation projects in the country and all the clearances like environment or water supply or whatever it is, should be through a single window. They should also invite investments, like the Voluntary Disclosure Scheme, by way of a scheme called the Irrigation and Power Investment Scheme where unaccounted money with some sort of protection should be invited. It is estimated that more than a lakh crore of rupees is there as blackmoney. Some of that money can also go into this scheme. Ultimately, if we can use 20 per cent of the water that is going into the sea, the drought situation can be managed. Like our Chief Minister Mr. Y.S. Rajashekhar Reddy has given top priority for

irrigation schemes in Andhra Pradesh, I wish every State takes up irrigation as top priority and invites investments like we are inviting investments for industries. We should treat irrigation as the topmost priority so that we can control drought as well as flood.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to express my gratitute to you for giving me an opportunity to participate in the debate on an important issue of flood and drought in the country. Today, the House is having a special debate on flood and drought. I belong to Bihar and this is the only state in the country which faces flood and drought every year and the people there have to face both the problems.

Sir, many hon. Members have just said and you also have said that 20 districts in Bihar have been devastated due to flood while 16 districts have suffered due to drought. This time around, Bihar has had both excessive flood and drought. The people of Bihar face both flood and drought every year. We want a permanent solution to the problem of flood and drought in Bihar. Unless we have a permanent solution to this problem, more than 8 crore population and losses resulting in the crores of rupees and lives of human beings and cattle continue to suffer. We should make some concrete effort for this problem.

Sir, the people of Bihar can not get rid of the sufferings caused by flood and drought unless the Central Government make some permanent solution to this problem. Sir, you and some other hon. Members have expressed their feelings in the House. I want to speak in relation to Central and South Bihar that 16 districts in these regions are affected by drought. Rainfall in flood affected areas has reduced resulting in depleted water table. I am afraid, if there is no rainfall then these areas will be hit by drought. If it goes like this, the people in these areas which are affected by flood today, may be hit by drought in the time to come. God knows as to why the people of Bihar only are subjected to the wrath of the almighty.

Sir, I would particularly like to speak about the drought affected areas of Southern Central Bihar only. Patna, Gaya, Jahanabad, Arwal, Nalanda, Kaimur, Bhojpur, Jamuhi, Rohtash, Bhagalpur, Sakura, Lakhisarai and Khagaria are districts which are affected with drought. According to one of the assessment there are seven districts where rainfall is below normal. These districts are Patna, Nawada, Gaya, Nalanda, Kaimur, Bhojpur, Saharsa and Arabal. In general these areas register below normal rainfall, the situation this time is quite severe. I, therefore, want to urge you that unless Central Government bestowed special grace upon these areas, these areas cannot see the light of the day.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please place your request before the Government, not before me.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Sir, I want to request the Government through you, I am indebted for the correction you have made. It is so nice of Hon. Prime Minister that he paid a visit to Bihar. Hon. Chief Minister of Bihar had submitted a detailed report in respect of flood and drought situations and the ways to deal with them to the Hon. Prime Minister. I was fortunate enough to be present as apart of the delegation in which Rs. 8000 crore relief was sought from the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister said that he would send a team and he really did send one but only in the flood-affected areas and not in drought-affected areas. No team was sent to assess the difficult drought situation being faced by the people of 17 districts.

Sir, I would like to request the Government to send a team to the drought affected areas if it intend to take a decision on the basis of its findings in order to help the drought affected people. I would like to offer some important suggestions. There can be two sets of measures-short term and long term schemes. We cannot deal with drought and flood situations until we implement both short term and long term measures. People do not care much on drought. It seems other places are not suffering from drought anywhere and that is why only, I am speaking on this subject. I would like to offer some suggestions covering short and long term measures. First of all, repair work should be undertaken in all the canals, there is a Sone canal which is 115 years old. It needs repairs at large scale. It is not possible to manage water unless it is properly and renovated. This canal needs repair and desilting. We should do that. Funds should be provided for this canal. Secondly, provision of drinking water and electricity should be made in drought-affected areas. Inoperative tubewells should be made operational in order to provide irrigation facility. Old tube-wells should be replaced with new ones. Drip-irrigation should be provided which is perhaps not available right now. Tube-wells should be repaired. ...*(Interruptions)* How can the poor-ones in drought-affected areas sustain themselves without any employment? More than half of the population is living below poverty-line. Food-for-work programmes should be undertaken. ...*(Interuptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: The sitting of the House has been extended upto 7 O'clock, if the House agree it may be extended untill the completion of the discussion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: That is right.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Sir, Bihar is an area affected with drought and floods and requires special attention. The amount allocated is meagre. ...*(Interuptions)* People are affected there by floods and drought. ...*(Interuptions)* Mr. Prime Minister, please work for the welfare of inhabitants of Bihar and release money from your disposal. ...*(Interruptions)* There are matters related to the rural development, the concerned Minister is sitting here. ...*(Interruptions)*

19.00 hrs.

People of Bihar require your help. Mr. Prime Minister, for the relief.

SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA (Hoshiarpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I extend my sincere thanks to you for giving me the opportunity to speak. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Your turn will come when the hon'ble member finishes his speech, therefore, please take your seat. When the sense of the House was being elicited, you did not put forth your point at that time. You are rising to make your point after the House has allowed to extend the time. If hon'ble Members take less time then the job will be accomplished within half an hour.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: This is not State specific or community specific but it is a problem concerning the entire nation. As far as floods and drought are concerned, there were some States affected by the floods and there were other hit hard by drought but there were one-two States where both floods and drought had caused havoc. Punjab is one such state which was hit severely by both flood and drought. I, through you, would like to tell the Government that one good rain made the people believe in Punjab that mansoon had arrived. They sowed their paddy crop but thereafter it did not rain as a result of which the tube wells had to be digged deep leading to huge expenditure but irony is that neither God nor the Government was amused. The farmer looked upto God and the Government. The farmer did not get power supply and water for irrigation. At a time when the farmer should have been in his fields he was demonstrating on the roads pressing for his demand for providing power supply so that he could irrigate his fields as increasent power ends had agitated him so much so that he was pressing for his demand for power supply by resorting to traffic jams. Several farmers felt so much exasperated that they levelled their fields by running tractor on the standing crops. On the other hand, I through you, would like to tell here in this House that Punjab is prosperous State if its loan has been waived off then their loan should be waived off. But I would like to inform the House and the hon'ble Members that the farmer of Punjab was once prosperous and owing to the policies of the Government and bountiful nature, the farmer of Punjab would walk through this fields with pride and the Adhatis (Commission agent) would come to him requesting to sell his crop at his shop and the shoppers would implore him to buy things from them. That farmer was the give of good and now things have come to the pass that the farmer instead of going into his fields with pride, goes into hiding. He is scared and badly entrapped in debt net so much so that he fears that Adhati might come for recovery of his loan, the bank employee could also come demanding instalment of the loan. This is the reason why that the son of the farmer instead of working in the fields is eager to go abroad after selling off his land. Such questions have been asked in Parliament and several such youths are languishing in Pakistani jails. Out of three persons taken hostage in Iraq two are from Punjab. There are the reprehensions of today's non-remunerative farming.

Second thing, I would like to state about the flood. In the States, Deputy Commissioner is also the District Flood Controller. In a meeting, all the D.Cs. put a proposal involving an expenditure of Rs. 39.16 crore before the Government to make necessary flood related arrangements but the Government asks the D.Cs. to rationalise the assistance sought. The second proposal mooted was for Rs. 28.34 crore. D.Cs. were again called and they were directed to further reduce it. Finally, all the DCs gave a proposal amounting to Rs. 13.70 crores. You can very well understand that only one third money was set aside for flood control measures. As far as my knowledge goes, that money was also not released as a result of which necessary flood control arrangements could not be made. In the year 1994, there was a flood. Now mention of SYL was made. SYL is not for supplying water for irrigation purposes rather it is for causing flood. In the year 1994, flood devastated Patiala. A Committee was constituted on it and its report stated that SYL design was defective. This report has become a part of records only. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You please conclude.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: I want to say that in Punjab there are 1800 kms. of long drains and temporary dams. A lot of money is required to prevent floods. I would like to give a few examples of the consequences of floods in Punjab. All the factories of Rajpura, Dera Vassi, Patiala, Sunam etc., have been destroyed. Effects of floods can be seen at the Martyr memorial at Husainwal too where the work of beautification was going on. 200 acre land in Abhor region along international border, 500 acre land of a village near Satluj river and 1755 acre land in Dera Vassi has been damaged due to floods. There is constant fear of water coming from China and because of that floods might occur again in Punjab.

I, through you, would like to give two suggestions in this matter. One is that a lot of Government money and time has been spent on the discussions of this issue. Hence, I would like to say that at least permanent solution should be found out to this problem. Besides, Punjab should be given a special package to tackle the problem of flood and drought. The decisions and arrangements should be made timely to prevent floods. I would like to thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

[English]

SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR (Calicut): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I will not take much time. I will make some points and I will draw the attention of the Government towards the flood and drought situation in Kerala. The dorught and flood situation has always been serious in Kerala but it is very unfortunate that it is not reflected in any of the reports given by those people who come and and visit our State.

Today, in the Question Hour, the hon. Minister said that the issues are different in various States, 'what is true in Rajasthan is not true in Kerala'. Somebody coming from Rajasthan sees everything green, lot of water and lot of greenery in Kerala and they conclude that there is no problem there. It is not true. Just to convince those people who come and inspect our State, we cannot make our State look like a desert, cutting all trees and greenery and make it look like a barren land so that justice is done to us.

What happens is that in any other State the relief given could be used for that year and succour could be given. In Kerala, except in a few districts, in almost all the districts crops are of perennial nature. In my district, Waynad, where I come from, the maximum number of suicides have taken place. Everyday, almost a suicide is taking place.

What happened in the last drought? Coffee, pepper, arecanut and all such crops were destroyed. Now, to revive them, it will take about five to eight years. They have to be replanted. In between, another drought can come and again there may be a drought like situation. It is not the case where the perennial crops are not there. Whatever money is given could be utilised for that year and next year that is disbursed. In Kerala, that is not the case. That is one point.

I do not think whether the Kerala Government have put their case properly. They have their own problems. I do not want comment on that. We wanted Rs. 3,847 crore. What we got was Rs. 78.04 crore. Even there, people feel that too much money has been given to our State. But, it is not true. In Kerala there is a peculiar situation where the whole parameter of assessing the drought or flood, is totally different. Topography is different. Landscape is different. As far as Kerala is concerned, everything is different.

Sir, there is another problem. In those areas, especially in the two districts a lot of people are committing suicides. Why are they doing so? It is because they cannot repay the debts that they have borrowed, and are landing in more debts. Prices are sliding down and also hit by drought. It has also caused all these problems. Here the nature is also against us. Now, in the name of OTS, *i.e.* be One Time Settlement, what you are doing is that you are making them to pay interest on interest also and making it the principal amount.

I am coming to one more problem and then I will conclude. I come to drought situation. A very comical thing is happening in one of the districts in respect of ground water. It has been pointed out here and, I am sure, Mr. Chairman, the next war is going to be on water. We know what is happening in Punjab and elsewhere in India. Water is the problem. Ground water depletion is a very great issue. What happened during the last drought? Take, for example, the Palghat district. It is very badly hit by drought. Two multi-national companies, namely, Coca Cola and Pepsi Cola are draining the ground water to the tune of a million litre or more a day. Water is supplied in ground water to the tune of a million litre or more a day. Water is supplied in trucks to the people of that

[Shri M.P. Veerendra Kumar]

area. There, not a single penny is paid to the Government. To replenish the ground water, which is depleted, it takes thousands of years. In Chittoor in Palghat, in Pudusseri and Plachimada Coca Cola and Pepsi Cola factories are there. There they drain water and sell Aquafina and Kinley in Palghat. The people in Palghat are drought-stricken. Priority is not given to agriculture. Priority is given to those people who take ground water, exploit ground water and sell it to the people like Aquafina and Kinley do in Palghat. There was a World Water Conference right in Plachimada which is known for declaration of water as a right not as scarce commodity. So, in drought-stricken areas, the water management is essential. Of course we known that Water is a State Subject. In the National Water Policy also it is said that priority should be given to agriculture. Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is not given to agriculture. It is given to multi-nationals. So, water management also is a big problem.

Today, we are happy that the hon. Minister has told us, he would be sending a Special Team to assess different parameters and to judge what is happening in Kerala. He will also be calling a meeting of all the MPs from Kerala to discuss the drought issue vis-a-vis from the point of view of what is happening in Kerala. We are happy about it. But, Sir, the Government of India must consider Kerala as a part of India. How much is our contribution to India by way of foreign exchange? Our contribution to the foreign exchange is by way of cash crops or people sending money from outside. We are getting a very bad deal and we have started feeling that the problem of Kerala is not considered as a national problem. Sometimes we feel that we are not even considered as a part of India. It should be corrected. Measures should be taken to see that people of Kerala do not suffer because of the neglect of the Central Government and also because of the inefficiency of the State Government.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS BANDU ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, serious discussion is going on floods and drought. During every Session this issue is discussed. All of us have also developed a habit to speak on this issue. ...*(Interuptions)* The Government of India and the State Governments should seriously think to combat this problem because floods occur in Bihar, Assam and other States every year. Floods do not take place in Maharashtra but drought occurs there. My suggestion is that we must find out some permanent solution to these problems. Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayeeji formulated a programme to link the rivers and had announced 1.25 lac crore rupees for that purpose. Now Atalji is not in power, however, the entire funds should be spent. Now the Government have changed but there is a need to make planning for linking the rivers. We have to evolve a plan as to how we can divert the water from states like Bihar and Assam, where excessive rains pours down, to the are as facing the problem of water scarcity. Mumbai and Konkan belt (kinarpatti) get heavy rain but there is a serious problem of drinking water in Marathwara of Maharashtra. Therefore, my suggestion is that a loan involving the amount of Rs. 5000 crore should be formulated to conserve the rain water of Mumbai and Konkan belt to bring that water in Marathwara of Western Maharashtra. A scheme amounting to Rs. 5000 crore should be chalked out to solve the problem of flood and drought. Eleven Districts of Maharashtra were in the grip of droughts. When we met Shri Atalji, we had demanded Rs. 1700 crore. Out of which we have got Rs. 500 crore after coming our Government into the power. Remaining amount of Rs. 1200 crore should be provided to us as soon as possible. I submit to the Government of India that there is a need of Rs. 1200 crore more to face the situation of drought and to help agriculture labour in Maharashtra. This fund should be provided to us at the earliest.

There is a Tambu project in Pandharpur, Parliamentary constituency. We need three hundred crore rupees for the project. The Minister of Rural Development, Shri Raghuvansh Babu is sitting here. When he was not a Minister he used to support me. Now he is a good experienced Minister of Rural Development. So we expect that he would provide maximum help for rural development. You please do it. The Government should also think of waiving off loans of farmers. Free of charge electricity should be provided and it should be considered as to how irrigation can be improved in our country.

Krishna river is in Maharashtra. We should get the required money from Government of India to check its water and through you, I would like to appeal to the Government that we should get maximum funds to face the situation of droughts in Maharashtra. If we do not get enough money than it will not be good thing because we are with you. Less amount can be give to the people sitting on that side. The package has been given to Bihar. ...*(Interuptions)* Bihar should get the money but at the same time Maharashtra should also get money. With these words, I conclude.

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY (Kokrajhar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to thank you for giving me an opportunity to initiate the discussion on the situation of flood and drought prevailing in the country. I would also like to thank Shri Prabodh Pandaji and Sumanji for drawing the attention of the House towards burning issue. I am an elected Member of Parliament from Parliamentary constituency, No. 5 Kokrajhar (S.T.) Under newly constituted Bodoland Autonomous Territorial district of Assam. All of your might be knowing that serious flood situation is prevailing in Assam. At least 300 revenue villages in my Parliamentary constituency have been submerged by the floods. The financial assistance and food material given by the Government of India till today, for the relief of flood affected people has not been utilised properly. There should be no discrimination while providing relief to flood affected people. Equal justice should be done to people of Bodoland. The issue of flood is not only related to Assam or Bodoland rather it is a national problem. That is why I would like to demand from Government of India that floods should be considered as National Problem, and the announcement to this effect should be made immediately. Besides, this subject should be enlisted in the Union List of Constitution of India. Moreover, a separate Ministry should be set up to solve this issue.

My second suggestion is that most of the rivers of Assam originate from China and Bhutan and flow in Arunachal Pradesh and Bodo region of Assam and merge with Brahmputra and due to which floods occur in Bodoland area of Assam during the rainy season.

[English]

Over the last more than five decades since Independence, the management of flood and erosion-related problems has not been done in a very systematic way. Because of the failure on the part of the Government of Assam as well as of the Government of India in tackling the flood and erosion situation, every, year the people of Assam have been facing very dangerous and dreadful flood situation. This year the people of Bodoland Terrority have been worst victims of the un-checked flood in Assam.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY: So, my humble submission to the Government of India would be that it should start a bilateral dialogue with the Government of China and the Government of Bhutan to find out suitable ways and means to bring about a lasting solution to the flood problem of Assam.

[Translation]

I would like to suggest that a survey should be conducted of all the rivers that originate from China and Bhutan and flowing in Bodoland area, merge with Brahmputra to construct multipurpose projects and check dam projects on these rivers separately. I request the Central Government that Bodoland should be provided with the assistance of at least Rs. 1000 crore.

I would like to draw your attention towards another serious issue. Hon'ble Prime Minister had visited flood affected areas in Assam on 20th of July. But with heavy heart I would like to state that neither Prime Minister nor Mrs. Sonia Gandhi visited Bodoland area. A Central team was sent to Assam by the Government on 27th July but it did not also get a chance to visit Bodoland area.

[English]

So far as my observation is concerned, the Central team was misled by the Barpeta District administration, which is very unfortunate and which has been a matter of serious concern.

[Translation]

Besides, some people have devoured the share of the relief that was provided by the Govenrment. It is very shameful. Therefore, I demand that justice should be with the flood affected people in Bodoland area immediately.

[English]

It is understood that very recently the Government of India has announced a Joint Water Commission. I would like to suggest that the Government of India should include or co-opt atleast one member from the Bodoland area in the Joint Water Commission.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Your time is over. Please take your seat now.

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY: Thank you, Sir.

SHRI ANWAR HUSSAIN (Dhubri): Thank you, Sir, for giving me an opportunity to speak on the very critical natioinal problem as created by recent floods and droughts. I would not like to repeat what my other friends have already said. I would confine my speech here only on the problems of Assam.

[Shri Anwar Hussain]

The floods in Assam were unprecedented. Never in history were all the districts of Assam flooded. This time, all the 27 districts of Assam were flooded. The first wave of floods came in the month of April. At the time, the parliamentary elections in April had to be postponed in Silchar parliamentary constituency due to floods. The second wave of floods started on the 6th of July due to a breach in the Kurshi dam of Bhutan. The Kurshi dam of Bhutan is very dangerous for Assam because whenever water overflows, it gives way for water to come into Assam and thereby great floods are caused repeatedly. After the 6th of July, the third wave of floods came on the 11th of July. We are now apprehending and anticipating that there might be another wave of floods by the first week of September, which naturally occurs. So, this is very peculiar.

For the first time since 1947 this Government has sanctioned Rs. 50 crore from the National Calamity Contingency Fund and so I congratulate the Central Government for this. The Central Government had sent an assessment team to Assam. They had assessed the devastation. The Prime Minister and other Ministers had visited Assam. He promised to constitute a Task Force. Later on, Shrimati Sonia Gandhi also visited Assam.

In these floods, 269 lives have been lost and more than five lakh people have been rendered homeless. The peculiar situation in Assam is that when floods come river erosion starts. It is a pecular word for other parts of the country. About 30,000 families have been rendered homeless, propertyless and bereft of their agricultural land. They are now street beggars. When flood waters come and go, we can repair the houses that are damaged, but 30,000 families have lost all of their agricultural land, homes and all property. They are rendered street beggars. Every year when this erosion takes place but our hon. friends from the BJP if visit Assam, they would call these 30,000 families as Bangladeshis. Yes, this is going on and I am reproducing their views only. So, this is the problem. Fortunately, the Government of Assam yesterday has announced that the Government would rehabilitate about 70,000 people by giving Rs. 500 to 60,000 families and Rs. 10,000 to 10,000 families.

Now, the question is about the rehabilitation of the people who lost their land and homes. I would request the Government to see, if the I.A.Y. houses can be provided to these landless and homeless people.

I would like to make a few suggestions. The Task Force has already been formed. It should work right from this movement. The Brahmaputra Board should be reconstituted. About 55 tributaries are there. They must be tamed alongwith the Brahmaputra. Silting is going on and the Government must take an action to resist silting. Anti-eosion measures must be taken. Here, I would like to say that 55 anti-erosion schemes are lying with the Central Government—38 schemes are on-going and 17 schemes are new schemes.

it is unfortunate that in 2001 the NDA Government stoped the Central Loan Scheme (CLS) and thereby stopped worked at all the 55 schemes. So, I request the Government to sanction money for those schemes. The rehabilitation of these people is very important. I, therefore, request the Government to take appropriate measures for their rehabilitation and declare flood and erosion problem as a national problem.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): The very famous Subarnarekha river which runs through Jharkhand, West Bengal and Orissa devastates three blocks in my constituency called Jaleswar, Basta and Baliapal. The incomplete dam projects in Chandil and Galudhi in Jharkhand have been under construction since ages. These are the main reasons for the cause of the devastating floods in my area. So, I will appeal to the Government of India that they should take an initiative to see that these dam projects be completed as quickly as possible.

Here, my suggestion is that the Government should chalk out a master plan for national flood control. The piecemeal plans implemented by the State Governments lead to nothing. So, instead of bringing in any solution, they rather compound the problems and they compund the tragedies. A spur here, an embankment there, and stone patching in a third place though it saves a particular area on the other hand, it inundates other areas which never witnessed floods since ages. The States, whenever they implement any plan with regard to the flood control, should only follow the master plan enunciated by the Government of India. The river mouth of Subarnarekha has been silted. It is incapable of drawing water to the sea and it is incapable of drawing flood water. So, it should be dredged and the Government of India should provide the Central assistance for dredging of this river mouth of Subarnarekha.

The prawn farmers have created a havoc in Orissa.

They have raised very high embankments parallel to the seacoast and to the riverbeds. They do not stick to

the CRZ—Central Regulatory Zone rules by which no commercial activity could be taken up within 500 metres of the high tide zone. These embankments raised by the prawn farmers prevent rainwater from being drained to the riverbed, to the sea. So, my appeal to the Government of India is that they should take initiative that these embankments be removed as quickly as possible so that it will pave a solution to the flood situation in most of the coastal States.

Last but not least, I will appeal to this Government that this Government should go for the river connectivity project enunciated by the previous NDA Government. This will facilitate the water management which was a point raised by many, many hon. Members in this House. If this river connectivity project is followed up by this UPA Government, the excess water could be transferred and distributed in water scarcity areas.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Nikhil Kumar—Not present.

Shri Ravi Prakash Verma to speak now.

[Translation]

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA (Kheri): Hon. Chairman, Sir, I am grateful that you have given me an opportunity to speak on the biggest problem of present times. At the same time, I extend my gratitude towards Shri Ramji Lal Suman and Shri Prabodh Pandaji for drawing the attention of the House on this problem of not only national but International importance. Water has become a great problem. Somewhere the excess of water causes floods, at other places the scarcity of water causes drought. Most important thing is that those States of India which are important from agricultural point of view, have been directly affected. There is drought at one place and flood at other. Life is directly affected by this factor and the living condition are also undergoing massive change.

Sir, Agriculture is a human enterprise. It is an activity that cannot be isolated. Whole society is connected with it. A whole range of activities are linked to it. It is a complete system wherein people of different strata of society are mutually dependant on one another. They have been dependent on it like this for a long time *i.e.* for thousands of years and they are still dependant on it for their livelihood. In India approximately more than 65 per cent of people are directly dependant on agriculture. But now the agriculture is moving towards uncertainty. ...*(Interuptions)*

On the one hand many international factors are ruining agriculture, on the other hand some natural factors are affecting agriculture adversely. The society dependent on it is also facing uncertain future. I would like to lay special stress on this since Uttar Pradesh is a very important state where 18-20% of the country's population lives. It is a very important region. Its progress is hindred by drought and flood. I feel that this is the time when we have to collectively find a solution to this problem. To resolve the biggest problem of our times steps at large scale have to be taken. We have to work at the local level with an eye on the future. I would like to tell you that my Parliamentary Constituency is bordering Nepal. Here many of the speakers who have spoken before me have stated in their speeches that there has been a sudden overflow of water in the rivers originating from Nepal.

All the frontier (bordering) areas have been affected by flood. All the important establishments have been completely devastated. I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the fact that this calamity has not Just Caused damage in terms of economy but at the same time the strategic interests of India have also been equally affected. What is all the more important is that now this issue is not limited to India only but is linked with the neighbouring countries around like-Nepal, Bangladesh, Bhutan etc. As it appears to me there needs an international consensus to be built upon this issue. Since it is a major problem of this century, it needs to be viewed in broader perspective. Here, I would like to submit that I am making a reference about a report wherein it has been stated:

[English]

Third Assessment Report of the Inter-governmental Panel in Climate Change (IPCC) concluded that "more intense precipitation events (hence flooding) are very likely over many areas. Increased summer drying and associated risk of drought is likely to over most mid-latitude continental interiors. Even with little or no change in El Nino amplitude, an increase in temperatures globally is likely to lead to greater extremes of drying and heavy rainfall, and increase the risk of droughts and floods that occur with El Nino events in many different regions."

[Translation]

Chaudhary Lal Singhji has also raised this particular issue prior to me that the flood and drought in the Asian sub-continent are result of Global warming and that the

[Shri Ravi Prakash Verma]

problem of flood is on its worsening course. This reference bears in clear terms:—

[English]

Another study estimated that a two degree centigrade rise in average temperature and a seven per cent increase in average precipitation would reduce net revenues by 12.3 per cent for the country as a whole.

[Translation]

It has its economic consequences attached to it or the process of Global warming disturb the environment leading to such an atmosphere that is necessarily an issue of concern not only for India but also for the whole of South East Asia so far as economic, political and social set-up is concerned. To my mind, this issue should be debuted for a long time in all its seriousness and must be put in place in order that we may embark upon some conclusion and be enabled to evolve some long-term remedy to it. Today, our economy is broadly Monsoon-driven. I think this is high time we should focus on providing agriculture with the status of an Industry in particulars, agriculture, that's a human enterprise, should be organized in such a manner as the population seeking sustenance from it may have their produce insured and be ready to face long-term economic countrainsts arising out of flood and drought. I think the time has come when the alternative methods of agriculture should be put to application so that cultivation may be undertaken during flood and people may sustain when the intensity of flood is reduced. It needs to be looked into properly. Mr. Chairman, Sir, before I conclude, I would like to add one more thing. The Government of India will have to launch certain special programme to rehabilitate such people by constituting a Special Task Force (STF) as this problem has turned out to be of standing nature. Lest this problem should be on the further rise, this is also a challenge for us, this should not be lost sight of.

With these words I offer my thanks to you for providing me time to put my words.

SHRI JAI PRAKASH (Hissar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, drought and flood both are important issues, I belong to Haryana State. Recently an hon. Member was saying that Haryana was affected by drought. Since NDA formed the Government there and the Union Government delcared Haryana State drought affected, we people met the Chief Minister of Haryana and said to him that the fields of the farmers of the State are dried up. Paddy Crop has dried up. Millet and cotton have not been sown at time. The Government of Haryana has not declared Haryana drought affected and deprived the farmers of the financial assistance to be provided by the Government by saying that if it does not rain till August 1, thereafter, the State would be declared drought affected. Therefore, Haryana Government is anti-farmer and anti-labour. This Government has caused a major financial loss to the farmers by entrapping itself in the claws of the money lenders. The rain which took palce after August 1 did not benefit the farmers, whereas the paddy crop in our area damaged due to heavy rain. Neither paddy can be planted nor 'Narma' cotton and millet can be sown after August 1. Therefore, my submission is that the Union Government should provide compensation to the drought affected farmers of Haryana State. The Government of Haryana will not provide any assistance to the farmers.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, 11 district of Haryana are reeling under drought and on the other hand severe flood has taken place in the seven districts. Our friends belonging to Punjab are not present in the House. Ours is a SYL issue. When Punjab stops SYL canal water, drought takes place in Haryana. When there is more rain in Punjab, SYL canal causes flood in our areas. My submission is that the Union Government should take all the rivers in its control so that the States which get the water of that rivers are not deprived of their due share by the State Governments of the concerned States from which the rivers flow. Two months back, the Government of Punjab has annulled our water sharing agreement in its assembly. Had this was under the control of the Union Government, the Government of Punjab could not stopped our due share of water. Members of Parliament belonging to BJP have left the House. They say that our area has marooned by the flood. When we say them to release due share of water to us, they do not release water to us and we are affected by the drought. When flood takes place there they release Sutlej water resulting which the area of Haryana State is waterlogged. Its only solution is that there should not be any control of the State Governments on these canals. The concerned State Governments make wrong laws for the benefit of their party and the people of their State. Even they annul the decision taken by the Union Government as the Government of Punjab have done injustice to the States of Haryana and Rajasthan. But, BJP is a greater culprit in this regard. On the one hand it supports the annulment of agreement by the Punjab Government but on the other hand in the Parliament, it say that it is wrong. Therefore, I would like to say that when the State of Haryana was reeling under drought and there was NDA Government in

the Centre, a compensation of Rs. 10, Rs. 15 per acre were provided to the farmers. Therefore, my submission is that the Centre should release those money at the earliest and the said money should be given directly to the farmers. ...*(Interruptions)* You have formed such Government which have provided a compensation of five paise and fifteen paise. With these words, I conclude.

SHRI ANIRUDH PRASAD ALIAS SADHU YADAV (Gopalganj): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to express my gratitude to you for giving me time to speak on flood and drought. Flood is such a serious problem for India that it needs an early and permanent solution. Presently, 17 districts of Bihar are seriously affected by flood. I would like to submit that until the embankments are not made strong, rivers and canals are not desilted and plantation is not done besides the rivers and embankments, embankments will remain breaking every year and the flood in Bihar will hardly be got checked. As such, it is my submission that a dam may be constructed between Nepal and India by which north Bihar could be freed from flood. On one hand, there is flood and on the other hand, there is drought and at the same time prices are also rising continuously. While the prices of petrol, diesel and kerosene oil are rising, people are losing their lives due to drought and flood. The Government should seriously deliberate upon this. Bihar is a poor State where the people are poor and their means of livelihood is also limited. On one hand their houses were devastated in the floods and on the other hand their crops got destroyed. North Bihar is very fertile for sugarcane cultivation. I want to submit that the hon. Prime Minister had visited Bihar and had announced a grant of Rs. 115 crores but in this regard I would like to contend that the Union Government should immediately provide to the State Government Rs. 8000 crores as the proposal has been advanced by the hon. Chief Minister. This would provide a stable solution and the relief material could be served through the road route. The houses of seven-eight lac poor people living under Indira Awas have been devastated by this flood. This money should be provided to rebuild these houses. Through this House I urge upon the Government that Bihar should be granted the status of a special category State and special package should be provided for it. As Punjab and Haryana have been considered a prosperous State, so has been Uttaranchal. Today, through this House and through you, I urge upon the Government that Bihar should also be given the status like that of Punjab, Haryana and Uttaranchal. This is a serious problem. To tackle this problem, I would suggest that the Government should seriously deliberate upon this. Hon. Member Raghunathjee has also contended this and you too have submitted this to the Government as a suggestion.

With these words, I conclude my speech.

SHRI DAHYA BHAI VALLABH BHAI PATEL (Daman and Diu): Mr. Chairman, Sir, many honourable members have expressed their views about the floods and drought in several states. In the Union territory, Daman and Diu, which is also my constituency, there was flood in the Damanganga river on 3rd August due to heavy rain. The Gujarat Government has constructed a dam called Madhuban on the banks of the river. Due to large amount of water released from the dam at one time and also because of the high tides of the sea, all the villages situated by the sides of big Daman and small Daman were washed away in the water and the people have become homeless.

Last year, on 28th August, the bridge connecting the big Daman and small Daman had collapsed. It was constructed by the State Government and the Minister of State for Home Shri S. Raghupathy had inaugurated it. Hardly 45 days had gone since it inauguration and the bridge collapsed on 3rd August. Today, both the big Daman and small Daman stand separated. School going children cannot go to big Daman, and those going to big Daman cannot go to small Daman. For this, one has to cover a long distance by road, which takes about one and a half hour. I'll speak about the damage that has been caused:

[English]

Fully damaged *pucca houses*—75 to 100 in municipality area, it is between 50 to 60 in village area; partly damaged *pucca* houses—325 to 350 in municipality area; Partly damaged houses—75 to 100 in village area; marginally damaged houses—1800 to 2000 in municipality area, and 300 to 350 in village area; foodgrains shops-40 to 50 in municipality area, and 10 to 15 in village area; others—200 to 250 in municipality area, and 25 to 50 in village area; bars and restaurants—8 to 10 in municipality area; fully damaged boats—12 to 15 in municipality area; partly damaged boats—20 to 30 in municipality area.

[Translation]

Sir, our people are on the roads. Their houses have got washed away. There is a circular of the Ministry of Home Affairs according to which an aid of Rs. 10,000 for

[Shri Dahya Bhai Vallabh Bhai Patel]

Pucca houses, Rs. 6000 for Kuccha houses and Rs. 1800-2000 for damaged houses is provided. In the present times of high prices, the aid which is given on the basis of the circular of Ministry of Home Affairs is not sufficient to construct even a single wall of the house. I, through you, request the Government, that this aid should be increased.

Sir, I have demanded release of Rs. 200 crores as relief. This much of relief must be provided. Those people, whose boats have been wrecked and whose houses have been washed away or broken or damaged, should be compensated. In this regard, I have written letters to the Home Minister, the Prime Minister and Madam Sonia Gandhiji and requested them to release the amount of relief as early as possible. Our people subsist on fishing and farming. The employed in this Industry have also become jobless, as these industries have also suffered losses to the tune of crores of rupees. However, we have not received any relief so far. I, through you, request the Government to release the amount of relief at the earliest so that we can distribute it to the suffering people. I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA (Samastipur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, Mahatma Buddha had said that fire and water would always keep Patliputra in danger. The ancient land of Patliputra which is part of present day's Bihar reflects what Mahatma Buddha had said.

Sir, Bihar and Assam were in the light due to the flood disasters. Such a flood disaster has never been witnessed earlier in Bihar. The situation there was so grim that when the Prime Minister visited there to assess the situation, the helicopter could not be landed anywhere in the districts of Darbhanga, Madhubani, Samastipur, Shivhar, Saharsa etc. People are facing so many difficulties there.

Sir, the Government of Bihar have constantly been facing four problems. On the one hand, while 20 districts of Bihar are flood-affected, 7-8 districts are badly hit by drought. The third problem is of water-logging. There is the problem of water-logging in 10 lac hectare land in Bihar. The problem of water-logging remains because of lack of full water-drainage and the fourth problem pertains to erosion. The rivers passing through Bihar have so speedy flow of water that it badly affects hundreds of villages and at many places, entire chunk of villages is inundated within 2-3 months. Such is the scenario in Bihar. There may be some reasons behind it and I consider the environment a major factor in this. Some relevant research should be carried out.

20.00 hrs.

We talk of a long term solution. I appreciate the Union Government for considering a High Dam Project. I would like to say that the work should be expedited and materialized at the earliest. Besides, the High Dam Project should be prepared as a multipurpose useful project so that lack of electricity may be taken care of. Efforts should be made to create more means of agriculture through canal networking in Bihar. There is a major need of agriculture through canal networking in Bihar. There is a major need of afforestation in the drought affected areas because there is no rain there, as the environment is getting badly affected. The level of underground water is depleting day by day. And the situation may be worse there during the days of flood.

Through you I would like to tell the Government that the Government of Bihar has very quickly tackled the devastating situation arising out of floods there and fully utilised the aid from the Union Government. The relief management there complated that work. Relief management was effectively done and for this I would like to thank the Government of Bihar. The Government has quickly handled the flood disaster management. The Government of Bihar has demanded Rs. 8000 crores after assessing the situation properly with the help of the Union Government. To me, the demand is reasonable.

Sir, I would like to tell the Minister through you that it needs minute assessment. There has been a large scale loss of agriculture in Bihar and there are more serious problems to come up. A scenario of relentless disaster is there. There may be the situation of epidemic. People are dying of hunger. Their homes have been destroyed; they can not even trace their homes. Accurate figures regarding loss of life and property should be collected for the work of restoration and restructuring there. There should be a feeling at national level towards the seriousness of this problem.

I agree with Sharma ji. He said that such a disaster can not be the problem of a state only. There should be an emotional solidarity in the entire country in this matter. The spirit of entire country should be attached to it and national help should come in entirety.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House stands adjourned to meet tomorrow, the 17th August, 2004 at 1100 hours.

20.04 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, August 17, 2004/Sravana 26, 1926 (Saka)

ANNEXURE-I

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