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Monday, August 22, 2005
Sravana 31, 1927 (Saka)

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(English Version)

Fifth Session
(Fourteenth Lok Sabha)



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LOK SABHA

Monday, August 22, 2005/Sravana 31, 1927 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have given notice of adjournment motion.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: It is under my consideration. Tomorrow, I will let you know.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Q. No. 361.

Depleting Forest Cover

*361. SHRI S. MALLIKARJUNIAH:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN":

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

(a) whether the "State of the Forest Report 2003" released recently by the Forest Survey of India has brought out that during the period 2001-2003, the country has lost about 26 thousand square kilometers of dense forest cover;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of losses suffered, State-wise, and fresh initiatives being taken to reach the national goal of putting 33% of the country under forest and tree cover by 2012;

(d) whether any target in terms of percentage and area has been fixed by the Government for afforestation in the country;

(e) if so, the sources from where funds are proposed to be mobilised;

(f) whether there is an annual decrease in forest area; and

(g) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (g) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) The State of Forest Report, 2003 (SFR, 2003), shows a decrease in dense forest cover by 26,245 Sq. km. wherein it has also been stated that the real decrease in dense forest cover is 4,605 Sq. km. only. The reasons for decrease in dense forest cover include shifting cultivation, encroachments, felling of short rotation tree crops, diversion of forest land for developmental activities etc. The decrease of 21,640 Sq. km. is due to interpretational corrections mostly in 1 to 25 ha. patches outside the recorded forests such as crops like cotton, sugarcane, groundnut etc. which give reflectance similar to that of forest cover.

(c) The details of losses suffered, State-wise are given in Annexure.

The initiatives being taken to increase forest and tree cover to 33% by the year 2012, are:

(i) Consultation with the State Governments and Union Territories Administrations and other Ministries have been held to sensitize them of the increased tree planting targets.

(ii) Guidelines for rationalizing of felling and transit regulations for tree species grown on non-forest private lands have been issued, to promote large scale afforestation in non-forest areas.

(iii) State Government and Union Territories Administrations have been requested to formulate and implement Media Plan to create mass awareness about tree plantation.

(iv) In National Afforestation Programme, a new component has been added to extend Joint Forest Management to around 1.73 lakh forest fringe villages in the country to reverse the process of forest degradation and encourage afforestation.

(v) Grants-in-Aid for Greening India Scheme has been launched in 2005-06 to cover the activities of awareness generation, setting up of high-tech central nurseries and satellite nurseries to ensure availability of quality planting materials for tree plantation.

(d) The 10th Five Year Plan envisages an increase in the forest and tree cover to 25% by 2007 and 33% by 2012. To help achieve this, tree planting targets are fixed under point 16A and 16B of 20-point programme on an annual basis. For the current year 2005-2006, the targets are 12,560 lakhs seedlings under 16A and 16,29,475 hectares under 16B.

(e) Besides providing Central financial assistance, State Governments and Union Territory Administrations have been requested to constitute coordination committees of all departments owning lands chaired by the Chief Secretary of the concerned State to take up increased tree planting.

The funds are expected to flow from budgetary support by Central and State Governments to various Departments and Ministries. The liberalization and rationalization of regulations are also expected to provide fillip to the flow of funds from various stakeholders.

(f) No, Sir. The forest area and the forest & tree cover have been increasing as per the State of Forest Report, 2003, a biennial report published by Forest Survey of India (FSI):

Year	Recorded Forest Area (in Sq. km.)	Forest & Tree Cover (in Sq. km.)	Percentage of Geographical area of the country
2001	768,436	757,009	23.03
2003	774,740	778,229	23.68

(g) Does not arise.

Annexure

(Area in Sq. km.)

State/UT	Real	Interpre-tational	Total Change in Dense Forest (both real & interpretational)
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	–5.64	–1442	–1,448
Arunachal Pradesh	–2136	1715	–421
Assam	–363.86	–2424	–2,788
Bihar	–0.23	–345	–345
Chhattisgarh	–182	1282	1,100
Delhi	0	14	14
Goa	0	–530	–530

1	2	3	4
Gujarat	–89	–2239	–2,328
Haryana	–0.14	–619	–619
Himachal Pradesh	0	–1453	–1,453
Jammu & Kashmir	0	–1351	–1,351
Jharkhand	0	–106	–106
Karnataka	0	–3695	–3,695
Kerala	–1	–2143	–2,144
Madhya Pradesh	–558	–1983	–2,541
Maharashtra	–65.32	–2442	–2,507
Manipur	–135	963	828
Meghalaya	–141	951	810
Mizoram	–351	–1097	–1,448
Nagaland	–321	635	314
Orissa	–8	206	198
Punjab	–2	–804	–806
Rajasthan	–1	–1825	–1,826
Sikkim	0	–29	–29
Tamil Nadu	–2	–490	–492
Tripura	–221	1804	1,583
Uttar Pradesh	–1.05	–2968	–2,969
Uttaranchal	–16.88	–584	–601
West Bengal	0	–301	–301
A&N Islands	0	–309	–309
Chandigarh	0	4	4
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	–4	–2	–6
Daman & Diu	0	0	0
Lakshadweep	0	–15	–15
Pondicherry	0	–18	–18
Total	–4605.12	–21640	–26,245

Net Change in forest cover in the country since 2001 assessment

(Area in Sq. Km.)

Assessment Year	Dense Forest	Open Forest	Total Forest Cover
2001	416,809	258,729	675,538
2003	390,564	287,769	678,333
Change	-26,245	29,040	2,795

[Translation]

*SHRI S. MALLIKARJUNIAH: Mr. Speaker Sir, the forest area in the country is decreasing day by day and encroachment of forest area is also on the rise. The Government has an ambitious plan to reach the national goal of putting 33% of the country under forest and tree cover by 2012. If the forest cover is depleting day by day how can they reach this national average?

[English]

SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA: Sir, I have replied in the answer that the forest area is on the rise. In the year 2003, the percentage of geographical area of the country has increased to 23.68 as compared to the year 2000.

MR. SPEAKER: What steps are you going to take to increase that?

SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA: Sir, we are taking a lot of initiatives in this direction. There are Centrally sponsored schemes, like NAP, Integrated Forest Protection Scheme, Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries, Project Tiger, Project Tiger-Elephant, Conservation and Management of Wet Land, Mangroves, Biosphere, etc.

MR. SPEAKER: You have already mentioned that in your reply.

[Translation]

*SHRI S. MALLIKARJUNIAH: Hon. Speaker Sir, Gulbarga, Belgaum, Bidar, Bijapura, Raichur and other districts in North Karnataka and some districts in Southern Karnataka are seriously affected by the recent floods. The people in the coastal Karnataka are also affected by the recent floods in the State. I do not want to go into the details. I endorse all the views expressed by Shri Ananth Kumarji.

I urge upon the Centre to come to the rescue of the people of Karnataka who are severely affected by floods. I hope that a substantial amount would be released by Centre as demanded by the State for the relief works.

[English]

SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA: Sir, under the Centrally sponsored schemes, we are giving assistance to the State Governments. In the Tenth Plan, in NAP, a sum of Rs. 1,115 crore has been earmarked and for Integrated Forest Protection Scheme, in Tenth Plan, allocation is Rs. 445 crore and we are assisting the State Governments under various schemes.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN': Mr. Speaker, Sir, the rising level of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere as a offshoot of growing industrialisation has been adversely affecting the health of people and causing damage to the environment. Tree plantation is necessary to solve this problem. Hon. Minister has made a mention of several things and he has also stated in his reply about the steps proposed to be taken by his Ministry to promote afforestation.

Mr. Speaker Sir, through you, I would like to tell the hon. Minister that 23.03 per cent of our total land area was under forest over in 2001. The hon. Minister of Environment and Forests through a newspaper had said that only .65 per cent increase in our forests area has been registered in the year 2003 i.e. an increase of .21 percent each year. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what is the basis of his claim that target set in regard to increase in the forest cover up to 25 percent will be achieved by the year 2007 given the existing rate of increase in the forest cover alongwith steps proposed to be taken by the Government to mobilise

*Translation of the speech originally delivered in Kannada.

financial resources keeping in view the target set in this regard?

SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member has asked as to how the target of increasing the forest cover to 25 percent of area would be achieved by 2007? As on date, 23.68 percent of our total land area is under the forest cover. I am confident that we will be able to achieve our target by the year 2007. Firstly, we are providing funds under the centrally sponsored schemes and secondly, the plants which are not under our remote sensing technology till now will come under it within the next five to ten years and we assume that we will be able to achieve our target. We are providing assistance to State Governments under different schemes.

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has made some references here. I would like to say that pine trees are found in abundance in our State Jammu and Kashmir and also in other States. Resim is obtained from the immature pine trees and these pine trees catch fire in summer and entire forest is engulfed in the fire and destroys. Why resin is obtained from immature pine trees? The Government should stop obtaining resin from pine trees to avoid felling of trees. What is being done by the Government to check the ever increasing encroachment in the forest land? There are numerous laws in place in this regard.

SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA: So far as the question asked by the hon. Member is concerned, the Government release money for the protection of forests under Integrated Forest Protection Scheme. It is the subject of the State Governments as to produce would be taken from a tree.

SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, after the division of Bihar, about 90 per cent of forest area has gone to the State of Jharkhand and only about 10 per cent remains with Bihar. I want to know as to whether there is any scheme of the Government for the expansion of forests cover of the States, forest areas of which have gone into other States due to their division?

SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA: We provide funds to the States and Union Territories for the development of forests under the National Afforestation Programme and Integrated Forest Protection Schemes. Various Ministries are also taking a lot of initiatives. A provision has also been made under the rural development scheme that the States where forest area is less should be given funds for the integrated forests.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: He wants to know about Bihar.

[Translation]

SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA: This is applicable to all the States and the same would be applicable to Bihar also. There is no separate scheme. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Generally we decided to allow four questions altogether but because of the importance of this matter, I am allowing a few more.

Please cooperate.

SHRI B. MAHTAB: I would like to know whether legal and administrative mechanism sought to be put in place to check the denudation of forests in Western Ghats and Eastern Ghats have proved ineffective so far.

I would also like to know whether eight lakh hectares of forest land around the country has been encroached upon. I would like to know whether since 1980—the Report has come out in 2003—within these 23 years about 8.72 lakh hectares of forest land has been diverted for non-forestry use. If it is so, then what steps are being taken to cover a fourth of the country by forests in four years.

[Translation]

SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA: So far as encroachment is concerned, as stated by the Hon. Member, I accept that there is encroachment in forest areas. As per the information available with us, about 13 lakh hectare forest land has been encroached upon and the responsibility to remove these encroachments rests with the State Governments. As you have said that to maintain the pace of development, diversion of land is also necessary so that the pace of development is not stopped. I have other figures also, but we have accorded sanction to such 2085 projects in the last two years under which 3000 Sq. km. forest land has been converted. Since 1980 when the Conservation Act was enacted, 10 lakh hectares of land has been diverted for the developmental activities but if we look at the total area, it is merely 12.9

per cent. At times diversion of lands is necessary to maintain the pace of development.

[English]

SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Is there any move on the part of the Government to include communities other than the tribals as forest dependent communities which would deprive the exclusive right in respect of minor forest produces now held by the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes? In that case, will it not adversely affect the SCs & STs and the Federation of Co-operative Societies, which are now doing the collection? Is there any such move on the part of the Government?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI A. RAJA): Sir, so far as minor forest produces are concerned, of course tribal communities of this country, right from the inception of the Forest Act itself, are enjoying some fruits over the forest land. It has not been disturbed either by way of legitimate measures or by the administrative measures. They are still permitted. Encroachments are classified into two. The families that were living in the forest area at the time when the Forest Act came into existence are going to be permitted by bringing a new legislation soon.

DR. K.S. MANOJ: Sir, in my constituency, Alleppey, around 700 hectares of high yielding paddy lands were taken by the Ministry of Forests for the purpose of afforestation but nothing had happened there. I would like to know from the hon. Minister of Environment & Forests about the progress of such projects. These lands were taken in 1994 but nothing had happened there.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, what is your question? I do not know whether there is a specific question. Mr. Minister, are you in a position to answer this?

DR. K.S. MANOJ: What is the progress of such projects?

SHRI A. RAJA: Sir, as my colleague has put it, we are having several programmes like the National Afforestation Programme and the National Integrated Forest Protection Scheme. Apart from that, the World Bank and the Bank of International Corporation, Japan are giving crores of rupees. In the Tenth Plan, we are giving Rs. 1,100 crore for the National Afforestation Programme and under the National Forest Protection Scheme, we are spending Rs. 400 crore. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: That is not the point.

SHRI A. RAJA: Sir, I am coming to the point. Apart from that, international funds to the tune of Rs. 3,500 crore are coming, and all these funds are being spent so that the tree and forest cover is coming up. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Has anything been done on the fertile land which had been taken?

SHRI A. RAJA: Sir, I do not know, and it is the State Government. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, you say that you will find out and let him know.

SHRI A. RAJA: The lands that are available in the community reserves and forest reserves are being utilised and not the cultivable lands.

MR. SPEAKER: Dr. Manoj, you give the particulars to the Minister and he will send his reply to you.

[Translation]

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak. I have come to know that through remote sensing, it has been brought to our notice that forests are shrinking at a large scale resulting in change in climate. The Government of India has also published a report on change in climate wherein it has been stated that if climatic temperature increases by 1° celsius, it would cause a 7 percent increase in climatic vagaries and extremities which would lead to 13 percent revenue loss to the Government. I would like to know whether any estimate has been worked out with regard to revenue loss being suffered by the Government on account of failure of afforestation programmes on which the Government is incurring direct expenditure? I want to know about this.

SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA: So far as the issue of shrinking forest cover is concerned, our remote sensing technology has some limitations. Certain areas like the fields of sugarcane and cotton crops were mistaken as dense forests and forests in the survey conducted in the year 2002. Due to this mistake, more area was shown under forests but the actual shrinkage in forest cover has been shown in our forest report. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: No whispering please.

[Translation]

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: My concern is a bit different, the Government in its report has said that 1° centigrade increase in climatic temperature would cause 13 percent revenue loss to it. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: No, Hon. Members, you have to catch my eyes, not my ears. Please do not shout from the benches. I can assure you that that does not create any impression on me.

[Translation]

SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in my Lok Sabha constituency Jodhpur, used to have a forest cover some 275 years back. Tradition has it that people of Bishnoi Community never hesitated to sacrifice themselves to save trees. But today, when anybody cuts a tree and takes it away on his camel back, the Government allows him to do so.

MR. SPEAKER: You ask your question.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: In the year 1730 an illiterate person had given a slogan in a fair which goes like this—'Sar Kataye Ke bach jaye ped, to bhi sasta jan' which means that if you save a tree even by laying your life, that will be a profitable deal. I want to know from the hon. Minister as to what action is proposed to be taken by the Government to make the existing law more stringent so that the felling of trees can be stopped?

SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA: The law is sufficiently stringent but rules pertaining to felling and transit are framed and enforced by the respective State Governments according to their need.

[English]

Remunerative Prices to Cotton Growers

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

(a) whether the Union Government has received proposals from State Governments particularly Gujarat to provide remunerative support price to the cotton growers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether adequate procurement is not done by Cotton Corporation of India and the prices have fallen below the Minimum Support Price; and

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

[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): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) Keeping in view the fact that the staple length of the variety of cotton grown by majority of the farmers in Gujarat falls short of the norm, i.e. 29.0 mm in respect of Sankar-6/10 and H-4/H-6 for which the Minimum Support Price (MSP) was fixed at Rs. 1960 per quintal for 2004-05, the Government of Gujarat sought relaxation in the staple length of these varieties from 29.0 mm to 28.0 mm. The staple length in respect of these varieties shown in the Order issued by the Office of Textile Commissioner for 2005-06 is 28.0 mm. While the MSP in respect of Sankar-6/10 variety has been raised to Rs. 1985 per quintal in 2005-06 from Rs. 1960 per quintal in 2004-05, the MSP in respect of H-4/H-6 variety has been raised to Rs. 1980 per quintal in 2005-06 from Rs. 1960 per quintal in 2004-05. As in the case of other crops covered under the MSP, in the case of cotton also the views received from the respective State Governments with regard to remunerative support price were taken into account in the fixation of Minimum Support Price for 2004-05 and 2005-06.

(c) and (d) The Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) had undertaken MSP operations in all cotton growing States during 2004-05, and purchased a record quantity of 140.24 lakh quintals of kapas equivalent to 27.52 lakh bales. Keeping in view the need to strengthen the infrastructure for cotton procurement, the Union Government declared the National Agricultural Cooperative

Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED) as an agency for procurement of cotton, in addition to CCI, in February 2005. Accordingly, NAFED also undertook procurement of cotton, which amounted to 1.84 lakh quintals of kapas, equivalent to 0.39 lakh bales. The details of State-wise procurement are given in Annexure.

Annexure

State-wise Procurement of Cotton during 2004-05

(Lakh bales of 170 kgs. each)

States	Procurement by CCI	Procurement by NAFED
Andhra Pradesh	12.11	—
Karnataka	1.49	—
Orissa	0.24	—
Punjab	1.43	0.09
Maharashtra	1.67	0.01
Madhya Pradesh	1.53	0.01
Gujarat	4.83	0.28
Rajasthan	2.59	—
Haryana	1.63	—
All India	27.52	0.39

SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am not satisfied with the reply of hon. Minister. The farmers producing cotton in Gujarat are not getting minimum support price. Apart from this there is lack of sufficient number of centres for the procurement of cotton as a result of which farmers could not get proper price for their cotton produce last year inspite of bumper crops of cotton. That is why there is resentment amount the farmers against the Government and they are agitating. I would like to know from hon. Minister as to what he is doing to ensure that cotton growers get minimum support price and more procurement centres are opened.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): Last year procurement of cotton as 27.52 tonne bales, which is a record and highest in the last four years. Out of the above 4.83 tonne bales were procured from Gujarat. It is true that there is shortage of procurement centres there and when we received message from the Government of Gujarat that centres are falling short of the requirement and there is a need to open new centres, the CCI was not in a position to open new centres due to limited machinery. Therefore, keeping in view the proposal of the Government of Gujarat we directed NAFED to start purchasing in Gujarat.

The season was about to end when instruction was issued to NAFED and it started purchasing there. This year it was a record production and purchasing. The biggest contribution came from the farmers of Gujarat. Keeping this in view we shall make arrangement and instruct both NAFED and CCI to open more centres in Gujarat.

SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: I accept hon. Minister's plea that the instructions were issued to NAFED after sometime and so it ran out of time but the farmers are getting less than the minimum support price for the cotton which is still lying with them. At some places even that price is not being given to them. Therefore I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what he is doing for that?

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: As per my information, procurement has been carried out properly and largest number of centres has been opened in Gujarat. Despite that if the farmers have cotton with them in any district, we propose to make separate arrangement to purchase it if hon. Member provides information regarding this.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I think, you have got your answer. Now, Shri B. Vinod Kumar.

SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR: Sir, the arrivals of cotton in Warrangal, Jammikunta and Adilabad markets in Telengana region of Andhra Pradesh are good. The experience of farmers for the last three years in these markets is bad. The CCI is unable to purchase cotton directly from the RYOTS on the plea of insufficient staff resulting in RYOTS depending on the middlemen paving way for much corruption. In view of the good monsoon this year, the expected arrival of cotton in these markets is around 10 to 15 lakh bales. I would like to know whether the Government have any action plan to purchase cotton directly from RYOTS.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: As far as my information is concerned, last year the total purchases were the highest in the last few years. The total purchases were 27.52 lakh bales. Out of that, the 12.11 lakh bales were essentially from Andhra Pradesh. The maximum purchases in the whole country have been made from Andhra Pradesh. So, by and large, there is no problem. if there is a problem, certainly we will take all precautionary measures for the next year also.

[Translation]

SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, a parliamentary committee was constituted under the Chairmanship of Shri Sompalji and that Committee has submitted its report in which it suggested the ways to remove the difficulties faced by cotton farmers. I would like to know whether the Government has carried out a study of that report and taken any action in this regard? If so, what are the details of the action taken by the Government?

[English]

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: This Question is restricted to cotton procurement in Gujarat.

I will need a separate notice for this Supplementary. *...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: Is Gujarat outside the country?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: In the question, they specifically mentioned Gujarat. That is why the hon. Minister has said so.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: My question specifically is this. My experience as Member of the Fact Finding Mission to Andhra Pradesh is that in many of the Cotton Corporation of India godowns, 50 percent of the cotton brought by the cotton growers is being rejected by the officials mentioning it to be of low grade. When the farmers in frustration go back to their villages after waiting fruitlessly for three to four days, the middlemen reach their houses. The farmers in despair sell their cotton to them at a much cheaper rate of Rs. 600 to Rs. 900 per quintal whereas its actual price is Rs. 800 per quintal.

The cotton purchased from these farmers is re-sold by the middlemen to the CCI. So, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he would ensure that all the cotton produced by the farmers are purchased by the CCI; and the CCI buys cotton only from the farmers, not the middlemen.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: The system is the same. The CCI is supposed to buy only from the farmers. They are not buying from middlemen. If there are some instances and if I get information, I am certainly ready to inquire into them.

I have to make one position clear. The CCI also has limitations. The CCI is a Central organisation. It is not in a position to open centres in each and every important place throughout India. If the States are ready to co-operative and are ready to provide their machinery, the CCI would be able to take more effective steps.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: The existing centres should purchase directly from the farmers. That is my request.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes. He has said that if there are some violations and they are brought to his notice, he would inquire into them.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: I would write a letter and let him know.

SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI: Thank you, Sir.

This year, the total acreage, which would come under Bt Cotton cultivation, is expected to be higher than what is was last year. This would result not only in higher cotton yield but also in cotton with good staple length. So, I would seek to know from the hon. Minister, in view of this situation, if the Government has any post-harvest plans in future so that the cotton farmers do not face distress and if the CCI and NAFED are well equipped to face this challenge.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: In fact, the Ministry of Textiles has already taken a decision for relaxation in the staple length of these varieties. From this year, the CCI would be able to purchase cotton at a staple of 28. So, there should not be any problem.

Secondly, we would take all precautionary measures to set up maximum centres, especially we have reports

from some of the States that there is a substantial area that has come under cotton. The overall condition of the cotton crop is good. It is also true—and this is for your information—that a sizeable area has come under cryogenic cotton and that is why there would be definitely more production. All precautionary measures would be taken through NAFED and CCI to procure this cotton.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, one of the main reasons for the misery of the cotton-growers is the import policy of the Government of India. The American lobby is so strong and the Government of India is importing so much cotton and that is the main reason for the misery of the cotton-growers. Would the Government take a decision to ban the cotton import from America and other countries so that our own farmers would be benefited?

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: So far as my information goes, the liberalised import policy is not at all there. There are very few instances of import and a lot of duty has also been introduced because of which import has become uneconomical. We have taken all precautions.

[Translation]

Remodelling of I.C.A.R.

*363. DR. CHINTA MOHAN:
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an expert committee has suggested remodelling of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) on the lines of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR);

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations made by the expert committee;

(c) the time by which the remodelling of the ICAR is likely to be taken; and

(d) the extent to which this will help/improve the functioning of the ICAR?

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 Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) A Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. R.A. Mashelkar, Secretary, Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, Ministry of Science and Technology was constituted to suggest organizational and procedural changes in the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (I.C.A.R.) with the aim of improving the research output of the Institution in view of the rapid and consistently accelerated changes in the economic environment particularly with reference to the need for optimization of research output and its further commercialization. The Committee has made some recommendations on the lines of prevailing systems in the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (C.S.I.R.).

(b) Details of the recommendations of Dr. Mashelkar Committee are given in Annexure.

(c) and (d) The Committee has submitted its report on 18th July, 2005. The recommendations of the Committee are being examined in the Department for which the process of consultations has been initiated. A preliminary discussion was held on 2nd August, 2005 in which leading agricultural scientists and policy makers had participated. A special meeting of the Governing Body of the ICAR has been called on 1.9.2005 to discuss the report. The time taken for remodelling and also the extent to which these recommendations will help/improve the functioning of the ICAR can be estimated only after a final decision is taken regarding the acceptance of the recommendations of the Committee.

Annexure

Recommendations of the Committee

1. Without diluting the advantage that flows from being a full fledged department in the Government of India, the ICAR should seek to invoke its autonomous status in its true sense to enable and empower the Governing Body of ICAR with greater powers in decision making in matters of finance and human resources.

2. The level of Member, Finance in ICAR should be brought at par with Member, Finance in CSIR, Space and Atomic Energy Commission by designating Secretary in the MOF to be the Member, Finance in ICAR.

3. The Prime Minister of India should assume the presidentship of the ICAR society with Minister in charge of Agriculture as the Vice President. The President may delegate the powers to the Vice President for the smooth functioning of the Society as the case in CSIR.

4. Revision of the composition of Governing Body.

5. The multiple layers of command and control existing between the institute Director and the Director General should be done away with. The Directors of the Institutes should report directly to the Director-General.

6. The existing posts of DDGs and ADGs may be abolished. The following four functionaries will operate at the headquarters:

   (i) Director (Extn.)

   (ii) Director (Edn.)

   (iii) Director (Tech.)

   (iv) Director (Co-ordinated programmes)

7. A Committee may be set up to look into the entire gamut of the KVK scheme and suggest as to whether it should remain with ICAR or be transferred to Central/State Government or adopt any other alternative model.

8. Representatives from user agencies may be nominated in the Management Committee in place of two non official members to provide efficient linkage with consumers of technology and industry.

9. The RAC should be accorded due primacy in managing the scientific portfolio of the institute. Two eminent experts from private sector and at least one eminent scientist from relevant international organizations should be members of the Research Advisory Committee.

10. The Staff Research Council may be renamed as Institute Research Committee (IRC).

11. Extracts of the proceedings relating to different projects may be added to the annual performance appraisal report of the concerned scientists so that review of performance by the institute's IRC becomes an important input in scientist's annual appraisal.

12. The role of ICAR headquarters should be restricted to agenda setting, monitoring and evaluation. It should not seek to micro manage of the institutes.

13. ICAR should develop a scheme on the lines of "CSIR Jewels" Scheme. Under the scheme IARI, IVRI, NDRI, CIFE and NAARM should be given greater freedom and flexibility. They may however continue to remain integral part of ICAR.

14. The Director may be delegated full powers to the extent of provision in the plan document subject to sanctioned annual budgetary ceilings.

15. The Director/Project Director (except those of National Research Centre) may be given the pay scale of Rs. 22400-24500 by following a scheme approved by the Govt. for CSIR and adopted in CSIR. The Director of the 5 Institutes who are already in the higher scale may continue in the same scale.

16. ICAR may evolve a scheme for incentive to institutes for generating income from external sources.

17. ICAR should computerize its system of accounting linking to IMPACT.

18. Entire research portfolio of the institutes should be projectised.

19. International collaborative projects may be encouraged to promote international benchmarking.

20. The project leader/principal investigator should have the full financial powers for procurement of items listed in the approved project document for which funds are available in the project budget during the year.

21. ICAR should evolve a competitive grant scheme on the pattern of similar scheme in operation under NATP.

22. Foreign travel proposal of Scientist may be approved at the level of Director General of ICAR. The proposal of foreign travel of Directors and above may be approved by the Agriculture Minister.

23. A High Powered Committee may be constituted to evaluate the quality of basic research in ICAR System and suggest ways and means to enhance it.

24. The number of National Professors and National Fellows in the area of frontier science of relevance to ICAR should be enhanced.

25. The existing promotion policy of scientists which is on the pattern of career advancement scheme of UGC may be done away with. ICAR may revert back to promotion policy as per ARS rules but modify it on the basis of experience in other publicly funded institutions.

26. The ASRB should continue to function on the lines of UPSC. Its independence should be guarded and respected by all concerned.

27. A system should be developed to enable and encourage two way mobility of scientists between ICAR, SAU, Private Sector and International Organizations.

28. The external expert members should be nominated by the Chairman, ASRB from a panel of experts prepared and approved by the Research Advisory Committee of the concerned institute. In respect of posts at ICAR headquarters the panel of experts may be prepared and approved by the DG, ICAR.

29. A system for Quick Hire of Scientists on the lines of a similar system existing in CSIR may be evolved.

30. The scientific posts should be kept out of the purview of the existing instructions under which only one-third vacancies arising in a year can be filled up.

31. The general instructions relating to abolition of vacancies remaining vacant for more than a year should not apply to scientific posts in ICAR.

32. The Committee after reviewing the existing ICAR guidelines recommended modifications on the following lines:

(i) The guidelines should delineate types of intellectual property created as a result of the research efforts of the Council.

(ii) The guidelines should spell out a policy with regard to ownership of intellectual property created under various types of projects viz. sponsored, collaborative project and grant in aid project.

(iii) The guidelines should include norms for pricing of intellectual property and its licensing by various means viz. direct licensing by the institutes or through NRDC or other technology transfer agencies.

(iv) The guidelines should clearly delineate issue relating to contracting, pricing payment and ownership of intellectual property in cases of exploitation of ICAR knowledge base by foreign clients.

33. A Scientist entrepreneur scheme may be developed on the lines of similar scheme in CSIR.

34. A revenue sharing scheme for ICAR scientists engaged in research in partnership with industry may be designed and adopted.

35. Provision should be made for engagement of consultants for business development.

36. Provision should be made to enable ICAR institutes to set up business and marketing entities.

37. Provision should be made for deputation of scientists along with ICAR proceses released to industry.

38. ICAR should develop farm and lab facilities to capitalize on the existing and emerging opportunities through development of seed/ sapling/planting materials/finger lings in the mandated area.

39. Sector wise ICAR-industry interface meetings should be held annually.

40. ICAR may consider the feasibility of establishing core shared facilities in partnership with appropriate private sector industry sources on the pattern of CSIR.

[English]

DR. CHINTA MOHAN: Sir, after globalisation, agricultural production has come down. I would like to know from the hon. Minister the reasons for this.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): Sir, this Question is regarding the ICAR.

MR. SPEAKER: The question relates to ICAR.

DR. CHINTA MOHAN: This is also about the ICAR, where a lot of agricultural research is going on.

MR. SPEAKER: Your brevity is exemplary but it should also be clear.

DR. CHINTA MOHAN: Sir, I wanted to know from the hon. Minister the real reasons why agricultural production has come down.

MR. SPEAKER: I can appreciate brevity but let it not be this brief.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Sir, this particular Question is about remodelling of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research suggested by the expert Committee. If the hon. Member gives me a separate notice, I would give him all the detailed information.

MR. SPEAKER: Have you got any other supplementary?

DR. CHINTA MOHAN: Sir, our scientists are doing a lot of research in their labs but our farmers are in the villages. So, how is the Government planning to reach the farmers to improve the production?

MR. SPEAKER: Anyway, this Question however deals with agriculture and you are very knowledgeable.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Sir, this particular Committee was appointed to improve the overall performance of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research.

We have received a number of recommendations. Some of the recommendations are that whatever the research has been done has to reach effectively to the farming community where they will be able to improve their per hectare yield. So, all these recommendations are before us. We have not taken a final view. We had received these recommendations on 5th of July. We are in the process of discussions with all concerned people including the representatives of the State Governments. We will examine all these suggestions and then take a final view.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ramji Lal Suman. The question is about remodelling of the ICAR by an expert committee.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I think the Government would certainly implement the recommendations of the Dr. Mashelkar Committee constituted to improve the functioning of Indian Council for Agricultural Research and the result would be satisfactory. Through you, I would like to say to hon. Minister of Agriculture that increase in the rate of agricultural yield is urgently needed to make agriculture beneficial for the people but two-third of our total cultivable land is dependent on vagaries of rainfall. Therefore, such seeds are needed in the country which can give higher yield inspite of scanty rainfall. In such situation, the advice of the research department becomes more important. Several multi-national companies have developed new seeds recently in the Indian sector. Has the Government consulted Indian Council for Agricultural Research in regard to the authenticity of all these seeds or is there any such legal system which make it mandatory to seek required information about authenticity of such seeds?

[English]

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Again, I am sorry Sir. The question is restricted to the recommendations of the Dr. Mashelkar Committee for reorganisation of the ICAR. The hon. Member has raised a very important issue. But I have to collect the information, and then only I will be able to provide information to the hon. Member.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Tukaram Gangadhar Gadakh- not present.

SHRIMATI ARCHANA NAYAK: I would like to know whether the hon. Minister of Agriculture is considering to allot more funds for organising rural training programmes by the ICAR which will strengthen our farm sector.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: There are a number of recommendations for this reorganisation. One of the recommendations is how to make this organisation effective and how to effectively implement all these programmes. When we will take a final view on these recommendations, then we will consider it.

MR. SPEAKER: As the hon. Minister has stated the report is under consideration, I think, we can wait for some time.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: The hon. Minister has stated in his reply that discussions were held on 2nd August, 2005 and thereafter another meeting will be held on 1.9.2005. In this respect, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister that there are certain research farms under the name of 'Cazri'. One of such farms is in my constituency, that is, Kutch. It is inoperative since so many years. So, such inoperative farms' situation also should be taken into consideration at the time of discussion.

MR. SPEAKER: You should also consider 'Cazri'.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: The hon. Member can give me the detailed information about that. I am ready to take action today. I am not going to wait for these discussions also.

MR. SPEAKER: Very obliging Ministers are also not encouraged.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

Modernisation of FPI

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*364. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:
SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has a proposal to modernise the technology in the Food Processing Industries in various States;

(b) if so, the incentives proposed to be given to various States or private entrepreneurs for this purpose;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether external funding has been sought for the purpose;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the details of funds made available during the last three years, State-wise?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (f) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

Modernization of technology in the food processing industries is an ongoing process. However, Government has formulated and implemented a scheme for technology upgradation/establishment/modernization of FPI units in the country. Under the scheme financial assistance @25% of the project cost in general areas and 33.33% in difficult areas is provided subject to a maximum of Rs. 50.00 lakh and Rs. 75.00 lakh respectively. The scheme is project specific not State/area specific. Accordingly assistance is provided to the firms/organizations implementing the projects. The information showing financial assistance released under the scheme for technology upgradation/establishment/modernization of FPI projects in different States during last three years is annexed. 100% FDI is already permitted in food processing sector except in food retailing, plantations and alcoholic beverages. Inflow of FDI received in the food processing sector during last three years was reported to be Rs. 861.47 crore.

Annexure

Funds released for Various Projects during last three years in Different States

(Rs. in lakh)

State/UT	Total
1	2
Andhra Pradesh	1,387.98
Arunachal Pradesh	43.56
Assam	690.23
Bihar	25.32
Chhattisgarh	32.61
Delhi	2.50

1	2
Goa	42.00
Gujarat	455.41
Haryana	444.28
Himachal Pradesh	286.05
Jammu & Kashmir	294.78
Karnataka	618.66
Kerala	450.29
Madhya Pradesh	142.75
Maharashtra	1,547.65
Manipur	210.61
Meghalaya	31.24
Mizoram	122.80
Nagaland	40.75
Orissa	78.89
Pondicherry	24.54
Punjab	878.21
Rajasthan	121.83
Tamil Nadu	821.17
Tripura	96.07
Uttar Pradesh	974.09
Uttaranchal	93.25
West Bengal	622.24

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Bir Singh Mahato—Absent.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, India is at ranked first in the world in production of milk and is ranked second in the world in production of fruits and vegetables, but there is a loss of Rs. 50,000 crore per year to the poor farmers of the country due to lack of adequate facility of food processing in the country. Dr. Swaminathan has also accepted that 50 percent of fruits and vegetables gets rotten before they are brought to market. Although our country exports fruits and vegetables yet our export is only one per cent in the global market. The Government has announced for providing sufficient food processing facility in the country and has also formulated vision 2015. But I want to know from the Government through you, about the immediate steps that the Government proposes to take to improve the condition of the farmers which is deteriorating day by day in lack of food processing industries.

SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as the Hon. Member has said that we have come with vision document which lays down how to increase the present percentage of fruits and vegetables in overall processing sector from 2 to 10 by 2015. The main hindrance in it was that of an integrated food law and the cabinet has recntly cleared the proposal of an integrated law by amalgamating 16 such laws. We are going to introduce the same in this session Sir, if you permit us for the same.

Secondly, our target is to have an investment to the extent of Rs. one lac crore in the next ten years. I can say that this Ministry has implemented 533 schemes in last 15 years out of which 225 schemes have been implemented during the last 15 months. It is the special priority of our UPA Government to simplify the whole process of setting up of food processing industry. We have made budgetary provision for 100 percent income tax exemption and exemption in excise duty too for this industry. Many formalities have been simplified with the view to achieve the mission or the target by the year 2015. I think the flow of money is increasing in this sector with the increase of FDI to 100 percent. Therefore, I think, the views of the Hon. Member is right that the wastage of 50,000 crore rupees be contained. The scheme are being formulated to achieve this target.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Hon. Minister has just now stated that Rs. one lakh crore would be invested in this industry. Recently, a delegation from France had visited the country. The Minister of Agriculture and rural ministry of France was also part of the said delegation. He had stated that the tariff rate in India was high and the operational transparency was lacking, besides many other technical impediments and that was why they hesitated in making large investments in our country. Thailand and Malaysia are also desirous of investing in our country but there is a lack of requisite facilities in this regard in India.

Secondly, we have 49 food parks but only nine food parks are operational because of the ignorance of the government. The Government has announced the scheme of constructing five mega food parks. In the reply given to me it has been stated that an investment of Rs. one lakh crore was required for this purpose but till now only Rs. 800 crore have been invested during a period of three years. Why is this kind of wrong message is being given to the farmers of the country who are engaged in fruits and vegetables production. What measures has the government taken to ensure optimum utilisation of the investment made in the country, be it in food parks or mega food parks.

SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, all the food parks that have been sanctioned are run either in collaboration with the State Government or individual private partnerships. They are provided assistance by the Ministry. We have conducted a re-evaluation to assess the status of the said food parks. The Hon. Member has rightly stated that there are 12-13 such food parks and nearly 800 plots have been allotted to them. This means that 800 industries are at the implementing stage but this is not a very satisfactory status.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, we talk about mega food parks or regional food parks, but I would like to say that large FDIs would not be made in 30 acre food parks. The hon. Member was talking about France. In this regard I would like to inform that we had discussed about West Bengal State in the talks held with the French government. We have been negotiating with the developed countries, particularly those which are involved in the food processing sector. If we replicate the technology and experience of the mega food parks in our country then the 'farm to folk' concept, which delineates how to market the produce of the farmers, would become reality. In addition to its, the Agriculture Ministry has also taken up the concept of contract farming. No industry can become successful unless it has access to sufficient raw material. The success of food parks depends on all these factors. It can be said that the line of action of our government in this regard is well defined.

[English]

SHRI K.S. RAO: Sir, one of the reasons why food processing could not be developed in spite of the extensive potential we have in this country is the poor shelf life. I wish to know from the hon. Minister whether he is prepared to concentrate on allowing joint-ventures with the Government so that the initiative will be given from the Government, and the farmers are given opportunity to divert their crops from routine traditional crops to fruits and vegetables.

SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY: Obviously, this is one sector which we are really having as priority sector and we are camping for this only, how this joint venture can succeed. So, I am very much for that. Related to this, we are also looking at how this cold chain can be operated so that the shelf life can be protected after harvesting of crops.

SHRI ALAKESH DAS: It is a good news that the Government is trying to modernise and upgrade technology in food processing industry. They are giving financial assistance 25 per cent in general areas and 33 per cent in remote areas. Another good news is that it is project specific and not State or area-specific. My question is whether the Minister is concerned about the harassment meted out by his Department about delaying these projects and schemes. I have personal experience about a project. That is why, I am putting this question. Is the minister concerned about these problems of his department?

MR. SPEAKER: Not only concerned, he should see how to remove them.

SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY: Yes, Sir. I think, that is why, I say that I have tried to simplify the things. Earlier, there used to take place one PAC meeting and now, there are taking place two PAC meetings. In 15 months, 225 cases have been cleared while in the last 15 years, 533 cases had been cleared. You can appreciate our progress.

We are trying to decentralise. Nodal agencies are not able to send proper things. That is why, they take a lot of time. I am trying to simplify and decentralise the things to see how the nodal agency can function much more effectively so that minimum time can be taken.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: I would like to know a very specific question from the hon. Minister. He must be knowing that most of the Indian products which go to Europe and America are dumped. The effect of it is on the country, the foreign exchange earnings and eventually farmer.

What steps are the Government taking to improve the packaging industry of the country? I am asking this because the packaging industry in the country is in a very bad shape. The smaller South-East Asian countries like Thailand, Malaysia, etc. have excelled in the packaging of sea foods, which has got a tremendous potential for exports in the European market, American market, and in the West. What steps are the Government taking to improve them, develop more expertise in the packaging sector, and to get FDI in the packaging sector in the State of Orissa? The State of Orissa has got the potentiality for fish, tiger prawns, etc., and you also must have heard about tiger prawns.

SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY: Sir, I am really willing to extend all cooperation to the Orissa Government. I have already written letters to all the hon. Members requesting them to try and motivate some of the processors in every Parliamentary constituency or ask the State Governments to come forward for it. Thereafter, I will help from my Ministry's side.

We are aware that the packaging sector is quite costly sector. Therefore, in our budgetary provision, we propose to reduce 50 per cent excise duty in packaging also. Furthermore, we are also trying to find out from the Planning Commission how much effective assistance we make provide to this sector.

[Translation]

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, earlier the Food Processing industries was a department of the Ministry of Agriculture and now it has been made a separate ministry but low budget allocation is made to it though it is an important ministry. Only two per cent processing is taking place in our country. In Brazil, which is also a developing country like ours, processing percentage is 80 per cent which is the highest the world over. I want to know whether any team or officers of this ministry has/have ever been sent for study to those countries where percentage of food processing is high enough in order to study as to how food processing is being handled by them. In case any team has ever gone abroad for the purpose, whether or not any work has been undertaken in India by the Government on the lines of the report submitted by such team on the basis of its observations and experiences gathered over there. If not, whether the Government are contemplating to send any team abroad to make any study of how they are going on with the job. As per report of the Ministry of Food Processing, fruits worth Rs. 50 thousand crore perish every year in our country. In this way when such a huge loss is being suffered at an average, what is sought to be achieved by releasing a small sum of Rs. 9 crore 74 lakhs to a large State like Uttar Pradesh under this head. What can you get from it? Will any efforts be made by the Government in this regard? If any team from your Ministry has not visited any countries so far, whether a team is proposed to be sent there early. Please tell us as to what action you are going to take in this regard.

[English]

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Sir, it is a constructive suggestion given by the hon. Member.

[Translation]

SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Hon. Member is the chairman of the Standing Committee and he has the full information and he has made his recommendations after considering all the things. I appreciate his feelings. It is our endeavour that maximum number of people participate in the technology exhibitions. The ministry also provide assistance in this regard and encourage organisations like FICCI and CII to participate in such exhibitions. The higher officers of our ministry do participate in the major exhibitions being organised all over the world. I will try, if you so permit, to sent a team of Members of the Parliament there so that they can make a study themselves.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You will have to take my clearance for it.

Q. No. 366, Shri Jashubhai Dhanabhai Barad.

[Translation]

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Sir, what about my question No. 365?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Q. No. 365 has been deleted.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will be recorded on this except Q. No. 366.

*...(Interruptions)**

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*Not recorded.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Please have some patience.

[English]

Foreign Investment in Agriculture Sector

*366. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has invited foreign investment in agriculture and food sectors in India, particularly in the areas like export/import of advanced agricultural technologies and agricultural produce;

(b) if so, the extent of investments in these fields during the last three years especially from Malaysia;

(c) the ratio of distribution of these funds, State-wise;

(d) whether any assessment has been made about the impact of such foreign investments; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

[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): (a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (e) Government has put in place a liberal and transparent Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) policy. Most of the sectors have been placed under the automatic route. FDI is prohibited in the Agriculture Sector except tea plantations. However, FDI up to 100% is allowed on the automatic route in the food processing sector. For promoting technological capability in Indian industry, acquisition of foreign technology is encouraged through foreign technology collaboration agreements. Induction of know-how through such agreements is permitted either through the automatic route or with prior approval of the Government.

Approvals in respect of FDI from Malaysia in Agriculture & Allied sectors for the period January, 2002 to May, 2005 are at Annexure I and similar FDI approvals from other countries for the period are at Annexure-II.

The data relating to State-wise distribution of FDI (including agriculture and allied sectors) approvals during the last three years is at Annexure-III. No impact assessment of FDI in agriculture has been carried out by the Government.

Annexure I

FDI approvals from Malaysia in Agriculture & Allied Sectors

(January, 2002-May, 2005)

Sl.No.	Sector	No. of proposals approved	Amount of FDI approved (Rs. in crores)
1.	Food Processing	2	0.06
2.	Vegetable Oils & Vanaspati	6	20.15
3.	Rubber Goods	5	0.90
4.	Timber Products	1	0.92
5.	Tea/Coffee	1	0.01
	Total	15	22.04

Annexure II

Total FDI approved in Agriculture & Allied Sectors—All countries

(January, 2002-May, 2005)

Sl.No.	Sector	No. of proposals approved	Amount of FDI approved (Rs. in crores)
1.	Agriculture Machinery	3	6.63
2.	Sugar	5	9.87
3.	Fermentation Industry	17	799.74
4.	Food Processing	117	643.49
5.	Vegetable Oil & Vanaspati	26	80.96
6.	Timber products	10	4.60
7.	Horticulture	9	90.34
8.	Agriculture (Seed & Plantation)	35	169.59
9.	Floriculture	4	2.10
10.	Tea/Coffee	5	2.81
11.	Rubber Goods	40	220.27
	Total	271	2020.4

Annexure III

Calendar Year-wise FDI approved during January 2002 to May 2005

(Amount in crore)

Sl.No.	State	2002 Jan.-Dec. FDI in Rs.	2003 Jan.-Dec. FDI in Rs.	2004 Jan.-Dec. FDI in Rs.	2005 Jan-May FDI in Rs.	Total FDI in Rs.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	550.88	236.29	1016.61	24.27	1828.06
2.	Assam	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.91	0.91
3.	Bihar	0.18	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.18
4.	Gujarat	1136.07	307.07	1444.22	286.47	3173.84

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
5.	Haryana	408.33	250.97	12.90	52.03	724.23
6.	Himachal Pradesh	810.83	0.10	52.63	0.00	863.55
7.	Karnataka	2386.11	374.20	1135.35	106.17	4001.82
8.	Kerala	48.80	16.21	235.75	30.91	331.67
9.	Madhya Pradesh	110.17	0.47	0.05	0.00	110.70
10.	Maharashtra	1966.58	1254.18	1913.84	142.88	5277.47
11.	Manipur	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
12.	Meghalaya	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
13.	Orissa	0.21	0.10	0.00	6.14	6.45
14.	Punjab	0.03	454.25	618.45	83.29	1156.02
15.	Rajasthan	358.24	2.02	30.17	0.00	390.42
16.	Tamil Nadu	756.63	599.56	428.33	220.89	2005.41
17.	Tripura	0.00	2.41	0.00	0.00	2.41
18.	Uttar Pradesh	160.05	114.07	19.32	9.66	303.11
19.	West Bengal	234.07	325.26	115.42	219.74	894.48
20.	Chhattisgarh	0.03	0.00	3.53	196.63	200.19
21.	Jharkhand	0.50	0.20	2.00	0.00	2.70
22.	Uttaranchal	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.70	5.70
23.	Chandigarh	43.47	5.46	128.28	0.00	177.21
24.	Delhi	788.44	1110.68	948.15	320.51	3167.77
25.	Goa	91.14	91.00	9.65	0.01	119.79
26.	Pondicherry	1.34	20.78	23.08	0.05	45.25
27.	Daman & Diu	0.00	0.24	3.57	1.86	5.67
28.	State Not indicated	1206.02	323.07	599.94	421.56	2550.59
	Grand Total	11058.10	5416.58	8741.25	2129.67	27345.61

SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Hon. Speaker, sir, the hon. Minister has stated in the reply that the Government has adopted the policy of transparent foreign direct investment and 100 percent FDI has been allowed in the food processing sector. Thee has been much decline in the sugar sector due to import exit policy in the last five years and the sugar mills of the cooperative sector could not give minimum rate to their sugarcane farmers. I want to know the names of the countries which have invested in the agriculture sector

particularly in sugar, sugarcane, fisheries and horticulture sectors and its impact on sugar, fisheries and horticulture sectors?

MR. SPEAKER: Why do you ask such a lengthy question?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the total investment made in sugar sector is merely Rs. 9.87 crore. Horticulture sector has received investment to the tune of Rs. 90.34 crore, all this information has been given in the reply but the names of the countries which made this investment are not available with me right now and I am ready to give this information after collecting the same.

SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Hon. Speaker, Sir, I want to know from the Government as to whether the Gujarat Government has made any direct agreement with foreign countries for foreign investment? If so, the areas in which the said agreement has been reached and what assistance the Government of India provides for the same?

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the State Governments have been empowered to bring in foreign investment and foreign technology in their States but they cannot enter into any agreement with a foreign country directly bypassing the Government of India. We have no such information from the Gujarat Government.

The proposals and investments which have been received are in the agriculture machinery sector. Besides, foreign investment has also been received in fermentation industry, food processing industry, vanaspati oil and vanaspati, timber products, agriculture (seeds and horticulture), floriculture, tea/coffee and rubber items sectors. As for the agriculture sector, no other country has a right to make direct investment in this country.

SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have not got answer of my one question regarding the help being given by the Government of India? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: The food processing ministry of the Government of India is engaged in this task. We have had a 15-minute discussion in the House right now and the Hon. Minister has told everything in this regard.

Consumption of Edible Oil

\+

*367. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:
MOHD. SHAHID:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an assessment regarding the total consumption of edible oil in the country has been made;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total quantum of oil seeds imported during 2004-05 vis-a-vis 2003-04;

(d) whether a decrease in the production of oil-seeds in the country has been recorded during 2004-05;

(e) if so, the factors responsible therefor; and

(f) if not, the reasons for importing edible oil?

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 (f) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) According to the projections for oilseeds/ edible oils made for the Tenth Five Year Plan, the demand in terms of consumption of edible oils and equivalent oilseeds production based on behaviouristic approach is given in Annexure.

(c) The quantum of oilseeds imported during 2004-05 (April-February) amounted to 20.93 thousand tonnes compared with 19.76 thousand tonnes in 2003-04 (April-March).

(d) No, Sir. According to the Fourth Advance Estimates, the production of oilseeds in the country was 26.10 million tonnes in 2004-05 compared with 25.29 million tonnes in 2003-04.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) In view of the need to bridge domestic demand supply gap, India continues to import edible oils. According to the projected requirement, the required production of

oilseeds in 2004-05 amounted to 40.37 million tonnes compared to the estimated production of 26.10 million tonnes in the same year, which implies a demand-supply gap of 14.27 million tonnes. The import of edible oils in 2004-05 amounted to 4.54 million tonnes, which works out to around 16 million tonnes of oilseeds.

Annexure

Demand for Edible Oils during 10th Plan Period (Using Behaviouristic Approach)

Year	Population (In Million)	Edible Oil Consumption (Million Tonnes)	Required Oilseeds Production (Million Tonnes)
2001-02	1033.52	9.82	35.07
2002-03	1053.16	10.29	36.75
2003-04	1073.17	10.78	38.52
2004-05	1093.56	11.30	40.37
2005-06	1114.33	11.85	42.31
2006-07	1135.51	12.41	44.34

Note: The methodology for behaviouristic projection assumes population growth rate at 1.9% per annum. Projections of per capita consumption of edible oils are based on (a) the regression estimate of expenditure elasticity of edible oil consumption of 0.7488 and (b) growth in per capita total expenditure by 3.8 per cent per annum. Thus, the annual growth in per capita consumption of edible oils has been taken at 2.85% (0.7488*3.8). The elasticity of edible oil consumption of 0.7488 represents the weighted average of elasticities for rural (0.7891) and urban (0.6451) areas, the weights being the proportion of rural (72.22%) and urban (27.78%) population in the total population as brought out by the population census 2001.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Mohd. Shahid—not present.

Prof. Mahadeorao Shiwankar.

[Translation]

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR: The Government has to pay huge amount of foreign exchange on import of oil seeds and edible oil. I want to know the amount of foreign exchange the Government had to spend on import of edible oil during the years 2002-03 and 2003-04 and it also affects our economy. The Government might have paid subsidy on the said imports; I want to know as to what steps the Government is taking to stop it and increase the production of oil seeds in the country.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is a little gap between availability and demand of edible oil in the country and we cannot meet this demand unless we bridge the said gap. For this reason we have to allow imports. During the year 2001-02, a total of 43.32 lakh tonnes edible oil at a cost of Rs. 6464.97 crore was imported. During 2002-03, the total import of edible oil was 43.65 lakh tonnes at a cost of Rs. 8779.64 crore, during 2003-04 this volume was 52.90 lakh tonnes at a cost of Rs. 11683.24 crore and during the year 2004-05 a total of 45.42 lakh tonnes of edible oil was imported at a cost of Rs. 10755 crore.

[English]

No other concession was given to them nor any subsidy was provided to them.

[Translation]

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR: Sir, I have one more small query.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You are entitled for a second supplementary. This is your right.

[Translation]

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR: Sir, I want to know from the hon. Minister as to what steps is he going to take to increase the production of oil seeds in the country keeping in view the amount of foreign exchange we have to pay and by when the said gap is likely to be bridged?

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Special missions have been setup and special programmes have been formulated to increase the production of oil seeds in the country. Benefits of these missions and programmes are being seen day by day in the country. If we look at the total area of production and yield in the country, there was a total production of 148.38 lakh tonnes in the year 2002-03 but

[English]

in 2003-04, the production has improved and has gone up to 252.98 lakh tonnes; in 2004-05, it has gone upto 261.33 lakh tonnes.

[Translation]

This shows that production of oil seeds has been improving in the last 3 years, yet there is a gap between the production and demand of oil in the country. Therefore, we have to allow imports to meet the oil requirement of the people. We are not in favour of import. A new mission on oil seeds has been introduced to see as to how we can pay reasonable price for oil seeds and how we can encourage it to be included in the programme properly. This mission takes care of supply of seeds, fertilizers etc. and the State Governments are encouraged to increase the acreage/area. We are getting favourable response in this regard from the State Governments.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please put a brief and specific question, Mr. Rupchand Pal.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: In view of the growing demand and more dependence on import in spite of the increase that has taken place during the last three years, and despite the fact that the Agricultural Universities, for quite some time, are engaged in producing high-yield varieties of edible oilseeds, may I know from the hon. Minister whether it is a fact that they have not been provided with appropriate and necessary support, both financial and otherwise, to succeed towards the goal that they set before them?

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: The Indian Council of Agricultural Research has two separate organisations which are doing exclusive work in the area of oilseeds. They have developed a number of new varieties, which have been also accepted by many States. There is a good result, but I have to admit one thing that still there is a big gap, and our efforts will be to remove that gap.

[Translation]

12.00 hrs.

DR. KARAN SINGH YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the market prices of mustard and oil seeds are most unremunerative. Earlier these used to sold at the rate of Rs. 2100 per quintal but at present these are being sold at the rate of Rs. 1700 per quintal. The reason for this is that small oil expeller units in the country are getting closed because edible oil is being imported in the country in the name of 30 percent value addition. I would like to bring it to the notice of hon. Minister that 30 percent value addition is just impossible in the oil sector. I would also like to draw the attention of hon. Minister. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I request you to ask a new question instead of just drawing the attention of the Minister because time is running out. Please ask quickly.

DR. KARAN SINGH YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from hon. Minister he would like to ascertain if at all 30 percent value addition does take place in the oil sector to justify the import of oil being made from Srilanka and whether an inquiry will be conducted in this regard? The local mills of India are getting closed due to import of oil from Srilanka. That is why the farmers have to sell their mustard and oil seeds at cheaper rate.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have signed a special agreement with Srilanka and Nepal and as per the provisions of that agreement all our people who have invested there in oil refinery sector are around to bring their total production into India without paying any taxes. We are aware that it is badly affecting the refineries of our country. Keeping this in view, we are trying to find out the ways to control it and we propose to take certain steps.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Plan Programmes in Agriculture

*368. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the progress of implementing the programmes in the field of agriculture in the first two years of the current Five Year Plan period has been very slow;

(b) if so, the facts and reasons therefor;

(c) whether there was inordinate delay in starting the new schemes aimed at giving specific thrust to agriculture sector; and

(d) if so, the names of such schemes which could not be started in time?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (d) The Mid Term Appraisal (MTA) of the Tenth Five Year Plan, *inter alia*, indicates slow progress in implementation of Plan programmes in the first two years of the Tenth Plan. This has been attributed to delay in starting new schemes relating to micro irrigation, missions on horticulture and bamboo technology, development of market infrastructure, small farmer agri-business consortia, extension support to States and through mass media, organic farming etc.

The formulation and finalization of new schemes involves indepth evaluation, preparation of detailed project reports and comprehensive inter ministerial/departmental consultations which are both normative and procedural in character. These are time consuming in nature.

However, the new schemes relating to National Horticulture Mission; Development of Market Infrastructure, Grading and Standardisation; National Project on Organic Farming; Monitoring of Pesticide Residues at National Level; Mass Media Support to Agriculture Extension; Support to State Extension Programmes for Extension Reforms; and Agribusiness Project Development through Venture Capital Participation drawn up by Small Farmers Agri-Business Consortium (SFAC) have since been approved for implementation. Schemes relating to Enhancing Sustainability of Dryland Rainfed Farming Systems; Micro-irrigation; National Mission on Bamboo Technology and Trade Development; Forecasting Agricultural Output using Space, Agro-Meteorology and Land Based Observation (FASAL); and Capacity Building to Enhance the Competitiveness of Indian Agriculture are currently in the pipeline, awaiting approval.

[Translation]

Export of Sugar

*369. SHRI MOHD. TAHIR:
SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN:

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

(a) the total production of sugar in the country during the last three years and the current year, year-wise and State-wise;

(b) whether the production of sugar is estimated to increase during the current year;

(c) if so, the percentage increase estimated to be achieved;

(d) if so, whether the Government proposes to export sugar during the current year in view of the increased production;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the demand of sugar in the domestic market has increased;

(g) if so, whether there is any proposal for enhancing the buffer stocking norms for sugar;

(h) if so, the details thereof;

(i) whether the Government proposes to fix the Minimum Support Price of sugarcane on the basis of expenditure incurred on its production;

(j) if so, the details thereof; and

(k) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) A statement showing State-wise sugar production during the last three sugar years (October 1-September 30) and estimated production of sugar during current sugar year 2004-05, as reported by the State Governments and sugar mills, is enclosed.

(b) and (c) The sugar production during the current sugar year 2004-05 is estimated at 130 lakh M.Ts. as against estimated sugar production of 139.59 lakh M.Ts in the last sugar year 2003-04.

(d) and (e) Government does not undertake export of sugar. Export of sugar is undertaken by sugar factories as per their commercial prudence taking into account factors such as stock of sugar held by them, prospects of sugar production and requirement of sugar for consumption in the country, domestic and international

prices of sugar and the provisions of the Foreign Trade Policy.

(f) Government estimates to release, for sale in the open market as well as through Public Distribution System (PDS), 175 lakh M.Ts. of sugar in 2004-05 to meet domestic demand as against release of 173.17 lakh M.Ts. in 2003-04.

(g) and (h) While there are no buffer stocking norms for sugar, efforts are made to maintain a carry over stock equivalent to average consumption of 3 months at the beginning of any sugar year.

(i) to (k) The Statutory Minimum Price of sugarcane is fixed as per provisions of the Sugarcane (Control) Order, 1966 having regard to, among others, cost of production of sugarcane.

Statement

State-wise Production of Sugar from 2001-2002 to 2004-2005 Sugar Season (Oct.-Sept.)

(Figures in lakh tonnes)

Sl.No.	State	Sugar season 2001-2002	Sugar season 2002-2003 (P)	Sugar season 2003-2004 (P)	Sugar season 2004-2005 (P) (Estimated)
1.	Punjab	5.93	5.11	3.88	3.37
2.	Haryana	6.24	5.99	5.86	4.03
3.	Rajasthan	0.05	0.00	0.10	0.11
4.	Uttaranchal	4.44	4.59	3.93	3.82
5.	Uttar Pradesh	52.59	58.74	46.08	50.32
6.	Madhya Pradesh	0.71	0.85	0.94	0.85
7.	Chhattisgarh	—	0.01	0.17	0.30
8.	Gujarat	10.56	12.38	10.77	8.32
9.	Maharashtra	55.88	61.64	31.99	22.29
10.	Bihar	3.39	4.21	2.77	2.77
11.	Assam	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
12.	Orissa	0.25	0.37	0.44	0.84
13.	West Bengal	0.05	0.03	0.07	0.05
14.	Andhra Pradesh	10.48	11.88	8.81	9.75
15.	Karnataka	15.50	17.98	11.57	13.00
16.	Tamil Nadu	18.39	17.04	11.90	9.84
17.	Pondicherry	0.39	0.32	0.20	0.19
18.	Kerala	0.05	0.05	0.01	0.00
19.	Goa	0.08	0.13	0.10	0.09
	All India	184.98	201.32	139.59	129.94

(P)-Provisional.

[English]

Funds for Research Projects on Agriculture

*370. SHRI TUKARAM GANGADHAR GADAKH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to shortage of funds various agricultural research projects are suffering;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of projects which have been affected due to shortage of funds;

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to overcome this problem; and

(e) the details of future plans to give support to agricultural research projects?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) In order to address the emerging challenges, the department has prioritized its research agenda so that research projects are not subjected to shortage of funds.

(e) The details are given in statement enclosed.

Statement

The Details of future plan to give support to agricultural research projects of the Department

For the X Five Year Plan, the Department was allocated Rs. 5368 crore including Rs. 500 crore to establish the new KVKs in the remaining rural districts of the Country and Rs. 68 crore for Agricultural University, Jammu. During the first three years the Department was allocated Rs. 2400 crore (RE). In the current financial year the Plan Allocations have been enhanced from Rs. 1000 crore (BE 2004-05) to Rs. 1150 crore including Rs. 50 crore, which the Government provided as fund for Strategic Research in Agriculture. The Department also proposes to gainfully spend the remaining amount during the leftover period of the X Plan. Recently, the Expenditure Finance Committee have recommended Rs. 198.90 crore for addressing the issue of quality seed and planting material. The Government have also approved the research proposals of the Department relating to Organic Farming, Transgenics, Insect-Biosystematics, Veterinary Type Cultures, Climate Change etc. to address the priority areas of research. The future plan of the Department has also taken into consideration the major concerns faced by Indian Agriculture such as Water management, soil degradation and fatigue, genetic erosion, biotic and abiotic stresses, slow pace of diversification, high post-harvest losses, energy management, markets & trade, and increasing knowledge lag etc. Research has been re-oriented accordingly, to address these concerns.

Pollution Level in Cities

*371. SHRI ANANT GUDHE:
SHRI MADAN LAL SHARMA:

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

(a) the names of the most polluted cities of the country in their order of the extent of pollution;

(b) the existing level of pollution in each of the said cities;

(c) whether the Union Government has conducted or proposes to conduct any survey in this regard;

(d) if so, the details of the same; and

(e) the steps being taken/proposed to be taken by the Union Government to check pollution in these cities?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Based on the monitoring of ambient air quality data, the cities have been ranked as per the levels of Respirable Suspended Particulate Matter (RSPM) measured in residential area during 2004. The list of cities and their pollution level is enclosed as statement.

(c) and (d) Assessment of air quality is an on-going activity of Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) and Pollution Control Committees (PCCs). The Central Pollution Control Board is executing a nation-wide programme of ambient air quality monitoring known as National Air Quality Monitoring Programme (NAMP). The network consists of 326 air

quality monitoring stations covering 116 cities/towns in 28 States and 4 Union Territories of the country.

(e) The steps taken to abate air pollution include:

- Notification of general and source specific environmental standards;
- Identification of sources of pollution;
- Enforcement of auto exhaust standards for vehicles at manufacturing stage;
- Introduction of cleaner fuels and improved vehicular technologies; and
- Regular monitoring for environmental compliance.

Statement

Ranking of cities based on RSPM levels observed in Residential areas obtained under National Air Quality Monitoring Programme (NAMP)

(in µgm/Nm³)

Rank	City	RSPM Annual average concentration during 2004 (Res. Areas)
1	2	3
1.	Raipur	275
2.	Jharia	202
3.	Jalandhar	197
4.	Kanpur	184
5.	Alwar	178
6.	Lucknow	157
7.	Satna	154
8.	Korba	154
9.	Faridabad	152
10.	Indore	149
11.	Solapur	144
12.	Ahmedabad	138
13.	Pune	137
14.	Guwahati	135
15.	Agra	133
16.	Delhi	131
17.	Jamnagar	130
18.	Dhanbad	129
19.	Vadodara	128
20.	Vapi	128
21.	Kolkata	122
22.	Nagda	121
23.	Surat	119
24.	Ankaleshwar	119
25.	Bhilai	117
26.	Jaipur	115
27.	Madurai	115
28.	Chandigarh	111
29.	Varanasi	111
30.	Jodhpur	110
31.	Howrah	104
32.	Trivendrum	102
33.	Kota	95
34.	Visakhapatnam	95
35.	Rourkela	89
36.	Udaipur	86
37.	Patna	84
38.	Nasik	82
39.	Mumbai	77
40.	Parwanoo	74
41.	Chandrapur	73
42.	Bangalore	71
43.	Jabalpur	69
44.	Nagpur	64

1	2	3
45.	Coimbatore	63
46.	Kozhikode	55
47.	Bhopal	54
48.	Hyderabad	54
49.	Kottayam	51
50.	Kochi	49
51.	Tuticorin	41
52.	Chennai	31

Note: The data of Jharia is of industrial area and data of Agra is of Taj Mahal (Sensitive area).

Impact of Hydel Power Projects on Environment

*372. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:
SHRI UDAY SINGH:

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

(a) whether the ministry has conducted any comprehensive study on the impact/sustainability of hydel power projects from the environment point of view;

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

(c) whether environment oriented institutions/activists have urged the Ministry to stop further construction of hydel power projects which are causing environmental imbalance;

(d) if so, the details in this regard; and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Ministry of Environment and Forests has not conducted any study on the impact/sustainability of hydel power projects.

(c) and (d) In the recent past the Ministry has not received any representation from any Institution/activist for stopping of further construction of ongoing Hydroelectric Projects. However, in case of Athirapally Hydroelectric Project (163 MW) in Kerala representations were received from local NGO Chalakudy Puzha Samrakshana Samithi and an international NGO, Volunteer Aid India against the Ministry's order of February 2005 revoking the suspension of the environmental clearance granted for the project in January 1998.

(e) All the concerns expressed in the above two representations were carefully considered by the Ministry while granting the environmental clearance for the Athirapally project. Therefore the representations merit no further consideration.

[Translation]

Insurance Scheme for Agricultural Labourers

*373. SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:
SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:

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

(a) whether the Government has announced any insurance scheme for the agricultural labourers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of agricultural labourers who have registered themselves thereunder; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to ensure effective implementation of the above scheme?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SHEKHAR RAO): (a) to (d) The Government launched the Krishi Shramik Samajik Suraksha Yojana, 2001 on 1st July 2001. The scheme was being implemented through the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) on pilot basis in 50 districts during the first phase of three years. The scheme envisages to provide life-cum-accident insurance, money back, pension and superannuation benefits. Agricultural workers between age 18 yeas and 50 years can enter into the scheme. Under the scheme, an agricultural worker has to contribute Re. 1/- per day and the government has to contribute Rs. 2 per day per person. About 2.53 lakh agricultural workers have been covered under the scheme. The scheme has since been closed. However, the scheme will continue for existing members.

Establishment of ESI Hospitals

*374. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD RAWAT: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria fixed by the Government for establishing ESI hospitals/dispensaries in the country;

(b) whether any proposal to expand health care facilities through ESI in some States is under consideration of the Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the steps taken for establishing additional hospitals and dispensaries of ESI in various States, State-wise; and

(d) the details of progress made by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SHEKHAR RAO): (a) to (d) As per norms and standards of ESI Corporation, ESI Hospitals and Dispensaries are established at a place where at least 25000 and 3000 Insured Persons family units respectively are residing. Where less than 3000 Insured Persons family units are residing and ESI scheme is applicable, they are provided medical facilities through Insurance Medical Practitioners.

The proposal regarding setting up of ESI hospitals and dispensaries are received from the respective State Governments on the basis of the norms and standards of ESI Corporation. The Corporation approves the same on need basis to implement the ESI Scheme, in these areas. At present, no such proposal from any State Government is pending with ESI Corporation for approval.

Use of Sub-Standard Seed, Manure and Pesticides

*375. SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether International Food Policy and Research Institute has mentioned in its report about foodgrains being spoiled due to the use of sub-standard seeds, manure and pesticides in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has taken any concrete step on the basis of this report; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) This Ministry is not aware of any such report by International Food Policy and Research Institute (IFPRI) indicating that the food grains are being spoiled due to the use of sub standard seeds, manure and pesticides in India.

(b) to (d) Question does not arise. To regulate quality of seeds, manure, fertilizer and pesticides, mechanisms are in place under the Seeds Act, 1966, Seeds Rule, 1968, Seeds (Control) Order, 1983, Fertilizer (Control) Order, 1985 and Insecticides Act, 1968 as amended from time to time. Enforcement of these legal instruments is vested with the State Governments/Union Territories. Inspectors notified under these legal instruments are empowered to draw the samples, seize the stock, issue stop sale order in case the commodities under reference contravene these Acts, Rules and Orders.

Salient features of these legal instruments are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Salient features of the Seeds Act, 1966 and Seeds Rules, 1968

- The Seeds Act was enacted in 1966 and Seed Rules were framed in 1968 to ensure that the farmers could get good quality seeds.
- After official release varieties are notified under the Seeds Act so that quality of seeds can be regulated.
- The main purpose of notification is to bring the seeds of particular crop under the purview of Seed Law Enforcement.
- The seed inspectors notified under Section 13 of Seeds Act empowered to draw the sample and analysis for verification of the quality of seeds.
- Notification of the variety is made by Central Government on the recommendation of the Central Seed Committee.
- Seeds Act and Seeds Rules provide for quality certification and minimum quality standards of notified kind/varieties.

- The Seeds Act authorizes formation of advisory body like Central Seed Committee (CSC), Central Seed Certification Board (CSCB), Seed Certification Agencies, Seed Testing Laboratories appellate authorities etc.
- Quality Control as envisaged in the Act is to be achieved through pre & post marketing control, voluntary certification and compulsory labelling of notified kind/varieties.
- Minimum limit for germination, physical and genetic purity of varieties have been prescribed and notified for labelling the seeds of notified kind varieties under Section 6 of the Seeds Act.
- There is a provision to set up Central Seed Laboratory and State Seed Laboratory (100 in number) to discharge functions enshrined under Section 4 (1) and 4(2) of the Seeds Act.
- Seed Analysts are appointed through notification with prescribed qualification.
- State Government under Section 13 of the Seeds Act may appoint such person as he thinks fit having prescribed qualification through notification as Seed Inspector and defined the areas within which they shall exercise jurisdiction for enforcing the Seed Law.
- Seed Inspectors appointed under relevant provision have adequate power under Section 14 of the Seeds Act to draw the samples of notified kind/varieties of seeds from the source where the seeds have been sold.
- Seed Inspectors can seize the stock of the seed, issue stop sale order for 30 days in case the seed under reference contravenes the Act and Rules.
- If any person, contravenes any provision of the Act or any Rules, or prevents a Seed Inspector from taking sample under this Act or prevents a Seed Inspector from exercising any other power conferred on him, could be punished under Section 19 of the Act with a fine of five hundred rupees for the first offence.
- In the event of such person having been previously convicted of an offence under this Section with imprisonment for a term, which may extend to six months or with fine, which may extend to one thousand rupees, or with both.

Salient features of the Seed Control Order, 1983

- The Ministry of Civil Supplies through an order dated 24.2.1983 had declared the seed for sowing or planting or food crops, fruits, vegetables, cattle fodder and jute to be essential commodities in exercise of power conferred by Section 2(a)(viii) of Essential Commodities Act, 1955.
- It was followed by the issue of Seeds (Control) Order dated 30th December, 1983 by the Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Agriculture & Cooperation in exercise of powers contained in Section 3 of Essential Commodities Act which deals with Central Governments power to control and regulate production, supply and distribution of essential commodities.
- Joint Secretary (Seeds), Government of India, Ministry of Agriculture, DAC has been appointed as Seed Controller.
- It is one of the legal instrument being enforced to check the supply of inferior seeds of notified and unnotified seeds to the farmers. All persons carrying on the business of selling, exporting and importing seeds will be required to have a licence to carry on the business in accordance with terms and conditions of licence granted to him.
- Based on such enquiry as it thinks fit the licensing authority may grant or refuse the license in provisions of the Order. A holder of licence shall be eligible for renewal.
- Seed Inspectors notified under clause 12 of the Order eligible to draw any samples of seeds meant for sale or export/import etc. and to ensure that the sample confirms to the standards of quality claimed by the Seed Dealer under clause 13 (c) of the order.
- Seed Inspectors have powers for search and seize the seeds under relevant provisions of this order.
- Licensing Authorities are empowered to cancel or suspend the licence under the relevant provision of the order.
- Appellate provisions were provided in the order.

Salient features of Fertilizer (Control) Order, 1985

- There is no control order for manure/organic fertilizer as on date. Efforts are being made to include organic fertilizer and Bio-fertilizer under fertilizer control order (FCO).
- Quality of fertilizer is regulated under Schedule I of FCO, 1985 under ECA, 1955.
- FCO, 1985 prohibits the sale of such fertilizers which do not meet the standards specified in FCO.
- Violation of provision of FCO is actionable both administratively and legally under FCO/ECA.
- There are 67 fertilizer quality control testing labs in the States including 4 labs of the central government—one each at Faridabad, Mumbai, Chennai and Kalyani.
- The analysing capacity of laboratories is about 1.25 lakh samples per annum.
- The state governments are the enforcement agencies for implementation of the FCO.
- The percentage of non standard samples at all India level is around 5-6%.

Salient features of the Insecticide Act, 1968

- Import, manufacture, sale and distribution of pesticides is regulated under the Insecticides Act, 1968 and Insecticides Rules, 1971. There is a provision for registration of pesticides at the Central Government level and licensing for manufacturing and sale of pesticides by States/ UT Governments after registration.
- The Registration Committee constituted under Section 5 of the Insecticides Act, 1968 registers pesticides only after satisfying itself regarding their efficacy and safety to human beings and animals. If the pesticides are used as per the guidelines contained on their labels and leaflets, they do not cause any damage to human beings, animals or the environment.
- The Act provides for notification of four important functionaries for this purpose viz., Licensing Officer, Appellate Authority, Insecticide Inspector and Insecticide Analyst to ensure that only genuine/quality pesticides are dispensed/ distributed in the market. Stringent administrative/ legal action against defaulters of law is taken by the States/UTs.
- There is a network of 46 State Pesticide Testing Laboratories and 2 Regional Pesticide Testing Laboratories of the Central Government and the Central Insecticides Laboratory, established under Section 16 of the Insecticides Act, 1968 to test and analyse the quality of insecticides. About 50,000 samples are drawn and tested annually.

[English]

Violation of Stocking Norms

*376. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether huge stocks of wheat and rice were accumulated in the godowns between 1998 and 2002 much in excess of buffer stocking norms;

(b) if so, the reasons for violating the buffer stocking norms; and

(c) the action taken against the officials responsible for the said act?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) The total stock of foodgrains remained above the buffer norms during 1998 to 2002.

(b) As buffer stocking norms have been laid down to ensure sufficient availability of foodgrains with the Government to cater to the requirements of Public Distribution System (PDS) and other Welfare Schemes, building up of stocks beyond buffer norms does not constitute any violation.

(c) Does not arise.

Integrated Development of Tourism

*377. SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated any plan for the integrated development of tourism in different States;

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

(c) the time-frame set for its implementation and completion, State-wise and project-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) The Ministry of Tourism extends assistance to the State Governments for developing infrastructure to the world standard/International standard under the scheme of "Product/Infrastructure Development of Destinations and Circuits". The assistance is also extended to States for holding events, upgrading tourism related IT infrastructure and capacity building of service providers.

(b) State-wise details of projects and allocation are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) The Ministry of Tourism sets up different time frames for the implementation and completion of projects sanctioned under its various schemes in consultation with the State Governments and the Implementing Agencies.

Statement

State-wise tourism projects sanctioned during the Tenth Five Year Plan (as on 31.3.2005)

(Rs. In Lakhs)

Sl. No.	State/UT	2002-03			2003-04			2004-05 (provisional)		
		No. of Project Sancd.	Amount Sancd.	Amount Released	No. of Project Sancd.	Amount Sancd.	Amount Released	No. of Project Sancd.	Amount Sancd.	Amount Released
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2	507.50	195.00	6	946.50	896.44	16	2827.19	2240.68
2.	Assam	9	768.13	618.85	3	313.46	313.06	8	986.03	766.22
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	5	41.30	32.50	6	1044.60	700.00	9	1325.50	927.96
4.	Bihar	8	505.00	505.00	6	1019.42	913.89	7	1901.43	1527.71
5.	Chhattisgarh	9	308.00	98.50	6	1005.00	364.00	6	1117.94	897.93
6.	Goa	1	0.50	0.50	2	36.76	34.76	3	110.00	38.00
7.	Gujarat	2	197.12	59.13	8	920.51	815.82	2	138.93	111.14
8.	Haryana	8	332.25	311.00	16	1215.38	879.23	6	693.55	513.64
9.	Himachal Pradesh	30	779.32	760.38	4	182.32	85.00	12	2680.00	2161.00
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	3	94.38	89.47	5	895.00	895.00	5	819.25	699.04
11	Jharkhand	0	0	0	2	1109.00	774.60	2	945.91	756.72
12.	Karnataka	6	902.49	625.49	14	932.66	792.51	12	2461.76	1937.37
13.	Kerala	11	861.36	829.86	6	608.50	564.15	10	2283.63	1820.33
14.	Madhya Pradesh	18	711.18	574.79	10	621.90	394.51	11	1595.19	942.21

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
15.	Maharashtra	8	623.46	546.25	10	931.83	914.58	10	1620.62	925.30
16.	Manipur	2	5.24	2.62	1	82.44	24.73	0	0.00	0.00
17.	Meghalaya	3	70.35	21.20	2	40.22	24.92	2	963.30	807.91
18.	Mizoram	6	141.16	48.46	5	567.70	186.75	6	1086.35	382.38
19.	Nagaland	5	360.50	323.43	4	711.00	220.80	7	2250.69	1413.40
20.	Orissa	2	47.50	15.75	5	419.55	138.50	8	1320.74	1059.38
21.	Punjab	3	23.00	14.60	2	96.00	12.30	7	724.68	581.47
22.	Rajasthan	13	1098.70	1096.20	14	1644.81	1414.25	13	2516.61	1375.07
23.	Sikkim	13	346.24	269.76	8	1151.09	681.49	8	660.81	531.33
24.	Tamil Nadu	5	559.00	316.10	14	1339.82	850.53	7	1308.92	705.83
25.	Tripura	5	216.13	67.78	6	450.17	135.16	1	20.00	16.00
26.	Uttaranchal	3	548.00	418.00	4	230.44	203.94	7	2199.98	1750.73
27.	Uttar Pradesh	3	295.00	295.00	7	1115.80	916.26	9	1044.93	831.19
28.	West Bengal	5	201.10	60.00	10	717.44	384.34	10	513.04	407.43
29.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0.00
30.	Chandigarh	3	7.75	6.63	2	10.00	8.00	3	467.00	373.60
31.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	2	8.07	6.46	0	0	0	0	0.00	0.00
32.	Delhi	14	504.00	449.02	17	3316.28	3222.13	8	628.85	511.00
33.	Daman & Diu	3	49.50	16.90	1	265.07	238.56	0	0.00	0.00
34.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0.00
35.	Pondicherry	2	7.87	6.30	1	245.17	73.55	2	451.00	360.00
	Total	212	11121.10	8680.93	207	24185.84	18073.76	217	37663.83	27371.97

Note : This includes the projects relating to Circuits, Destinations, Large Revenue Generation Projects, UNDP Rural Tourism (Software and Hardware) projects, IT, Event, Fair & Festivals Projects.

Poor off-take from P.D.S.

*378. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:
SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:

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

(a) whether a report by the Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Delhi has indicated that the off-take from the Public Distribution System (PDS) is very poor;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some States have failed to fully utilize their allocation;

(d) if so, whether all the States have furnished the utilization certificate;

(e) if so, the details regarding allocation and off-take of foodgrains for the last three years and the current year, State-wise;

(f) if not, the reasons therefor;

(g) whether the Government has decided to allocate these foodgrains to more inaccessible, rural and chronically food deficit areas of the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) The report by the Directorate of Economics & Statistics, Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi pertains to 'Household Consumer Expenditure in Delhi' based on a small sample survey conducted in Delhi during 2001-02. The objective of the survey was to ascertain the level and pattern of household consumer expenditure. The Report does not provide data on offtake of foodgrains from Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) in Delhi but compares the extent of purchase of foodgrains made from TPDS and with purchase from open market by households.

(c) State-wise details of utilization (offtake) of foodgrains under TPDS during 2002-03 to 2005-06 are given in the enclosed statement I, II, III & IV.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) The State-wise details of allocation and offtake of foodgrains under TPDS for the years 2002-2003, 2003-2004, 2004-2005 and 2005-06 (April to June, 2005) are at Statements-I, II, III & IV respectively.

(f) Does not arise.

(g) and (h) The Central Government allocate foodgrains at a uniform rate of 35 Kgs per family per month for each of the three categories, viz., Below Poverty Line (BPL), Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) and Above Poverty Line (APL) under TPDS to all the States and Union Territories of the country, which include inaccessible rural and chronically food deficit areas.

Statement I

Allocation & Offtake of Rice & Wheat for the year 2002-03 (P) Under TPDS

(In 000' Tonnes)

Sl.No.	State/UTs	Allotment				Offtake				%Offtake			
		BPL	APL	AAY	Total	BPL	APL	AAY	Total	BPL	APL	AAY	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1444.80	2266.74	261.58	3973.12	1441.32	350.13	234.65	2026.10	99.76	15.45	89.70	51.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	33.15	73.70	6.35	115.20	32.10	41.16	5.71	78.97	91.34	55.85	89.92	68.55
3.	Assam	682.28	958.12	118.24	1758.64	529.47	415.92	104.93	1050.33	77.60	43.41	88.75	59.72
4.	Bihar	2244.18	2291.52	420.00	4955.70	438.33	3.52	333.91	775.75	19.53	0.15	79.50	15.65
5.	Chhattisgarh	579.67	1045.80	120.71	1746.18	82.82	4.93	4.65	92.40	14.29	0.47	3.86	5.29
6.	Delhi	158.34	1102.92	13.44	1274.70	130.37	145.04	11.59	287.00	82.33	13.15	86.26	22.52
7.	Goa	12.89	119.8	3.07	135.76	6.46	6.64	2.25	15.35	50.09	5.55	73.37	11.31
8.	Gujarat	762.71	2858.43	136.50	3757.65	393.75	29.63	115.54	538.92	51.62	1.04	84.64	14.34

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
9.	Haryana	260.89	1148.84	46.97	1456.70	182.23	43.55	42.90	268.68	69.85	3.79	91.34	18.44
10.	Himachal Pradesh	170.87	359.33	33.06	563.26	141.48	21.86	32.63	195.97	82.80	6.08	98.71	34.79
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	228.08	425.04	47.42	700.54	209.12	256.73	32.23	498.08	91.69	60.40	67.97	71.10
12.	Jharkhand	814.69	216.30	153.94	1184.93	226.12	3.66	109.70	339.48	27.75	1.69	71.26	28.65
13.	Karnataka	1113.90	2070.60	200.37	3384.88	1095.29	559.46	179.94	1834.68	98.33	27.02	89.80	54.20
14.	Kerala	552.56	1808.94	100.04	2461.55	323.62	174.47	99.53	597.62	58.57	9.64	99.48	24.28
15.	Madhya Pradesh	1274.29	2765.47	265.61	4305.37	985.42	29.51	251.62	1266.55	77.33	1.07	94.73	29.42
16.	Maharashtra	2323.58	5013.62	420.72	7757.92	1383.89	20.66	363.69	1768.24	59.56	0.41	86.44	22.79
17.	Manipur	43.88	47.46	10.72	102.06	38.31	9.79	10.96	59.07	87.31	20.63	102.30	57.88
18.	Meghalaya	65.05	44.06	11.81	120.92	60.79	12.71	10.88	84.38	93.45	28.85	92.11	69.78
19.	Mizoram	24.26	48.11	4.42	76.79	24.26	46.71	4.42	75.39	100.00	97.08	100.00	98.17
20.	Nagaland	44.14	73.50	7.94	125.58	45.26	24.06	7.95	77.28	102.56	3.273	100.11	61.53
21.	Orissa	1484.38	1285.10	212.32	2981.79	362.04	62.82	181.70	606.56	24.39	4.89	85.58	20.34
22.	Punjab	166.42	1632.98	30.12	1829.51	88.18	10.54	15.21	113.93	52.99	0.65	50.50	6.23
23.	Rajasthan	804.05	3002.59	156.49	3963.13	636.49	147.01	149.14	932.65	79.16	4.90	95.30	23.53
24.	Sikkim	15.42	39.20	2.82	57.44	15.06	8.23	2.88	26.17	97.68	20.99	102.06	45.56
25.	Tamil Nadu	1751.88	3841.95	290.50	5884.33	1316.73	21.27	287.55	1625.56	75.16	0.55	98.99	27.63
26.	Tripura	104.90	181.67	19.00	305.57	100.56	27.23	18.85	146.64	95.86	14.99	99.21	47.99
27.	Uttar Pradesh	3688.48	7840.76	685.42	12214.66	2366.41	17.18	695.81	3079.39	64.16	0.22	101.52	25.21
28.	Uttaranchal	161.81	431.92	32.05	625.79	96.21	5.92	19.24	121.38	59.46	1.37	60.04	19.40
29.	West Bengal	1702.75	4246.77	307.79	6257.31	953.27	278.74	203.58	1435.59	55.98	6.56	66.14	22.94
30.	A&N Islands	7.44	36.36	1.80	45.60	3.00	19.81	0.00	22.81	40.32	54.47	0.00	50.01
31.	Chandigarh	8.75	79.21	0.89	88.85	1.44	0.06	0.89	2.39	16.46	0.08	100.00	2.69
32.	D&N Haveli	5.54	7.14	1.18	13.86	2.83	1.31	0.86	5.00	51.03	18.32	73.13	36.05
33.	Daman & Diu	1.43	10.01	0.25	11.69	0.34	0.13	0.18	0.65	23.81	1.27	71.83	5.55
34.	Lakshadweep	0.37	5.20	0.17	5.74	0.00	2.65	0.00	2.65	0.00	51.01	0.00	46.21
35.	Pondicherry	31.26	50.85	3.85	85.97	10.75	0.71	3.14	14.60	34.39	1.39	81.64	16.98
	Total	22771.12	47430.00	4127.53	74328.65	13723.73	2803.75	3538.71	20066.19	60.27	5.91	85.73	27.00

Statement II

Allocation & Offtake of Rice & Wheat for the year 2003-04 (P) under TPDS

(In 000' Tonnes)

Sl.No.	States/UTs	Allotment				Offtake				%Offtake			
		BPL	APL	AAY	Total	BPL	APL	AAY	Total	BPL	APL	AAY	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1368.430	2266.740	337.946	3973.116	1319.231	434.289	330.659	2084.179	96.405	19.159	97.844	52.457
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	35.148	64.206	6.348	105.702	33.897	55.5	6.231	95.628	96.441	86.441	98.157	90.469
3.	Assam	682.284	735.140	118.236	1535.66	628.166	343.616	112.266	1084.048	92.068	46.742	94.951	70.592
4.	Bihar	2219.184	2291.520	420	4930.704	627.119	7.1	380.872	1015.091	28.259	0.31	90.684	20.587
5.	Chhattisgarh	566.226	1045.800	155.967	1767.993	509.173	23.2	147.141	679.514	89.924	2.218	94.341	38.434
6.	Delhi	158.340	996.516	13.440	1168.296	165.223	346.739	12.989	524.951	104.347	34.795	96.644	44.933
7.	Goa	12.888	118.296	3.072	134.256	6.959	4.963	2.408	14.33	53.966	4.195	78.385	10.674
8.	Gujarat	753.948	2787.564	16.500	3678.012	473.951	41.453	55.286	570.69	62.863	1.487	40.503	15.516
9.	Haryana	274.004	1014.204	47.664	1335.872	226.889	98.524	45.804	373.217	83.535	9.714	96.098	27.938
10.	Himachal Pradesh	195.872	348.900	33.06	577.832	177.198	68.968	33.099	279.265	90.466	19.767	100.118	48.33
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	261.660	443.940	47.424	753.024	253.097	257.78	47.368	558.245	96.727	58.066	99.882	74.134
12.	Jharkhand	839.268	216.300	13.936	1209.504	297.369	11.285	139.541	448.195	35.432	5.217	90.649	37.056
13.	Karnataka	1095.996	2070.600	218.280	3384.876	1048.154	839.788	196.471	2084.413	95.635	40.558	90.009	61.58
14.	Kerala	534.551	1808.940	118.057	2461.548	440.186	137.125	117.405	694.716	82.347	7.58	99.448	28.223
15.	Madhya Pradesh	1225.343	2535.372	330.605	4091.32	1049.194	30.369	318.297	1397.86	85.625	1.198	96.277	34.166
16.	Maharashtra	2293.204	4700.880	451.100	7445.184	1580.159	28.524	391.325	2000.008	68.906	0.607	86.749	26.863
17.	Manipur	43.884	47.460	10.716	102.06	44.356	18.05	11.094	73.5	101.076	38.032	103.527	72.016
18.	Meghalaya	65.052	45.024	11.808	121.884	69.503	18.992	12.567	101.062	106.842	42.182	106.428	82.917
19.	Mizoram	23.190	56.564	5.490	83.244	23.727	51.043	4.953	79.723	102.316	93.547	90.219	95.77
20.	Nagaland	42.120	86.688	9.960	138.768	43.228	66.079	9.304	118.611	102.631	76.226	93.414	85.474
21.	Orissa	1484.376	1155.564	212.316	2852.256	632.892	148.92	209.274	991.086	42.637	12.887	98.567	34.747
22.	Punjab	166.416	1473.24	30.120	1669.776	120.195	16.057	16.824	153.076	72.226	1.09	55.857	9.167
23.	Rajasthan	757.509	2763.756	181.852	3703.117	619.442	111.073	170.297	900.812	81.774	4.019	93.646	24.326
24.	Sikkim	14.636	25.812	3.604	44.052	14.676	13.272	3.49	31.438	100.273	51.418	96.837	71.366

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
25.	Tamil Nadu	1742.352	3787.98	300.024	5830.356	1782.975	228.641	311.361	2322.977	102.332	6.036	103.779	39.843
26.	Tripura	104.904	179.232	18.996	303.132	102.15	34.109	18.922	155.181	97.375	19.031	99.61	51.193
27.	Uttar Pradesh	3654.295	6494.46	830.885	10979.64	2121.809	10.669	806.835	2939.313	58.063	0.164	97.105	26.771
28.	Uttaranchal	177.12	333.552	32.052	542.724	148.288	19.412	27.175	194.875	83.722	5.82	84.784	35.907
29.	West Bengal	1702.752	4089.18	307.788	6099.72	1215.756	477.595	218.558	1911.909	71.399	11.679	71.009	31.344
30.	A&N Islands	7.434	36.36	1.806	45.6	4.67	14.151	2.306	21.127	62.819	38.919	127.685	46.331
31.	Chandigarh	8.748	75.516	0.888	85.152	0.785	0	0.733	1.518	8.973	0	82.545	1.783
32.	D&N Haveli	5.544	7.14	1.176	13.86	3.044	0.899	0.83	4.773	54.906	12.591	70.578	34.437
33.	Daman & Diu	1.428	9.42	0.252	11.1	0.792	0.195	0.149	1.136	55.462	2.07	59.127	10.234
34.	Lakshadweep	0.372	3.708	0.168	4.248	0	2.85	0	2.85	0	76.861	0	67.09
35.	Pondicherry	30.736	13.2	4.376	48.312	17.667	0.549	3.413	21.629	57.48	4.159	77.994	44.769
	Total	22549.21	44126.77	4555.912	71231.9	15803.92	3961.779	4165.247	23930.946	70.086	8.978	91.425	33.596

Statement III

Allocation & Offtake of Rice & Wheat for the year 2004-05 (P) Under TPDS

(Upto March, 05)
(Figures in 000' Tonnes)

Sl.No.	States/UTs	Allotment				Offtake				%Offtake			
		BPL	APL	AAY	Total	BPL	APL	AAY	Total	BPL	APL	AAY	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1230.128	2266.74	476.248	3973.116	1261.816	1137.642	456.115	2855.573	102.576	50.188	95.773	71.872
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	31.68	76.68	9.816	118.176	31.61	54.709	8.661	94.98	99.779	71.347	88.233	80.372
3.	Assam	650.434	885.14	150.086	1685.66	623.762	521.126	139.178	1284.066	95.899	58.875	92.732	76.176
4.	Bihar	2219.184	2291.52	420	4930.704	809.91	10.312	382.079	1202.301	36.496	0.45	90.971	24.384
5.	Chhattisgarh	586.635	1045.8	200.997	1833.432	556.72	42.368	180.399	779.487	94.901	4.051	89.752	42.515
6.	Delhi	155.27	996.516	16.51	1168.296	148.735	410.117	13.984	572.836	95.791	41.155	84.7	49.032
7.	Goa	11.848	118.296	4.112	134.256	0	0	10.07	10.07	0	0	244.893	7.501
8.	Gujarat	716.567	2787.564	167.081	3671.212	556.091	93.809	114.301	764.201	77.605	3.365	68.411	20.816
9.	Haryana	257.04	1014.204	71.532	1342.776	217.587	154.641	65.097	437.325	84.651	15.248	91.004	32.569

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
10.	Himachal Pradesh	134.816	348.9	44.116	527.832	118.553	152.004	41.755	312.312	87.937	43.567	94.648	59.169
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	243.008	447.72	66.076	756.804	2345.598	292.756	43.508	571.862	96.951	65.388	65.845	75.563
12.	Jharkhand	801.112	216.3	204.38	1221.792	365.914	20.607	167.666	554.187	45.676	9.527	82.036	45.359
13.	Karnataka	987.813	2070.6	326.463	3384.876	972.701	848.631	300.882	2122.214	98.47	40.985	92.164	62.697
14.	Kerala	487.048	1808.94	165.56	2461.548	493.64	264.047	156.714	914.401	101.353	14.597	94.657	37.147
15.	Madhya Pradesh	1326.222	2535.372	406.254	4267.848	1225.005	22.732	375.295	1623.032	92.368	0.897	92.379	38.029
16.	Maharashtra	2069.837	4700.88	674.467	7445.184	1773.019	67.391	598.26	2438.67	85.66	1.434	88.701	32.755
17.	Manipur	43.884	47.46	10.716	102.06	29.035	18.305	8.631	55.971	66.163	38.569	80.543	54.841
18.	Meghalaya	60.152	45.024	16.708	121.884	60.389	21.808	16.119	98.316	100.384	48.436	96.475	80.664
19.	Mizoram	21.241	93.84	7.439	122.52	21.644	70.007	7.098	98.749	101.897	74.603	95.416	80.598
20.	Nagaland	39.529	122.04	12.551	174.12	42.787	108.915	11.922	163.624	108.242	89.245	94.988	93.972
21.	Orissa	1436.088	1155.564	260.604	2852.256	1071.942	132.305	232.275	1436.522	74.643	11.449	89.129	50.364
22.	Punjab	166.416	1473.24	30.12	1669.776	110.983	25.348	22.786	159.097	66.69	1.721	75.584	9.528
23.	Rajasthan	713.839	2763.756	246.701	3724.296	651.375	301.545	230.951	1183.871	91.25	10.911	93.616	31.788
24.	Sikkim	14.076	25.812	4.164	44.052	14.022	18.532	4.058	36.612	99.616	71.796	97.454	83.111
25.	Tamil Nadu	1608.365	3787.98	434.011	5830.356	1665.081	589.138	424.791	2679.01	103.526	15.553	97.876	45.949
26.	Tripura	100.929	179.232	22.971	303.132	104.67	60.168	21.376	186.214	103.707	33.57	93.056	61.43
27.	Uttar Pradesh	3316.042	6494.46	1169.138	10979.64	2777.114	7.763	1126.056	3910.933	83.748	0.12	96.315	35.62
28.	Uttaranchal	177.12	333.552	32.052	542.724	147.727	15.202	36.03	198.959	83.405	4.558	112.411	36.659
29.	West Bengal	1618.945	4069.18	391.595	6099.72	1189.23	924.827	260.473	2374.53	73.457	22.616	66.516	38.929
30.	A&N Islands	7.43	36.36	1.8	45.59	0.887	2.023	0	2.91	11.938	5.564	0	6.383
31.	Chandigarh	8.748	75.516	0.868	85.152	0.17	0	0.191	0.361	1.943	0	21.509	0.424
32.	D&N Haveli	5.544	7.14	1.176	13.86	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
33.	Daman & Diu	1.428	9.42	0.252	11.1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
34.	Lakshadweep	0.372	3.708	0.168	4.248	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
35.	Pondicherry	28.238	13.2	6.874	48.312	2.62	0.085	1.235	3.94	9.278	0.644	17.966	8.155
	Total	21277.03	44367.656	6053.626	71698.310	17280.337	6388.863	5457.936	29127.136	81.218	14.4	90.16	40.625

Statement IV

Allocation & Offtake of (Rice & Wheat) for the year 2005-06 (P) under TPDS

(Upto June, 05)
(Figures in 000' Tonnes)

Sl.No.	State/UTs	Allotment				Offtake				%Offtake			
		BPL	APL	AAY	Total	BPL	APL	AAY	Total	BPL	APL	AAY	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1.	Andhra Pradesh	297.063	566.685	129.531	993.279	298.42	296.67	130.02	725.11	100.457	52.352	100.378	73.002
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	7.209	19.17	3.165	29.544	4.95	8.5	3.17	16.62	68.664	44.34	100.158	56.255
3.	Assam	156.921	238.783	43.29	438.913	152.94	152.75	42.68	348.37	97.463	63.97	98.776	79.371
4.	Bihar	554.796	572.88	105	1232.676	128.08	0.51	98.23	226.82	23.086	0.089	93.552	18.401
5.	Chhattisgarh	137.13	261.45	59.778	458.358	24.82	13.78	0	38.6	18.1	5.271	0	8.421
6.	Delhi	37.116	249.129	5.829	292.074	38.5	58.87	5.77	103.14	103.729	23.63	98.968	35.313
7.	Goa	2.832	29.574	1.158	33.564	0.52	0.7	25.65	26.87	18.362	2.367	2215.02	80.056
8.	Gujarat	156.361	696.891	56.051	909.303	104.25	5.65	46.8	156.7	66.673	0.811	83.495	17.233
9.	Haryana	63.084	253.551	19.059	335.694	39.26	1.31	14.25	54.82	62.234	0.517	74.768	16.33
10.	Himachal Pradesh	32.322	87.225	12.411	131.958	25.71	39.46	12.36	77.17	79.543	45.239	99.589	58.481
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	59.493	111.93	17.778	189.201	65.41	81.33	11.86	158.6	109.946	72.661	66.712	83.828
12.	Jharkhand	175.056	54.075	76.317	305.448	84.78	2.31	65.85	152.94	48.43	4.272	86.285	50.071
13.	Karnataka	210.816	517.65	99.753	828.207	215.5	224.39	95.99	535.88	102.222	43.348	96.228	64.704
14.	Kerala	113.61	452.235	49.542	615.387	113.61	58.7	49.54	221.85	100	12.98	99.996	36.05
15.	Madhya Pradesh	302.43	633.843	130.689	1066.574	254.2	4.5	81.26	339.96	84.053	0.71	62.178	31.874
16.	Maharashtra	480.309	1175.22	205.767	1861.296	383.63	14.3	179.76	577.69	79.871	1.217	87.361	31.037
17.	Manipur	10.971	11.865	2.679	25.515	11.57	4.55	2.57	18.69	105.46	38.348	95.931	73.261
18.	Meghalaya	13.437	11.256	5.778	30.059	13.9	4.54	5.18	23.62	103.446	40.334	89.65	78.579
19.	Mizoram	5.004	23.46	2.166	30.63	4	18.62	2.16	24.78	79.936	79.369	99.723	80.901
20.	Nagaland	9.069	30.51	3.951	43.53	9.36	29.25	3.91	42.52	103.209	95.87	98.962	97.68
21.	Orissa	319.077	288.891	105.096	712.941	160.87	14.53	117.97	293.37	50.417	5.03	112.25	41.149
22.	Punjab	41.604	368.31	7.53	417.444	12.54	0.4	3.08	16.02	30.141	0.109	40.903	3.838
23.	Rajasthan	163.554	690.939	76.581	931.074	122.67	41.48	70.85	235	75.003	6.003	92.516	25.24

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
24.	Sikkim	3.519	6.453	1.041	11.013	3.57	6.47	1.16	11.2	101.449	100.263	111.431	101.698
25.	Tamil Nadu	358.185	946.995	152.409	1457.589	351.7	128.39	171.26	651.35	98.189	13.558	112.369	44.687
26.	Tripura	23.841	44.808	7.134	75.783	21.71	18.23	7.14	47.08	91.062	40.685	100.084	62.125
27.	Uttar Pradesh	780.861	1623.615	340.434	2744.91	178.67	0.17	74.03	252.87	22.881	0.01	21.746	9.212
28.	Uttaranchal	41.606	83.388	10.687	135.681	13.82	4.07	0.78	18.67	33.216	4.881	7.299	13.76
29.	West Bengal	368.536	1022.295	134.091	1524.922	196.07	292.57	95.85	584.49	53.202	28.619	71.481	38.329
30.	A&N Islands	1.857	9.09	0.45	11.397	0.32	3.56	0.12	4	17.232	39.164	26.667	35.097
31.	Chandigarh	2.187	18.879	0.222	21.288	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
32.	D&N Haveli	1.322	1.785	0.358	3.465	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
33.	Daman & Diu	0.357	2.355	0.063	2.775	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
34.	Lakshadweep	1.116	8.904	1.008	10.706	0.37	1.03	0.33	1.73	33.154	11.568	32.738	16.159
35.	Pondicherry	6.219	3.3	2.559	12.078	2.34	0.29	1.81	4.44	37.627	8.788	70.731	36.761
	Total	4938.87	11117.389	1869.274	17925.521	3038.06	1531.88	1421.39	5991.33	61.513	13.779	76.04	33.423

Decreasing Cultivation Area of Wheat and Rice

*379. SHRIMATI C.S. SUJATHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cultivating areas of wheat and rice are decreasing in the country;

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

(c) the details of factors contributing to the decrease in the cultivation of these grains, State-wise;

(d) whether the Government perceive any threat to the food security in future due to the decrease in production of these grains; and

(e) if so, the steps the Government proposes to take to check the decrease in the area of cultivable land and to increase production of foodgrains in the country?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) The area under rice declined from 44.71 million hectares in 2000-01 to 41.18 million hectares in 2002-03, which largely reflected the impact of the severe drought of 2002 that affected several States/regions in the country. The area under rice improved to 42.50 million hectares in 2003-04. The normal area under rice (average of area figures for five years ending 2003-04) in the country is 43.69 million hectares. As regards wheat, the area declined marginally from 25.73 million hectares in 2000-01 to 25.20 million hectares in 2002-03. The area under wheat improved to 26.58 million hectares in 2003-04. The normal area under wheat in the country is 26.27 million hectares. The State-wise details are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) As can be seen from the figures given at the Statement, major rice growing States, namely, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh and Punjab, which together contribute around 40% of the total rice production in the country, did not register any decline in area under rice during the period 2000-01 to 2003-04. In fact, in West Bengal the area under rice increased by 4.22 lakh hectares during this period. As regards Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Bihar, Assam, Orissa and Chattisgarh which together also account for around 40% of the total rice production in the country, the area under rice declined marginally in Assam, Bihar and Chattisgarh, while it

declined significantly in both Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. However, in the case of Orissa, the area under rice registered increase by 0.67 lakh hectares during this period. The major cause of decline in area under rice in Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu is the decline in availability of water and the resulting shift from more water intensive crops like rice to less water intensive crops like coarse cereals and pulses, and also oilseeds in the case Andhra Pradesh.

As regards wheat, out of the six major wheat growing States, namely, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Bihar which together account for 90-95% of the total wheat production in the country, the decline in area was marginal in the States of Uttar Pradesh and Haryana while there was a marginal increase in area in both Punjab and Bihar. Though there was a fairly significant decline in area in Rajasthan by about 2 lakh hectares, this was more than offset by the increase in area by about 8 lakh hectares in Madhya Pradesh during the same period.

(d) and (e) No, Sir. Despite the inter-year fluctuations in production of foodgrains caused mostly by weather-related shocks, the stock of foodgrains (mostly rice and wheat) in the Central Pool has been well above the buffer norms except in July, 2005 when it declined to 25.11 million tonnes compared with the norm of 26.90 million tonnes. The marginal shortfall in stock vis-a-vis buffer norm levels reflects the combined impact of lower procurement of wheat in 2005-06 and upward revision of buffer norms for wheat. Since land resources are limited in supply, increase in production commensurate with increase in population can be achieved only through higher productivity (yield per hectare). This in turn presupposes assured irrigation to obtain full benefits from yield raising inputs. Government has, therefore, identified irrigation, including micro irrigation as thrust area for focused and priority attention. The outlay on Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) has, therefore, been raised to Rs. 4,800 core in 2005-06 from Rs. 2,800 crore in 2004-05. Similarly, a sum of Rs. 400 crore has been provided in the Budget for micro irrigation in 2005-06. Keeping in view the need for enabling farmers to meet the expenses on yield raising inputs, it has been decided to step up credit disbursement by 30% in 2005-06 over the disbursement of Rs. 1,15.243 crore in 2004-05.

Statement

Cultivated Area Under Rice

(000' hectares)

State/UT	Season	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
1	2	3	4	5	6
Andhra Pradesh	Kharif	3004	2426.1	2109.3	2109
	Rabi	1239	1398.7	713	866
	Total	4243	3824.8	2822.3	2975
Arunachal Pradesh	Kharif	118.6	119.5	124.6	119.2
Assam	Autumn	539.7	496	465	441.1
	Winter	1777.3	1715	1749	1769.2
	Kharif Total	2317	2211	2214	2210.3
	Summer	329.3	326	327	319.5
	Total	2646.3	2537	2541	2529.8

1	2	3	4	5	6
Bihar	Autumn	591.7	593.8	583.3	562.2
	Winter	2939.3	2843.6	2881.1	2872.8
	Kharif Total	3531	3437.4	3464.4	3435
	Summer	125.3	114.9	120.3	122
	Total	3656.3	3552.3	3584.7	3557
Chhattisgarh	Kharif	3769.7	3810.1	3777.7	3718.3
Goa	Autumn	41	32.8	33.7	35.5
	Winter	16.2	16.6	16.5	17.3
	Total Kharif	57.2	49.4	50.2	52.8
Gujarat	Kharif	583.6	667.9	468.9	675.3
Haryana	Kharif	1054	1028	906	1016
Himachal Pradesh	Kharif	81.5	80.6	83.3	81.3
Jammu & Kashmir	Kharif	244.1	249.8	236.2	259.8
Jharkhand	Autumn	182.1	187	170.1	167.6
	Winter	1298.9	1333.6	12133.1	1195.4
	Kharif Total	1481	1520.6	1383.2	1363
Karnataka	Kharif	1120.5	1088	1030.5	944
	Rabi	52	53.5	50.5	83.2
	Summer	310.9	276.3	73.8	121.8
	Total Rabi/Summer	362.9	329.8	124.3	205
	Total	1483.4	1417.8	1154.8	1149
Kerala	Autumn	129.8	116.5	112.4	102.8
	Winter	162.4	162	157	151.5
	Kharif Total	292.2	278.5	269.4	254.3
	Summer	55.3	43.9	41.1	37.2
	Total	347.5	322.4	310.5	291.5
Madhya Pradesh	Kharif	1707.6	1776.4	1681.3	1674.5
Maharashtra	Kharif	1486.4	1487.2	1497	1500
	Rabi	25	27	26	35
	Total	1511.4	1514.2	1523	1535

1	2	3	4	5	6
Manipur	Kharif	157	162.6	144.5	157.6
Meghalaya	Kharif	102.6	102	102	102.2
	Rabi	4	5.7	5.7	7.5
	Total	106.6	107.7	107.7	109.7
Mizoram	Kharif	51.3	55.2	56.6	58.8
	Rabi	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.4
	Total	51.9	55.8	57.1	59.2
Nagaland	Kharif	150	156.5	151	150.2
Orissa	Autumn	855	853	808	861
	Winter	3372	3375	3287	3386
	Kharif Total	4227	4228	4095	4247
	Summer	207	272	178	254
	Total	4434	4500	4273	4501
Punjab	Kharif	2611	2487	2530	2614
Rajasthan	Kharif	166.3	144.4	83.9	99.7
Sikkim	Kharif	15.2	15.7	14.8	14.7
Tamil Nadu	Autumn	315.4	311	184.9	140.6
	Winter	1569.2	1506	1204.5	1136.9
	Kharif Total	1884.6	1817	1389.4	1277.5
	Summer	195.4	243	127.1	119.1
	Total	2080	2060	1516.5	1396.6
Tripura	Autumn	48.6	44.5	36.4	46.8
	Winter	137.2	142.9	158.9	136.5
	Kharif Total	185.8	187.4	195.3	183.3
	Summer	55.3	59.3	60	54.4
	Total	241.1	246.7	255.3	237.7
Uttar Pradesh	Kharif	5904.1	6068	5209.1	5948.9
	Rabi/Summer	3	3	4	3.1
	Total	5907.1	6071	5213.1	5952

1	2	3	4	5	6
Uttaranchal	Kharif	312.7	298.9	283	293
West Bengal	Autumn	393.9	402.5	385	339.8
	Winter	3639.5	4211.6	4051.1	4126.7
	Kharif Total	4033.4	4614.1	4436.1	4466.5
	Summer	1401.8	1455	1406	1390.1
	Total	5435.2	6069.1	5842.1	5856.6
A&N Islands	Kharif	10.9	9.8	10.9	10.6
D & N Haveli	Kharif	13.6	13.5	13.7	13.5
Delhi	Kharif	6.1	6.4	6.1	6.5
Daman and Diu	Kharif	2	1.8	1.6	1.8
Pondicherry	Autumn	6.2	6.1	5.5	6.3
	Winter	14.4	14.5	12.7	12.2
	Kharif Total	20.6	20.6	18.2	18.5
	Summer	5.5	5.7	5.9	5.9
	Total	26.1	26.3	24.1	24.4
All India	Autumn	3103.4	3043.2	2784.3	2703.7
	Winter	14926.4	15320.8	14730.9	14804.5
	Kharif	22672.8	22255.4	20522	21568.9
	Kharif Total	40702.6	40619.4	38037.2	39077.1
	Summer	4009.4	4284.6	3138.9	3419.2
	Total	44712.00	44904.0	41176.1	42496.3

Cultivated Area Under Wheat

(000' Hectares)

State/UT	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
1	2	3	4	5
Andhra Pradesh	14.0	14.0	11.0	12.0
Arunachal Pradesh	4.4	3.8	4.1	4.2
Assam	70.3	72.2	69.0	70.0

1	2	3	4	5
Bihar	2067.8	2126.3	2130.9	2119.0
Chhattisgarh	77.8	97.9	92.8	102.9
Gujarat	286.1	470.1	435.6	759.5
Haryana	2355.0	2300.0	2267.0	2303.0
Himachal Pradesh	362.7	366.5	359.4	361.0
Jammu & Kashmir	281.0	259.0	244.2	262.0
Jharkhand	63.7	65.4	64.0	75.0
Karnataka	266.0	260.5	246.9	231.0
Madhya Pradesh	3311.2	3703.8	3381.6	4045.5
Maharashtra	754.0	776.0	760.0	668.0
Meghalaya	4.2	2.8	2.7	0.9
Nagaland	5.0	6.0	8.0	5.5
Orissa	8.8	7.0	4.6	5.1
Punjab	3408.0	3420.0	3375.0	3444.0
Rajasthan	2309.6	2287.5	1800.7	2103.1
Sikkim	7.2	7.7	6.3	5.7
Tamil Nadu	0.1			
Tripura	1.1	1.2	0.9	1.2
Uttar Pradesh	9239.3	9256.0	9094.0	9150.1
Uttaranchal	379.0	380.2	411.0	397.0
West Bengal	426.0	434.0	405.4	425.7
D&N Haveli	0.5	0.7	0.7	0.5
Delhi	27.8	26.1	19.9	29.1
All India	26730.6	26344.7	25195.7	26581.0

Ground Water Recharge by Soft Drink Companies

*380. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has made ground water recharge mandatory for aerated drink manufacturers and other industries depending upon ground water resources;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the States have been consulted in this regard;

(d) if so, the response of State Governments thereto; and

(e) the steps mooted by the Government to enforce judicious use of ground water by industries?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) to (e) In order to regulate ground water withdrawal by industries including aerated drink manufacturers, Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA), constituted under Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, had circulated a list of critical areas to State Pollution Control Boards, Ministry of Environment & Forests etc. which refer proposals of new industries to CGWA for obtaining No Objection Certificate (NOC) before issuing permission. Depending upon the availability of ground water and site specific scientific considerations in such areas, NOC is granted by the CGWA on case to case basis. A pre-condition for such permission is the mandatory adoption of rain water harvesting system for ground water recharge by the industry. Since licensing authority for any industry is the State Government/State agencies/State Pollution Control Board, any action to enforce judicious use of ground water by the industries is to be taken by them.

Moreover, 'Water' being a State subject, it is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Governments to take remedial steps to check over-exploitation of ground water. The following remedial measures are also envisaged in this regard by the Central Government:

(i) Regulation of ground water withdrawal.

(ii) Adopting artificial recharge.

(iii) Treatment and recycling of industrial waste water.

(iv) Adopting Rainwater harvesting.

Ration for Tea Estate Workers

3697. SHRIMATI MINATI SEN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has decided to discontinue the supply of ration to the families of the tea estate workers;

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

(c) whether the Government proposes to review its decision in this regard;

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

(e) if not, the other steps taken by the Government to ensure supply of foodgrains to the said workers?

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) to (e) The Union Government makes allocation of foodgrains under the Targeted Public Distribution Ssytem (TPDS) for different categories (APL, BPL & AAY) @35 kg per family per month as per the established norms.

Regarding distribution of ration to the families of the Tea estate workers, the Union Government has directed the State Government of West Bengal to bring the tea garden workers under TPDS by giving APL Ration Cards to eligible Tea Garden Workers and designating the retail outlets as Public Distribution System (PDS) retail outlets.

[Translation]

Ban on Coral based Medicines

3698. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has imposed any ban on medicines made from prawal (coral), Pushkar moal etc.;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government proposes to lift ban from the said medicines; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, collection, sale, etc. of the species included in the Schedules of the Act are prohibited. 5 groups of prawal (coral) are listed in Schedule I of the Act. Pushkar mool (*Inula racemosa*) is not listed in the Act.

(b) Prawal is listed under the category of endangered species and ban on collection, sale, transport, etc., of the species or derivatives thereof is necessary to conserve the remaining population.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) It is very important to control the harvesting of the said species because of its dwindling numbers and to save the already threatened species from extinction.

Permission for Transfer of Forest Land

3699. SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any request has been made by the Government of Uttar Pradesh to the Ministry under the Forest Conservation Act, 1980 for transfer of forest land to Northern Coal Fields on lease for non-forest purposes in Sonbhadra under Krishna Shila Project; and

(b) if so, the time by which this permission is likely to be granted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) Central Government has already granted permission for diversion of 235.99 hectares of forest land for Krishnashila Open Cast Project in favour of M/s Northern Coalfields Limited in district Sonebhadra, Uttar Pradesh, vide letter dated: 6.1.2005, under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

[English]

Vocational Rehabilitation Centres for Handicapped

3700. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of vocational rehabilitation centres for the welfare of handicapped persons in the country, State-wise and location-wise;

(b) whether the number of rehabilitation centres in the country are not in proportion to the number of handicapped;

(c) if so, the facts thereof; and

(d) the steps being taken to improve this ratio?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SHEKHAR RAO): (a) At present, 17 Vocational Rehabilitation Centres for the welfare of handicapped persons are functioning in the country. These are located at Hyderabad (Andhra Pradesh), Guwahati (Assam), Patna (Bihar), Delhi, Ahmedabad (Gujarat), Vadodara (Gujarat), Bangalore (Karnataka), Trivandrum (Kerala), Jabalpur (Madhya Pradesh), Mumbai (Maharashtra), Bhubaneswar (Orissa), Ludhiana (Punjab), Jaipur (Rajasthan), Chennai (Tamil Nadu), Agartala (Tripura), Kanpur (Uttar Pradesh) and Kolkata (West Bengal).

(b) to (d) Attempts have been made to provide one vocational rehabilitation Centre in each State to start with. There is a proposal to set up 7 new Vocational Rehabilitation Centres during the 10th Plan Period, out of which 3 have been sanctioned during 2005-06.

Damage caused by Erosion

3701. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state the extent of damage caused by erosion during the last thee years in the country alongwith assistance granted, released and utilized, State-wise during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): The information on extent of damage caused by erosion during the last three years in the country are not available. However, the damage caused due to floods during the last three years is given in the enclosed statement-I. Anti river erosion works are integral part of the flood management works, which are planned and executed by the State Governments as flood management is under the purview of State Government. The Central Government also renders assistance to State Governments by sponsoring Central schemes the details of which are given in the enclosed statement-II.

Statement I

Damage due to floods/heavy rains during 2002

Sl. No.	Name of State	Area affected in m.ha.	Population affected in million	Damage to Crops Area m.ha.	Damage to Houses			Cattle lost Nos.	Human live lost Nos.	Damage to public utilities in Rs. crore	Total damages Crops, Houses & public utilities in Rs. crores
					Value Rs. crore	Nos.	Value Rs. crore				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	Neg.	0.050	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	5.882	5.882
3.	Assam	1.187	7.551	0.299	145.600	96705	41.187	4294	65	566.243	753.030

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
4.	Bihar	1.969	16.018	0.941	511.495	419014	526.215	1450	489	408.922	1446.632
5.	Chhattisgarh	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
6.	Gujarat	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.045	0.045
7.	Goa	Nil	0	0	0.004	200	0.353	0	0	0	0.357
8.	Haryana	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	2	0.000	0.000
9.	Himachal Pradesh	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
11.	Jharkhand	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
12.	Karnataka	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
13.	Kerala	0.036	0.202	0.015	8.751	8085	1.464	101	71	10.913	21.128
14.	Manipur	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	2	0.010	0.000	2	0.151	0.161
15.	Madhya Pradesh	0.002	0.143	0.002	1.387	5904	1.120	27	10	0.000	3.107
16.	Maharashtra	0.391	0.028	0.391	21.700	19464	2.520	2683	20	15.870	40.090
17.	Meghalaya	0.011	0.111	0.011	0.130	3415	0.603	Nil	Nil	4.125	4.858
18.	Mizoram	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
19.	Nagaland	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
20.	Orissa	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
21.	Punjab	0.074	0.000	0.074	2.965	6	0.045	1	0.000	0.000	3.010
22.	Rajasthan	0.000	0.003	0.000	0.000	575	3.020	0.000	1	0.000	3.020
23.	Sikkim	0.000	0.029	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	1.660	1.660
24.	Tamil Nadu	1.280	0.008	0.320	48.110	1158	0.150	147	65	22.520	70.780
25.	Tripura	0.012	0.092	0.012	4.695	13408	7.335	109	5	2.943	14.973
26.	Uttar Pradesh	0.111	0.386	0.062	2.583	3462	1.202	36	33	0.010	3.795
27.	Uttaranchal	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
28.	West Bengal	2.017	1.699	0.067	165.072	192444	14.035	12685	238	22.799	201.906
29.	A&N Islands	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
30.	Chandigarh	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
31.	Daman & Diu	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
32.	D&N Haveli	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
33.	Delhi	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
34.	Lakshadweep	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
35.	Pondicherry	0.000	0.003	0.000	0.000	650	0.109	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.109
	Total	7.090	28.323	2.194	913.092	762492	599.368	21533	1001	1082.083	2574.543

Nil : Figures not reported by State and recorded as Nil.

0.000 : Data reported as Nil by the State Govt.

Damage due to floods/Heavy Rains during 2003

Sl. No.	Name of State	Area affected in m.ha.	Population affected in million	Damage to Crops Area m.ha.	Damage to Houses			Cattle lost Nos.	Human live lost Nos.	Damage to public utilities in Rs. crore	Total damages Crops, Houses & public utilities in Rs. crores
					Value Rs. crore	Nos.	Value Rs. crore				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0.287	0.013	0.287	575.100	17468	1.885	1970	52	188.273	765.258
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.207	0.230	0.022	63.665	423	0.423	0.000	45	346.236	410.324
3.	Assam	0.932	5.652	0.295	147.000	74638	18.692	4319	52	181.402	347.094
4.	Bihar	1.820	8.161	0.792	9.441	84424	37.567	131	297	11.919	58.927
5.	Chhattisgarh	0.074	0.684	0.074	45.091	78718	42.788	2793	30	110.657	198.536
6.	Gujarat										
7.	Goa										
8.	Haryana	Neg.	0	Neg.	0.410	156	0.059	0	1	0.020	0.489
9.	Himachal Pradesh	0.033	0.303	0.016	17.790	2924	60.068	452	89	87.964	165.822
10.	Jammu & Kashmir										
11.	Jharkhand										
12.	Karnataka	0.009	0.186	0.007	7.680	4286	61.184	27	31	1013.423	1082.287
13.	Kerala										
14.	Manipur										
15.	Madhya Pradesh	0.126	1.436	0.126	22.717	31536	7.367	214	18	51.600	81.684
16.	Maharashtra	0.037	0.026	0.031	74.488	5338	39.959	178	94	0.043	114.490
17.	Meghalaya	0.002	0.090	0.002	0.230	820	0.813	367	1	0.064	1.107
18.	Mizoram	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
19.	Nagaland	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
20.	Orissa	0.478	3.565	0.478	Nil	144716	Nil	2270	60	Nil	Nil
21.	Punjab	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
22.	Rajasthan	0.073	0.186	Neg.	0.320	7358	428.221	64	29	30.800	459.341
23.	Sikkim	Neg	0.086	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	5.350	5.350
24.	Tamilnadu	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	647	0.079	134	75	0.064	0.143
25.	Tripura	0.006	0	0.006	12.32	25735	3.965	0	0	51.34	67.625

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
26.	Uttar Pradesh	2.355	13.476	1.286	448.574	361323	99.859	3184	953	127.444	875.877
27.	Uttaranchal	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	499	Nil	300	20	Nil	Nil
28.	West Bengal	0.015	0.152	0.004	Nil	5911	Nil	22	17	Nil	Nil
29.	A&N Islands										
30.	Chandigarh	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
31.	Daman & Diu										
32.	D&N Haveli	0.049	0.220	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
33.	Delhi	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
34.	Lakshadweep	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
35.	Pondicherry	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
	Total	6.503	34.486	3.426	1424.826	846920	802.929	16425	1864	2206.599	4434.354

Nil : Figures not reported by State and recorded as Nil.
0.000 : Data reported as Nil by the State Govt.

Damage due to floods/Heavy Rains during 2004

Sl. No.	Name of State	Area affected in m.ha.	Population affected in million	Damage to Crops Area m.ha.	Damage to Houses			Cattle lost Nos.	Human live lost Nos.	Damage to public utilities in Rs. crore	Total damages Crops, Houses & public utilities in Rs. crores
					Value Rs. crore	Nos.	Value Rs. crore				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.330	0.330
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.164	0.305	0.010	103.530	0	37.230	5679	15	364.810	505.570
3.	Assam	2851	12.298	1.258	0	589064	0	50375	251	0.000	Nil
4.	Bihar	4.986	21.251	1.395	418.598	897427	739.490	2673	800	1057.693	2215.781
5.	Chhattisgarh										
6.	Goa	0	0	0	0	52	0	0	1	0	0
7.	Gujarat	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	165	283.440	283.440
8.	Haryana	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
9.	Himachal Pradesh	Neg.	0.022	Neg.	0.673	526	1.130	103	8	33.985	35.788
10.	Jammu & Kashmir										

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
11.	Jharkhand										
12.	Karnataka										
13.	Kerala										
14.	Manipur										
15.	Madhya Pradesh	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
16.	Maharashtra	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	0.001	Nil	Nil	6	4	0.000	Neg.
17.	Meghalaya	0.029	0.155	0.029	78.050	3163	1.420	4993	13	130.870	210.340
18.	Mizoram	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
19.	Nagaland										
20.	Orissa										
21.	Punjab	Neg.	0	Neg.	0	771	0	6	13	0	Nil
22.	Rajasthan										
23.	Sikkim										
24.	Tamil Nadu										
25.	Tripura										
26.	Uttar Pradesh										
27.	Uttaranchal										
28.	West Bengal	0.001	0.184	0.001	14.218	1812	73.651	34	5	2.488	90.357
29.	A&N Islands										
30.	Chandigarh										
31.	Daman & Diu	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
32.	D&N Haveli	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
33.	Delhi										
34.	Lakshadweep										
35.	Pondicherry										
	Total	8.031	34.215	2.693	615.070	1492815	853.921	83869	1275	1873.618	3341.606

Nil : Figures not reported by State and recorded as Nil.

0.000 : Data reported as Nil by the State Govt.

Statement II

State-wise details of Assistance provided during last three years for centrally sponsored schemes

(Rs. in crore)

Name of the State	Fund Released	Fund Utilised
Assam	44.64	29.82
Arunachal Pradesh	16.80	11.97
Bihar	34.12	33.04
Himachal Pradesh	1.00	NA
Karnataka	0.50	NA
Kerala	0.50	NA
Maharashtra	1.00	1.00
Mizoram	0.50	NA
Nagaland	2.60	2.60
Orissa	0.50	0.50
Pondicherry	1.00	1.00
Sikkim	10.31	10.31
Tamil Nadu	1.00	NA
Tripura	2.00	NA
Uttar Pradesh	20.32	17.78
Uttaranchal	1.95	2.22
West Bengal	25.78	13.81

Demand of Minerals by Steel Plant

3702. SHRI JUAL ORAM: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the demand of minerals made by various steel plants which are set up/being set up in Orissa;

(b) the allotment of minerals made to these steel plants;

(c) whether any of these steel plants is getting more quantum of iron ore or any other mineral than actually required;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

Import Prices of Erythromycin, Thiocyanate and Penicilline

3703. SHRI C. KUPPUSAMI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria laid down to fix the prices of bulk erythromycin and its salt;

(b) the details of international import price of erythromycin, thiocyanate and pencilline alongiwth ex-fermentation price;

(c) the reasons for incompetitive prices of ex-fermentation and prices of erythromycin, thiocyanate and pencilline vis-a-vis import price from China;

(d) the capital investment and operational losses that occur to our industry as a result thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to make our fermentation industry competitive and avoid shortage?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (e) The 74 bulk drugs specified in the First Schedule of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 (DPCO, 95) and the formulations based thereon are under price control and their prices are fixed/revised by the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) in accordance with the provisions of the DPCO, 95. Erythromycin is a Scheduled bulk drug under DPCO, 95.

As per the import data received from the office of Director General of Health Services for the year 2003-04 CIF import price of Erythromycin Thiocyanate was Rs. 2306.62/KGA and that of Penicillin G I" Crystal Rs. 367.58/ BOU. The price of drug intermediates like Erythromycin Thiocyanate and Penicillin G I" Crystal are not fixed by NPPA.

Production of Erythromycin Thiocyanate and Penicillin from Ex-fermentation stage may not be competitive due to the import of these items at very low prices from China. The production of these drug intermediates from ex-fermentation stage is not only capital intensive but also energy intensive. The competitiveness of the fermentation industry depends upon economic scale of operation, availability of power at low cost and use of better cost effective technology of production.

Government has been allowing an extra return of four percent of production of Scheduled bulk drugs from ex-fermentation stage to encourage basic stage production as per the provisions of DPCO, 1995.

Research and Development in FPI

3704. SHRI K.C. PALANISAMY: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Government for Research and Development in Food Processing Sector in Tamil Nadu;

(b) whether proposal from Development of Meat Science Technology, Tamil Nadu has been approved by the Union Government for grant-in-aid for Development of Emulsion based meat products; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (c) A proposal was received for Development of emulsion based meat products from the Madras Veterinary College, Tamilnadu, for a grant of Rs. 31.75 lakhs, which was considered and approved by the Project Approval Committee with some conditions. The college has been requested to provide some additional information.

Desilting of River Basins in Orissa

3705. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal for deepening, desilting and digging of Mahanadi, Daya and Birupa river basins in Orissa;

(b) if so, whether any pilot project has been prepared;

(c) if so, the estimated cost involved therein; and

(d) the funds sanctioned for implementing the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (d) No such specific proposal has been received in Central Water Commission. However, the Government of Orissa has formulated a preliminary project report for Mahanadi Basin Development Plan at estimated cost of Rs. 3493.10 crore. This project includes, *inter* alia, dredging of various river mouths of the Mahanadi Basin for which there is a provision of Rs. 30.00 crore in the above project report.

[Translation]

Mata Shakumbhari Devi Temple

3706. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has implemented any scheme for development of Mata Shakumbhari Devi Temple in Saharanpur district to promote religious tourism;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to grant any special package to this shrine;

(d) if so, by when it is likely to be released;

(e) whether the Government proposes to set up a Shakumbhari Devi Board on the pattern of Vaishno Devi Board; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) to (d) Ministry of Tourism, Government of India extends Central financial assistance to the State Governments/ Union Territories for development of tourism on the basis of the proposals received from them, subject to availability of funds and inter-se priorities. These projects are sanctioned under the following schemes:

1. Product/Infrastructure and destination Development including Rural Tourism.

2. Integrated Development of Travel Circuits.

3. Assistance for Large Revenue Generating Projects.

An amount of Rs. 13.69 lakhs has been sanctioned in the year 2004-05 for the development of Mata Shakumbhari Devi Temple.

(e) No such proposal has been received.

(f) Does not arise.

[English]

Assistance to Fishermen

3707. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has provided certain facilities to fishermen for developing their fishing business in Andaman and Nicobar Islands;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of such schemes which will attract the private entrepreneurs to enter into fishing business in the Islands; 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 TASLIMUDDIN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Government has accorded approval for construction of fish landing centre at Dairy Farm (Junglighat) in Andaman & Nicobar Islands at a cost of Rs. 368 lakhs with 100% Central assistance. So far under this scheme, an amount of Rs. 268 lakhs has been released to the Andaman & Nicobar Administration. Further, the Government has released an amount of Rs. 2.94 lakhs (upto 17.8.2005) during the year 2005-2006, to cover 490 fishermen under Saving-cum-Relief component of the scheme on Welfare of Fishermen in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

Funds to J&K for Forest Protection

3708. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state the financial assistance provided by the Union Government to Jammu and Kashmir for forest protection under Integrated Forest Protection Scheme, Management of National Parks and Sanctuaries and National Afforestation Programme during the last two years and current year, till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): Scheme-wise figures of financial assistance provided by the Union Government to the State Government of Jammu and Kashmir for Forest Protection are as under:

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	Name of Scheme	Amount of Financial Assistance Released		
		2003-04	2004-05	2005-06 (upto 15.8.05)
1.	Integrated Forest Protection Scheme	109.78	193.84	
2.	Management of National Parks & Sanctuaries	138.82	63.20	17.00
3.	National Afforestation Programme	722.06	355.52	71.91

*Under process.

Depletion of Water Level

3709. SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:
SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU:
SHRI SURESH KALMADI:
SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Western and Northern India including Punjab and Haryana have faced acute dry spells this year and the preceding three years as a result of which the ground water level has depleted a lot;

(b) if so, the extent of depletion of water level during these years, State-wise/region-wise;

(c) whether any Central aid has been sought and given to the State Governments to overcome the situation; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) As per information from the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD), Western and Northern India including Gujarat, Rajasthan, Punjab and Haryana have received normal monsoon rainfall upto 10th August this year except the Gujarat Region, which has received excess rainfall by 69%. However, years 2002 and 2004 have been years of deficit rainfall. Subnormal rainfall is one of the reasons, which has resulted in depletion of ground water level owing to lesser natural recharge.

(b) The State-wise extent of ground water depletion during these years is as follows:

Gujarat: 55% of the wells monitored have registered decline in ground water level ranging from negligible to 6.36 m.

Rajasthan: About 60% of the wells monitored have experienced depletion of ground water level ranging from 0.01 m to 19 m.

Punjab: 66% of the wells monitored experienced depletion of ground water level ranging from 0.04 m to 7.8 m.

Haryana: About 56% of the wells monitored experienced depletion of ground water level ranging from 0.03 m to 6.4 m.

(c) and (d) Statement indicating State-wise details of assistance provided from National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) and foodgrains provided for relief employment during the years 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 is enclosed.

Statement

State-wise details of assistance provided from National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) and Foodgrains provided for relief Employment

Sl.No.	State	2002-03		2003-04		2004-05		April, 2005 onwards	
		NCCF (in crores)	Foodgrains (in lakh Metric Tons)	NCCF (in crores)	Foodgrains (in lakh Metric Tons)	NCCF (in crores)	Foodgrains (in lakh Metric Tons)	NCCF (in crores)	Foodgrains (in lakh Metric Tons)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Andhra Pradesh	123.51	17.20	50.58	7.82	40.01	2.20		
2.	Bihar					162.15	2.00		
3.	Chhattisgarh	127.51	4.74			52.74	0.90		
4.	Gujarat	—	3.06						
5.	Haryana	–	0.25						
6.	Himachal Pradesh	14.35	0.10						
7.	Jharkhand	—	0.40			—	0.67		
8.	Karnataka	207.65	7.20	298.16	7.29	49.14	1.14		
9.	Kerala	—	0.52	106.00	1.03				
10.	Madhya Pradesh	171.66	7.80			1.70	1.00		
11.	Maharashtra	20.00	2.32	250.69	7.00			174.66*	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
12.	Orissa	5.29	4.22						
13.	Rajasthan	889.61	32.56	—	0.19	216.79	6.99	156.71*	5.00**
14.	Tamil Nadu	332.09	5.00	173.35	3.04	117.27	1.50		
15.	Uttar Pradesh	310.06	2.00			192.10	—		
16.	Uttaranchal	_	0.50						

* Amount approved by the high Level Committee (HLC) subject to adjustment of available balances in Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) of respective States.

** Foodgrains allocated.

[Translation]

Proposals for Forest Development

3710. SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO:
SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:
SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:
SHRI M. ANJAN KUMAR YADAV:
DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:
SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:

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

(a) whether the Union Government has received proposals from different States for the development of forests in the country;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government to accord approval to the said project proposals; and

(d) the status of the said proposals as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (d) Ministry of Environment and Forests is implementing National Afforestation Programme (NAP) through two-tier decentralized mechanism of Forest Development Agency (FDA) at Forest Division level and Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs) at the village level for regeneration of degraded forests and adjoining lands. As on 31.3.2005, 620 FDA projects had been approved out of a total of 697 proposals received from the States. The State-wise FDA project proposals received and approved up to 31.3.2005 is given in the enclosed statement. Pending FDA proposals will be approved subject to availability of funds and their conforming to the NAP Guidelines.

Statement

Progress of FDA Projects

(As on 31.3.2005)

Sl. No.	Name of State	No. of FDA Project proposals received	No. of FDA Project proposals approved
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	32	28
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	16	13
3.	Assam	28	24
4.	Bihar	9	7
5.	Chhattisgarh	31	29
6.	Goa	3	3
7.	Gujarat	22	16
8.	Haryana	16	16
9.	Himachal Pradesh	28	27
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	31	31
11.	Jharkhand	27	27
12.	Karnataka	45	41

1	2	3	4
13.	Kerala	25	14
14.	Madhya Pradesh	44	44
15.	Maharashtra	45	41
16.	Manipur	13	12
17.	Meghalaya	7	7
18.	Mizoram	30	19
19.	Nagaland	18	16
20.	Orissa	32	32
21.	Punjab	12	5
22.	Rajasthan	18	16
23.	Sikkim	7	7
24.	Tamil Nadu	32	31
25.	Tripura	13	12
26.	Uttar Pradesh	61	56
27.	Uttaranchal	32	30
28.	West Bengal	20	16
	Total	697	620

Krishi Shramik Samajik Suraksha Yojana, 2001

3711. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the provisions of the Krishi Shramik Samajik Suraksha Yojana, 2001 and the number of labourers covered under the said scheme during the year 2004-05, State-wise;

(b) the scheme-wise details of the number of labourers covered, benefited and deprived under the said and other schemes being run form the funds collected through cess for the security, protection and welfare of labourers in the unorganized sector;

(c) the details of the funds provided in each sector; and

(d) the steps taken for the implementation of the said scheme?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SHEKHAR RAO): (a) to (d) The Government launched the Krishi Shramik Samajik Suraksha Yojana, 2001 on 1st July 2001. The scheme was being implemented through the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) on pilot basis in 50 districts during the first phase of three years. The scheme envisages to provide life-cum-accident insurance, money back, pension and superannuation benefits. Agricultural labourers between age 18 years and 50 years can enter into the scheme. Under the scheme, an agricultural worker has to contribute Re. 1 per day and the government has to contribute Rs. 2 per day per person. The State-wise details of number of labourers covered are given in the enclosed statement. The scheme has since been closed.

The Government have also been implementing several Welfare Funds to provide social security/welfare measures to certain categories of unorganized sector workers i.e. beedi workers, certain non-coal mine workers and cine workers. These funds are directly administered by the office of Director General labour Welfare and funds are not allocated to the State Governments. The welfare measures include health care, housing, educational assistance for children, drinking water supply, etc. About forty four lakh beedi workers, sixty three thousand cine workers and about seventy four thousand non-coal mine workers and their families are availing benefits under these Welfare Fund Schemes. The expenditure incurred under all these funds was Rs. 108.59 crore during 2004-05. An allocation of Rs. 118.96 crore has been made for the year 2005-06.

Statement

List of districts and agricultural workers covered under Krishi Shramik Samajik Suraksha Yojana, 2001 (As per the latest statement submitted by LIC)

Sl. No.	States/UTs	No. of District selected	Name of the District	No. of workers covered
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	4	Guntur	—
			East Godavari	13370
			West Godavari	9004
			Krishna	103

1	2	3	4	5
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1	East Siang	120
3.	Assam	1	Nagaon	5114
4.	Bihar	3	Madhepura	110
			Gaya	1969
			Saharsa	2130
5.	Chhattisgarh	2	Raipur	6623
			Bilaspur	5436
6.	Gujarat	2	Kheda	7069
			Surat	8288
7.	Haryana	1	Hissar	—
8.	Himachal Pradesh	1	Kangra	—
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	1	Jammu	2499
10.	Jharkhand	2	Palamu	700
			Singhbhum West	2021
11.	Karnataka	2	Dharwad	700
			Raichur	181
12.	Kerala	1	Palakkad	11120
13.	Madhya Pradesh	3	West Nimar	6843
			Jabalpur	13978
			Ujjain	5840
14.	Maharashtra	4	Jalgaon	12590
			Yavatmal	1829
			Solapur	20000
			Dhule	1160
15.	Manipur	1	Imphal	—
16.	Meghalaya	1	East Khasi Hills	600
17.	Nagaland	1	Kohima	185
18.	Orissa	2	Koraput	9584
			Sambalpur	13371
19.	Punjab	1	Amritsar	1699
20.	Rajasthan	2	Sriganganagar	5033
			Udaipur	13693
21.	Sikkim	1	East Sikkim	4314
22.	Tamil Nadu	4	Cuddalore	9579
			Thanjavur	3252
			Trichirapalli	3092
			Madurai	12696
23.	Tripura	1	West Tripura	26838
24.	Uttar Pradesh	2	Allahabad	6311
			Badaun	1249
25.	Uttaranchal	2	Nainital	1073
			Dehradun	145
26.	West Bengal	2	Madinipur	802
			Bardhawan	571
27.	Goa	1	North Goa	284
28.	Mizoram	1	Aizwal	-
	Total	50		2,53,168

Production of Paddy

3712. SHRI SITA RAM SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of estimated production of paddy in the current year, State-wise;

(b) the targets for purchase of paddy under Minimum Support Price Scheme (MSPS), State-wise; and

(c) the details of paddy purchased under MSPS so far, 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) Sowing activities in the Kharif season of 2005 are in full

swing in different States. As per the reports discussed in the Meeting of the Crop Weather Watch Group of Ministry of Agriculture, held on 16.8.2005 the area under paddy cultivation at All India level this year is 250.37 lakh hectares as against 254.96 lakh hectares covered in the corresponding period last year. However, as paddy sowing is not yet over, it is not possible to precisely estimate the production of paddy in the current year at this juncture.

(b) Under Minimum Support Price Scheme (MSPS) Government agencies undertake procurement as and when the prevailing market price of a crop drops below the Minimum Support Price. However, it is not possible to give targets set for procurement for the current year at this juncture.

(c) During 2004-05 marketing season (Oct.-Sep.) up to 17.8.2005 at the All India level 17.59 million tonnes of paddy has been procured. During the same period 12.26 million tonnes of lavy rice also has been procured. The State-wise details of paddy procurement are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Paddy Procurement during 2004-05 marketing season (Oct.-Sep.) as on 17.8.2005

(in tonnes)

Andhra Pradesh	21650
Assam	46
Bihar	72000
Chhattisgarh	2905610
Haryana	1517273
Jharkhand	1715
Karnataka	30748
Madhya Pradesh	54266
Maharashtra	71972
Nagaland	15982
Orissa	396133
Punjab	10049735
Rajasthan	6656
Tamil Nadu	972674
Uttar Pradesh	775830
Uttaranchal	11418
West Bengal	689065
All India	17592773

[English]

Environmental clearance to Power Plant

3713. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether N.O.C. has been given by the Ministry to power sector for installing 1000 MW power plant by the side of Durgapur Steel Plant in West Bengal;

(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) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The project has not been granted clearance due to environmental considerations.

Development of High Breed of Species of Cattle

3714. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Madhya Pradesh has approached the Union Government to develop high breed of various species of cattle;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government has sought the assistance of foreign countries in this regard to encourage and to train the cattle breeders in the country, particularly in Madhya Pradesh; and

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the programme implemented 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 (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) to (c) No, Sir. The State is participating under the National Project for Cattle and Buffalo Breeding since 2001-2002. The project enivsages genetic upgradation of bovine population and also lays emphasis on development of indigenous breeds. Central assistance to the tune of Rs. 21.51 crores has been released to the State upto 2004-2005. State has an unspent balance of Rs. 4.05 crores.

[Translation]

Krishi Vigyan Kendra

3715. SHRI ILYAS AZMI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Krishi Vigyan Kendra has since not been approved in Hardoi district of Uttar Pradesh till date;

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be approved alongwith the location of the establishment and the name of managing institution;

(c) whether location proposed by the State Government for the Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Hardoi is barren or follow land;

(d) if so, whether the Government proposes to set up Krishi Vigyan Kendra at Shaiwazpur Farm as suggested earlier;

(e) if so, by when; and

(f) 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. A Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) has been sanctioned in Hardoi district of Uttar Pradesh on 29.7.2005 at Tatyora, Bawan Tehsil, in favour of C.S. Azad University of Agriculture and Technology.

(c) No, Sir. The location proposed by the State Government was developed by them including drainage and irrigation channels, fish ponds, and link road before its consideration for sanction of a KVK.

(d) to (f) In view of Government's policy to set up one Krishi Vigyan Kendra in every rural district, there is no proposal to set up additional KVK in the same district.

Ban on Khesari Pulses

3716. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Maharashtra has submitted any proposal to the Union Government for lifting ban on khesari (lakhodi) pulse;

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

(c) the reasons for imposing ban on khesari in spite of it having no ill effect;

(d) whether any time-limit has been fixed by the Government for lifting ban on khesari; 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) The Government of Maharashtra had sent a proposal for withdrawn the ban for sale of Khesari Dal in Maharashtra. However, since, no new facts/conclusive evidence that Khesari Dal is not harmful was provided by the Government of Maharashtra, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare did not concur with the proposal for revoking the "ban on sale", notified by the Government of Maharashtra, presently in vogue under Rule 44-A, of the PFA Rules, 1955.

(c) The sale of Khesari Dal has been prohibited under the provisions of Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954, as its consumption is associated with the disease "Lathyrism" causing crippling paralysis due to presence of toxin (BOAA) content in Khesari Dal.

The High Powered Committee on Khesari Dal, constituted by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Agriculture on Khesari Dal under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Department of Agricultural Research and Education-cum-DG, ICAR, with the approval of Agriculture Minister, has examined the matter in depth and has recommended as follows:

1. It was evident that continued consumption of Khesari (Lathyrus Sativus) which contains B-N-Oxalyl Amino Alanine (BOAA), causes lathyrism.

2. The High Power Committee has also recommended that the threshold levels are yet to be precisely established to determine in specific quantitative terms about the use of Khesari, hence, it is essential to undertake further researches and data generation towards achieving this end.

The Report of the High Power Committee on Khesari Dal has been unanimously adopted by the Standing Committee on Agriculture, in its sitting held on 8.11.2001.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

[English]

New Deal for Farm Investments

3717. SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is planning a new deal to reverse decline in farm investments through increased funds for agricultural research, irrigation and wasteland development; 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) Keeping in view the importance of Agriculture in the economy, the Union Budget 2005-06 has provided increased outlays in areas like research, horticulture and irrigation including micro irrigation. The budgeted outlay on agricultural research has been enhanced from Rs. 1000 crores to Rs. 1150 crores in 2005-06. The Budget has also provided Rs. 630 crore in 2005-06 for the National Horticulture Mission, which will ensure end-to-end approach having backward and forward linkages covering research, production, post harvest management, processing and marketing, under one umbrella, in an integrated manner. The Budget has provided Rs. 4800 crore for the Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme for 2005-06 compared with Rs. 2800 crore in 2004-05. The budget has provided Rs. 200 crores for dryland farming in arid and semi-arid region to enhance sustainability of rainfed farming system for the year 2005-06. With a view to improving water use efficiency in Indian agriculture, the Budget has provided for Rs. 400 crore for promoting micro irrigation in 2005-06. Since the flow of credit is important in accelerating the pace of investment in agriculture, the disbursement of agricultural credit is proposed to be stepped up by 30 per cent in 2005-06 over the credit disbursement of Rs. 1,15,243 crore in 2004-05, which exceeded the credit disbursement of Rs. 86,981 crore made in 2003-04 by 32 per cent. Cumulatively the measures sustained on a progressive basis are expected to lead to a reversal of deceleration in agricultural growth. Simultaneously since agriculture is a State subject, States will have to increase their budgetary outlays on agriculture.

Insurance to Pilgrims Visiting Amarnath

3718. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether thousand of pilgrims visit Amarnath every year;

(b) if so, whether the Government is planning to give insurance cover to pilgrims whose premium will be borne by the Government; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No such proposal is under consideration of the Ministry of Tourism.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Reservoir Projects

3719. SHRI SRICHAND KRIPLANI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals received for reservoir projects by the Government from the State Governments including Rajasthan during the last one year, till date; and

(b) by when these proposals are likely to be approved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN

YADAV): (a) and (b) Nine proposals of irrigation projects including reservoir projects in the form of detailed project reports have been received from various State Governments during the period 1.7.2004 to 1.7.2005 for techno-economic appraisal in the Central Water Commission. No proposal was received during this period from Rajasthan. The time taken for approval of the project proposals depends on the promptness with which compliance to various observations of Central appraising agencies is submitted by the concerned project authority.

[English]

Setting up Parks/Sanctuaries

3720. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM:
SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN:
SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up new national parks and sanctuaries and modernize the existing ones during 2005-2006;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and the funds earmarked for the same; and

(c) the present status of Dolphins and other migratory birds in sanctuaries/parks particularly in Tamil Nadu and Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) No, Sir. Declaration of areas as National Parks and Sanctuaries and their management falls under the domain of the State Governments. However the Central Government provides technical and financial assistance to the States under the Centrally sponsored Scheme "Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries."

(b) No funds are earmarked for individual National Parks and Sanctuaries. The financial assistance released depends on the Annual Plan of Operations submitted by the States and the availability of funds under the scheme.

(c) The Gangetic Dolphin is listed under Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, thus accorded highest level of protection to the species. No reports of threat to the population of the Dolphins have been received by the Ministry from State Governments, including Orissa and Tamil Nadu. The population of Irrawady Dolphins in the outer channel and Satpada area of the Chilka Lagoon in Orissa has been estimated to be 111. Important habitats of dolphins have been notified as National Parks and Sanctuaries by State Governments. No evidence of any decline in population of migratory birds has been reported from any State, including Tamil Nadu and Orissa, except in the case of Siberian Cranes in Keoladeo National Park, Rajasthan.

[Translation]

Survey for Agricultural Land

3721. SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA:
SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has conducted any survey to assess the extent of agricultural land throughout the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to prepare schemes to increase the land for agriculture purpose in the country;

(d) if so, the details of the said schemes;

(e) the amount likely to be spent by the Government for implementation of the said schemes; and

(f) the progress made/achieved in this regard so far?

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 land use classification data indicates that Agriculture land is 182.92 million hectare and Net Sown Area is 132.86 million hectare in 2002-03. This has been complied on the basis of data collected from States/Union Territories.

(c) and (d) Government of India is already implementing various programmes for treating rainfed/ degraded lands namely (i) National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPRA), (ii)

Soil Conservation for Enhancing Productivity of Degraded lands in the Catchments of River Valley Project and Flood Prone River (RVP & FPR), (iii) Reclamation of Alkali Soil (RAS), (iv) Watershed Development Project in Shifting Cultivation Areas (WDPSCA), (v) Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP), (vi) Desert Development Programme (DDP) and (vii) Integrated Wasteland Development Programme (IWDP) for development and optimum utilization of agricultural land.

Due to implementation of these schemes/programmes large area has been brought under cultivation through reclamation of wastelands and other degraded lands.

(e) The X Plan Outlay for expenditure under the Programme/Scheme is as under:

Name of the Programme	Amount (Rs. in lakhs)
NWDPRA	100000
RVP & FPR	80000
WDPSCA	10000
RAS	10000
DPAP	150000
DDP	110000
IWDP	180000

(f) Programme/Scheme wise progress is given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Programme/Scheme-wise Progress since inception upto IX Plan and first three years of X Plan

(Phy. Area in Lakh Ha/No. of Projects and Fin. Rs. in Lakh)

Sl.No.	Name of Programme/ Scheme	Total Upto IX Plan		Total upto 2004-05	
		Physical	Financial	Physical	Financial
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPRA)	69.79	187773.82	79.34	239755.61
2.	Soil Conservation for enhancing Productivity of Degraded Lands in the Catchments of River Valley Projects & Flood Prone Rivers (RVP&FPR)	54.863	151620.84	60.789	189421.73
3.	Reclamation of Alkali Soil (RAS)	5.810	7638.72	6.587	9663.57
4.	Watershed Development Projects in Shifting Cultivation Areas (WDPSCA)	2.577	16626.92	3.181	22642.81

1	2	3	4	5	6
5.	Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP)	13790 (Nos.)	89717	21353 (Nos.)	174237
6.	Desert Development Programme (DDP)	6712(Nos.)	68602	11476 (Nos.)	130100
7.	Integrated Waste-Land Development Programme (IWDP)	37.363	46126	61.960	131020

Protection of Wild Life

3722. SHRI SURESH WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of tiger projects and other wildlife projects in Vidarbha region of Maharashtra; and

(b) the facilities/provisions for wildlife animals therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) There are three Tiger Reserves, four National Parks & fifteen Wildlife Sanctuaries in the Vidarbha region of Maharashtra.

(b) Financial and technical help is extended to the States under Centrally Sponsored Schemes for enhancing the capacity and infrastructure to provide effective protection and conservation of wild animals.

[English]

Beautification of Chaitya Bhoomi Stupa

3723. SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU:
SHRI ANANT GUDHE:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Maharashtra had submitted any proposal for development and beautification of Chaitya Bhoomi Stupa at Dadar, Chowpati in Mumbai; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when the proposal is likely to be given approval?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Food Coupons

3724. SHRI A.K. MOORTHY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to issue Food Coupons instead of ration cards for supply of foodgrains through Public Distribution System;

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

(c) by when it is likely to be introduced?

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.

[Translation]

Training Programmes for Farmers

3725. SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has prepared any action plan for promotion, extension and upgradation of training programmes for farmers and soil testing facilities through

National Chemical and Fertilizer Corporation or any other fertilizer corporation in the dry farming region of Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any review has been conducted of the work done in the State so far;

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

(e) the details of projects under consideration for the said facilities in the State; and

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

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 of India has recently launched a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, viz., "Support to State Extension Programme for Extension Reforms" for the Tenth Plan period for implementation in 254 districts in the country. The objective of the Scheme is to make extension system farmer driven and farmer accountable by way of new institutional arrangements for technology dissemination in the form of an Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA) at district level. The districts covered under the Scheme in Maharashtra are: Ahmednagar, Aurangabad, Amravati, Ratnagari, Thane, Sidhudurg, Pune, Sangli, Kolhapur, Nandurbar, Latur, Hingoli, Jalna, Washim, Gadchiroli and Wardha. Training of farmers in different subject matters, demonstrations, exposure visits are some of the eligible activities under this Scheme.

At present, there are 29 soil testing laboratories working under the State Government of Maharashtra and 10 soil testing laboratories (5 mobile and 5 static) are being run by the fertilizer industry in the State.

(c) and (d) The Scheme "Support to State Extension Programme for Extension Reforms" has been launched only during 2005. The progress of the implementation of the Scheme was reviewed through video-conference.

(e) and (f) Does not arise, as funds under the Scheme "Support to State Extension Programme for Extension Reforms" are provided to States on Work Plan basis. An amount of Rs. 82 lakhs has been released to the State of Maharashtra during the year 2005-06 under the above Scheme.

Income of Sugarcane Growers

3726. SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB PATIL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated new schemes to raise the income of sugarcane growers in the country, particularly in Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details 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) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Lok-1 Wheat Variety

3727. SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the fact that the power of residence to diseases of Lok-1, a wheat variety, has declined and this variety is becoming curse to the farmers;

(b) if so, the action being taken by the Government to treat the base seed of this variety by timely examination of its genetics;

(c) whether the scientists have advised to stop the production of this variety; 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) Yes Sir. The wheat variety Lok-1 has become susceptible to brown and black rust diseases.

(b) The new high yielding rust resistant wheat varieties such as GW 322, GW 273 and GW 190 have been developed and released to replace the old variety Lok-1. These new varieties are having higher yield potential than the Lok-1 and are highly resistant to both the brown and black rust diseases.

(c) and (d) The farmers are always advised to grow the high yielding and rust resistant varieties in place of Lok-1. The seed indenting agencies i.e. the State Governments, State seed corporations and others are also advised to furnish the indents for breeder seed production only for those wheat varieties which are disease resistant and high yielding in nature.

Development of Chambal Area in Madhya Pradesh

3728. SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN:
SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to formulate any plan to develop Chambal area of Madhya Pradesh as an Inter-National Tourism place;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the funds likely to be allocated by the Government to the State for the purpose; and

(d) by when the plan is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) to (d) Identification and development of places of tourist interest is the responsibility of the State Government/UT Administration concerned. However, Ministry of Tourism provides central financial assistance for projects prioritized every year in consultation with them. On the receipt of proposals that are complete in all respects, they are appraised on inter-se-priority basis and funds are provided, subject to availability under the respective head.

No project proposal has been prioritized for development of Chambal during 2005-06.

However, Ministry of Tourism sanctioned a project during 2000-01 for providing Watersports facility at Chambal National Park, Morena for an amount of Rs. 22.98 lakhs.

[English]

Requirement of Iron Ore

3729. SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Orissa proposes to hand over the iron ore zones to multinationals on the plea of a step to help the steel industry;

(b) if so, whether the Government of Orissa has signed an agreement with various private companies including the multinational POSCO of South Korea for their proposed steel industry at Paradip; and

(c) if so, the reasons for handing over the iron ore zones to multinationals?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

[Translation]

Bottlenecks in Attracting Foreign Tourists

3730. SHRI RAGHUVEER SINGH KOSHAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of hurdles coming in the way of attracting foreign tourists to the country as appearing in Rashtradoot, Jaipur, Rajasthan dated June 14, 2005;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has made any study with regard to bottlenecks in the way of attracting foreign tourists; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A few cases of cheating and mistreatment accorded to tourists have been brought to the notice of the Ministry of Tourism and necessary action has been taken. The States/Union Territories have been requested to deploy tourist police at important tourist centres and destinations.

Some of the bottlenecks which are a deterrent in attracting foreign tourists to India are lack of tourist infrastructure, restricted air seat capacity, multitude of taxes levied by the Centre/State Governments and limited accommodation at major tourist destinations.

(c) The Ministry of Tourism has undertaken two studies on the following:

1. Taxes levied by the State/Central Governments in the India Tourism sector.
2. Impact of Civil Aviation Policies on Tourism in India.

(d) The study on Taxes has highlighted the problem of high rate of taxation and multitude Central and State level taxes leading to high cost of packages. The study has recommended:

(i) Rationalisation of taxes like expenditure tax, service tax, customs duty and taxation on Aviation Turbine Fuel.

(ii) Need for introduction of new incentives to increase tourism expenditure and volume.

(iii) Promotion of investment in the industry.

The study on Impact on Civil Aviation Policy on Tourism in India has highlighted issues like high cost of air travel to India, shortage of air seat capacity, lack of air connectivity from major tourism generating markets etc.

The Ministry of Tourism is making concerted and continuous efforts to remove the above bottlenecks in cooperation with the concerned Ministries and the State Governments/Union Territories.

[English]

Reforms in Agriculture Sector

3731. SHRI M. APPADURAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal to introduce reforms in the agriculture sector with intention to step up investments and remove unwanted controls in farming is under consideration of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which the said reforms are likely to be implemented; and

(d) the manner in which the proposed reforms in the agriculture sector are likely to help the overall performance of the farm sector in terms of investments, marketing and 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) to (d) With a view to encouraging private investment in the marketing sector, this Government is implementing a scheme for 'Development/Strengthening of Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure, Grading and Standardization'. Under this scheme, investment subsidy is provided on the capital cost of general or commodity specific infrastructure for marketing of agricultural commodities including terminal markets. Under the scheme, subsidy @25% of capital cost of the project subject to a maximum of Rs. 50 lakh for each project is provided in all States and @33.3% of capital cost subject to a maximum of Rs. 60 lakh for each project in case of North Eastern States, hilly areas and to Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe entrepreneurs. In respect of infrastructure projects of State Governments/State Agencies, there is no upper ceiling on subsidy to be provided under the scheme. The Scheme is reform linked, to be implemented in those States/UTs that amend the APMC Act, wherever required, to allow setting up of direct marketing and competitive markets. The States of Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Manipur, Himachal Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Punjab, Sikkim, Nagaland and Andaman and Nicobar Islands have been notified for the implementation of this Scheme.

Under the existing Agricultural Produce Marketing Regulation Act (APMC Act), the farmer is restricted from entering into direct contract with any manufacturer as the produce is required to be canalized through licensed traders and regulated markets. In the case of fruits and vegetables, several intermediaries exist between the farmer and the retailer and the farmer realizes less than 30 percent of the final consumer price. These restrictions are acting as a disincentive to farmers, trade and industry. Thus, the marketing reforms are expected to benefit farmers by enlarging the markets for their produce and also by enlarging their share in the final consumer price.

Afforestation Projects

3732. DR. K.S. MANOJ: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of afforestation projects under the Ministry, State-wise;

(b) whether the Union Government has approved the Smruthyvanam Project submitted by the Government of Kerala;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and the time by which it is likely to be approved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Ministry of Environment and Forests is implementing National Afforestation Programme (NAP) through two-tier decentralized mechanism of Forest Development Agency (FDA) at Forest Division level and Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs) at the village level for regeneration of degraded forests and adjoining lands. 620 FDA projects have been approved upto 31.3.2005 to treat a total project area of 8.68 lakh ha. through 21,262 JFMCs. Number of FDA projects approved upto 31.3.2005, State-wise is given in the enclosed statement.

(b) to (d) The Smrithyvanam was a State project funded and implemented by the Government of Kerala.

Statement

(As on 31.3.2005)

Sl. No.	Name of State	No. of FDA Projects approved
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	28
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	13
3.	Assam	24
4.	Bihar	7
5.	Chhattisgarh	29
6.	Goa	3
7.	Gujarat	16
8.	Haryana	16
9.	Himachal Pradesh	27
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	31
11.	Jharkhand	27
12.	Karnataka	41
13.	Kerala	14
14.	Madhya Pradesh	44
15.	Maharashtra	41
16.	Manipur	12
17.	Meghalaya	7
18.	Mizoram	19
19.	Nagaland	16
20.	Orissa	32
21.	Punjab	5
22.	Rajasthan	16
23.	Sikkim	7
24.	Tamil Nadu	31
25.	Tripura	12
26.	Uttar Pradesh	56
27.	Uttaranchal	30
28.	West Bengal	16
	Total	620

[Translation]

Assistance to Food Parks

3733. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government makes available funds for construction of food parks, packaging centers, modernization of slaughter houses and integrated cold storage chains;

(b) if so, the ratio of loan and grant therein and the expected contribution from States in these schemes; and

(c) the amount sanctioned by the Government to Rajasthan during the last two years, year-wise, scheme-wise and programme-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) The Ministry of Food Processing Industries under its Plan schemes, *inter alia*, provides financial assistance in the form of grant in aid for provision of common facilities in Food Parks, Packaging Centre, Modernized Abattoirs, Integrated Cold Chain Facilities, Value added Centre and Irradiation facilities. The Ministry does not set up projects on its own.

(b) The financial assistance under plan schemes is entirely in the form of Grant in aid and is upto 25% in general areas and upto 33.33% in difficult areas subject to a maximum of Rs. 4.00 crores in case of food Parks; Rs. 2.00 crore in case of Packaging Centres; Rs. 4.00 crore in case of Modernized abattoirs; Rs. 75 lakhs in case of Cold Chain facilities.

(c) The details of financial assistance released for Projects in Rajasthan under different schemes during last two years (2003-2004 and 2004-2005) are given in the enclosed Statement. The Ministry has approved three food Parks in the State of Rajasthan involving a total financial assistance of Rs. 898.66 lakhs out of which Rs. 435.73 lakhs has been released to the implementing agency. On an all India basis, 50 food parks have been approved.

Statement

Financial assistance released for Rajasthan under different Schemes of Ministry of Food Processing Industries during 2003-2004 and 2004-2005

(Rs. in lakhs)

Schemes	2003-2004	2004-2005
Infrastructure Development	100.00	—
Human Resource Development	8.00	4.67
Technology Upgradation/Establishment/ Modernization of Food Processing Industries	86.00	35.83
Backward & Forward, Integration & other promotional activities	2.34	—
Total	196.34	40.50

Hurdles in Agriculture Sector

3734. SHRI BHAL CHANDRA YADAV: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the agriculture sector is facing a number of hurdles such as low productivity, decreasing water level, loans at higher rate of interest, adverse market and private investment conditions;

(b) if so, whether the Government has prepared any plan for agro reforms and increasing private investment to bring India into higher growth net; 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) According to the Mid-Term Appraisal of the 10th Five Year Plan (2002-07), GDP growth in Agriculture and allied sectors during the first three years of the Tenth Plan averages only 1% per annum compared with the Tenth Plan target of 4% growth. The reasons given for the shortfall in performance include problems arising from erratic monsoon, inadequate irrigation facilities, price fluctuations, particularly decline in prices affecting incentives to farmers to produce more in case of crops like oilseeds, worsening of the debt situation, dependence on informal sources for credit, and inadequate marketing infrastructure.

(b) and (c) With a view to encouraging private investment in the marketing sector, the Government is implementing a scheme for "Development/Strengthening of Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure, Grading and Standardization".

Under this scheme, investment subsidy is provided on the capital cost of general or commodity specific infrastructure for marketing of agricultural commodities including terminal markets. Under the scheme, subsidy @25% of capital cost of the project subject to a maximum of Rs. 50 lakh for each project is provided in all States and @33.3% of capital cost subject to a maximum of Rs. 60 lakh for each project in case of North Eastern Stats, hilly areas and to Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe entrepreneurs. In respect of infrastructure projects of State Government/State Agencies, there is no upper ceiling on subsidy to be provided under the scheme. The scheme is reform linked, to be implemented in those States/UTs that amend the APMC Act, wherever required, to allow setting up of direct marketing and competitive markets. The States of Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Manipur, Himachal Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Punjab, Sikkim, Nagaland and Andaman and Nicobar Islands have been notified for the implementation of this Scheme.

Under the existing Agricultural Produces Marketing Regulation Act (APMC Act), the farmer is restricted from entering into direct contract with any manufacturer as the produce is required to be canalized through licensed traders and regulated markets. In the case of fruits and vegetables, several intermediaries exist between the farmer and the retailer and the farmer realizes less than 30 per cent of the final consumer price. These restrictions are acting as a disincentive to farmers, trade and industry. Thus, the marketing reforms are expected to benefit farmers by enlarging the markets for their produce and also by enlarging their share in the final consumer price. This, in turn, is expected to result in higher growth rate through increase in private investment.

As regards credit, the Mid-Term Appraisal has referred to the initiatives taken to improve credit facilities in June 2004, and has observed that there are signs of improvement in the disbursement of ground-level credit.

Development of Bodh Gaya

3735. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated any plan for beautification and development of Bodh Gaya with an estimated expenditure of Rs. 540 crores;

(b) if so, whether HUDCO has sent any proposal to planning commission in this regard; and

(c) by when the funds are likely to be sanctioned to the State Government for the plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise. However, the details of financial assistance sanctioned for tourism-related projects to the Government of Bihar during the last three years of the Tenth Plan are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Projects/Schemes sanctioned to the State of Bihar during the last three years

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl.No.	Name of project/scheme	Amount sanctioned
1	2	3
	2002-03	
1.	Integrated Development of Vaishali-Nalanda-Rajgir-Bodhgaya-Varanasi Circuit	505.00
2.	Installation of HAARC System at Mahabodhi Temple, Bodhgaya	12.00

1	2	3
	2003-2004	
1.	Upgradation of roads connecting monasteries and construction of pavements/signages in Bodhgaya	5.89
2.	Development of Nepura Village (Distt. Nalanda) under Rural Tourism	50.00
3.	Development schemes for Bodhgaya (Phase II) in Bihar under scheme of destination development	462.00
4.	Development of Nava Nalanada Mahavihara as pilgrim destination as part of Bihar-Nalanda Tourist Circuit	352.00
5.	Development scheme for landscape development around Tomb of Malik Ibrahim Bayyu and Temple surroundings at Biharsharif, Nalanda	134.00
	2004-05	
1.	Construction of new High School Building and shifting of existing High School from frontage Mayasarovar Lake, Bodhgaya	33.11
2.	Eco-Tourism Development at Bhimbandh (Munger)	370.00
3.	Development of Tourist Resort at Maner	407.20
4.	Eco-Tourism Development of Valmiki Nagar (West Champaran)	300.06
5.	Development of Vishnu Vihar at Gaya	271.06
6.	Construction of Tourist Complex at Maner Sharif, Patna under destination development	500.00
7.	GOI-UNDP Endogenous Tourism Project—Nepura in Distt. Nalanda	19.80

[English]

Augmentation of Water Resources

3736. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of water resources and rain water harvesting utilised in the States including Tamil Nadu, till-date;

(b) the schemes formulated by the Union Government to increase water resources in the States;

(c) the expenditure likely to be incurred on each scheme; and

(d) the percentage of cultivable land likely to be irrigated as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) The percentage of ground water utilisation in the country has been assessed as 58%. Percentage of ground water utilisation in the State of Tamil Nadu has been assessed as 85%. However, the quantum of water harvested being utilised directly has not been assessed.

(b) to (d) Water being a State subject, it is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments to formulate and implement schemes for augmenting water resources. The Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), under the

Ministry of Water Resources, has prepared a report entitled "Master Plan for Artificial Recharge to Ground Water", which envisages recharge of 36453 Million Cubic Meter volume of surplus monsoon runoff, through construction of 39.25 lakhs artificial recharge and roof top rain water harvesting structures. CGWB had also implemented a Central sector Scheme for Study of Recharge to Ground Water in the country during the VIII & IX Five Year Plans.

The following steps have also been taken by the Union Government in this regard:

(i) Circulation of a Model Bill in the year 1970 which was re-circulated in 1992 and again in 1996 to all the States/Union Territories to enable them to enact suitable legislation for regulation and control of ground water development. A revised Model Bill, 2005 to regulate and control the development and management of ground water has been again circulated to all the States/Union Territories.

(ii) Circulation of Manual/Guidelines on Artificial Recharge of Ground Water to the States/Union Territories to enable them to formulate area specific artificial recharge schemes to check the declining trend of ground water levels.

(iii) Central Ministries/Departments of Railways, Defence, Posts, Telecommunications, Central Public Works Department and National Highways Authority of India have been requested to provide roof top rain water harvesting structures in the buildings under their control.

(iv) States/UTs have been requested to provide water harvesting structures in buildings under their administrative control.

(v) All the States/Union Territories have been requested for advising the local bodies in their respective States/Union Territories to allow rebate in property tax to persons, who adopt roof top rainwater harvesting in their premises.

(vi) CGWB has provided technical guidance on rain water harvesting to around 2000 agencies, including State Government agencies, educational institutions, private entrepreneurs and individuals.

(vii) The Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) constituted under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 has notified 11 critical areas on consideration of over-exploitation of ground water resources and 32 over-exploited areas for registration of ground water structures.

(viii) Launching of a website on Roof Top Rain Water Harvesting (www.cgwb.net) to make aware and educate the public about various techniques of harvesting rainwater and store it for future use.

(ix) Organisation of mass awareness programmes and training courses on rainwater harvesting and artificial recharge of ground water.

(x) Rain Water Harvesting campaign has been launched keeping in view the various target groups like youth and children, women, farmers and villagers, policy and opinion makers. Publicity through print media, telecasting of spots on the television, broadcasting messages on radio, holding of seminars, workshops, conferences etc., have been undertaken for the purpose.

(xi) The Ministry of Urban Development & Poverty Alleviation, Government of India have amended Building Bye-laws, 1983, making provision for water harvesting through storing of water run-off including rain water in all new buildings on plots of 100 square meters and above in Delhi mandatory. Similarly, State Governments of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Rajasthan and Kerala have made roof top rain water harvesting mandatory in specified cases.

No estimation of additional land likely to be irrigated through implementation of above measures has been made.

Non Scientific Work by Scientists

3737. SHRI T.K. HAMZA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether sometime in the past Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) had given assurance that non-scientific work of routine nature will not be entrusted to scientists;

(b) if so, whether instructions have since been issued to Directors of various Research Institutes for strict compliance of this policy;

(c) if so, the details of the violations, if any, noticed during the last three years and thereafter, institute-wise;

(d) whether the responsibilities of Guest House Supervision, Welfare Officer, Campus in-charge etc. at IASRI, continue to be discharged by a Principal Scientist of the institute; and

(e) if so, the reasons for not taking action against such violations?

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) No violation observed.

(d) and (e) As per the prevailing system in ICAR, Guest Houses are placed under the charge of Administrative Officers while the duties of wardens of hostels, Welfare Officer, campus in-charge are looked after by Scientists. There is no establishment in IASRI, which is exclusively a guest house. There is a hostel called 'Panse Hostel'. It houses the trainees of various ad-hoc training programmes conducted under Centre of Advanced Studies, Summer Schools, Winter Schools and other national and international training programmes. The scientists and other officers of the National Agricultural Research System visiting Delhi also stay in this hostel. The Assistant Administrative Officer has been assigned the overall charge of this establishment. Since trainees of various training courses stay at the Panse Hostel, a Principal Scientist has been assigned the duty of Student Hostel Warden, Welfare Officer and Campus in-charge.

[Translation]

Amendment in Labour Laws

3738. SHRI GANESH SINGH: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Law Department of Madhya Pradesh had sent any proposal to the Union Government in 2004 for amendment in Central Labour Laws for setting up of Special Economic Zone (SEZ) in Indore;

(b) if so, whether the above said proposal is still lying pending with the Ministry of Labour and Employment or the Ministry of Home Affairs;

(c) if so, the reasons for pendency of the above said proposal; and

(d) the time by which the Union Government is likely to take decision on the above said proposal?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SHEKHAR RAO): (a) to (d) The Ministry of Labour and Employment has offered its comments on the Madhya Pradesh Labour Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2003 to the Ministry of Home Affairs, which is the nodal Ministry for this purpose. As per information available, the Ministry of Home Affairs has sought clarifications from the State Government on the comments of the Ministry of Labour and Employment which are awaited.

[English]

Diversion of Rivers Water

3739. SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that due to setting up of Vedant Aluminium Plant at Lanjigarh in Kalahandi district of Orissa and mining activities in Niyahigini Hills in Rayagada and Kalahandi district there will be drying up of perennial rivers and perennial water flow in Vansadhara river; and

(b) if so, the measures taken by the Government to prevent the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) As reported by the Government of Orissa no water has been allocated to Vedant Aluminium plant at Langigarh from river Vansadhara. As such, there is no possibility of drying up of the perennial stream of river Vansadhara.

(b) Does not arise.

Bandra-Worli Link Road Projects

3740. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an expert committee on Bandra-Worli Link Road Complex was set up sometime in the past;

(b) if so, the terms of reference thereof;

(c) whether the committee has admitted its recommendations;

(d) if so, the details thereof including any objection raised by it regarding environmental impact of the said project; and

(e) the follow-up action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Does not arise.

Adulterated Desi Ghee

3741. SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether adulterated Desi Ghee (Butter oil) is being produced and sold in and around Delhi; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to contain this malpractice?

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) The Government of Delhi has intimated that they have not received any specific complaint regarding production and sale of adulterated butter oil in Delhi. However, out of 446 samples of Desi Ghee lifted from various sale outlets within Delhi during the period 2002-July, 2005, and analysed by the Food Lab under the provisions of PFA Act/Rules, only 16 number of samples were found to be adulterated as they did not meet the prescribed standards of Desi Ghee.

(b) The Government of Delhi is already vigilant about the quality of Milk and Milk Products to be made available to citizens of Delhi and has been regularly lifting samples of Ghee in the past also. In all those cases where the samples have been declared adulterated by the public Analyst, the prosecution cases against the persons/parties found to have violated the provisions of PFA Act/Rules have been instituted in the designated court.

[Translation]

Krishi Vigyan Kendras

3742. MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had sanctioned the setting up of Krishi Vigyan Kendras in the districts of Pauri Garhwal, Rudraprayag and Chamoli in Uttaranchal;

(b) if so, the places where these have been set up and the authority running these centres; and

(c) the total amount allocated by the Union Government of each Kendras during the last three 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) Yes, Sir.

(b) The places where these Krishi Vigyan Kendras have been set up are Bharsar in Pauri Garhwal, Jakhdhar in Rudraprayag and Gwaldam in Chamoli under G.B. Pant Univeristy of Agriculture and Technology.

(c) All these Kendras were sanctioned during February, 2004. In amount of Rs. 136.11 lakh were allocated during 2003-04 to 2004-05 including Rs. 44.44 lakh for Pauri Garhwal, Rs. 47.84 lakh for Rudraprayag and 43.83 lakh for Chamoli.

Silica Mines in Forest Areas

3743. SHRI SHISHUPAL N. PATLE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the work in mines of silica has been delayed due to Forest Conservation Act, 1980 in the country;

(b) if so, the names of the States having such mines;

(c) whether such mines are out of work in the districts of Maharashtra and other States due to the said Act;

(d) whether the Government proposes to restart the work in these mines due to its increasing demand in the International Market; and

(e) if so, the time by which it is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) So far proposals for diversion of forest land for silica mines has been received from the State of Rajasthan only.

(c) to (e) No proposal for silica mining has been received from Maharashtra or any other State.

Free Sale of Levy Sugar

3744. SHRI RAJESH VERMA : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether some sugar mills are selling the levy sugar in free-sale market without the permission of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the names of such sugar mills;

(c) whether any action has been taken against such sugar mills;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and by when the action is likely to be taken;

(e) whether a special package of 8000 crore rupees has been provided for sugar mills in Maharashtra;

(f) if so, whether the benefit of the said special package is likely to be provided to these sugar mills also; and

(g) 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) to (d) Complaint regarding sale of levy sugar in the free market without permission from the Government by a sugar mill of Maharashtra is being enquired into.

(e) No, Sir.

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

[English]

Seizure of Tiger Skins and Bones

3745. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether tiger skins and bones were recently seized from a police van by the Forest Staff of Assam's tiger rich Sonai-Rupai sanctuary around August 1, 2005;

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

(c) whether any gang of poachers or smugglers has been found operating in the area; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the officials and others apprehended in connection therewith?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. As per information received from State, the Beat Officer of Gabharu Beat, Kalamati, Sonitpur West Division, Tezpur seized a tiger skin alongwith bones (10 kg) from a police vehicle (Mahindra Van Regd. No. AS 30-2585) on 26.7.2005 at 4.30 P.M. at Kalamati Forest Check gate, near the boundary of the Sonai Rupai Wildlife Sanctuary. One person has been arrested and produced before the Hon'ble Court in this regard.

(c) and (d) No such information has come to light. However, the police personnel in-charge of the vehicle referred above has been placed under suspension by the State and investigation of the case has been initiated.

Joint Venture Proposal for ICAR

3746. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering joint venture proposal with the allocation of Rs. 250 crores to ICAR; and

(b) if so, the details of the crops and the companies selected for this 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) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Approval to Badhra Lift Irrigation Project

3747. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka had given administrative approval for Badhra Lift Irrigation Project to feed water to Chitradurga and Davangere districts of State;

(b) if so, the allocation of water under Scheme "A" and Scheme "B" for the project alongwith estimated cost of the project;

(c) whether detailed technical estimate has done, after doing the survey;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) by when the project is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) As estimated by the Government of Karnataka, the State Government has accorded administrative approval to Upper Bhadra Stage-I (including Ubrani Lift Irrigation Scheme) project on 23rd August, 2003 for Rs. 2813.00 crore to provide irrigation facilities to the lands coming under Chikmagalur and Chitradurga districts. This proposal involves lifting of water by way to pumping from the Bhadra river. The Upper Bhadra Stage-I is planned for 23 Thousand Million Cubic Feet (TMC) water of which 13 TMC is proposed to be met out of savings after modernization of certain anicuts and channel systems. For the upper Bhadra Project Stage-II under Scheme 'B', the proposed allocation is 19 TMC of water. The cost of the project is Rs. 905.00 crore as per preliminary investigations.

(c) and (d) The Administrative approval is accorded for the line estimates of the Upper Bhadra Stage-I project based on toposheets and not on detailed survey as certain areas of the land required for the project are coming under the Bhadra Wild Life Sanctuary.

(e) The State Government has assessed that the project can be completed within a period of 5 to 7 years after its commencement.

Grants to NGOs for Eco-Development

3748. SHRI K.C. SINGH "BABA": Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any grants or funds are provided by the Union Government to the State Governments or NGOs for Eco-Development;

(b) if so, the amount of grants provided to different NGOs (name-wise) or State Governments for eco-development of Sanctuaries/National Park during the last two years; and

(c) the measures taken by the Government to ensure proper utilization of the funds for eco-development?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) Ministry of Environment & Forests has not provided any funds for eco-development of Sanctuaries/National Parks to NGOs. However, funds have been provided to States & Union Territories under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes such as India Eco-Development Scheme, Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries, Project Elephant and Project Tiger during the last two years as per details given in enclosed Statement I, II, III & IV.

(c) The important measures taken by the Government for ensuring proper utilization of the funds are periodic monitoring of progress of works executed and release of funds after obtaining proper Utilization Certificates for the specific releases made.

Statement I

Tiger Reserve/National Park Wise Release of Fund to States under India Eco-Development Scheme during 2003-04 and 2004-05

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	Name of Tiger Reserve/National Park	2003-04	2004-05
1	2	3	4
1.	Buxa Tiger Reserve (West Bengal)	186.29	10.17
2.	Girl National Park (Gujarat)	272.75	253.91

1	2	3	4
3.	Palamau Tiger Reserve (Jharkhand)	195.84	—
4.	Pench Tiger Reserve (Madhya Pradesh)	146.37	170.00
5.	Periyar Tiger Reserve (Kerala)	100.66	89.46
6.	Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve (Rajasthan)	296.61	2.12
	Total	1198.52	505.66

Statement II

Details of Fund Released under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries"

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	Name of the State/UTs	2003-04	2004-05
1	2	3	4
1.	A&N Islands	—	69.40
2.	Andhra Pradesh	89.30856	71.70
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	151.046	111.086
4.	Assam	93.68	213.45
5.	Bihar	24.65	—
6.	Chhattisgarh	295.93469	227.29
7.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	—	20.00
8.	Goa	36.45607	37.50
9.	Gujarat	52.14	223.93
10.	Haryana	24.84	45.10
11.	Himachal Pradesh	168.9605	343.52
12.	Jammu & Kashmir	138.82492	63.20
13.	Jharkhand	54.6228	77.59
14.	Karnataka	693.9609	546.24
15.	Kerala	188.371	238.78879
16.	Madhya Pradesh	344.35594	268.4755
17.	Maharashtra	165.24596	108.05
18.	Manipur	57.80	110.588
19.	Meghalaya	93.07	84.82
20.	Mizoram	231.836	315.0412
21.	Nagaland	42.70	32.32
22.	Orissa	187.25	370.27
23.	Rajasthan	214.819	246.62
24.	Sikkim	108.92	74.40
25.	Tamil Nadu	139.76	158.75
26.	Tripura	245.26484	49.125
27.	Uttar Pradesh	164.37	287.53
28.	Uttaranchal	96.39	68.20
29.	West Bengal	214.165	317.24
	Total	4318.74218	4780.22449

Statement III

Details of Fund Released under the Centrally sponsored Scheme "Project Elephant"

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Sl.No.	State	2003-2004	2004-05
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	55.00	48.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	61.00	59.00
3.	Assam	134.100	130.00

1	2	3	4
4.	Jharkhand	93.00	105.96
5.	Karnataka	149.660	186.22
6.	Kerala	188.280	167.40
7.	Meghalaya	64.00	70.00
8.	Nagaland	42.00	29.00
9.	Orissa	116.100	137.96
10.	Tamil Nadu	117.00	84.00
11.	Uttaranchal	129.00	138.90
12.	West Bengal	119.950	148.54
13.	Manipur	—	0.00
14.	Tripura	16.00	17.00
15.	Mizoram	—	0.00
16.	Uttar Pradesh	—	12.00
	Total	1285.09	1333.98

Statement IV

Tiger Reserve/National Park Wise Release of Fund to States for Eco-Development Activities under Project Tiger Scheme during 2003-04 and 2004-05

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	Name of the Tiger Reserve/ National Park	2003-04	2004-05
1	2	3	4
1.	Bandipur Nagarhole (Karnataka)	20.00	65.78
2.	Bandhavgarh (Madhya Pradesh)	24.35	15.00
3.	Bhadra (Karnataka)	20.00	6.00
4.	Bori-Satpura-Pachmari (Madhya Pradesh)	23.45	22.00
5.	Dampha (Mizoram)	1.200	40.60
6.	Dudhwa (Uttar Pradesh)	12.75	14.00
7.	Indravati (Madhya Pradesh)	51.75	12.82
8.	Kanha (Madhya Pradesh)	61.70	55.78
9.	Kalakad (Tamil Nadu)	—	60.00
10.	Manas (Assam)	4.00	—
11.	Melghat (Maharashtra)	13.25	10.00
12.	Namdhapa (Arunachal Pradesh)	1.90	0.90
13.	Nameri (Assam)	4.60	-
14.	Pakhui (Arunachal Pradesh)	10.88	5.60
15.	Panna (Madhya Pradesh)	27.30	22.00
16.	Pench (Maharashtra)	11.80	58.40
17.	Sariska (Rajasthan)	16.00	—
18.	Similipal (Orissa)	45.60	28.00
19.	Sunderbans (West Bengal)	72.75	105.00
20.	Tadoba Andheri (Maharashtra)	—	73.13
21.	Valmiki (Bihar)	12.50	19.26
	Total	446.58	604.27

Dilution in Approach to Sustainable Development

3749. PROF. M. RAMADASS: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the dilution of participatory approach in the sustainable development of natural resources;

(b) whether the Government is aware of the dangerous exhaustion of natural resources because of dilution in the concept of participatory sustainable development;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to enact a law where community based organizations and primary stake holders would participate in planning, budgeting, implementation and management of all natural resources in the country;

(d) whether the Government has taken steps to ensure equity in the process of natural resources development in the country;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Yes Sir.

(e) Management and control of natural resources, at various levels of governance, is the priority of Government of India. The Government policies in this regard is guided by the overriding concern for conserving our biodiversity and protecting the environment and ensuring intra-generational and inter-generational equity.

(f) Does not arise.

Representation of Farmers and Tribals

3750. DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Central and the State Level bodies set up under the Bio-diversity Rules (April 2004) Act, 2002 have received representations from farmers, tribals, pastoralists or other communities;

(b) if not, whether there is any proposal to modify the rules to involve the above parties; and

(c) whether the purpose of creating biodiversity management committee at Panchayat and municipality level to protect the indigenous genetic resources is being served properly without having representation of them at the Central and State bodies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (c) The National Biodiversity Authority set up at Central Level and the State Biodiversity Boards being set up at the State level are represented by ex-officio members and non-official experts, as prescribed under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 and Biodiversity Rules, 2004. At the local level, the Biodiversity Management Committees are to be set up which would comprise of maximum 7 members nominated by the local bodies of whom not less than 1/3rd would be women and not less than 18% belonging to SC/ST. The National Biodiveristy Authority and the State Boards are to carry out their mandate through Biodiversity Management Committees being established at local level. Therefore, the purpose to protect indigenous genetic resources is adequately served without having representation of local communities on the Central and State bodies. Accordingly, there is no proposal to modify the Act and Rules presently.

Cultivation of BT Cotton

3751. KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government is aware that according to scientists of the Central Institute for Cotton Research, Nagpur, the Cry 1 AC based BT Cotton Technology would not be successful in our country;

(b) whether the Union Government is also aware that the Genetic Engineering Approval Committee has granted approval for commercial cultivation of varieties of BT Cotton;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the reaction of the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) The Government has not received any report from the scientists of the Central Institute for Cotton Research, Nagpur, which indicates that the Cry 1 AC based Bt Cotton Technology would not be successful in our country.

(b) and (c) The Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) has approved twenty varieties of Bt Cotton for commercial cultivation in the country. List of the approved varieties is given in enclosed statement.

(d) The Bt Cotton varieties approved by the GEAC, have been extensively tested in the contained and multi-locational trials under supervision of the Review Committee on Genetic Manipulation (RCGM) as well as the large

scale field trials of the GEAC and the Indian Council of Agriculture & Research (ICAR) testing system as per the detailed guidelines and procedures framed for the purpose. The large-scale field trials and ICAR trials have been evaluated by the Monitoring-cum-Evaluation Committee (MEC) and the Indian Council of Agriculture & Research respectively. The GEAC has taken into consideration the recommendations of the MEC and ICAR on the efficacy of the Bt seeds to control bollworms while approving the Bt variety for commercial cultivation. The GEAC also took into consideration the demand by the State Govts. and farmers for transfer of Bt technology into robust and high yielding cotton varieties.

Statement

Bt Cotton varieties approved for commercial cultivation in the various zones

Sl.No.	Name of Hybrids	Name of Company	Zone
1	2	3	4
Approval granted in 2002*****			
1.	MECH 12 Bt	M/s Mahyco	Central & South
2.	MECH 184 Bt	M/s Mahyco	Central & South
3.	MECH 162 Bt	M/s Mahyco	Central & South
Approval granted in 2004			
4.	RCH 2 Bt	M/s Rasi Seeds Ltd.	Central & South
Approval granted in 2005			
5.	NCS-207 Mallika	M/s Nuziveedu Seeds Ltd.	Central & South
6.	NCS-145 Bunny	M/s Nuziveedu Seeds Ltd.	Central & South
7.	RCH-144 Bt	M/s Rasi Seeds Ltd.	Central
8.	RCH-118 Bt	M/s Rasi Seeds Ltd.	Central
9.	RCH-138 Bt	M/s Rasi Seeds Ltd.	Central
10.	RCH-20 Bt	M/s Rasi Seeds Ltd.	South
11.	RCH-368 Bt	M/s Rasi Seeds Ltd.	South
12.	RCH-134 Bt	M/s Rasi Seeds Ltd.	North
13.	RCH-317 Bt	M/s Rasi Seeds Ltd.	North
14.	MRC-6322 Bt	M/s Mahyco	South
15.	MRC-6918 Bt	M/s Mahyco	South
16.	MRC-6301 Bt	M/s Mahyco	Central & North
17.	MRC-6304 Bt	M/s Mahyco	North
18.	Ankur-651 Bt	M/s Ankur Seeds Ltd.	Central & North

1	2	3	4
19.	Ankur 2534 Bt	M/s Ankur Seeds Ltd.	North
20.	Ankur-09	M/s Ankur Seeds Ltd.	Central

States covering each zone: Central Zone (Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra & Gujarat) South Zone (Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka & Tamil Nadu) and North Zone (Punjab, Rajasthan & Haryana).

*****The GEAC did not renew its permission for Andhra Pradesh in respect of these three varieties.

[Traslation]

Umarahat Lift Canal Scheme

3752. SHRI RADHEY SHYAM KORI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Umarahat Lift Canal Scheme is being implemented in Kanpur in Uttar Pradesh for irrigation facilities;

(b) if so, the date on which the Scheme was sanctioned and the capacity target set under the scheme and the expenditure incurred on the scheme;

(c) the total area irrigated under the scheme;

(d) whether the second phase of the scheme is under consideration and whether some proposals under 'modernisation/renovation' of the lift canal was received in 2002-03 and 2003-04 and whether certain expenditure was also proposed;

(e) if so, whether any proposal for extension of the scheme in 2005-06 is under consideration; and

(f) if so, the amount of expenditure fixed for the scheme and by when the scheme is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) Umarahat Lift Canal Scheme was approved by the Planning Commission in the year 1977 at an estimated cost of Rs. 0.78 crore to irrigate an area of 4.80 thousand hectares (Culturable Command Area) in the Kanpur District of Uttar Pradesh. The Scheme was stared in the V Plan and completed in VII Plan creating an ultimate irrigation potential of 3.900 thousand hectares.

(d) and (e) Detailed project Report for the Second Phase of the Scheme or extension of the Scheme has not been received in Central Water Commission for techno-economic appraisal.

(f) Does not arise.

[English]

Anandpur Barrage Project

3753. SHRI ARJUN SETHI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the names of major and medium irrigation projects in States including Orissa pending for clearance of the Central Water Commission (CWC) during 2004-05 and 2005-06;

(b) whether Anandpur Barrage Project, Phase-II is one amongst these projects; and

(c) if so, by when the project is likely to be given clearance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) A statement indicating names of major and medium irrigation projects in States including Orissa pending for clearance of Central Water Commission (CWC) during 2004-05 and 2005-06 is enclosed.

(b) The detailed project report for Anandpur Barrage Project Phase II has not been received in CWC from the Government of Orissa for techno economic appraisal.

(c) Does not arise.

Statement

Sl.No.	Name of State/Project	Category
1	2	3
	Andhra Pradesh	
1.	Nettampadu Lift Irrigation Scheme	Major
2.	Kalwa Kurthi Lift Irrigation Scheme	Major
3.	Thotapally Barrage	Major
4.	Pulichintala Irrigation Project (Masonry Dam)	Major
5.	Krishna Delta System Modernisation	Major
6.	Bhima Lift Irrigation	Major
7.	Sriramsagar Stage-II	Major
8.	Flood Flow Canal from SRSP	Major
9.	Jurala (Masonry Dam)	Major
10.	Vamsadhara Project Stage II (Neradi Barrage)	Major
11.	Godavari Lift Irrigation	Major
12.	Musurumilli Reservoir Project	Medium
13.	Gollavagu Reservoir	Medium
14.	Rallivagu Reservoir	Medium
15.	Nilwai Reservoir	Medium
16.	Mathadivagu Reservoir Project	Medium
17.	Janjhavathi Project	Medium
18.	Peddagedda Reservoir Project	Medium
19.	Peederu Reservoir	Medium
20.	Palemvagu (Masonry Dam)	Medium
21.	Valligallu Reservoir	Medium
22.	Yerravagu (Earthen Dam)	Medium
23.	Suddavagu (Earthen Dam)	Medium
24.	Peddavagu (Earthen Dam)	Medium
25.	Surampalem Res. Scheme (Earthen Dam)	Medium
26.	Surampalem Phase-II	Medium

1	2	3
27.	Bhupatipalem (Dam)	Medium
	Bihar	
28.	Upper Mahananda Irrigation Scheme	Major
29.	Punpun Barrage	Major
30.	Tilaiya Dhadhar	Major
	Chhattisgarh	
31.	Kelo Irrigation Project (Masonry Dam)	Major
32.	Sutlapat Reservoir Project	Medium
33.	Rajiv Augmentation Scheme Phase-II	Major
	Gujarat	
34.	Modernization of Machchu-1-ERM	Major
	Haryana	
35.	Western Yamuna Link Channel	Major
36.	Satluj Yamuna Link Canal	Major
37.	Khet Purali Dam Project (Earthen Dam)	Medium
	Himachal Pradesh	
38.	Renuka Dam (Multipurpose)	Major
39.	Phina Singh	Medium
	Jammu & Kashmir	
40.	Tawi Pump House and Tawi Lift Cannal-ERM	Major
41.	Mod. of Nandi Canal-ERM	Medium
42.	Mod. of Ahji Canal-ERM	Medium
43.	Mod. of Lar Canal-ERM	Medium
44.	Mod. of Mavkhul-ERM	Medium
45.	Mod. of Martand Canal-ERM	Medium
46.	Mod. of Babul Canal-ERM	Medium
47.	Kandi Canal Project	Medium
48.	Modernisation of New Pratap Canal-ERM	Medium
49.	Mod. of Kathua Canal-ERM	Medium

1	2	3
50.	Rentzar Storage Scheme at Thallar Shangns	Medium
51.	Construction of Gravity feeder channel for augmentation of irrigation water supply under lift irrigation scheme Rajal.	Medium
	Jharkhand	
52.	Kanhar Reservoir Project	Major
53.	North Koel Reservoir	Major
54.	Upper Sakri Reservoir	Major
55.	Punasi Reservoir	Major
56.	Subernakha (Multipurpose)—Project	Major
57.	Ajoy Barrage/Siktia Barrage	Major
58.	Konar Irrigation	Major
	Karnataka	
59.	Singatalur (Huligudda) Lift Irrigation Scheme	Major
60.	Markandeya	Major
61.	Hippargi Irrigation Project (Earthen Dam)	Major
62.	Upper Tunga Project	Major
63.	Basapur Lift Irrigation Scheme	Medium
	Kerala	
64.	Idmalayar Irrigation Project (Barrage, Earthen Dam with Canal system on both bank)	Major
65.	Attapady Irrigation Project—Masonary Dam with vertical lift type spillway, canal system on both banks	Medium
	Madhya Pradesh	
66.	Halon Irrigation Project (Earthen Dam)	Major
67.	Punasa Lift Irrigation	Major
68.	Upper Narmada	Major
69.	Lower Goi	Major
70.	M.P. Water Restructuring Project	Major
71.	Kolar Project (Earthen Dam)	Major
72.	Thanwar Tank (Earthen Dam)	Major

1	2	3
73.	Pench Diversion (Earthen Dam)	Major
74.	Rajghat Canal	Major
75.	Bhanpura Canal Scheme	Major
	Maharashtra	
76.	Human River Project (Earthen Dam)	Major
77.	Lower Wardha (Earthen Dam)	Major
78.	Lendi Irrigation Project—Joint Venture of Maharashtra and A.P. (Earthen Dam)	Major
79.	Sina Kolegaon	Major
80.	Sulwade-Jamphal-Kanoli LIS	Major
81.	Gunjawani	Major
82.	Sangola Branch Canal	Major
83.	Tarali	Major
84.	Warna Irrigation (Earthen Dam)	Major
85.	Arunavati River Project (Earthen Dam)	Major
86.	Punad Irrigation (Composite Dam)	Major
87.	Lower Wunna Project (Earthen Dam)	Major
88.	Talamba Irrigation Project (Earthen Dam)	Major
89.	Dhom Balakwadi	Major
90.	Bhama Askhed	Major
91.	Nira Deoghar	Major
92.	Urmodi	Major
93.	Sulwade Barrage	Medium
94.	Shelgaon	Medium
95.	Prakasha Barrage	Medium
96.	Jambre (Earthen Dam)	Medium
97.	Andhra Khore (Masonry Dam)	Medium
98.	Sapan (Medium) (Earthen Dam)	Medium
99.	Srangkheda (Earthen Dam)	Medium
100.	Haranghat L.I.S.	Medium

1	2	3
101.	Gul River (Earthen Dam)	Medium
102.	Ghataprabha (Earthen Dam)	Medium
103.	Dara (Earthen Dam)	Medium
104.	Nagan (Earthen Dam)	Medium
105.	Northmand (Earthen Dam)	Medium
106.	Wang (Earthen Dam)	Medium
107.	Kamani Tanda	Medium
108.	Pimple Gaon	Medium
109.	Ambeohol (Hiranyakeshi)	Medium
110.	Chandrabhaga	Medium
111.	Lower Panzara	Medium
112.	Shivan	Medium
113.	Wadi-Shewadi	Medium
114.	Amravati	Medium
115.	Jamkhedi	Medium
116.	Kudali	Medium
117.	Sarf Nalla	Medium
118.	Wagholi Buti Lift	Medium
119.	Dhapewada Lift Irrigation	Medium
120.	Mor	Medium
121.	Morna (Gurighar)	Medium
122.	Kalpathari Tank	Medium
123.	Chilhewadi	Medium
124.	Wakod (Earthen Dam)	Medium
125.	Lal Nala (Earthen Dam)	Medium
126.	Raigavan (Earthen Dam)	Medium
127.	Jam Irrigation (Earthen Dam)	Medium
128.	Kar (Composite Dam)	Medium
129.	Jangam Hatti Lift Irrigation	Medium

1	2	3
	Manipur	
130.	Tipai Mukh Dam Project (Multi-purpose)	Major
	(Earth & Dock fill Dam)	
131.	Jiri Irrigation (Barrage)	Medium
	Nagaland	
132.	Dikhu Multipurpose Project	Major
133.	D'suza Irrigation Project (Barrage)	Medium
	Orissa	
134.	Improvement to Taladanda Canal and Distributory No. 12 with its system-ERM	Major
135.	Drainage Dev. Phase-I under Mahanadi Delta Stage-I & II—ERM	Major
136.	Upper Kolab Extension Project-ERM	Major
137.	Ib Irrigation Project (Composite Rockfill Dam with concrete spillway canals on both right & left banks)	Major
138.	Ong Dam Project (Earthen Dam with Ogee type radial gated spillway, canal system, on both right and left banks)	Major
139.	Brutang Irrigation Project (Earthen Dam with concrete spillway, Link canal to Kuanaria Reservoir, main Canal on right bank of Kuanaria reservoir)	Major
140.	Upper Udanti Irrigation Project	Medium
141.	Mahendratanaya Irrigation Project (Dam)	Medium
142.	Manjore (Earthen Dam with Ogee type spillway, canal system on right and left bank)	Medium
143.	Rukura (Earthen Dam with Ogee type spillway, canal system on right and left banks)	Medium
144.	Dhauragoth (Earthen Dam with Central Ogee type radial gated spillway, canal system on both right & left banks)	Medium
145.	Upper Lanth (Earthen Dam with Central Ogee type radial gated spillway, canal system on right bank)	Medium
146.	Samakoi (Barrage)	Medium
147.	Hadua/Mahanadi Irrigation Project (Earthen Dam)	Medium
	Punjab	
148.	Punjab Irrigation & Drainage Project (Phase III)	Major

1	2	3
149.	Sri Dashmesh Irrigation Project	Major
150.	Raising linking of Bhakra Main Canal-ERM	Major
151.	Modified Project estimate of SYL canal Part-III	Major
152.	SYL Main Canal Part-I	Major
153.	Raising of Linking/Bank of Sirhind Feeder-ERM	Medium
154.	Rehabilitation of Channels of 1st Patiala Feeder and Kotla Branch	Medium
155.	Punjab Irrigation Project (Lining of Channels) under RIDF fund-ERM	Medium
	Rajasthan	
156.	Pipalda Lift Irrigation	Major
157.	Indira Lift Irrigation Scheme	Major
158.	Narmada Canal Project	Major
159.	Utilisation of Yamuna water in Bharatpur Distt.	Major
160.	Utilisation of Yamuna water in Jhunjhunu & Churu Distt.	Major
161.	Sidhmukh	Major
162.	Indira Gandhi Nahar Stage-I-ERM	Major
163.	Rajasthan Water Sector Restructuring Project-ERM	Major
164.	Piplad Irrigation (Dam)	Medium
165.	Takli	Medium
166.	Hatiadeh Irrigation Project	Medium
167.	Hindlot	Medium
168.	Andheri Irrigation Project	Medium
169.	Gargrin Irrigation Project	Medium
	Tamil Nadu	
170.	Modernisation of Cauvery Delta Phase-I-ERM	Major
171.	Irrukkangudi Reservoir (Earthen Dam)	Medium
	Uttaranchal	
172.	Kishau Dam	Major
	Uttar Pradesh	
173.	Kanhar Irrigation	Major

1	2	3
174.	Kachnoda Dam	Major
175.	Madhya Ganga Nahar Pariyojana Stage II	Major
176.	Arjun Sahayak Pariyojana	Major
177.	Improving Water Management on Existing Sarda Canal System-ERM	Major
178.	Raising of Meja Dam-ERM	Major
179.	Lining of Channel in Bundelkhand-ERM	Major
180.	Increasing Capacity of Bhupali Pump Canal-ERM	Major
181.	Uttar Pradesh Water Restructuring Project	Major
182.	Bhaunrat Cum Utari Dam	Medium
	West Bengal	
183.	Mod. of Kangsabati Reservoir (Phase-I)-ERM	Major

Merger of Sponge Iron Limited

3754. DR. BABU RAO MEDIYAM: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to merge sponge Iron Limited, Palwancha with Visakha Steel Plant;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the said sponge Iron Limited is being expanded; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. While the Board of Directors of Sponge Iron India Limited (SIIL) have approved the merger proposal, the Board of Directors of Visakhapatnam Steel Plant have yet to approve the same.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. Do not arise.

Hindustan Organic Chemicals Limited

3755. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Hindustan Organic Chemicals Ltd. (HOCL) has suffered a loss in the operation of the Rasayani unit during the last three years;

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

(c) whether the Government has changed the old technology and high cost of manpower in accordance to industry norms;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the performance of the HOCL during 2004-05?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details of losses incurred in Rasayani Unit of HOCL during the last three years are as under:

2002-03	(-) 72.69 crores
2003-04	(-) 188.08 crores
2004-05	(-) 75.04 crores

HOCL had incurred losses due to cheaper imports on accounts of steep fall in import duties, higher maintenance cost, higher interest burden on account of money raised from the market by way of issue of Bonds for their expansion programme, etc.

(c) and (d) The process of rationalization of manpower has been initiated. HOCL had implemented voluntary retirement scheme (3 times) twice during 1999 and 2001. Under the scheme a total of 686 employees opted for VRS thereby reducing the manpower cost by about Rs. 14 crores.

As part of technology upgradation efforts, HOCL has developed a new chrome free environment friendly catalyst, which gives more yield of Aniline. This has resulted in a cost saving of about 3%.

(e) HOCL has made a net profit of Rs. 6.40 crores in the year 2004-05.

Ban on Fishing During Monsoon

3756. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has banned the fishing during the current monsoon;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some States have violated the aforesaid orders of the Union Government;

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

(e) the action taken by the Government against such States?

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

Irregularity in Printing of Publicity Material

3757. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a large number of cases of irregularity in printing of publicity material by India tourism offices at Frankfurt, Madrid, Milan and London;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether guidelines have been violated by India tourism offices located in foreign countries;

(d) if so, the details alongwith guidelines issued in this regard; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to check wasteful expenditure by such offices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) to (e) Production and distribution of publicity and promotional material is an ongoing promotional activity of the India tourism offices overseas. Some observations had been made by the Audit party during its periodic inspection of the India toruism offices in Frankfurt, Madrid, Milan and London, which have been communicated to the offices concerned. Directions are also issued to the offices to follow prescribed procedures.

Control on Pests and Plant/Tree Diseases

3758. SHRI SURESH ANGADI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received a number of proposals from the State Governments for financial assistance for control of pests and various plant/tree diseases;

(b) if so, the details of such proposals received during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise; and

(c) the action 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 (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During 2002-03, Government of Maharashtra and Government of Karnataka requested for release of Rs. 10.00 crore and Rs. 1.00 crore respectively for control of White Woolly Aphids in sugarcane. During 2003-04, Government of Andhra Pradesh requested for release of Rs. 44.70 lakh for establishment of pest and disease forecasting system. During 2004-05, Government of Madhya Pradesh requested for release of Rs. 4.21 crore for eradication of Hairy Caterpillar (Kamaliya Keet) in soyabean. During 2005-06, Government of Madhya Pradesh submitted a revised proposal for release of Rs. 3.70 crores for control of Hairy Caterpillar.

(c) The State Governments have been advised to utilize the funds available under the Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm & Maize and Macro Management Scheme of the Government of India for control of insect pests.

Registration of Bharat Krishak Samaj

3759. SHRI SITA RAM YADAV: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the date of registration of Bharat Krishak Samaj under the Registration of Societies Act alongwith its registration number;

(b) whether the annual audit reports of the society have been submitted to the Government during the last three years;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the election procedure of office bearers being followed by the society;

(e) the names of office bearers at all India level and State level at present;

(f) whether any malfunctioning have come to the notice of the Government during the above period; and

(g) if so, the details thereof and the action taken 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) to (g) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Payment of Minimum Wages

3760. MOHD. MUKEEM: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the Brick Kiln owners are not paying the wages fixed by the Government to the workers employed by them in various districts of Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to ensure payment of prescribed minimum wages to the labourers employed in Brick Kilns and to bring them under labour laws?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SHEKHAR RAO): (a) and (b) The State Government of Uttar Pradesh is the appropriate Government for ensuring protection including payment of Minimum Wages to workers engaged in brick kiln under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948. As per information received from the State Government, the employment in Brick Kiln is a scheduled employment under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, and the workers engaged in this work are getting wages as agreed between the Employers' and Workers' Unions, which is more than the minimum wages fixed by the State Government.

[English]

Work In Fishing Convention, 2005

3761. SHRI SURESH KURUP:
SHRIMATI C.S. SUJATHA:

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

(a) whether India was represented in the committee on fishing in the 92nd and 93rd Session of ILO;

(b) if so, the details thereabout;

(c) whether the Government decided to abstain from voting on the proposed work in Fishing Convention, 2005; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor alongwith the position of the Government on the proposed work in Fishing Convention?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SHEKHAR RAO): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The International Labour Conference of the ILO held in 2004 discussed the various ILO instruments which were necessary for being established to improve the safety and working conditions of persons working in the fishing sector. These discussions were held in the Conference of 2004, as a first discussion to identify the areas where suitable measures for improving safety and working conditions in the fishing sector could be specifically drawn

up. The Conference then decided to discuss various instruments in the International Labour Conference of 2005.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. India along with other likeminded 138 countries, decided to abstain from the voting at the time of final record vote during 93rd Session of the ILC in June, 2005, as it was felt by developing countries that the draft Convention was very prescriptive and difficult to implement. The proposed Convention did not adequately address the concerns of the small fishermen who form bulk of the fishing sector in India. The new fishing instrument should be practicable and enforceable in countries like India with diverse ecologies and long coastlines.

[Translation]

Investment of Fund of EPF

3762. DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:
SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:

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

(a) the procedure to invest the funds received in EPF;

(b) break-up of various investments made out of these funds at present;

(c) whether investment of these funds is not yielding returns;

(d) the details of the profit earned through these funds during the last three years, year-wise;

(e) whether any irregularity has been committed in the investment process; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SHEKHAR RAO): (a) Investment of monies belonging to Employees' Provident Fund is made in accordance with the provisions contained in Paragraph 52 of the Employees Provident Fund Scheme, 1952 and as per the pattern of investment prescribed by the Central Government.

(b) The category-wise investment holding in EPF account as on 31.03.2005 was as under:

(Rs. in crores)

Category	Holding as on 31.03.2005
Central Govt. Securities	9188.77
State Govt.	6918.46
Govt. Guaranteed Securities	385.77
Special Deposit Scheme	52096.15
Public Sector Financial Institutions	11175.33
Total	79764.48

(c) The different categories of investments yield different returns depending upon various macro-economic factors.

(d) The year-wise details of interest earned during the past three years is as under:

(Rupees in Crores)

Year	Interest
2002-03	5790.35
2003-04	5871.73
2004-05	6138.16

(e) No, Sir.

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

[English]

Problem of Tiger Reserves

3763. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had decided to codify the problems of tiger reserves in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Based on the recommendations made in the meeting of the National Board for Wildlife on 17.03.2005 under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister, a Task Force was constituted to review the management of Tiger Reserves in the country, which has submitted its report.

(b) The main recommendations of the Task Force are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) Actions have already been agreed and initiated on urgent measures as recommended by the Task Force.

Statement

The recommendations of the Task Force are as follows:

1. Request the Prime Minister to head the Steering Committee of Project Tiger for a period of 2-3 years.
2. The Project Tiger Directorate to be converted into a statutory authority under the Ministry of Environment & Forests. This will give it greater autonomy and ability to coordinate with State Governments.
3. The Wildlife Crime Bureau to be created immediately under the Ministry of Environment & Forests.
4. The next census (planned for November) of tigers and habitat to be done using the new methodology, suggested by Ministry of Environment & Forests and endorsed by the Tiger Task Force. Independent audit report also be presented to Parliament in 6 months, which will rate state performance on different criteria.
5. The plan for relocation of villages from key tiger habitats to be finalized within one year, with its financial and logistical implications and completed with 2-3 years.
6. The plan for coexistence to be prepared by each tiger reserve within one year so that benefits of conservation can be shared with local communities.
7. The benefits of tourism to be shared with local communities using the recommendations of the Task Force.

[Translation]

Contaminated Drinking Water

3764. SHRI AJIT JOGI:
SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA:
PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:
MOHD. SHAHID:
SHRI MOHD. TAHIR:
SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KUSHAWAHA:
SHRI MUNSHI RAM:
SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether people are compelled to use contaminated water by impurities such as fluoride, arsenic silt, iron and nitrate in several habitations in the country;

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

(c) whether the Government has made any assessment with regard to the number of people falling ill due to consumption of such contaminated water;

(d) if so, the total percentage of increase in the number of such patients both in urban and rural areas along with details of examination process adopted in this regard and the names of the States where the number of such cases reported has been the maximum so far; and

(e) the total funds spent by the Government on setting up the plants for providing safe water during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Issues related to drinking water supply are addressed by the Ministry of Rural Development (Department of Drinking Water Supply) for rural areas and Ministry of Urban Development for urban areas. Issues related to illness, patients etc. are dealt by Ministry of Health & Family Welfare. As reported by concerned Ministries, there are certain instances of contaminated water with fluoride, arsenic, iron, nitrate etc. in various parts of the country. The State-wise details of water quality affected habitations are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) It has been reported by the concerned Ministry that they are not aware of assessment made with regard to number of people falling ill due to consumption of contaminated water.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Statement

Water Quality Affected Habitations Reported by States (On the basis of survey ordered in March 2000)

Sl.No.	State/UT	Habitations Affected by						
		Fluoride	Salinity	Iron	Arsenic	Nitrate	Multiple	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3072	973	5	0	0	0	4050
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3.	Assam	0	0	7585	0	0	534	8119
4.	Bihar	43	0	629	45	50	9	776
5.	Chhattisgarh	17	61	4932	11	0	0	5021
6.	Goa	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7.	Gujarat	4351	2575	0	0	1336	465	8717
8.	Haryana	144	72	0	0	0	145	361
9.	Himachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10.	Jharkhand	15	0	113	0	1	39	168
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	0	0	49	0	0	0	49
12.	Karnataka	5838	4460	6633	0	4077	0	21008
13.	Kerala	34	86	564	0	78	105	867
14.	Madhya Pradesh	3764	604	856	0	0	157	5381
15.	Maharashtra	800	2077	196	0	296	418	3787
16.	Manipur	NR	0	37	0	0	0	37
17.	Meghalaya	0	0	160	0	0	0	160
18.	Mizoram	0	0	26	0	0	0	26
19.	Nagaland	0	0	157	0	0	0	157
20.	Orissa	504	771	30979	0	0	0	32254
21.	Punjab	613	1291	189	0	0	0	2093
22.	Rajasthan	8992	5428	131	0	7882	18639	41072
23.	Sikkim	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
24.	Tamilnadu	737	674	1058	0	237	2868	5574
25.	Tripura	0	0	6850	0	0	181	7031

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
26.	Uttaranchal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
27.	Uttar Pradesh	1046	295	2198	0	1	1522	5062
28.	West Bengal	1346	4126	54711	4973	0	0	65156
29.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	0	0	16	0	0	10	26
30.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
31.	Daman & Diu	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
32.	Delhi	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
33.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
34.	Pondicherry	0	2	14	0	0	0	16
35.	Chandigarh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Total	31306	23495	118088	5029	13958	25092	216968

[English]

Tripartite Committee

3765. SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of tripartite committees sponsored by the Ministry; and

(b) the number of meetings taken place of these committees during the last one year and current year?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SHEKHAR RAO): (a) and (b) A statement is attached.

Statement

Names of the Committees under the Ministry of Labour and Employment and dates of meetings held after 01.07.2004

Sl.No.	Name of Committees/Boards (Statutory/Non-statutory)	Dates of Meetings
1	2	3
	Statutory	
1.	Employees State Insurance Corporation (ESIC)	17.12.2004
		01.02.2005
		27.02.2005
		19.04.2005
		07.07.2005

1	2	3
2.	Standing Committee (ESIC)	17.12.2004 01.02.2005 02.06.2005
3.	Medical Benefit Council (ESIC)	Nil
4.	The Central Board of Trustees (Employees Provident Fund)	13.07.2004 20.07.2004 09.08.2004 06.12.2004 21.02.2005 28.05.2005
5.	Executive Committee (Employees Provident Fund Organisation)	06.12.2004 03.03.2005 27.07.2005
6.	Central Advisory Board under Section 7 of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948	03.06.2005
7.	Minimum Wages Advisory Board under Section 8 of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948	30.05.2005
8.	Central Apprenticeship Council (CAC)	Nil
9.	Central Advisory Contract Labour Board under Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970	09-10.09.2004 29-30.11.2004 31.01.2005 01.02.2005 12-13.03.2005 15-16.04.2005 11-12.07.2005
10.	Central Advisory Committee under Building and Other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment & Conditions of Service) Act, 1996	Nil
11.	Central Advisory Committee under Beedi Workers Welfare Fund Act, 1976	28.01.2005
12.	Central Advisory Committee under Limestone and Dolomite Mines Labour Welfare Fund Act, 1972	Nil
13.	Central Advisory Committee under Iron Ore Mines, Manganese Ore Mines and Chrome Ore Mines Labour Welfare Fund Act, 1976	Nil
14.	Central Advisory Committee under Cine Workers Welfare Fund Act, 1981	28.01.2005
15.	Dock Workers Advisory Committee under Dock Workers (Safety, Health & Welfare) Act	27-28.10.2004
16.	Committee under Section 12 of the Mines Act, 1952	Nil
17.	Central Advisory Committee under the Equal Remuneration Act, 1976	Nil

1	2	3
	Non-Statutory	
1.	Tripartite Committee on Employee Participation in Management	Nil
2.	Tripartite Industrial Committee on Plantation Industry	Scheduled for 26.08.2005
3.	Industrial Tripartite Committee on Cotton Textile Industry	Nil
4.	Industrial Tripartite Committee on Jute Industries	Nil
5.	Industrial Tripartite Committee on Engineering Industry	Nil
6.	Industrial Tripartite Committee on Electricity Generation and Distribution Industry	Nil
7.	Industrial Tripartite Committee on Road Transport Industry	Nil
8.	Hindi Salahkar Samiti	Nil
9.	National Council For Vocational Training (DGE&T)	Nil
10.	Indian Labour Conference (ILC)	Nil
11.	Standing Labour Committee (SLC)	29.11.2004
12.	National Safety Awards (Mines) Committee	19.01.2005
13.	Vishwakarma Rashtriya Puraskar & National Safety Awards Committee	10.06.2005
14.	National Committee on Safety	Nil
15.	Governing Body of Central Board for Workers Education	08-09.09.2004
16.	General Council, V.V. Giri National Labour Institute, Noida	28.3.2005
17.	Executive Council, V.V. Giri National Labour Institute, Noida	19.08.2004 10.03.2005 28.03.2005 Scheduled for 25.08.2005

Note: Nil = No Meeting held.

Proposal of Names of Directors

3766. SHRI BHUVANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the grounds/norms followed for appointment independent directors in the Board sub-committees of Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL);

(b) whether certain officials violated these norms in the recent past;

(c) if so, whether any enquiry has been ordered/made therein;

(d) if so, the details thereof along with its outcome; and

(e) follow-up action taken/proposed to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (e) The Board of Directors of SAIL, in

its collective wisdom, constitutes various sub-committees and delegates appropriate powers to them. These sub-committees may or may not include independent directors. The issue has been examined by an expert committee constituted by the Ministry and the opinion of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has been sought.

[Translation]

Medical Interests of Labourers

3767. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the measures taken to protect the medical interests of labourers in Rajasthan;

(b) the number of labourers provided with medical assistance during the last three years; and

(c) the number of areas identified in the State where ESI facilities are still not available?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SHEKHAR RAO): (a) The ESI Scheme has been implemented at 52 Centres in Rajasthan covering 2,54,580 workers in 26 districts. Under the ESI Scheme, cash benefits and medical care are provided to the covered insured workers as per the ESI Scheme.

(b) The details of number of cases of medical attendance provided to the insured persons and their families under ESI Scheme during the last three years are as under:

Year(s)	No. of Insured Persons	No. of treatment taken by families of Insured Persons
2002-03	10,12,817	12,08,149
2003-04	10,41,129	12,79,065
2004-05	10,28,656	12,68,070

(c) ESI Scheme has not been implemented in 24 Centres so far in the State of Rajasthan.

Bhartiya Mazdoor Sangh in ILO Conference

3768. SHRIMATI RUPATAI D. PATIL:
SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR:

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

(a) whether Bhartiya Mazdoor Sangh (BMS) was denied representation at the I.L.O.'s conference held at Geneva between 31st May and 16th June, 2005;

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

(c) whether the credential committee has also enquired about the denial of representation of BMS at ILO conference; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SHEKHAR RAO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir. However, issue pertaining to the nomination of delegate from the Workers group was discussed.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Setting up of Integrated Units for Ornamental Fish

3769. SHRI RANEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up integrated units for ornamental fish which has immense export potential in the country particularly in West Bengal;

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

(c) by when it is likely to be set up;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government to enhance fish landing centres in the country particularly West Bengal?

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) Fisheries is a State subject and as such no proposal is with the Government to set up integrated units for ornamental fish in the country including West Bengal.

(b) to (d) Question do not arise.

(e) A total number of 151 fish landing centres with central assistance have been commissioned in the country including 12 in West Bengal under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Development of Marine Fisheries, Infrastructure and Post Harvest Operations.

Ban on Use of Sprays on Food Products and Green Vegetables

3770. SHR E. PONNUSWAMY:
SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that some companies are marketing Spray Adjuvant products for reducing surface tension of water for the purpose of spray and irrigation;

(b) if so, whether the Government has examined the side effects of the said product, on food products particularly green vegetables;

(c) if so, the findings thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether some tests were conducted on crops by some leading research centers;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the steps being taken by the Government to ban use of such sprays on vegetables?

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 Registration Committee constituted under Section 5 of the Insecticides Act, 1968 has granted registration to some pesticide formulations which contain various adjuvants including agents for reducing surface tension of water. Such registration is only granted after the Registration Committee is satisfied regarding their safety and efficacy to human beings and animals.

[Translation]

Vocational Training Project

3771. SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:
SHRI M. ANJAN KUMAR YADAV:

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

(a) whether the Government has been executing vocational training project to bring about improvement in the quality of training;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the above scheme has been successful;

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

(e) if not, the steps taken by the Government to make it successful?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SHEKHAR RAO): (a) and (b) A World Bank assisted Vocational Training Project was implemented by this Ministry from 1989 to December 1998. Under this project, 565 Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) in 28 States/UTs, were modernized, upgraded and strengthened at a cost of Rs. 535.00 croes.

(c) to (e) As per the Implementation Completion Report of the World Bank, the assessment of outcome of the project was satisfactory.

Tap Water Schemes

3772. SHRIMATI NEETA PATERIYA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to provide funds for incomplete tap water schemes and high cost schemes for tapping ground water; 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]

Availability of Medicines/Drugs

3773. DR. THOKCHOM MEINYA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether drugs/medicines for AIDS and cancer are not easily available in the market; and

(b) if so, the measures taken by the Government to make these drugs easily available in the market?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) monitors the shortage and availability of medicines based on the monthly reports received from State Drugs Controllers, NGOs and Public Complaints etc. In the recent past, NPPA has not received any report of acute shortage of medicines for AIDS and Cancer from any of the State Drugs Controllers and other sources.

[Translation]

Danger from Parechu Lake

3774. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL:
PROF. M. RAMADASS:
SHRI RAGHUVEER SINGH KOSHAL:
DR. COL. (RETD.) DHANI RAM SHANDIL:
SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL:
SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Parechu lake in China poses a threat of devastating floods in several States and power plants in India;

(b) if so, whether China has not provided requisite data and permission for on the spot inspection as sought by India;

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

(d) whether China has diverted the course of some rivers towards India causing floods in Arunachal Pradesh; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) As per available information Parechu lake in China formed due landslide dam has broken and now it does not have any major potential threat to the downstream areas and power plants in India.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) As per available information Chinese Government does not have any such plans for transfer of waters.

[English]

Cleaning of Yamuna River

3775. SHRI SWADESH CHAKRABORTTY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of cleaning polluted Yamuna river;

(b) whether Comptroller and Auditor General has criticised the Government for its failure to prevent misutilisation of funds and failing to do anything worthwhile to improve the river; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) The Yamuna Action Plan (YAP) Phase-I was started by this Ministry in April, 1993 in the three States of U.P., Delhi & Haryana with support for funding from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) and was completed in February, 2003. The total expenditure incurred on the project is Rs. 678.65 crore.

The JBIC has also committed financial assistance for implementation of the YAP Phase-II through this Ministry, for which a loan agreement was signed in March,

2003. The project was approved for the three States of Delhi, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh at an estimated cost of Rs. 624 crore in July, 2003. The major item of works to be implemented under the YAP Phase-II are:

- Rehabilitation of trunk sewers (30.82 ks.) and works of Sewage Treatment Plants (135 mld new and 324 mld rehabilitation) in Delhi.
- Construction of Sewage Treatment Plant (38 mld) and Rehabilitation of Sewer Lines/Rising Mains (85.7 Kms.) in U.P.
- Rehabilitation of Sewer Lines (73 Kms.) and improvements in efficiencies of existing Sewage Treatment Plants in Haryana.
- Preparation of Detailed Project Reports for projects to be taken up under future YAP Phase-III.

In addition to the Yamuna Action Plan, the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi has also taken up large scale sewerage and sewage treatment works out of its own plan funds.

(b) and (c) The Comptroller and Auditor General of India in his report for the year ended March, 2000 on the Ganga Action Plan launched in the year 1985, had made observations on the pace of implementation of works of pollution abatement on the river Ganga including its tributaries, namely, Yamuna (through Yamuna Action Plan Phase-I), besides Gomti & Damodar. Necessary steps were taken to improve the monitoring of the project and the works under Yamuna Action Plan Phase-I have since been completed.

Social Security for Unemployed

3776. SHRI K.S. RAO: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to enact a low to provide social security for the unemployed in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government proposes to cover all those who could not be provided employment within a specific period of time; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SHEKHAR RAO): (a) to (e) No, Sir. However, a provision has been made in the National Rural Employment Guarantee Bill to provide unemployment allowance to those who report for work but do not get work.

Illegal Iron Ore Mining

3777. SHRI M. SHIVANNA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether illegal iron ore mining is going on in many parts of the country, particularly in Bellary district, Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (c) Instances of illegal mining in different States are brought to the notice of Central Government from time to time. States are the owners of minerals and illegal mining has serious revenue implications for them. Appropriately, therefore, the responsibility for checking illegal mining, if any, rests with the State Governments an hence detailed information in this regard is not centrally maintained. To effectively curb illegal mining, which also has environmental implications, State Governments have been empowered to make rules for preventing illegal mining, transportation and storage of minerals under the provisions of Section 23 C of the Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) Act, 1957.

Accidents in Mines

3778. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of accidents in the mines has suddenly jumped in the recent past in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government has conducted any survey into those incidents;

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

(d) the remedial/safety measures taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SHEKHAR RAO): (a) The details of accidents in mines during the period 2000-2005 is given below:

Year	Total number of fatal accidents	Total number of persons killed
2002	133	161
2003	135	175
2004*	149	164
2005*	55	57

*Details for the year 2004 and 2005 (upto 15th May) are provisional.

There has been a marginal increase in the number of accidents in 2004 as compared to 2002 and 2003.

(b) All fatal accidents in mines were thoroughly investigated by the Inspectors of Directorate-General of Mines Safety.

(c) The analysis of the causes of the accidents indicates that major causes of fatal accidents are due to fall of roof in coal mines and through the involvement of Dumpers, Trucks etc. in non-coal mines. The fall of persons and fall of objects are also responsible for a number of serious accidents in coal and non-coal mines respectively.

(d) The Mines Act, 1952 and the rules/regulations framed thereunder provide the provisions for the safety of mine workers. The DGMS also issues guidelines from time to time in the form of circulars to the management for improving safety measures. These provisions are required to be complied with by the mine managements. The officers of DGMS inspect the mines periodically to oversee the status of compliance of the safety provisions and to take action as provided for under the Act, in case of default. Beside the legislative measures, Government also promotes the concept of safety and health among the workers through a number of other initiatives such as:

(i) Conference on safety in mines (ii) Self-regulation by managements (iii) Workers' participation in safety management (iv) Tripartite and Bipartite review at various levels (v) Training of workers (vi) Observance of safety weeks and Safety campaigns (vii) National Safety Awards.

[Translation]

Iron Ore Mining

3779. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the number of sick iron ore mining units in the country at present, State-wise;

(b) the time since when these mining units are sick;

(c) the reasons for their sickness;

(d) whether the Government has any proposal for revival of these sick iron ore mining units;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (f) A mining activity may become unviable if the mineral is exhausted or the mineral cannot be mined at economically viable cost. There is no provision in the Mineral Conservation and Development Rules, 1988 for furnishing information by the mineral owners on sick mines. The State-wise details of individual sick iron ore mines are not maintained by Central Government. However, none of the iron ore producing Public Sector Companies, under Ministry of Steel, are making losses.

[English]

Employment to Migrated Persons

3780. SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether some of the States like Jammu & Kashmir, Assam, Manipur, Bihar and Mizoram where there are no employment opportunities are witnessing high migration to other States;

(b) if so, whether the Government is seriously considering to improve the situation in the States so that migration from one State to another is completely stopped or reduced;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps or measures have been considered to provide sufficient provisions of employment in these States so that they are not forced to migrate to other States for employment?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SHEKHAR RAO): (a) Yes, Sir, it is a fact that people from certain States like Bihar, Jharkhand, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Assam, Manipur, Mizoram, etc. move to States like Punjab, Haryana, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, etc. in search of better employment opportunities.

(b) to (d) Migration of people from one State to another for various reasons including better employment opportunities is a continuous process and linked to freedom of movement. However, in order to generate better employment opportunities at State level, the Government has launched a number of schemes like Swarn Jayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Rozgar Yojana, etc. especially in rural areas. The Government have also recently introduced the National Rural Employment Guarantee Bill to provide 100 days guaranteed employment to the rural household.

Cashew Board

3781. SHRI P. RAJENDRAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the detail of Cashew Development Boards at present, location-wise;

(b) whether the Government proposes to set up such Boards in various States especially in Kerala at Kollam;

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the tasks proposed to be assigned to the Board;

(d) whether the Government has received any proposal from the Government of Kerala for promotion of Cashew Industries in the State; and

(e) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto and the amount likely to be sanctioned 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) Presently there is no Cashew Development Board.

(b) There is no proposal for setting up of Cashew Development Board in various States including Kerala.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) Government have received Annual Action Plan for 2005-06 for Kerala State under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on 'National Horticulture Mission' (NHM) for overall development of horticulture including Cashew with an outlay of Rs. 92.269 crore. The proposal has been apprised and it has been decided to revise the project proposal in accordance with the operational guidelines of NHM.

Falling of Onion Prices

3782. SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether onion prices have been falling persistently for last several weeks;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the fall in the prices of onions have deprived farmers of reasonable return on their investment thus leading many of them to commit suicides; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to address the situation?

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 Weekly Wholesale Price Indices (WPI) of onion are given in the enclosed Statement. As may be seen from the Statement, onion prices have not been falling persistently. The figures reveal wide fluctuations in onion prices. The WPI increased by 6.9% from 122.1 for the week ended on 1.1.2005 to 130.5 for the week ended on 19.2.2005. though the WPI declined by 16.2% during the subsequent weeks to 109.4 for the week ended on 23.4.2005, it rose again by 19.9% to 131.2 by 23.7.2005. It declined marginally by 2.0% to 128.6 by 30.7.2005. July-October is lean period for onion as fresh crop is not available and, hence, onion prices tend to rise during this period.

(c) Analysis of the data on cost of cultivation of onion in Karnataka and Maharashtra has revealed that a fall in onion price tends to erode return to the onion farmer. Prices vary on the basis of variety. Even for the same variety, prices vary across time and space. The sale of onion also takes place at different points of time. It is, therefore, difficult to assess the economic impact of price fluctuations on onion farmers.

(d) Under Market Intervention Scheme (MIS), procurement operations are carried out by for the crops not covered under Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) on the request of the State Governments which are wiling to bear 50% (25% in the case of North Eastern States) of the losses, if any, in the implementation of MIS. Losses under MIS are shared between Central and State Government to the extent of 25% of procurement costs. Onion is covered under MIS which is designed to protect the farmers from distress sale in the event of glut.

Statement

Wholesale Price Index of Onions

(Base 1993-94: 100)

Week ending	Index
1	2
1.1.2005	122.1
8.1.2005	126.6
15.1.2005	127.0
22.1.2005	126.3
29.1.2005	126.3
5.2.2005	124.9
12.2.2005	123.8
19.2.2005	130.5
26.2.2005	126.1
5.3.2005	125.1
12.3.2005	116.9
19.3.2005	117.4
26.3.2005	116.6
2.4.2005	121.5
9.4.2005	116.9
16.4.2005	119.3
23.4.2005	109.4
30.4.2005	112.6
7.5.2005	116.4
14.5.2005	116.7
21.5.2005	114.8
28.5.2005	112.3
4.6.2005	110.1
11.6.2005	108.1
18.6.2005	109.7
25.6.2005	116.4
2.7.2005	120.0
9.7.2005	121.6
16.7.2005	128.0
23.7.2005	131.2
30.7.2005	128.6

Flood Control in Chennai

3783. SHRI K. SUBBARAYAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that during rainy season, Chennai is affected by flood;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to allocate special assistance to the State Government for the purpose; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government of Tamil Nadu has reported that during rainy season whenever Chenai

is affected by floods, all precautionary measures to safeguard Chennai from the flood damage are taken by their concerned Department by way of desilting and cleaning of waterways.

(b) Flood Management being within the purview of State Government, the schemes are planned, funded and executed by the State Governments. The assistance rendered by Central Government is technical, catalytical and promotional in nature. As per available information Chennai is not affected by floods during the current rainy season.

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

Implementation of Canal System

3784. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to implement a scheme for strengthening of the canal system in Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the funds earmarked/released to the State Government during the current year; and

(c) the steps taken to expedite the launching of the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) The State Government of Rajasthan has taken up a scheme namely, Modernization of Gang Canal System for strengthening the Gang Canal System in Rajasthan. The scheme was approved by the Planning Commission in September, 2000 for an estimated cost of Rs. 445.79 crore. The State Government has also taken up another scheme namely Rajasthan Water Sector Restructuring Project (RWSRP) for rehabilitating the canal distribution systems of 91 irrigation projects under the component of Participatory Rehabilitation of Irrigation Projects.

(b) and (c) The State Government has provided budget outlay of Rs. 41.50 crore and Rs. 150.00 crore for Modernization of Gang Canal Systems and RWSRP respectively for the current financial year. The RWSRP is being funded by World Bank. The State Government has proposed Rs. 32.80 crore as Central Loan Assistance (CLA) under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) for the year 2005-06. CLA/grant of Rs. 182.535 crore has been provided under AIBP to the State Government for this project up to March, 2005.

Global Warming

3785. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA:
DR. P.P. KOYA:

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

(a) the details of discussion held in G-8 Summit on green house gas emission and climate change;

(b) whether developed countries have agreed to provide additional finance and transfer of cleaner, low-emission and cost-effective technologies to India to combat climatic change;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the official stand taken by India on green house gas emission;

(e) whether global warming threatens to inundate low lying areas of the country; and

(f) if so, the measures proposed/taken to combat such a threat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) The leaders of G8 countries of Gleneagles discussed mainly the following issues with regard to taking further action on reducing greenhouse gas emissions and climate change.

- Transforming the way we use energy
- Powering a cleaner future
- Promoting networks for research and development
- Financing the transition to cleaner energy
- Managing the impact of climate change
- Tackling illegal logging

(b) and (c) The leaders of G8 agreed to take forward research, development and diffusion of energy

technologies in identified sectors. Regarding financing the transition to clear energy, G8 leaders *inter-alia*, supported a market-led approach to encouraging energy efficiency and accelerating investment and the deployment of cleaner energy technologies. However, there was no direct reference to India regarding provision of additional financing and transfer of cleaner, low-emission and cost effective technologies to combat climate change.

(d) India reiterated its commitment to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol, and advocated that developing countries shall take action on the basis of equity and in accordance with their common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities. Developing countries including India are not expected to take any binding targets on reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

(e) and (f) The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in its Third Assessment Report has projected that the global mean sea level may rise by 0.09 to 0.88 meter during 1990-2100 in most tropical and sub-tropical regions. However, lots of uncertainties are associated with these projections due to lack of knowledge of the impacts in various sectors at regional/ sub-regional level. The Government has taken several steps to do vulnerability assessment of various aspects of climate change including rise in sea level. Some of the national measures taken to reduce green house gas intensity of our economy include energy efficiency, energy conservation, renewable energy programmes, fuel switching to cleaner energy, afforestation and better cultivation practices.

Modernisation of Sree Padmanabha Swamy Temple

3786. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Kerala has sent any proposal to the Union Government for modernisation and rejuvenation of Sree Padmanabha Swamy Temple in Trivandrum; and

(b) if so, by when the proposal is likely to be given approval?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Construction of Dam on Bagaha-Chhitoni Rail-Cum-Road Bridge

3787. SHRI KAILASH BAITHA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to construct dam at Bagaha-Chhitoni Rail-cum-road bridge between Uttar Pradesh and Bihar border to save the Bagaha city from being washed away; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith progress achieved so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Governments of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar have informed that no such proposal is under consideration.

(b) Does not arise.

Iron Ore Reserves for Mining

3788. SHRI PRADEEP GANDHI: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the known reserves of iron ore in Chhattisgarh State;

(b) the number of reserves out of them, reserved for the public sector undertakings of Union Government and those reserved for the State Government;

(c) whether the Union Government has received applications for reservation of the iron ore reserves in favour of certain State Government public sector undertakings; and

(d) if so, the date on which these applications were received and the time by which these are likely to be approved?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) As per information made available by State Government of Chhattisgarh, the total known reserves of iron ore in Chhattisgarh State is 2195 million tonnes. The details of deposits are as follows:

Sl.No.	District	Locality/Area of the Iron ore reserves
1.	Dantewara	Bailadila
2.	Bastar	Chhote Dongar
3.	Kanker	Rowghat, Chargaon, Metabodeli, Hahaladdi, Ari Dongari
4.	Rajnandgaon	Boria Tibbu
5.	Durg	Dalli-Rajhara

The iron ore deposits of erstwhile Bastar district (Dantewada/Jagdalpur/Kanker), Durg district and Rajnandagaon district are reserved for public sector undertakings under the Government of India.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Ministry of Mines has received two proposals on 15th February, 2002 and 28th January, 2003 for reservation of iron ore in the State of Chhattisgarh. Ministry of Mines has not taken any decision in the matter for want of certain information from the State Government of Chhattisgarh.

[English]

Development of Tourism in Goa

3789. SHRI ALEMAO CHURCHILL: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government earmarked special funds for the development of tourism in Goa; and

(b) if so, the funds proposed to be provided to the State Government during 2005-2006?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Tourism does not earmark any specific funds for the development of tourism. However, Ministry of Tourism provides central financial assistance for promotion and development of tourism infrastructure projects, prioritised every year in consultation with them. On the receipt of proposals that are complete in all respects, they are appraised on inter-se-priority basis and funds are provided, subject to availability under the respective head. No project proposal, complete in all respect, has been received from the State Government of Goa for the current year.

[Translation]

Diversion of River Water

3790. SHRIMATI KARUNA SHUKLA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether water flow of Indrawati river flowing down from Orissa to Chhattisgarh is being diverted to Shabari river through Joranala

(b) if so, the number of villages affected in Bastar Region as a result thereof;

(c) whether any agreement has been reached between Orissa and Chhattisgarh to undertake construction at the Indrawati and Joranala;

(d) if so, whether design and drawing estimates of the proposed works are pending with the Central Water Commission; and

(e) if so, the steps taken in this direction and by when the works are likely to be started and completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) There is some natural flow from Indrawati river across the Jouranalla to Sabari river just upstream of Orissa-Chhattisgarh border. The State Government of Chhattisgarh has informed that Jagdalpur town and 57 villages are affected with water crisis in Bastar region.

(c) to (e) Officers of Water Resources Department of Orissa and Chhattisgarh agreed in a meeting of 24th December, 2003 that the proposed control structure should be constructed at the earliest and that the design of control structure can be finalised by Central Water Commission (CWC). In pursuance of the above decision, a team of design engineers of CWC visited the site during March, 2004 and forwarded to both the States a list of in-situ and laboratory investigations to be carried out and other data to be collected and supplied. The starting & completion of the works is dependent upon the supply of the data on geo-technical investigations by project authorities and adequate flow of funds to the project.

[English]

Suicide by Farmers

3791. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:
SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH:
SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR:
SHRI MOHAN SINGH:
SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:
SHRIMATI SUSHEELA BANGARU LAXMAN:
SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI:
SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA:
SHRI TEK LAL MAHTO:
SHRI G.V. HARSHA KUMAR:
SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT:
SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases of suicide committed by farmers including female farmers due to drought, crops failure and debt recorded in the country, particularly in Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Karnataka and Punjab during each of the last three years and thereafter, State-wise;

(b) whether the rate of suicides committed by the farmers have come down this year in comparison to the last year;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Nationalised Banks and Semi-Nationalised Banks are formulating any scheme to reduce interest on loan to the farmers;

(f) if so, by when the decision is likely to be taken in this regard;

(g) whether the Government proposes to constitute a committee to prevent and study the cause of such incidents;

(h) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(i) the steps taken by the Government to rehabilitate/ compensate to repay the debt of the families of such 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) to (f) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(g) and (h) In Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra, where large number of cases of suicide by farmers have been reported in the past few years, the State Governments have taken necessary steps to deal with the problem.

In Karnataka, a Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. Veeresh was constituted to examine the causes of suicide by farmers. The State Government has also taken measures for building confidence among farmers with the help of Psychologists and Social Scientists. The Raitha Samparka Kendras have been set up to receive representations and complaints of farmers.

In Andhra Pradesh, a Cabinet Sub-Committee has been constituted to examine the situation arising out of suicide by farmers. A Commission on Farmers' Welfare was also constituted by the State Government to examine the circumstances leading to suicide by farmers. The Commission has since submitted its report to the State Government.

In Maharashtra, Divisional Commissioner undertake the inquiry whenever a case of suicide by farmer is reported. The State Government has entrusted a study to the Indira Gandhi Institute for Development Research, Mumbai to examine socio-economic issues underlying these suicides.

(i) Government of Karnataka grants an ex-gratia relief of Rs. 1 lakh to each family of the deceased farmer if he has committed suicide due to burden of loan borrowed from financial institutions.

In Andhra Pradesh, the family of each of the deceased farmer is provided an ex-gratia relief of Rs. 1.00 lakh besides Rs. 50,000 towards liquidation of farm debt. In addition steps are taken as part of social cushion to the families by allotment of houses under Indira Awas Yojana Scheme, provision of self-employment to atleast one member of each family etc.

In Maharashtra an ex-gratia of Rs. 1.00 lakh is provided to each of the affected families from the Chief

Minister's Relief Fund if it is established that the suicide is caused due to agricultural indebtedness.

[Translation]

Remunerative Price for Sugarcane

3792. SHRI DEVIDAS PINGLE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the sugarcane growers of Maharashtra are not getting the remunerative prices as compared to the sugarcane growers of Uttaranchal and Uttar Pradesh;

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

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to ensure equitable price to sugarcane farmers of Maharashtra?

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) to (d) In Maharashtra, the Statutory Minimum Price (SMP) of sugarcane, fixation of which inter alia takes into consideration the cost of production of sugarcane and the return to the grower from alternative crops is applicable, which is Rs. 74.50 per quintal, linked to a basic recovery of 8.5% and a premium of Rs. 0.88 for every 0.1% increase in recovery above that level for 2004-05 sugar season. In the State of Uttaranchal, the sugarcane farmers are paid as per the State Advised Price (SAP) for 2004-05 sugar season, which is Rs. 104.50 per quintal for Unapproved Variety, Rs. 107 per quintal for General Variety and Rs. 112 per quintal for Early Variety and these rates are the same in Uttar Pradesh.

The Hon'ble Supreme Court has held that States which have enacted legislation regarding regulation of supply and purchase of sugarcane have the right to fix prices for sugarcane purchased by sugar mills which can be higher than the Statutory Minimum Price determined by the Central Government.

[English]

Unfertility of Land due to Prawn Farming

3793. DR. K. DHANARAJU:
SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Aquaculture Authority of India regulate the Prawn Farming;

(b) if so, whether agricultural land becomes unfertile as a result thereof;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any survey has been conducted to know the extent of land becoming unfit for cultivation in the country, particularly, in Tamil Nadu;

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

(f) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to save agricultural land?

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) Yes, Sir. The Aquaculture Authority set-up under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 regulates the shrimp farming activities in the coastal areas of the country.

(b) There is no report from any of the Coastal State Governments regarding agricultural land becoming unfertile as a result of shrimp farming. Also, the Aquaculture Authority does not permit conversion of agricultural lands for shrimp farming.

(c) Question does not arise.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) and (f) Question do not arise.

[Translation]

Floods due to Glaciers

3794. SHRI PARAS NATH YADAV: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether about 22 lakes created due to sliding of glaciers in the Himalayan region can cause havoc in plains any time;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to check sliding of glaciers and increasing water level and pressure in the said lakes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) Glacier inventory carried out by Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) using satellite data has shown formation of 22 lakes (moraine-dammed) in the Satluj basin. These lakes are fed by melting of glaciers. Lakes formed in proglacial area are far away and they will cause least damage to plains.

The formation of lakes over the glaciers and in the adjacent areas is a natural process and its formation cannot be avoided.

The National Remote Sensing Agency (NRSA) under the Disaster Management Support Programme has been constantly monitoring various major glacier lakes in the Himalayas for any possible breach.

Study by CGWB in Upper Ganga Canal

3795. SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN:
SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN:
MS. INGRID MCLEOD:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) has found a subterranean path of ground water in the belt around the upper Ganga canal;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any feasibility study has been conducted to check the quantity and quality of this vast ground water resources;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) by when work in this direction is likely to be taken up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Based on ground water surveys and exploration carried out by the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), an area of 250 sq. km. along Upper Ganga Canal has been identified which has potential for development of deeper aquifers. The identified area extends from Bhola (North of Jani) in Meerut district to Muradnagar in Ghaziabad district in Uttar Pradesh along the Upper Ganga Canal. The study has revealed that deeper aquifer between 100 and 250 m. is unutilised and is separated from top aquifer by a thick clay bed varying in thickness from 18 to 55 m. The deeper aquifer is under high artesian head and ultimate discharge is in the saline belts in South West.

(c) to (e) From the studies carried out by CGWB, it has been established that quality of deeper aquifer shows deterioration due to base exchange from the clay formation. Flow of ground water is very slow and over a very long period of time, salinity increases in southward direction. The present quality in identified area is potable and aquifers have high hydraulic conductivity with tubewells capable of yielding upto 3000 liters per minute (LPM).

Since the identified area is under the jurisdiction of Government of Uttar Pradesh, further action is to be taken by the State Government.

Problem of Water Logging in Irrigation Command Areas

3796. SHRI CHANDRABHAN SINGH:
SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether irrigation command areas are facing the problem of water logging because of diminishing water absorption capacity of soil due to rise in water table in these areas;

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

(c) whether the loss differ from crop to crop due to water logging;

(d) if so, the extent of maximum water logging which the different crops can survive; and

(e) the period of water logging necessary for different crops?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Rise in water table resulting from seepage of water from conveyance system, over irrigation and excess rainfall causes drainage congestion, diminishes the water absorption capacity of soil and hence causes water logging problem in irrigation command areas. As per report of 1991 of Working Group of Ministry of Water Resources, the total water logged area in irrigated commands of the country is 2.46 million hectare. The state-wise detail of water logged areas under irrigated commands is given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. Tolerance of crops to water logging differs from one crop to another, one agro-climatic zone to another, depending on soil type and other physical characteristics. However, as per the Bureau of Indian Standard (BIS) guidelines, vegetable crops are the least tolerant while paddy is the most tolerant crop followed by sugarcane. For common crops, well drained conditions are required for optimum crop productivity. BIS guidelines on crop tolerance to surface stagnation of water are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

Statement I

State-wise Areas affected by water logging (Million Hectare)

State	Area estimated by the Working Group of MoWR—1991 (under irrigated commands)
1	2
Andhra Pradesh	0.266
Assam	NR
Bihar	0.620
Gujarat	0.172
Haryana	0.249
Jammu & Kashmir	0.001
Karnataka	0.024
Kerala	0.012
Madhya Pradesh	0.073
Maharashtra	0.015
Orissa	0.196
Punjab	0.200
Rajasthan	0.180
Tamilnadu	0.016
Uttar Pradesh	0.430
West Bengal	NR
Delhi	NR
Total	2.46

NR=Not Reported.

Statement II

BIS guidelines on crop tolerance to surface stagnation of water

Crops	Tolerable flooding (days)
Vegetables	1
Cotton	3
Maize/Sorghum/Food grains	3
Sugarcane/Banana	7
Paddy	7-10

Irrigation Projects under AIBP

3797. SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI:
SHRI KAMLA PRASAD RAWAT:
SHRI PRABODH PANDA:
SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of projects under construction under Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP) during 2004-05 and 2005-2006;

(b) the total irrigation potential added under the said programme so far and the target of land in hectares proposed to be irrigated;

(c) whether the Government proposes to sanction more projects under it to augment irrigation facilities; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) The Central Government launched the Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) in 1996-97 to accelerate completion of such ongoing approved major/medium projects which were beyond the resources capability of the State Governments and were in an advanced stage of completion. Upto 2004-05, 184 ongoing major/medium irrigation projects have been included under the programme out of which 40 projects and reported to have been completed by the State Governments so far, leaving 144 projects as on-going under AIBP as on 1.4.2005. No additional project has been included under the programme during 2005-06.

(b) The target irrigation potential to be created on completion of the projects receiving assistance under AIBP is about 6.77 Million hectare (M.ha) and an irrigation potential of 2.676 M.ha has been created upto 2003-04.

(c) and (d) The criteria for inclusion of projects under the programme has been relaxed and revised guidelines of the programme effective from 1.4.2005 have been circulated to all the States with a view to include more projects under the programme to augment the irrigation facilities. The inclusion of additional projects under the programme depends upon the proposals received from the State Governments as per the guidelines.

Shortage of Fertilizers

3798. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA:
SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK:
SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE:
SHRI ILYAS AZMI:
SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a shortage of urea and other fertilizers in the country, particularly Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto;

(d) the names of the States where supply of fertilizer was not according to the demands of farmers during the last three years; and

(e) the action taken by the Government to meet the cent-percent demand of fertilizers of the farmers in the country?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Question does not arise.

(e) Government is encouraging industry to maximize production by suitable policies. Demand-supply gap, if any, is being taken care of by timely imports.

[English]

Rise in Price of Wheat

3799. SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the price of wheat in the open market has been rising since May this year despite the arrival of new crop in mandis;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefore indicating the extent of rise; and

(c) the steps taken to stabilize the prices of wheat and other foodgrains in open 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 TASLIMUDDIN): (a) and (b) The retail prices of what since May this year at the major centres have shown a mixed trend ranging from (-) 50 praise per kg to (+) Rs. 1.50 per kg. The reasons for increase in the prices at some centres could be attributed to decline in wheat production in the last few years due to reduction in area under cultivation, unfavourable weather conditions and increased cost of inputs and transportation.

(c) Steps taken for stabilising prices are strict monitoring of prices on a daily basis; adequate issue of wheat under the TPDS and other welfare schemes;

release of wheat under the Open Market Sale Scheme and ensuring adequate stock of wheat in all the regions of the country.

[Translation]

Project Report by State Governments

3800. SHRI SURENDRA PRAKASH GOYAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the States which do not send the project reports relating to tourism projects timely to the Government and not received any assistance resulting in non-development of important tourist places which in turn results in shying away of tourists; and

(b) if so, the assistance allocated/released to State Governments during the last three years for development of tourist sports, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) The Ministry of tourism prioritises projects for development during a financial year in consultation with the State Governments. The State Governments are advised to send specific proposals on projects identified during mutual consultation. Detailed guidelines have been given how to submit project proposals. Based on requests from State Governments assistance for project report preparation is also provided to some of them.

(b) Amount allocated/released to the State Governments during the last three years for the development of tourist sports is given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

State-wise Tourism Projects Sanctioned during the Tenth Five Year Plan (as on 31.3.2005)

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Sl. No.	State/UT	2002-03			2003-04			2004-05 (provisional)		
		No. of Project Sancd.	Amount Sancd.	Amount Released	No. of Project Sancd.	Amount Sancd.	Amount Released	No. of Project Sancd.	Amount Sancd.	Amount Released
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2	507.50	195.00	6	946.50	896.44	16	2827.19	2240.68
2.	Assam	9	768.13	618.85	3	313.46	313.06	8	986.03	766.22
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	5	41.30	32.50	6	1044.60	700.00	9	1325.50	927.96
4.	Bihar	8	505.00	505.00	6	1019.42	913.89	7	1901.43	1527.71
5.	Chhattisgarh	9	308.00	98.50	6	1005.00	364.00	6	1117.94	897.93
6.	Goa	1	0.50	0.50	2	36.76	34.76	3	110.00	38.00
7.	Gujarat	2	197.12	59.13	8	920.51	815.82	2	138.93	111.14
8.	Haryana	8	332.25	311.00	16	1215.38	879.23	6	693.55	513.64
9.	Himachal Pradesh	30	779.32	760.38	4	182.32	85.00	12	2680.00	2161.00
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	3	94.38	89.47	5	895.00	895.00	5	819.25	699.04

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
11.	Jharkhand	0	0	0	2	1109.00	774.60	2	945.91	756.72
12.	Karnataka	6	902.49	625.49	14	932.66	792.51	12	2461.76	1937.37
13.	Kerala	11	861.36	829.86	6	608.50	564.15	10	2283.63	1820.33
14.	Madhya Pradesh	18	711.18	574.79	10	621.90	394.51	11	1595.19	942.21
15.	Maharashtra	8	623.46	546.25	10	931.83	914.58	10	1620.62	925.30
16.	Manipur	2	5.24	2.62	1	82.44	24.73	0	0.00	0.00
17.	Meghalaya	3	70.35	21.20	2	40.22	24.92	2	963.30	807.91
18.	Mizoram	6	141.16	48.46	5	567.70	186.75	6	1086.35	382.38
19.	Nagaland	5	360.50	323.43	4	711.00	220.80	7	2250.69	1413.40
20.	Orissa	2	47.50	15.75	5	419.55	138.50	8	1320.74	1059.38
21.	Punjab	3	23.00	14.60	2	96.00	12.30	7	724.68	581.47
22.	Rajasthan	13	1098.70	1096.20	14	1644.81	1414.25	13	2516.61	1375.07
23.	Sikkim	13	346.24	269.76	8	1151.09	681.49	8	660.81	531.33
24.	Tamil Nadu	5	559.00	316.10	14	1339.82	850.53	7	1308.92	705.83
25.	Tripura	5	216.13	67.78	6	450.17	135.16	1	20.00	16.00
26.	Uttaranchal	3	548.00	418.00	4	230.44	203.94	7	2199.98	1750.73
27.	Uttar Pradesh	3	295.00	295.00	7	1115.80	916.26	9	1044.93	831.19
28.	West Bengal	5	201.10	60.00	10	717.44	384.34	10	513.04	407.43
29.	Andaman & Nicobar	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0.00
30.	Chandigarh	3	7.75	6.63	2	10.00	8.00	3	467.00	373.60
31.	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	2	8.07	6.46	0	0	0	0	0.00	0.00
32.	Delhi	14	504.00	449.02	17	3316.28	3222.13	8	628.85	511.00
33.	Daman & Diu	3	49.50	16.90	1	265.07	238.56	0	0.00	0.00
34.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0.00
35.	Pondicherry	2	7.87	6.30	1	245.17	73.55	2	451.00	360.00
	Total	212	11121.10	8680.93	207	24185.84	18073.76	217	37663.83	27371.97

Note-This includes the projects relating to Circuits, Destinations, Large Revenue Generating Projects, UNDP Rural Tourism (Software) Project, IT, Event, Fair & Festivals Projects.

[English]

Food Research Institute

3801. SHRI LONAPPAN NAMBADAN:
DR. K.S. MANOJ:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any proposal from Government of Kerala for setting up a Food Research Institute in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (c) The Government of Kerala forwarded a proposal in November 2004 for setting up of "Indigenous Food Research Institute" in the state of Kerala. The Government of Kerala were informed that the schemes of this Ministry do not have provision for setting up such an institute. They were, however, advised to submit proposals for Human Resource Development, and Research & Development as per the schemes of this Ministry.

Funds to Animal Welfare Board

3802. SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the funds released by the Government to the Animal Welfare Board of Indian during the year 2005;

(b) whether funds have also been released to other animal welfare organizations during the year 2005; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) In the year 2005 so far, the Government has released Rs. 9,27,64,018/-and Rs. 37,85,000/-to the Animal Welfare Board of India under the Plan & Non-Plan heads respectively.

(b) No Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Setting up of National Biotechnology Regulatory Authority

3803. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to set up a National Biotechnology Regulatory Authority as recommended by the Task Force on Agricultural Biotechnology;

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be set up; 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 Task Force on Application of Biotechnology in Agriculture has recommended the setting up of a National Biotechnology Regulatory Authority (NBRA). This involves complex issues which are of inter-ministerial nature. The matter is under consideration of the Government.

Assistance for Strengthening of Poultry Farming

3804. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is providing hundred per cent financial assistance for strengthening poultry farming in States;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the financial assistance provided to the State Governments, particularly to Andhra Pradesh during the last three years and thereafter, 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 TASLIMUDDIN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government is providing hundred per cent financial assistance for strengthening existing State poultry farms in North Eastern States including Sikkim, whereas it is 80:20 in respect of other States, between Center and State respectively at the rate of maximum Rs. 85.00 lakhs for each farm.

(c) Financial assistance has been provided to the State Government of Andhra Pradesh under the scheme, at District Poultry Farm, Mamnoor, Warangal District during 2004-05 amounting to Rs. 47.92 lakh. The details of farms assisted during the last three years statewise are given a the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Centrally Sponsored Scheme: Assistance to State Poultry Farms (Rs. in lakh)

Farms assisted during 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05

Sl.No.	States	Total Sanction (Rs. in Lakh)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	47.92
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	207.00
3.	Assam	170.00
4.	Chhattisgarh	68.00
5.	Goa	68.00
6.	Gujarat	112.75
7.	Himachal Pradesh	112.27
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	246.50
9.	Jharkhand	25.48
10.	Karnataka	55.00
11.	Kerala	85.00
12.	Madhya Pradesh	180.93
13.	Maharashtra	150.00
14.	Meghalaya	125.00
15.	Mizoram	255.00
16.	Nagaland	295.00
17.	Orissa	83.00
18.	Rajasthan	77.79
19.	Sikkim	42.50
20.	Tamil Nadu	99.756
21.	Tripura	167.50
22.	Uttar Pradesh	85.09
23.	Uttaranchal	68.00
24.	West Bengal	181.20

Krishi Vikash Shilpa Kendra

3805. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR CHOUDHARY:
DR. PRASANNA KUMAR PATASANI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formed an organization, Krishi Vikas Shilpa Kendra under 20 point programme in the country, particularly in West Bengal;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the number of its branches and the employees working under it, State-wise;

(c) the details of financial assistance provided by the Government in this regard;

(d) whether the Government proposes to absorb the employees working under it;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) 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) Krishi Vikas Shilpa Kendra is a Non-governmental Organisation and has not been set up by the Government.

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

[Translation]

Scheme for Agriculture in Small Holding Area

3806. SHRI GIRIDHARI YADAV:
SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any scheme for making agriculture beneficial in the area of small holdings is under consideration of the Government;

(b) if so, the measures being taken in this regard;

(c) the outcome of implementation of these measures so far; and

(d) the reformative steps taken by the Government on the basis of the outcome?

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) Several Schemes/Programmes have been initiated for the benefit of small farmers the details of which are given as under:

Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM)

The scheme provides for higher subsidy to small and marginal farmers. Under the scheme, higher subsidy is being provided to small and marginal farmers.

(a) For distribution of sprinkler sets, SC/ST, small and marginal and women farmers are provided 50% cost of the sprinkler set or Rs. 15000 per set whichever is less—for other categories of farmers assistance is 33% cost of the sprinkler set or Rs. 10000 whichever is less.

(b) Assistance provided for pipes for carrying water from source to field is @ Rs. 15000 for women, SC/ST, small and marginal farmers and Rs. 10000 for other farmers, for a length of 210 metres.

(c) Under the programmes for development of Oil Palm, assistance provided for drip irrigation component is @ 50% of the cost for small/ marginal, SC/ST and women farmers with ceiling ranging from Rs. 7400 to Rs. 93.00 and 35% for other categories with a ceiling of Rs. 5200 to Rs. 6500. Assistance is provided for a maximum of 4 ha. per beneficiary.

National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS)

Small and marginal farmers are at present entitled to a subsidy of 10% of the premium charged from them, which is shared on a 50:50 basis by the Central and State Government.

National Horticulture Mission

(a) Assistance for cut flowers—For small & marginal farmers assistance is 50% of the cost @ Rs. 45,000/ha limited to 2 ha. per beneficiary whereas, for other farmers assistance 33% of the cost @ Rs. 23,100/ha. limited to 4 ha. per beneficiary.

(b) Assistance for bulbulous flowers—For small & marginal farmers assistance is 50% of the cost @ Rs. 45,000/ha limited to 2 ha. per beneficiary whereas, for other farmers assistance 33% of the cost @ Rs. 29,700/ha. limited to 4 ha. per beneficiary.

(c) Assistance for loose flowers—For small & marginal farmers assistance is 50% of the cost @ Rs. 12,000/ha limited to 2 ha. per beneficiary whereas, for other farmers assistance 33% of the cost @ Rs. 7,920/ha. limited to 4 ha. per beneficiary.

(d) Assistance for Green House (Hi tech)—For small & marginal farmers assistance is 50% of the cost subject to a maximum of Rs. 325/sq.m. for hi-tech and Rs. 125/sq.m. for normal Green House, limited to 1000 sq.m. per beneficiary. For other farmers, assistance is 33% of cost subject to a maximum of Rs. 215/sq.m. for hi-tech and Rs. 67/sq.m. for normal GH limited to 1000 sq.m. per beneficiary.

Mini Mission II of technology Mission on Cotton

The States/implementing agencies are advised to ensure that small marginal farmers should be given priority and that at least 20% of the benefits flow to SC farmers and 10% to ST farmers. This amount is to be spent for the approved components other than staff and contingencies. States having higher population of SC/ST farmers, may enhance allocations for the components proportionately. Besides, assistance for supply of sprinkler sets is at the rate of 50% of cost limited to Rs. 15000/- per ha. for SC/ST/small/marginal and women and 33% of cost limited to Rs. 10,000 per hectare for others.

On Farm Water Management for Increasing Crop Production in Eastern India

States/implementing agencies are directed to ensure that small and marginal farmers are given priority and at least 20% of the benefits should flow to SC farmers and 10% to ST farmers for the approved components. States having higher population of SC/ST farmers, may enhance allocations for the components proportionately.

Construction of Structures

3807. SHRI BHANWAR SINGH DANGAWAS:
SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI:
PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether water diversion scheme or any other water storage schemes have been formulated for catchment areas of Gandhi Sagar in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether any contract has been entered into with the Government of Rajasthan for utilization of water of Chambal river through Gandhi Sagar, Rana Pratap Sagar, Jawahar Sagar and Kota Barrage under the control of Chambal division;

(c) if so, whether any State is free to undertake such work on its own catchment area without seeking permission of other State sharing the catchment area;

(d) if so, whether the Union Government proposes to demolish such illegal structures constructed without the permission of Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh Governments; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) The Government of Madhya Pradesh has reported that about 151 Water Harvesting structures have been constructed in the catchment area of Gandhi Sagar Project in Madhya Pradesh.

(b) and (c) As per the decision taken by the Chambal Control Board at its 102nd meeting held on 29.7.73, Madhya Pradesh-Rajasthan Inter-State (Irrigation & Power) Control Board came into existence and started functioning from 1.9.73. The Board is in the over-all charge of the administration, maintenance, augmentation of common works of the Chambal Complex, namely, Gandhi Sagar Dam, Rana-Pratap Sagar Dam, Jawahar Sagar Dam, Kota Barrage, releases of water in the canals, right-main canal from head to Rajasthan Madhya Pradesh border, power houses located at Gandhi Sagar Dam, Rana-Pratap Sagar Dam, Jawahar Sagar Dam and Thermal Power Station at Satpura and also all the common sub-stations and common transmission lines under Chambal Satpura system. Acording to Madhya Pradesh, the structures constructed by it in the upstream of Gandhi-Sagar Project are within the permissible upstream yield allotted to Madhya Pradesh. According to Government of Rajasthan, the Government of Madhya Pradesh has constructed unauthorised Water Harvesting structures in the catchment area of Gandhi-Sagar Dam in violation of the agreed decision and requested in November, 2004 to the Government of Madhya Pradesh to demolish such structure as these affect the yield of Gandhi-Sagar Dam.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Revival of Sindri Fertilizer Factory

3808. SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR DUBEY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to restart Sindri Fertilizer factory without any further delay; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) Keeping in view the National Common Minimum Programme of the UPA Government, Projects and Development India Ltd. was commissioned to prepare the revival report for the closed units of Fertilizer Corporation of India including the Sindri unit. The revival of the Sindri unit will depend on the outcome of the examination of the report.

Ban on Use of Agricultural Land for Non-Agricultural Work

3809. SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:
SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the non-agriculture work under which the use of land is increasing alongwith the reasons therefor;

(b) whether the Government is contemplating to enact a law to impose ban on the use of agricultural land for other purpose; and

(c) if so, the steps 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) The land-use classification data indicates that the area under non-agricultural uses has increased from 16.48 million hectare in 1970-71 to 24.24 million hectare in 2002-03.

The factors responsible for conversion of agriculture land to non-agricultural purposes are Urbanisation, Industrialisation, Development of transport infrastructure including roads, Tourism, Brick making etc.

(b) and (c) Land is a State Subject and therefore steps to stop conversion of agriculture land are to be taken by the respective State Governments. Government of India have issued National Land Use Policy Outline (NLPO) to all the States and Union Territories for follow up action. One of the action points on NLPO relates to checking diversion of highly productive land for non-agricultural purposes. Some of the States are having legislative mandate while some other States are having executive instructions in this regard.

[English]

Conservation of Water Resources

3810. SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY:
SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN:
SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM:
SHRI G.V. HARSHA KUMAR:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the water resources in the country is fast depleting;

(b) if so, whether the Government has formulated any Master Plan to utilize and to conserve the water resources;

(c) the names of States for which Master Plan have been prepared; and

(d) by when the process of water conservation is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) No, Sir. The annual average water availability of the country is assessed at 1869 Billion Cubic Metre (BCM).

(b) to (d) Water being a State subject, master plan to utilize and to conserve the water resources in States is prepared by the respective State Government. The Ministry of Water Resources has not formulated State-wise master plan. Several measures of water conservation have been undertaken by the respective State Governments. Ministry of Water Resources also encourages the water conservation programmes. Schemes for rain water harvesting and repair, renovation and restoration of water bodies have been taken up by the Ministry of Water Resources.

Export of Pharmaceutical

3811. SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the total export of pharmaceuticals to foreign countries during the last one year;

(b) maximum export orders of pharmaceuticals; and

(c) the steps the Government proposes to take for promotion of export of pharma stock?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) Export of pharmaceuticals during 2004-05 amounted to US $ 3712.57 million (provisional).

(b) Export figures of individual companies for 2004-05 are not readily available. However, some of the leading pharmaceutical exporters in the previous years have been Ranbaxy Laboratories, Dr. Reddy's Laboratories, Cipla, Lupin, IPCA Laboratories, Orchid Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals, Divi's Laboratories, Wockhardt, Strides Arcolab, Matrix Laboratories etc.

(c) Government have been taking a number of steps to promote the exports of pharmaceuticals, which inter-alia include assistance under the Marketing Development Assistance (MDA) Scheme to participate in Trade Delegations/Buyer Seller Meets and Exhibitions/Fairs abroad; opening of Showrooms/Warehouses, Publicity Campaign and Brand Promotion, Research and Product

Development, Registration Charges for product registration abroad etc. under the Market Access Initiative (MAI) Scheme.

Plantation Exercise

3812. SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether plantation exercise has been taken up in the catchment area of Qutub Institutional area in Delhi on an official basis;

(b) if so, whether such 'plantation exercise' will destroy Delhi's underground water resources;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the remedial action is being/has been taken by the Government in this connection?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) As per information received from Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi, plantation of 16,500 saplings has been raised in the adjoining area of Sanjay Van.

(b) No such report is available with the Department of Forests and Wildlife of the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Land under Irrigation

3813. SHRI ALAKESH DAS:
SHRI RAGHUVEER SINGH KOSHAL:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether under "Bharat Nirman" the Government proposes to bring an additional one crore hectare of land under irrigation, over a period of four years from 2005-2006 to 2008-2009;

(b) if so, the expenditure to be incurred for the purpose and how does it reflect in Budget 2005-2006;

(c) whether the Government is planning to bear this cost entirely or mobilize funds through private participation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The total estimated fund requirement for irrigation under "Bharat Nirman" is Rs. 68,500 crore over a period of 4 years. The allocation of plan funds for irrigation to various State Governments for 2005-06 is Rs. 17,203.08 crore which includes the allocations under various schemes providing central assistance and Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP).

(c) and (d) The fund requirements are proposed to be met through an appropriate mix of budgetary support by Centre and States, external assistance, market borrowing and beneficiary contribution (in some cases).

Skimmed Milk Powder and Butter Oil

3814. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Dairy Industry has urged the Government to formulate strategies for WTO including re-negotiation and increase of import duties on skimmed milk powder and butter oil in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether WTO have provided any concessions to the milk societies in the country; 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 TASLIMUDDIN): (a) and (b) Dairy Industry has urged the Government to increase import duty on skimmed milk powder and whole milk powder from 0% to 60% and a bound tariff rate of 0% by year 2004-2005 for all dairy commodities. To protect the Indian dairy industry the Government had re-negotiated the increase in the bound rate of duty on skimmed milk powder and whole milk powder. As a result of these negotiations the bound rate on import of skimmed milk powder and whole milk powder were increased from 0% to 60% with the Tariff Rate Quota (TRQ) of 10,000 MT on annual basis with 15% duty on both lines together

with effect from 12th June 2000. Other dairy products are having tariff rate bound at either 40% or above 40%.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) In view of (c) above, Question does not arise.

Functioning of Agro Parks

3815. SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that 35-40 percent of agro-produce got wasted every year due to non-availability of proper infrastructure in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government has approved 45 agro-parks so far, out of which only 9 agro-parks are functioning;

(c) if so, the details and the reasons therefor; and

(d) the budget of each agro-parks as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (d) Infrastructural constraints is one of the reasons for wastage of Agro produce which takes place due to a variety of factors. The Ministry of Food Processing Industries, under its plan schemes, provides financial assistance for overall development of the Food Processing Industry/Infrastructure including for provision of common facilities in Food Parks. The Ministry does not set up projects on its own. The Ministry has, so far, approved 50 Food Parks for providing financial assistance all over the country. Food Parks being infrastructure projects, have a longer gestation period and have attained different levels of progress. Over 800 units have been allotted plots or are using common infrastructure facilities. 13 Food Parks are partially functional the details of the approved Food Parks alongwith the project cost is given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Food Parks approved for financial assistance by Ministry of Food Processing Industries

Sl.No.	State	Implementing Agency	Project location	Project Cost (Rs. in lakhs)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Andhra Pradesh Industrial Infrastructure Corporation Ltd.	Chittor	959
2.	Assam	Assam Small Industries Development Corporation Ltd.	Chaygaon, Distt. Kamrup	546.49
3.	Bihar	North Bihar Industrial Area Development Authority	Hajipur, Distt. Vaishali	1978.3
4.	Chhattisgarh	Chhittisgarh State Industrial Development Corporation (CSIDC)	Vill. Teadesara, Distt. Rajnandgaon	838
5.	Haryana	Haryana State Industrial Development Corporation Ltd.	Saha, Ambala	731.01
6.	Haryana	Haryana State Industrial Development Corporation Ltd.	Rai, Sonipat	5320.22
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	State Industrial Corporation Ltd. (J&K SIDCO)	Khunmoh, Srinagar	725.82
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	Jammu Agro Industrial Food Park	Jammu	625

1	2	3	4	5
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	Jammu & Kashmir State Industrial Development Corporation Ltd. (J&K SIDCO)	Sopore, Baramulla	948.3
10.	Karnataka	Food Karnataka Ltd.	Kolar	1961.08
11.	Karnataka	Food Karnataka Ltd.	Bagalkot	1847.29
12.	Karnataka	Food Karnataka Ltd.	Jewargi	1081.01
13.	Kerala	Kerala Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation (KINFRA)	Distt. Mallapuram	1950
14.	Kerala	Seafood Park (India) Ltd.	Aroor, Alappuzha	965
15.	Kerala	Kerala Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation (KINFRA)	Mazhuvannur	313
16.	Kerala	Kerala Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation (KINFRA)	Adoor	1730
17.	Madhya Pradesh	Madhya Pradesh Audyogik Kendra Vikas Nigam (Indore) Ltd.	Mandsaur	818
18.	Madhya Pradesh	Madhya Pradesh Audyogik Kendra Vikas Nigam (Indore) Ltd. Bhopal	Nimrani, Distt. Khargone	866.36
19.	Madhya Pradesh	Madhya Pradesh Audyogik Kendra Vikas Nigam (Bhopal) Ltd. Bhopal	Hoshangabad	820.37
20.	Madhya Pradesh	Madhya Pradesh Audyogik Kendra Vikas Nigam (Jabalpur) Ltd. Jabalpur	Borgaon, Distt. Chhindwara	837.65
21.	Madhya Pradesh	Madhya Pradesh Audyogik Kendra Vikas Nigam (Gwalior) Ltd., Gwalior	Maneri, Distt. Mandla	832.64
22.	Madhya Pradesh	Madhya Pradesh Audyogik Kendra Vikas Nigam (Jabalpur) Ltd., Jabalpur	Malanpur, Ghirongi	801.52
23.	Maharashtra	Maharashtra Agro Industries Development Corporation Ltd. Mumbai.	Butibori, Nagpur	1117
24.	Maharashtra	Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation (MIDC), Mumbai.	Vinchur, Distt. Nashik	937.53
25.	Maharashtra	M/s Haldiram Krishi Udyog Pvt. Ltd., Nagpur	Mouza Gumkthala, Nagpur	1400
26.	Maharashtra	M/s Agri Food Park (India) Ltd., Pune.	Village Sangvi, Taluka; Khandala Distt. Satara	855
27.	Maharashtra	Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation (MIDC)	Palus, Distt. Sangli	1860.5

1	2	3	4	5
28.	Manipur	Manipur Food Industries Corporation Ltd.	Lamphelpat, Imphal	651
29.	Manipur	Rishang Keishing Foundation for Management of Tribal Areas (MATA)	Ukhurl	755.25
30.	Mizoram	Mizoram Food and Allied Industries Corporation (MIFCO)	Chhingchip	806
31.	Orissa	Orissa Indl. Infrastructure Development Corporation (IDCO)	Khurda	990.73
32.	Punjab	Punjab Agri Food Parks Ltd.	Sirhind Distt. Fatehgarh Sahib	1784
33.	Rajasthan	Rajasthan State Industrial Development & Investment Corporation Ltd. (RIICO)	Ranpur, Kota	952.31
34.	Rajasthan	Rajasthan State Industrial Development & Investment Corporation Ltd. (RICCO)	Boranada, Jodhpur	1367
35.	Rajasthan	Rajasthan State Industrial Development & Investment Corporation Ltd. (RIICO)	Sri Ganganagar	911.56
36.	Tamil Nadu	V.P.S. Ayyemperumal Nadar & Sons.	Virudhunagar	1112
37.	Tamil Nadu	Nilakottai Food Park Ltd.	Nilakottai Ind. Estate, Dindigul Distt.	1300
38.	Tripura	Tripura Industrial Development Corporation Ltd.	Bodhjungnagar, West	707
39.	Uttar Pradesh	Wise Industrial Park Ltd.	Ghaziabad	1775
40.	Uttar Pradesh	Uttar Pradesh State Industrial Development Corporation (UPSIDC)	Kursi Road, Barabanki	2020
41.	Uttar Pradesh	Uttar Pradesh State Industrial Development Corporation (UPSIDC)	Varanasi	2973
42.	Uttar Pradesh	M/s. Kushal International Ltd.	Vill. Kushalipur, Distt. Saharanpur	1100
43.	Uttar Pradesh	Gorakhpur Industrial Dev. Authority	Shahajanwa, Gorakhpur	1471.14
44.	West Bengal	Modular Consultants Pvt. Ltd.	Dankuni, Distt. Hooghly	2386
45.	West Bengal	West Bengal State Fishermen's Cooperative Federation Ltd. (BENFISH) Kolkata	Mouza Chakgaria, 24 Paraganas (South)	1494.35
46.	West Bengal	Haldia Development Authority, Haldia	Haldia, Distt. Midnapore	2880

1	2	3	4	5
47.	West Bengal	West Bengal State Fishermen's Cooperative Federation Ltd. (BENFISH), Kolkata	Sultanpur, South 24 Paraganas	801.13
48.	West Bengal	Department of FPI & H Govt. of West Bengal/W.B. State Food Processing & Horticulture Development Corporation Ltd.	Malda	1600.85
49.	West Bengal	West Bengal Fisheries Corporation Ltd.	Shankarpur, Distt. Purba	715.68
50.	West Bengal	West Bengal Industrial Development Corporation Ltd.	Shankhrail, Howrah	1898.96

[Translation]

Impact of Increase in Prices of Steel

3816. SHRI HEMLAL MURMU:
SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE:
SHRI ILYAS AZMI:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the increase in the prices of steel in the country has adversely affected the availability of raw materials;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the steps to check rising steel prices;

(c) the complete details of the production of steel materials and sale of scrap by every ancillary steel company under the control of the Steel Authority of India Limited, especially Bokaro Ispat Sanyantra during the last three years and in the current year, year-wise; and

(d) the profit earned by every ancillary company from production and sale of various steel materials and scrap during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) The availability of raw materials depends on a wide range of factors like the reserves and capacity in the concerned sector, local constraints faced as also the demand for the same. In a liberalised environment prices are determined by the interplay of market forces and in the current scenario rising demand for steel has primarily led to rise in prices. Hence rising steel prices cannot be directly attributed to any reported effect on availability of raw materials. Nonetheless the Government has taken various steps to stabilise the prices of steel in the domestic market. The steps taken by the Government inter-alia include considerable reduction in import duties on steel as well as steel making inputs, reduction in DEPB rates on steel items and fixation of value caps for all items of iron and steel and ferro-alloys.

(c) The details are given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(d) The details are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

Statement I

Plant-wise production of Saleable Steel by SAIL and IISCO

(Qty: in '000 tonnes)

Plant	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06 (April-June 2005)
BSP	3616	4091	3935	1027
DSP	1585	1612	1635	382
RSP	1527	1575	1556	332
BSL	3358	3450	3524	932
ASP	99	113	128	29
SSP	83	85	149	23
VISL	84	100	102	31
SAIL	10352	11026	11030	2757*
IISCO	288	257	287	56

*Rounded off

Plant-wise sale of scrap by SAIL and IISCO

(Value: Rs. in crore; Qty: in 000 tonnes)

Plant	2002-03		2003-04		2004-05		2005-06 (April-June 2005)	
	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value
BSP	349.78	307.86	356.79	425.21	357.97	590.40	30.17	82.96
DSP	174.33	130.57	114.24	122.06	90.48	116.78	11.52	12.70
RSP	122.28	101.35	78.31	98.16	27.48	59.69	5.93	13.96
BSL	154.77	199.62	128.67	199.21	96.74	221.40	14.82	38.24
ASP	Nil	—	Nil	—	Nil	—	Nil	—
SSP	1.28	2.60	3.41	10.67	3.21	13.73	0.89	3.63
VISL	44.23	31.09	32.03	31.13	20.79	31.34	3.61	5.92
IISCO	89.99	56.61	78.90	60.52	61.06	80.25	10.02	17.28

Statement II

Plant-wise profit/loss of SAIL and IISCO

(Rs. in crore)

Plant	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06 (April-June 2005)
BSP	735	1932	4042	788
DSP	(-) 247	81	784	92
RSP	(-) 593	(-) 109	1045	103
BSL	311	1120	3290	617
ASP	(-) 180	(-) 172	(-) 42	(-) 13
SSP	(-) 119	2	3	0.2
VISL	(-) 136	(-) 82	(-) 24	8
Others	(-) 87	(-) 144	267	106
SAIL (PBT)	(-) 316	2628	9365	1701
TAX	(-) 12	116	2548	577
SAIL (PAT)	(-) 304	2512	6817	1124
IISCO (PAT)	(-) 182	27	46.59	2.84

PBT: Profit Before Tax; PAT: Profit After Tax.

[English]

Development of New Drugs by Indian and Chinese Companies

3817. SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and China are planning to undertake research together to develop new drugs in traditional medicines to combat diabetes and hepatitis;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any formal agreement has been signed in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) by when the work is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (e) Under the aegis of International Clinical Epidemiology Network, India and China are contemplating joint efforts to develop new drugs in the area of traditional medicine. An agreement has been signed by India Clinical Epidemiology Network and China Clinical Epidemiology Network for joint efforts in the area of Hepatitis and Diabetes.

Functioning of ESIC

3818. SHRIMATI ARCHANA NAYAK:
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:
SHRI GANESH SINGH:
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:
SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:
SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

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

(a) whether there is no clear policy for the functioning for Employees State Insurance Corporation (ESIC);

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether many Trade Unions are unhappy with the functioning of the Employees State Insurance Corporation;

(d) if so, the objections raised by the Trade Unions regarding functioning of the Employees State Insurance Corporation;

(e) the remedial measures taken by the Government to streamline the functioning of ESIC;

(f) whether the ESIC is following fixed terms appointments in regular posts; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SHEKHAR RAO): (a) and (b) The ESI Act, 1948 envisages clear cut policy with regard to functioning of the Employees' State Insurance Corporation and implementation of the ESI Scheme.

(c) to (e) Central Trade Union representatives are the Members of the ESI Corporation and are also represented on the various Committees of the Corporation. The issues raised by members are discussed in these meetings and appropriate actions taken. Views expressed by Trade Unions from time to time regarding improvement in functioning of ESI medical scheme are as under:

1. Removing duality of control in delivery of health care to Insured Persons.
2. Upgradation of ESI Hospitals and Dispensaries with staff and equipments as per norms.
3. Increase in the ceiling on reimbursement of expenditure on medical care to State Governments.

The ESI Corporation has taken several steps to streamline the functioning of ESI Hospitals and Dispensaries which are as under:

1. The Scheme of revolving fund has been set up to provide advance payments for super specialty treatment to Insured Persons and their families. Besides the scope of revolving fund has been extended to make the payments of drugs and dressings, equipments, and annual maintenance contracts procured by the State Govts.
2. Under the Model Hospitals Scheme, one ESI hospital in each State is proposed to be taken over by ESIC to run it as Model Hospital. So far, 12 hospitals have been taken over by the Corporation to run them as Model Hospitals.

3. The issue of duality of control is under discussion with the General Purpose Medical Care Sub-Committee.

4. Ceiling on reimbursement of medical care to State Government has been increased from Rs. 750/- to Rs. 900/- per I.P. family Unit per annum w.e.f. 1.4.2005.

(f) and (g) The ESI Corporation is making appointments of its regular staff, as per its recruitment regulations framed by the ESI Corporation.

[Translation]

National Agricultural Technology Project by World Bank

3819. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the achievements made by the national agriculture technology project introduced in 1998 in the country with the World Bank assistance, Year-wise;

(b) the expenditure occurred under the said project, year-wise;

(c) the details of the benefits availed by the States from this project, State-wise and Year-wise; and

(d) the details of next action plan of the Government under the national agriculture technology project?

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 enclosed statement-I.

(b) As per enclosed statement-II.

(c) As per enclosed Statement-III.

(d) The project is concluded on 30.6.2005. Preparation of the new phase is in progress.

Statement I

Achievements—Year-wise

Achievements August, 1998-2000

The mode of research programmes was approved. Thus far in TOE (22 out of total 26). MM (18 out of total 38) and PSR and TAR (130 including IVLP/TAR, out of 230 listed) have already been commissioned. A total of 1,493 proposals (concept notes) were received under the CGP mode.

Under the ICAR, Zonal Research Stations (ZARSs) were selected in 53 districts to play the additional role of KVKs, where KVKs do not exist. These ZARSs are being strengthened for developing and testing location specific technologies. The Agricultural Technology Information Centres (ATICs) are also being established for providing single window support system, linking various units of a research institutions in the ICAR/SAUs.

Achievements 2000-01

- A number of biotic, abiotic and socio-economic production constraints that limit the sustainable growth of rice-wheat cropping system were identified and prioritised in terms of their impact of yield loss.

- Zero tillage technology showed an advantage in raising wheat productivity and reducing cost of production and weed density. The bed planting system in wheat indicated better plant height, darker green foliage and lesser weed population than conventional method of sowing.

- The preliminary study indicated that sugarcane-based intercropping system involving *Sesbania* for green manure and cowpea for green pod appeared promising in controlling weed in spring-planted sugarcane. An intercropped dual-purpose cowpea also showed scope of mid-season income generation. Techniques for using pheromone traps to traps red palm weevil and rhinoceros beetle are being standardized. These two pests have become very serious in Goa and Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Other than rhinocerous beetle.

- Lobster-holding facilities were selected for disease monitoring and evaluation of feeds. Methodologies for analysis of proximity composition (protein, fat, moisture, ash and minerals) of fish feed ingredient and prepared feed are being standardized.

- Phytochemicals from neem-seed kernels, *Pongamia glabra* and *Madhuka indica* were purified and evaluated for their insect-control properties.

- Under Plant biodiversity project, (a) undertaken more than 230 explorations, (b) collected more than 15,000 accessions, (c) received more than 11,000 accessions by the National Gene Bank for medium-term storage, (d) developed three softwares, (e) published nine documents, (f) prepared 10 guidelines, (g) 3 checklists prepared, and (h) nine training schedules for grassroot-level workers prepared.

- Protocols for purification of citrus ringspot, citrus mosaic and potato virus Y standardized, polyclonal antibodies prepared and evaluated in ELISA and ISEM system. Viroids in citrus and potato diagnosed by R-PAGE technique.

- Methods to assess microbial and antimicrobial titre, hormonal and pesticide residues, adulterants in food from livestock and poultry were standardized.

- Whiteness and brightness of jute fibre improved. Effect of non-woven structure on composite development studied. A few experiments carried out with coir and jute as reinforcing material with synthetic resins.

Achievements 2001-02

- Two quality protein maize Shaktiman 2 identified and recommended for release in Bihar.

- Wheat planted on beds gave almost similar to better yields than conventionally planted wheat. Substantial saving in wheat seed for sowing and irrigation water was recorded with bed planting.

- Deep ploughing before cotton sowing once in two years plus reduced tillage with rotavator plus herbicides application for early-season weed control gave significant cotton yield (2.13 tonnes/ha). Incorporation of wheat straw @ 6 tonnes/ha increased the seed-cotton yield significantly.

- Cotton yield was best with seed treated with *Azospirillum,* followed by *Azotobactor* and *Acetobactor.*

- Seeder-cutter/planter machine and an inter-row tillage equipment were developed. With the help of the machine, wheat and sugarcane can be sown or planted in single pass of the tractor. The red palm weevil management using pheromone traps was standardized for Goa, Tamil Nadu, Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Kerala.

- Process for oilpalm-fibre extraction from empty bunches was standardized.

- A manually operated coconut-splitting device was developed.

- Suitable rice-based cropping systems were identified at different centres in the salt-affected coastal soils.

- Pearl production through tissue culture of *P. fucatea* mantle has been initiated. A rotary ball mill for shaping molluscan shell beads was designed, developed and fabricated.

- Integrated rice-fish-piggery-duckery farming system showed good adoption among the tribal farmers at Ranchi.

- M 35-1 sorghum proved the most suitable genotype, having high regeneration capacity in tissue-culture response.

- Two GMS hybrids in cotton (AAHI and PKHVY 5), two varieties and one hybrid in sorghum (CSV 216 R, RSLG 262 and SPA 1010), four single-cross, early-maturing maize hybrids released for higher productivity. Male-sterile genotypes (CMS, GMS) and R lines resistant to cotton leaf curl virus and tolerant to bollworm were identified in cotton. Two CMS (GT 288A and 67 A) along with 20 fertility restorers were developed in pigeonpea.

- Parental lines and hybrids resistant to multiple diseases were developed in tomato, brinjal, chillies and onion. Male-sterile lines were also developed and maintained.

- Mechanized transplanting of rice including mat nursery raising and pudding was standardized.

- Growth models of rice and wheat calibrated and validated for several Indian agro-environments.

- A simple equipment, involving water-vacuum pump, for extraction of royal jelly was designed, developed and evaluated.

- A method for isolation of good-quality RNA with satisfactory yields from mango and banana fruits (ripe and unripe) was standardized.

- Transgenic tobacco plants carrying PA gene were developed.

- All the 8 ZCUs and 29 DEEs in various SAUs were strengthened by providing modern information technology (IT) facilities for better co-ordination, and for making them more effective in carrying out extension activities respectively.

Achievements 2002-2003

- Two training programmes dealing exclusively with GIS applications in agriculture were organized.

- A technology for natural dye production from safflower petals has been developed which could provide the safflower farmers as much as 60-70% additional income.

- Promising high bio-mass producing genotypes of sweet sorghum have been identified for alcohol production.

- For *boro* rice cultivation improved technology packages including better seedling raising (Dapog method), protecting seedlings from cold injury, improved varieties and suitable date of sowing have been developed for different states.

- Three cotton genotypes viz; GSH-2, GSH-3 and GSH-4 have been identified as suitable for mechanical harvesting.

- A model integrated coconut based farming system with high yielding forage grasses as intercrop and dairy wash for production of biogas and compost has been developed.

- Drought tolerant and yellow mosaic virus resistant varieties of cowpea, mungbean cluster bean have been evolved for the Arid agro ecosystem.

- To supplement income & nutrition, backyard poultry has been introduced into forty-six villages covering 750 farmers.

- Scientific rearing technology developed for Angora rabbit at IVRI, Regional Centre, Mukteshwar helped the local farmers to generate an additional annual income of Rs. 1500-2000 status with one pair of broiler rabbit.

- Hybrids: 28 Hybrids of different crops (Rice-3, Maize-9, Sunflower-5, Pearl millet-3, Castor-2, Cotton-5, Sorghum-1) with improved quality, high yield and disease resistance have been developed and released. 30 hybrids in vegetable crops having multiple disease resistance (tomato-22, brinjal-10 and chilli-7) have been developed.

- A technology for packing ready-to-eat fish preparations in retortable prouches has been developed. The packing technology can be very useful for poularizing fish products, and for the use of the personnel's working in difficult terrains. The self-life of the packaged products is 1 year.

- A user-friendly crop-modelling framework, Info Crop, has been developed and is being evaluated for potato, soybean, cotton, maize, sorghum, mustard, groundnut, and sugarcane.

- A quantum jump from 1.5. to 2.9/ha in the production of hybrid seed of rice, leading to reduction of seed cost and better adoption of hybrid technology has been achieved.

- Tractor operated till-plant machine has been developed and tested.

- 48 trainings were conducted in which 857 scientists from SAUs, ICAR institutes participated and learnt skills in new and emerging areas. These included 26 trainings in biotechnology in which 353 scientists were trained.

- Increased longevity of anthurium flowers was observed by covering with polyphone sleeves/ covers and packing in cardboard cartons. Addition of ethylene absorbent, potassium permanganate in cartons, further extend the post harvest longevity.

- Technology for the production of various types of fish cakes and fish susages using meat of different fish species viz., catla, rohu, mrigal, silver carp, tilaipia and threadfin beam was developed.

- Nicobari fowl was found to be resistant to many of the diseases of poultry.

- Crossing of *desi* goats with improved buck (Betel buck) increased the number of kids by 50% and generated additional benefit cost ratio by 5.0 compared to the *Desi* goat crossed with *Desi* buck at Ranchi.

- Paddy transplanted through engine-operated transplanter proved very effective in maintaining proper plant population. The return per rupee spent on paddy transplanter was Rs. 3.03.

- To reduce drudgery of women in paddy threshing manual paddy thresher was introduced which led to saving 200% time over manual threshing of paddy at Srinagar.

- In order to empower the farmers, rural women, unemployed youths and other stakeholders, 1367 innovative training programmes based on their needs have been organized by which 33,342 farmers benefited.

- About 9,600 soil samples were tested and 12,200 diseased plants were diagnosed. In veterinary clinics 39,638 animals were treated benefiting 61,438 farmers. The ATICs generated a gross revenue of Rs. 5.3 crore.

Achievements 2003-04

- As per a survey, 90% of the ICAR Institutes and SAUs have already put LAN in place. Practically, all the institutes and SAUs (99%) are connected to Internet and 70% of them have developed their web sites. Six new SAUs have been provided funds for creation of LAN.

- A new redesigned web site of the ICAR at *www.icar.org.in* has been launched with several new features. The web site includes links to Institutes and SAUs web sites. About 70% institutes and SAUs have developed their web sites, which are linked to ICAR site.

- Bed planting of wheat, rice, maize and soybean has shown great promise, as it saves about 25% seed and 15-35% irrigation water, dfepending on soil type.

- For the first time in the world, direct sensitive microfiter plate enzyme-immuno-assay (EIA) method was developed for estimation of oxytocin, LH, GH, FSH and PGFM.

- Dual-purpose breeds with higher egg and meat yield (1.5 kg in 8-10 weeks) reared on free-range scavenging with limited care and management compared to native birds increased the income of marginal farmers and landless labourers and improved the nutrition status of the poor families. It is also a viable enterprise for farm women.

- Reduction in red weevil population *(Rhyncophorus ferugineus)* was achieved by mass trapping of its floating population of the red weevil in coconut gardens, thereby reducing the incidence of the pest on coconut palm.

- In-oilseed based production system, NRC 2 groundnut and NRC 37 soybean gave 30 and 62% higher yield than local varieties at Indore.

- Over 6,000 families at 47 locations in the tribal, backward and hilly areas in 15 states have benefited by the supply of quality seeds (48.3 tonnes) of improved varieties of life-support crops, seed (154 kg) and planting material (15,950 saplings) of fruit and vegetable crops, improved breeds of sheep (120), poultry (15,000) and pigs (562) and quality seed for freshwater aquaculture and technologies related to value-addition and post-harvest management.

- In different crops, 37 hybrids (rice 8, maize 9, sunflower 5, pearl millet 4, castor 3, cotton 5, sorghum 3) with improved quality, higher yield (15-20% higher) and disease resistance were released. In vegetable crops, 59 hybrids (tomato, brinjal, chilli and onion) having multiple-disease resistance and higher yield (15-20% higher) and quality have been developed.

- Major success was achieved in development and field testing of transgenic rice and cotton with Bt genes and in characterization of genes for protease inhibitor, a-amylase inhibitor lectin, plant animal virus genomes.

- Women in tribal, backward and hilly areas were empowered with implements to reduce drudgery in farm operations and also with technologies related to post-harvest agro-processing and value-addition. Programmes were organized for technological empowerment of 4,529 women.

- A cDNA library has been constructed from control and heat-stressed rice seedlings and three full length *hsp* genes *(hsp 16.9, hsp 17.3* and *hsp 18)* have been isolate and characterized. Further, *hsp 18* gene was over-expressed in tobacco by *Agrobacterium*-mediated transformation.

- Molecular markers have been identified for natural disease resistance in Nicobari fowl using RAPD-PCR. This will help in conservation of highly precious indigenous Nicobari. fowl, a native of Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

- Technologies were developed for hatchery production of marine ornamental fishes, specially clownfishes and damselfishes, for initiating a marine ornamental fish trade in India from hatchery produced fishes.

- Techniques of Remote Sensing and Geographical Information System were applied in generating thematic maps, assessment and monitoring of agricultural drought and irrigation management to improve the water-use efficiency in command and catchment area of Rani Avanti Bai Sagar Project—a major irrigation project near Jabalpur.

- The ATICs provided 80,240 farmers with diagnostic services through plant clinic, soil-testing laboratories and veterinary clinics.

Achievements 2004-2005

An Integrated National Agricultural Research Information System (INARIS) has been developed involving a state-of-the-art Data Warehousing and GIS techniques.

- The establishment of the "ICARNet" for connecting the libraries of 35 agricultural universities and 69 ICAR institutes, and 182 off campus colleges and regional stations executed by the ERNET will be completed by 31 March 2004.

- An independent assessment of the impact of O&M reforms by the Tata Consultancy Services has brought out the commendable impact of NATP on efficiency of the Research and Technology development system in the NARS in general and the ICAR in particular. The assessment brought out clearly the role of systematic monitoring the marking the system efficient.

- Seven short-duration, short stature non-lodging, high-yielding basmati lines with 7.4-25.8 per cent yield superiority over the best check (local) and 1.7 to 2.5 tonnes/ha over Taraori Basmati have been identified for irrigated agro-eco-system.

- To improve the productivity of old mango orchards, a technique of rejuvenation of old mango trees has been developed.

- A tractor-operated hydraulic elevating worker-positioning platform for safe and efficient harvesting of fruits has been developed. The system, can harvest about 70 kg fruits with pedicel easily per hour. The percentage loss of fruit drop is negligible.

- There was a significant increase in the nut yield in the IPM palms under eriophyid mite of coconut (41 to 61%). The Benefit: Cost Ratio was 3:1 to 4:1 respectively.

- The castor hybrids GCH-6 and GCH-5 were found to be promising for cultivation under a moderately saline condition. The *Gossipium herbaceum* genotype RAHS 14 was found to be salinity tolerant and high yielding even under very adverse conditions.

- Cultivation of oyster mushroom with production of 1.0 kg to 1.2 kg/bed was popularised through women Self Help Group. A total 30,280 agro forestry saplings were planted for restructuring the cyclone damaged plantation.

- A power operated arecanut sprayer has been developed.

- Cultivation of crops in cold desert region of Jammu and Kashmir is possible only during the summer season. Greenhouse designs and crop production technology have been standardized for round the year vegetable production.

- A chopper-cum-grinder has been fabricated that can grind all crop residues including cotton stalks, is useful for rural areas for the preparation of complete diets utilizing locally available crop residues. Suitable blower and a mixer can be attached with the machine.

- An efficient Low Energy Precision Application (LEPA) Irrigation System working at low pressure (0.07-0.35 kg/cm2) for irrigating close-growing crops has been developed and evaluated in field. The system is reliable, low cost and requires less energy.

- An eco-friendly method for utilization of slaughterhouse by-products has been developed which allows protein recovery from by products suitable for feeding pets and livestock. Several value added meat products have also been developed.

- Twelve hybrids of different field crops (rice, maize, sunflower, pearl millet, castor, cotton and sorghum) with improved quality, higher yield (15-20%) and disease resistance have been developed and released. Fifty-nine hybrids of vegetable crops (tomato, brinjal, chilli and onion) having multiple disease resistance, higher yield (15-20% over control) and quality have been released.

- A technology for pouch processing for fish curry preparation was commercialised. Technology for modified atmospheric packaging (MAP) for prawn, rohu and seer has been developed.

- Drudgery in farm operation of women in tribal, backward and hilly areas has been reduced by the use of appropriate implements designed under the project. 5000 training programmes for farmers on various aspects of agriculture including livestock and fisheries were organized and 50,000 persons benefited from the training programmes.

- 490 frontline demonstrations for validation/testing of products/technologies were conducted under adopted and/or are in the process of adopting the technologies.

- Isolation and use of antiviral genes from plants is a relatively new concept. This has the advantage of relatively less likely opposition to use of these genes in the crop on horticultural plants.

- Micropropagation protocols suitable for large-scale propagation of the high value medicinal plants *Andrographis paniculata* (Kalmegh), *Bacopa monnieri* (Barahmi), *Centella asiatica* (Koto Kola) and *Swertia chirata* (Chirata) have been developed.

- Embryo technology developed as a bio-technological tool to enhance goat production and also developed a technique for intra-cervical collection of embryos so that the same animals can be used repeatedly for embryo harvesting.

- An integrated farming model could generate an additional income of Rs. 19,700/ha/year by reducing the cost of cultivation of the ensuing paddy crop after a fish crop, and through the additional yield of paddy realized under subsurface drainage and tapping the unutilised abundant water resources during the off-season by a fish crop in the acid-saline wetlands of Kerala.

Statement II

Expenditure Details

(Rupees in lakh)

Year	Expenditure
1997-98	561.32
1998-99	2835.40
1999-00	2675.22
2000-01	7579.74
2001-02	13956.56
2002-03	20645.15
2003-04	16625.30
2004-05*	10143.79 (tentative)
Total	75022.48

*Project is closed and the accounts are being finalized.

Statement III

Benefits Availed by the States from NATP

In general, the project targeted all the states and UTs in India. However, in few cases, they were particularly targeting states/groups of states.

Production System Research

- Adoption of zero till drill technology in wheat has increased from 0.05 million ha during 2000-2001 to 1.27 million ha during 2004-2005. The technology was adopted in 1,500 villages comprising 82 districts in different transects of IGP which has saved Rs. 3302 millions to the farmers 2004-05 alone. More than 10,000 ZT drills were available with the farmers during 2003-2004 growing season of wheat. (Punjab, Haryana, UP, Bihar)

- Intercropping in the interspaces of pruned mango is successful in generating income. Intercropping of potato in *rabi* and cucumber in *zaid* at Locknow gave an additional income of 75,000/- per ha. The wood available due to pruning compensate to the loss of mango crop. (UP, WB)

- In tribal areas of Jharkhand, West Bengal and Chhattisgarh, the yields of rainfed rice are low due to low input use. Since the holdings are small, tribals are unable to eke out livelihood from cropping alone. Two paddy based farming system models i.e. rice-fish-duck and rice-fish-pig were evaluated in Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and West Bengal. The returns per rupee invested were Rs. 3.17-3.75 in fish-cum-duck system and Rs. 3.48-3.79 in fish-cum-pig system with different farmers in three states. By this integrated system the farmers can get Rs. 8000-10000/ha/year as against Rs. 4000-5000/ha/year with rice alone.

- In medium lands with double cropping, rice followed by gram was found to be the most promising system at Raipur, Ranchi and Darisai achieving highest targeted yields and net income (Rs. 11,360-17,624) from the cropping system as a whole. In low lands, gram and sofflower at Raipur and gram at Ranchi were found to be most productive giving a total net return of Rs. 12,000-15,000/ha on farmers fields. (Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand)

- The American *hirsutum* cottons currently occupy 72% of the area in the country leaving 28% to the *desi* cottons. The steadily increasing cost of cultivation of *hirsutum* hybrids has been posing problems to cotton growers particularly in rainfed areas. Superior quality *arboreums* like MDL 2463, DLSA-17 and PA-402 for A.P., Karnataka and Maharashtra with comparable yields to that of hirsutums but lower cost of cultivation and greater stability during drought years were identified. The varieties became popular in more than 100 villages in 8 target districts of above states. 250 farmers in 3 states benefitted from these trials with an average saving on cost of cultivation ranging from Rs. 2000/- to Rs. 2500/- ha. There was also 65% reduction in pesticide use in the adopted villages.

- Fuel grade alcohol could be produced from stalks and grains of sweet sorghum. On an average 400 liters of alcohol was produced from one tonne of sorghum grains and 90 litres of alcohol from one tonne of stalks. It helped in enhancing the net economic returns of the farmers by Rs. 10,000/ha (Rs. 5000 each from grains and stalks). Two promising genotypes, *viz* NSS-104 and RSSV-9 have been identified for Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu. A contract farming model has been worked out on 1000 ha in Belgaum (Karnataka) with a private industry.

- In order to have value addition the extraction method of yellow dye from *safflower* petals was scaled up to pilot level. A unique herbal health drink saffo-tea was also made from safflower petals. Eight small entrepreneurs in Maharashtra evinced interest on natural dye and *saffo tea* technology. In order to reduce drudgery in hand picking in safflower harvesting, a cost effective power operated prototype of safflower has been designed and it's field efficiency were 98.2 and 87%, respectively.

- In low rainfall areas moisture conservation was emphasized while in high rainfall areas surplus water was harvested and recycled for supplemental irrigation. Studies indicated that 40-60% of surplus run off could be recycled for rice crop during drought period or subsequent *rabi* crop. A 1000 m3 on-farm reservoir saved about 1 ha of ricer. In the project are (45 ha) served by the water harvesting structures the crop recorded 10% higher yields than the non-project area. This remarkable impact during the drought year convinced Government of

Chhattisgarh that decided to construct 200000 such structures on farmers' fields during the next two years. This technology generated interest amongst the farmers of Jharkhand, Orissa and MP too.

- Oil palm has a gestation period of three years during which period the farmer does not get any income and a compatible intercrop could give additional income during the juvenile phase. In this technology oil palm is planted at a spacing of 9x9x9m and during its juvenile phase, different intercrops such as banana, chillies, tobacco, ridge gourd, guinea grass, bhendi, colocasia, maize and moringa can be grown. Among the intercrops, banana revealed the high net income (Rs. 10,498/-) in Andhra Pradesh and Gujarat. Technology was adopted by almost 100 per cent of the oilpalm farmers.

- A coconut based farming system comprising coconut, fodder crops, banana, pepper, mulberry, diary, poultry and pisciculture was developed at CPCRI, Kasargod. The output obtained was 23535 coconuts, 114451 of milk, 645 kg of broiler birds, 173 kg fish, 17.3 kg of silk worm cocoon, 3477 quail eggs and 87 kg of banana. Thus, the total revenue obtained from the system was Rs. 251311. The net return obtained from the system was Rs. 73142 per annum (Kerala).

- For the management of salt affected soils in the coastal region of West Bengal application of leaves of locally available trees to soil @ 5th ha-1 along with inorganic N fertilizer and application of city compost was found superior. For the coastal soils of Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu application of Gliricidia @ 5t ha-1 along with inorganic N fertilizer and leaves of *Derris indica* were found appropriate respectively.

- In Kerala a starter feed for ducklings was prepared and the know-how of feed formula was transferred to M/s. KSE Ltd, Kerala for large scale production.

- A bio-intensive feasible and refined IPM technology has been developed for the control of Rhinocerous beetle in plantation crops which includes (1) release of baculovirus (2) application of *Metarhizium anisopliae* (3) use of pheromone lure. (Kerala, A.P., Karnataka)

- Animal Feed Block Making Machine was developed at IARI, New Delhi. As of now, the basic cost of machine is Rs. 5.00 lakhs and the cost of block preparation was Rs. 375 per tones. The break-even point for making profit for this machine is 105 ton. The blocks will facilitate easy and cost effective transportation of fodder for long distances during scarcity period. Twelve machines are in operation at SAUs and private entrepreneurs.

- Legumes occupy 35% area in arid region. Four drought tolerant genotypes of cowpea, three of cluster bean and three of mungbean have been identified for higher yield and tolerant to drought conditions. (Rajasthan)

- Senna is a drought hardy, browsing proof medicinal plant, ideal for degraded lands giving net returns of Rs. 9000 ha-1 with export potential of Rs. 11.2 crores. High yielding Tuticorin and Bikana cultivars (8-10 q ha-1 yr-1) varieties identified. (Rajasthan, Gujarat)

- Henna is a commercial crop having high export potential capacity of Rs. 80-100 crores. Sojat area of Marwar region is very famous. High yielding varieties such as MH-1 and MH-2 with 2.7-3.0% lawsone identified. Its cultivation has spread to 35,000 ha in Rajasthan and Gujarat.

- Kala zeera, a high value spice of cold desert is used for soft drinks and medicines. Its productivity is low and is at the verge of extinction. A promising genotype SKUKZ-Shong has been identified which yields 293 kg seeds ha-1 with 7.4% oil. It has been spread to 373 ha in Srinagar, Kinnaur, Lahaul Spiti and Chamba districts.

- Improved greenhouses designed under NATP increased temperature and humidity by 9-13°C & 3-13% making vegetable cultivation economically possible during winters. (HP)

- *Capparis decidua,* an important shrub of arid region producing fruits for pickles and medicinal value, is very slow growing. It is extremely drought hardy and can grow on a terrain, where cultivation of crops is difficult. Its propagation through seeds is very difficult. To overcome this

problem vegetative propagation has been standardized. (Rajasthan, Gujarat)

- Four improved genotypes CARI Nirbheek is for all climatic zones, CARI Shyama for Tribal belt of MP, Hitcari for humid and coastal region and Upcari for arid region with a potential to produce 160-210 eggs and attain 1700-2000 gm adult body weight have been utilized for back yard poultry. A farm family earns Rs. 400-500 month-1 by selling eggs & birds, besides nutrition improvement of the family by consuming 8-9 eggs week-1. Economic impacts of the project were evaluated on the basis of data collected from 50 beneficiaries (10 from each of 5 villages) elected randomly out of 490 beneficiaries belonging to 16 villages in three blocks of Barielly district in Uttar Pradesh.

- Under double cropping system along with winter wheat or spring wheat, Faba beans and with potato; radish or turnip can be cultivated. Intercropping increased yield by 30.6 and 43.5 percent over sole potato and sole wheat crop with an additional income of Rs. 0.46 and 0.38 lakh/ha, respectively at high altitudes in Kashmir. At Lahaul and Spiti (HP), two crops of pea can be taken, viz; pea var. Azad P-1 followed by pea var. Arkel with increase in cropping intensity by 100 to 200% and productivity from 109.6 to 460 q/ha over farmers' practice. Net returns from double cropping system ranged from Rs. 0.76/-lakh/ha in wheat-vegetable sequence and Rs. 1.45 lakh/ha in pea-pea cropping sequence.

- Jute and coir geotextile (Bhoovastra) have been successfully applied for soil conservation and reclamation of degraded steep sloping lands (land slide affected/prone areas). The cost of application of geotextile with minor soil conservation works (check dams etc.) has been worked out as Rs. 38 per sq.m. The area can be reclaimed within a period of 3-4 years. By constructing gabion structures (cost Rs. 700/ cu.m.) at Sainji watershed (near Mussoorie, Uttaranchal), 2039 tonnes of sediments were arrested which saved about eight hectares of agri-terraced land from sliding down and also stopped blockages of irrigation channel thus ensuring regular water supply to the village. The technology is now widely recommended for adoption by the Government of Uttaranchal in landslide affected areas.

Mission Mode

- Awareness about rich biodiversity in respect of plant, animal and fish.

- Economic empowerment of people in tribal, hilly and backward region of 15 states leading to food and nutritional security through technologies developed in the project.

- 38 hybrids in different crops (rice, maize, sorghum, pearl millet, pigeon pea, sunflower, castor, cotton) released and their performance demonstrated in farmers' field.

- Immuno-Diagnostic Kits for plant and animal diseases developed and tested under field conditions. Germ free superior planting material is available to farmers.

- IPM technology has been undertaken in 132 villages of 17 districts in 8 states covering 1750 farm families over 202 ha of land.

- Technologies for value added products from jute, soybean, fish developed and commercialized and farmers and getting benefit of it.

- Drudgeries of women in tribal, backward and hilly areas associated with agriculture and allied work have been reduced by empowering them with technologies related to different operations including post-harvesting agro-processing and value addition.

Team of Excellance (TOE)

- The accompalishments made in TOEs are applicable for all the states of India.

- Under HRD programme, critical mass of scientists have been trained for different states in the frontier areas of science.

ATICs and ZARSs

- Strengthening of Directorates of Extension Education in State Agricultural Universities and Zonal Coordinating Units to empower Directors of extension and Zonal Coordinators to run extension system efficiently.

- The ATICs in different states have provided single window support system to farmers.
- The remandating and strengthening of Zonal Agricultural Research Stations (ZARRs) have trained farmers, farm women and rural youth.
- These remandated ZARSs have conducted 7705 FLDs in 1745.43 ha of land.
- They have also produced 16291.88 q. of seed of improved varieties and 1236914 No. of planting material of different crops.
- Subsequently these remandated ZARSs were converted into full fledged Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) in different states.

[English]

Bt. Cotton Seeds

3820. SHRI SHRINIWAS DADASAHEB PATIL:
SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL:
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:
SHRI ANIRUDH PRASAD ALIAS SADHU YADAV:
SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA:
SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:
SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU:
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:
SHRI GANESH SINGH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bt. Cotton seed has been found suited for cultivation in Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and other States;

(b) if so, the names of other States which found suitable for cultivation of Bt. Cotton;

(c) the extent and the acreage under cultivation of this cotton seed in different States, during the last three years and this year;

(d) the extent to which the cotton yield per acre increased thereby in different States; and

(e) the incentives provided by the Union Government to the farmers for getting seeds of Bt. Cotton?

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 Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) in Ministry of Environment & Forests has recommended the commercial release of Bt. Cotton hybrids in the States of Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Haryana, Punjab and Rajasthan.

(c) The area under commercial cultivation of Bt. Cotton as reported by the States was 72,682 acres in the year 2002-2003, 2,30,000 acres in the year 2003-2004 and 12,13,350 acres in the year 2004-2005.

(d) As per the report of Central Institute for Cotton Research, Nagpur, the estimated yield increase of 2 to 4 Qtls. per hectare was observed with reduction in 2-6 sprays in Bt. Cotton hybrids.

(e) There are no incentives given by the Government for purchase of seeds of Bt. Cotton hybrids to the farmers.

[Translation]

Soil Erosion

3821.SHRI SHANKHLAL MAJHI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that soil erosion is taking place on the banks of Ghagra river in Phoolpur Charado Ghat and Kharagpur district due to which thousands of acres of fertile land is being damaged;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to formulate any scheme to check the soil erosion; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) Flood Management being the State subject, investigations, planning and implementation of flood management scheme are within the purview of the State Government. Flood control schemes are planned by State Governments depending upon their priorities subject to availability of funds.

As per information furnished by the Government of Uttar Pradesh an anti erosion scheme namely, "Phoolpur Azmar Badshahpur Ghat" on river Ghaghra in district Ambedkar Nagar has been prepared and technically sanctioned.

As regards Sant Kabir Nagar district, no proposal has been prepared by Government of Uttar Pradesh at Khargour.

[English]

Irrigation System

3822. SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Japan has provided loan/assistance to various States/Union Territories for improving the present irrigation system;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of disbursement of loan/assistance to states along with names of schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Government of Japan through its funding agency the Japan Bank for International Corporation (JBIC) is providing loan assistance to various States/Union Territories for improving the present irrigation system in the country. The statement showing details of Schemes alongwith disbursement made upto 30.6.2005 is enclosed.

Statement

(In Million Yen)

Sl.No.	Name of State/UT	Name of Scheme	Amount of loan assistance	Cumulative disbursement till 30.6.2005	Status of Scheme
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Kurnool Kuddapah Canal Modernization Project	20822	16618	On-going
2.	Madhya Pradesh	Raajghat Canal Irrigation Project	13222	9613	On-going
3.	Orissa	1. Rengali Irrigation Project	13186	7126	On-going
		2. Upper Indravati Irrigation Project	3744	3599	Completed
		3. Upper Kolab Irrigation Project	3769		
4.	Rajasthan	Rajasthan Minor Irrigation Improvement Project	11555		On-going

*Loan agreement has been signed on 31.3.2005 and effectuated on 28.7.2005. No disbursement has taken place so far.

Sharing of Rivers Water

3823. DR. P.P. KOYA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are disputes on sharing of river water among India and neighbouring countries;

(b) if so, the measures taken by the Government to resolve such disputes amicably; and

(c) the mechanism available with the Government to monitor, implement and enforce national and international river water sharing agreements?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) India has agreements with Pakistan, Nepal and Bangladesh in water resources sector. Indus Water Treaty 1960 was signed between India and Pakistan in 1960 for utilization of waters of Indus river system comprising of Indus, Jhelum, Chenab, Ravi, Beas and Sutlej. A permanent Indus Commission comprising of Commissioner from each India and Pakistan has been entrusted with responsibility of implementing of Indus Water Treaty. There is Treaty between HMG Nepal and Government of India concerning the integrated development of Mahakali river including Sarda barrage, Tanakpur barrage and Pancheswar project. An Indo Nepal Joint Committee on Water Resources headed by Secretaries (Water Resources) of both the Governments and Joint Group of Experts looks after implementation of the Treaty. As regards Bangladesh, Indo-Bangladesh Joint Rivers Commission headed by Minister (Water Resources) of both the countries is there to addresss all issues related to water resources development between India and Bangladesh. A Treaty was signed with Bangladesh in 1996 regarding sharing of Ganga waters at Farakka, for which a Joint Committee is there to look after the implementation of the Treaty. A Joint Committee of Experts headed by Secretary of Water Resources of the two Governments has been constituted to work out an arrangement for long term/permanent sharing of the waters of Teesta and other six common areas.

As regards national river water sharing agreements there is no mechanism available with the Central Government to monitor, implement and enforce the same. However, with regard to tribunal awards, Inter-State River Water Dispute Act 1956 (as amended from time to time) specifies that Central Government may frame scheme or schemes thereby provision may be made for all matters necessary to give effect to the decision of the tribunal.

Compensation to Tsunami Affected Farmers

3824. DR. RAJESH MISHRA:
SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN:
SHRI RAVICHANDRAN SIPPIPARAI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the farmers in Tsunami affected coastal States particularly in Tamil Nadu are facing lot of problems as their crops were greatly damaged and the ground water became saline;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government for the welfare of affected farmers, State-wise; and

(c) the amount of loss suffered by the farmers and the compensation paid to them, 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 information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Use of Urea

3825. SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian farmers have been using an overdose of the controlled urea to severe imbalance in soil contents;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of fresh initiatives taken/proposed to rectify the imbalance?

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 All India average Nitrogen: Phosphorous: Potassium (N:P:K) ratio during 2004-05 is estimated at 5.9: 2.3:1 and is skewed in favour of Nitrogen.

(c) The Government is promoting Integrated Nutrient Management (INM) which includes soil test based balanced and judicious use of chemical fertilizers in conjunction with organic fertilizers like Farm Yard Manure, green manure, compost, vermicompost and biofertilizers etc.

Storage Capacity of Reservoirs

3826. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of all the reservoirs in the country after the first phase of monsoon;

(b) whether any assessment has been made in this regard;

(c) if so, whether all the reservoirs in the country are full; and

(d) if not, which are the areas that are still scarce?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (d) Total storage capacity of various reservoirs is estimated to be about 213 Billion Cubic Metre (BCM). Ministry of Water Resources monitors 76 important reservoirs whose storage capacities taken together works out to be about 133 BCM (i.e. 62% of the total storage capacity created in the country) The results of monitoring of 76 reservoirs indicate that the overall storage position is better than the average of the last 10 years and that observed during last year. The storage of the 76 reservoirs taken together has been estimated to be 88.4 BCM as on 12.8.2005 against the average of last ten years of 61.39 BCM and the storage of 55.6 BCM as observed in the last year on corresponding date. However, till now only 7 major reservoirs have been reported to be full.

Storage Capacity in Punjab

3827. SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA:
SHRIMATI PARAMJIT KAUR GULSHAN:

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

(a) the number of godowns alongwith their storage capacity under the control of Food Corporation of India (FCI) and Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) in Punjab as on date;

(b) whether the Government has received any complaint regarding hiring of private godowns by central procurement agencies while Government Godowns are lying vacant;

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

(d) the action taken against those responsible for such losses?

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) In Punjab, the Food Corporation of India (FCI) has 387 godowns with a total storage capacity of 75.68 lakh MTs (owned & hired) and the Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) has 30 godowns with a storage capacity of 7.71 lakh MTs, as on 1st July, 2005.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Flood Management

3828. SHRI HITEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2968 on December 20th, 2004 and state:

(a) whether the Joint Technical Team (JTT) was asked to submit its report by March 2005 to Joint Group of Experts (JGE) on flood management between India and Bhutan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the stage at which the matter stands at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) First meeting of Joint Technical Team (JTT) was held at Siliguri from 18th April to 21st April, 2005.

(c) Preliminary report of JTT prepared in the meeting and has been sent to Team leader of Royal Government Bhutan by Team leader of Indian side.

[Translation]

Artificial Trade of Steel

3829. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the manufacturers getting steel under the small manufacturers booking scheme and responsible for the artificial trade of steel;

(b) if so, the efforts being made by the Government to check such trade;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to promote the investments in steel sector; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) The Government has received no information on any kind of artificial trade of steel which has been sold under the small manufacturers booking scheme.

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

(c) and (d) To promote investment in steel sector, the Government has delicensed the iron and steel industry and has removed it from the list of industries reserved for the public sector. Pricing and distribution of steel have also been deregulated. To facilitate induction of latest technologies, import of technology has been liberalized. To support availability of adequate finance, 100% Foreign Direct Investment is permitted in this sector under the automatic route. Customs duty on raw materials have been progressively reduced to meet the requirements of the industry as also to reduce the cost of production of steel. Certain restrictions have been placed on export of high-grade raw materials so as to ensure sustained availability of these raw materials for domestic industry.

Dam on Renuka River

3830. SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any agreement has been signed between the Union Government and concerned States to construct a dam on Renuka river of District Sirmaur in Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for delay and by when the construction work is likely to commence?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) No, Madam.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The progress on implementation of Project is held up mainly due to the non-acceptance of the proposed site by Ministry of Environment and Forest (MoEF) due to the 49 hectares area of Wild Life Sanctuary being diverted to dam construction, keeping in view of the Hon'ble Supreme Court orders. Government of Himachal Pradesh have filed an application with Central Empowered Committee constituted by the Hon'ble Supreme Court for recommending the case for seeking exemption. The commencement of construction work will depend upon the clearance of the project site, based on the exemption to be granted by Hon'ble Supreme Court.

[English]

Inclusion of Education Under Consumer Protection Act, 1986

3831. MS. INGRID MCLEOD: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to include education within the purview of Consumer Protection Act, 1986;

(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 TASLIMUDDIN): (a) The Consumer Protection Act, 1986, as amended from time to time, already applies to all goods and services so long as they are availed for a consideration.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Revival of Maharaj Ganj Milk Union

3832. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal from the Government of Uttar Pradesh for the revival of Maharaj Ganj Milk Union has been received by the Union Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when approval 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 TASLIMUDDIN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Delay in Supply of Foodgrains

3833. SHRI BAGUN SUMBRUI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Food Corporation of India (FCI), Jamshedpur has not supplied foodgrains to State Food Corporation, Chaibasa despite the deposit of draft by the latter;

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

(c) whether rotten and inedible foodgrains are being supplied to the tribal dominated areas of West Singhbhum district;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government to ensure timely supply of good quality foodgrains to these areas?

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) to (d) No, Sir.

(e) The Food Corporation of India (FCI) is having adequate foodgrains conforming to specifications at Jamshedpur.

[English]

Funds for River Conservation Plan

3834. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has released any funds under National River Conservation Programme to the State of Tamil Nadu during the current year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of proposals sent by the Tamil Nadu Government; and

(d) the action being taken/proposed to be taken by the Union Government on such proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) A central share of Rs. 74.81 crore has been released under the National River Conservation Plan to the State of Tamil Nadu during the current financial year as per details given in enclosed Statement.

(c) and (d) A total of 81 number of projects have been submitted by the State Government of Tamil Nadu for approval under the National River Conservation Plan. Out of the same, 75 number of projects at a cost of Rs. 1103.09 crore have already been approved under the Plan. The remaining 6 number of projects amounting to Rs. 91.22 crore could not be approved because of constraint of funds.

Statement

Details of funds released under National River Conservation Plan to the State of Tamil Nadu during the current year

Sl.No.	Name of Scheme	Funds released	
		Town	Amount (in Rs. crore)
(i)	Chennai scheme	Chennai	55.30
(ii)	'7 Additional Ton' scheme	Thanjavur, Mayiladuthurai, Tiruchy-Srirangam, Karur-Inam Karur, Tirunelveli and Kumbakonam	19.51
		Total	74.81

Average Income of Indian Farmers

3835. SHRI RAVICHANDRAN SIPPIPARAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the methods adopted by the Government for increasing the average income of Indian farmers as well as to achieve the target to average 4 per cent growth in the Tenth Plan period;

(b) whether any proposal to encourage value added agriculture for the achievement of expected growth; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and assistance provided to States 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 present policy of diversification of agriculture, promotion of agri-business and value addition in agriculture aims to accelerating the pace of agricultural growth and enhancing the income of the farmers. The regionally differentiated strategy based on various agro-climatic, agronomic and environmental conditions is being pursued under the National Agriculture Policy to realize the full potential of growth across the country so as to achieve the targeted growth rate. These measures lead to increase in productivity, which in turn reduces the cost of production and enhances the income levels of the farmers. Further, the Government announces every year the Minimum Support Prices of 25 specified crops, which aim at providing remunerative prices to the farmers. A Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National Horticulture Mission has been launched during the current year with a total outlay of Rs. 2300.00 crores for the Tenth Five Year Plan for doubling the horticulture production. Of this, Rs. 630.00 crores has been provided during 2005-06. During the Tenth Plan, Government of India shall provide 100 per cent assistance to the State Missions and during Eleventh Plan, the assistance will be 85 per cent and remaining 15 per cent to be contributed by the State Governments.

[Translation]

Crops Damage due to Unseasonal Rains

3836. SHRI MOHAN SINGH:
SHRI ANANT GUDHE:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some standing crops are likely to be ruined by unseasonal rains in various parts of the country during the current year;

(b) if so, the details of the estimated crops, indicating their names quantity and the States;

(c) whether the Government has provided any economic assistance to the farmers as a relief measure for the damage caused to their crops; and

(d) if so, the details of the States where the economic assistance has been provided indicating the amount of assistance provided to each State?

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 Governments based on their preliminary assessment, have reported that the crop area of about 17.72 lakh hectares has been affected which include crops like paddy, jowar, maize, bajra, pulses, oilseeds, etc. The State-wise crop area affected is given in the enclosed statement-I.

(c) and (d) The assistance for relief and rehabilitation in the wake of natural calamities is given to the States in two ways; (i) A Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) has been constituted for each State which is contributed by the Government of India and the State Governments in ratio of 3 : 1. The State Governments are required to meet relief expenditure from the CRF; and (ii) In case the calamity is of a severe nature and the funds available in the State's CRF account are not sufficient, additional assistance is provided to the States out of the National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF), after following the established procedure. Under the guidelines for Input Subsidy, damage to houses, employment under relief programmes, assistance for loss of animals, assistance for feed, fodder and ex-gratia payment to families of deceased persons. The State-wise allocation and release of funds from CRF/NCCF during 2005-06 is given in the enclosed Statement-II.

Statement I

Damage due to Heavy Rains & Floods during South West Monsoon, 2005

(Provisional, as on 18.8.2005)

Sl.No.	State	Crop areas affected (Lakh hectares)
1	2	3
1.	Assam	0.26
2.	Andhra Pradesh	0.03
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.12
4.	Bihar	0.01
5.	Chhattisgarh	0.50
6.	Goa	0.11
7.	Gujarat	3.66
8.	Haryana	0.12
9.	Himachal Pradesh	0.58
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	NR
11.	Karnataka	1.97
12.	Kerala	0.18
13.	Madhya Pradesh	0.05
14.	Maharashtra	5.38
15.	Meghalaya	NR
16.	Nagaland	Neg.
17.	Orissa	2.32
18.	Pondicherry	0.70
19.	Punjab	1.04
20.	Rajasthan	0.34
21.	Sikkim	NR
22.	Tamil Nadu	Nil
23.	Uttar Pradesh	0.35
24.	Uttaranchal	NR
25.	West Bengal	Neg.
	Total	17.72

Note: NR-Not reported Neg.-Negligible

Statement II

Allocation and Release of Funds from CRF/NCCF during 2005-2006

(Rs. in crore)

Sl.No.	Name of the State	Allocation of CRF			Releases from CRF				Releases from NCCF	
		Central Share	State Share	Total	First Instalment		Second Instalment			
					Amt	Released on	Amt.	Released on	Amt.	Released on
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	21.23	7.08	28.30	10.62	08.06.05				
2.	Andhra Pradesh	258.06	86.02	344.08	129.03	08.06.05				
3.	Assam	144.79	48.26	193.06	@					
4.	Bihar	111.69	37.24	148.93	@					
5.	Chhattisgarh	83.81	27.94	111.75	@					
6.	Haryana	93.26	31.10	124.38	@					

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
7.	Himachal Pradesh	75.52	25.17	100.69	37.76	08.06.05	37.76	8.7.05	100.00*	25.7.05
8.	Gujarat	184.50	61.50	246.00	92.25	04.07.05			500*	8.7.05
9.	Goa	1.58	0.53	2.11	@					
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	64.84	21.61	86.46	32.42	25.7.05			9.49#	25.7.05
11.	Karnataka	86.00	28.66	114.66	43.00	30.05.05	43.00	11.8.05	57.00*	11.8.05
12.	Kerala	6.413	21.37	85.50	32.07	08.06.05				
13.	Maharashtra	167.18	55.73	222.90	83.59	09.05.05	83.59	5.8.05	103.07**	18.7.05
									500*	28.7.05
									416.41*	5.8.05
14.	Madhya Pradesh	190.67	63.56	254.23	95.34	06.07.05				
15.	Meghalaya	8.47	2.82	11.29	@					
16.	Nagaland	2.87	0.96	3.83	1.44	21.06.05				
17.	Orissa	226.16	75.39	301.54	113.08	08.06.05				
18.	Punjab	109.52	36.51	146.03	54.76	27.7.05				
19.	Rajasthan	311.73	103.91	415.64	155.87	09.05.05				
20.	Sikkim	13.15	4.38	17.53	6.58	21.06.05				
21.	Tamil Nadu	156.81	152.27	209.08	@					
22.	Uttar Pradesh	221.95	73.98	295.94	@					
23.	Uttaranchal	71.02	23.67	94.69	35.51	08.07.05				
24.	West Bengal	176.05	58.68	234.73	@					

*Ad-hoc release for floods.

**Released for Drought/Hailstorm after approval by High Level Committee.

#Released for heavy snow/avalanches.

@1st instalment of Centre's share of CRF for the year of 2005-06 has not been released for want of information relating to crediting of earlier released funds, utilisation certificate.

[English]

Minor Irrigation Projects

3837. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI:
SHRI MOHD. TAHIR:
PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has assessed the works undertaken for minor irrigation projects, tube wells during the Tenth Plan;

(b) if so, the number of projects which could not be completed during the Ninth Plan;

(c) whether such projects have been included in the Tenth Plan; and

(d) if so, the details of such projects, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (d) No, Sir, Government of India has not assessed the works undertaken for minor irrigation projects/tubewells during the Tenth Plan. Minor Irrigation Projects including tubewells are planned, investigated, implemented and funded by State Governments as per their priorities. However, Government of India has been providing financial assistance to projects through certain schemes. Ministry of Water Resources has been providing Central Loan Assistance to special category states under Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP) for completion of surface water minor irrigation schemes since 1999. During 2005-06, the Government of India has made relaxation for extending the benefits of AIBP for minor irrigation projects to tribal-dominated and drought-prone areas in other states also. Ministry of Agriculture is implementing a Central Sector Scheme on "On-Farm Water Management for increasing crop production in Eastern India" for exploiting the abundant ground and surface water resources in 10 Eastern States, namely Eastern Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Orissa, Chhattisgarh, West Bengal, Assam, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur and Mizoram since 2002-03. Another scheme "Million Shallow Tubewell Programme" was approved by Planning Commission in March, 2001 for the State of Bihar and is being implemented since March, 2002.

[Translation]

Artificial Ripening of Fruits

3838. SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE:
SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that fruit growers in the country are using calcium carbide powder for ripening fruits artificially before the scheduled time;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) its adverse impact on the health of human beings;

(d) whether the fruits exported from India are being sent back from foreign countries as a result thereof;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the 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 (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) The Government is aware that the use of calcium carbide powder and gas for artificial ripening of the fruits is harmful to health causing damage to skin and several ailments.

(d) and (e) No report has been received on rejection of Indian fruits on account of use of calcium carbide.

(f) As per the Presentation of Food Adulteration Act, 1960, sale of artificially ripened fruits by using calcium carbide is prohibited. Enforcement of the Act is ensured by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

Promotion of Fruits Production Units

3839. SHRIMATI KALPNA RAMESH NARHIRE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps being taken by the Union Government to promote fruit production units in the country;

(b) whether the Union Government proposes to implement any such programme throughout the country;

(c) if so, the names of the States identified for the purpose;

(d) by when it is likely to be implemented; 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 (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) The Union Government is implementing Centrally Sponsored Schemes on (i) Technology Mission for Integrated Development Horticulture in North Eastern States (TMNE) including Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir and Uttaranchal and (ii) National Horticulture Mission (NHM) for the development of horticulture including production of fruits.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. This list of states where the schemes are being implemented is given in the enclosed Statement.

(d) The TMNE & NHM has launched in 2001-02 and 2005-06 respectively.

(e) Does not arise.

Statement

Name of States where fruit production programmes are taken up through different Schemes on Horticulture

Name of State/Union Territory	Name of Scheme
1	2
Andhra Pradesh	NHM
Arunachal Pradesh	TMNE
Assam	TMNE
Bihar	NHM
Chhattisgarh	NHM
Goa	NHM
Gujarat	NHM
Haryana	NHM
Himachal Pradesh	TMNE
Jammu & Kashmir	TMNE
Jharkhand	NHM
Karnataka	NHM
Kerala	NHM
Madhya Pradesh	NHM
Maharashtra	NHM
Manipur	TMNE
Meghalaya	TMNE
Mizoram	TMNE
Nagaland	TMNE
Orissa	NHM
Punjab	NHM
Rajasthan	NHM
Sikkim	TMNE
Tamil Nadu	NHM
Tripura	TMNE
Uttar Pradesh	NHM
Uttaranchal	TMNE
West Bengal	NHM
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	NHM
Daman & Diu	NHM
Delhi	NHM
Lakshadweep	NHM
Chandigarh	NHM
Andaman & Nicobar	NHM
Pondicherry	NHM

NHM: National Horticulture Mission

TMNE: Technology Mission for Integrated development of Horticulture in the North Eastern States.

[English]

Water Crisis in Andhra Pradesh

3840. SHRI SARVEY SATYANARAYANA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Tsunami effect is still haunting scores of habitations in Prakasam District in Andhra Pradesh;

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

(c) whether people living in the coastal villages of Andhra Pradesh are not able to get drinking water as groundwater has become polluted with increased salt content; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to reduce the salt content in the ground water?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (d) Ground water contamination has been reported in coastal villages of Andhra Pradesh after the Tsunami. Total dissolved solids in excess of permissible limit (more than 1200 parts per million) has been reported from 47 drinking sources in 6 coastal districts including Prakasam district of Andhra Pradesh. The Government of Andhra Pradesh has taken following measures in the affected areas to mitigate drinking water problem:

(i) Transportation of water from safe source.

(ii) Flushing of bore wells.

(iii) Filter Points.

(iv) Repairs & Augmentation of sources.

(v) Ring wells.

(vi) Repairs to distribution mains pipe lines and public taps.

(vii) Replacement of filter media, and

(viii) Cleaning of drinking water tanks etc.

[Translation]

Environmental Clearance for Power Plant

3841. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the proposed 500 mw power plant in collaboration of Bhilai Steel Plant and National Thermal Power Corporation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether, complaints have been received regarding setting up of the above power plant in the green belt of Bhilai Steel Plant;

(d) if so, whether irrespective of objections environmental clearance has been granted; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the grounds for granting such clearance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. M/s Bhilai Electric Supply Company Private Ltd., a joint venture of National Thermal Power Corporation and Steel Authority of India Ltd., have proposed to set up a 2x250 MW Thermal Power Plant within the boundary of Bhilai Steel Plant in Durg district of Chhattisgarh.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) The said project has been accorded environmental clearance on 1st July 2004 based on the recommendations of the Expert Committee after appraisal of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report submitted by the project proponent.

[English]

Construction of Yatri Niwas by Private Sector

3842. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government proposes to construct "Yatri Niwas" with the help of private sector; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) No, Sir. However, Ministry of Tourism assists State Governments for infrastructure improvement under its scheme of "Product/Infrastructure Development of Tourist Circuits and Destinations". Based on the Project Reports which may have a component of Budget Accommodation, received from the State Governments, financial assistance is sanctioned depending on the prioritisation of the projects, merit of the projects, inter-se-priority and availability of funds.

(b) Does not arise.

Setting up of Fodder Bank

3843. SHRI G.V. HARSHA KUMAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received the proposals from the State Governments to set up a fodder bank in each State;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the names of the States;

(c) whether the Government proposes to set up fodder bank in each State particularly in Karnataka;

(d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; 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 (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. Two proposals from Uttar Pradesh and Karnataka have been received during current financial year (2005-06) seeking Central assistance of Rs. 41.25 lakhs and Rs. 42.00 lakhs respectively for setting up of fodder bank which was a component of the old Centrally Sponsored Scheme on "Assistance to States for Feed and Fodder Development". The old scheme continued upto March, 2005. The new Centrally Sponsored Fodder Development Scheme does not include the component of establishment of fodder bank. Therefore it is not possible to provide funds for establishment of fodder bank as requested by the Governments of Uttar Pradesh and Karnataka under the present scheme.

[Translation]

Child Domestic Worker

3844. SHRI BHUPENDRASINH SOLANKI:
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:
SHRI MAHESH KANODIA:
SHRI SURESH KALMADI:
DR. M. JAGANNATH:
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:

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

(a) whether the number of children migrating or being trafficked to major cities to be employed as domestic workers in middle and upper class households is increasing;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether these children are being exploited in many parts of the country;

(d) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken to protect them from exploitation;

(e) whether there is no law at present that directly covers the labour aspects of child domestic workers; and

(f) if so, the measures taken by the Government to enact a law that directly covers the labour aspects of child domestic workers?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SHEKHAR RAO): (a) and (b) The number of children migrating to major cities and engaged as domestic workers is not maintained at the central level.

(c) and (d) Sometimes, reports regarding alleged exploitation of domestic workers are received which are sent to State Government concerned for investigations.

(e) Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act,1986 prohibits employment of children in the hazardous occupations and processes, as listed in the Schedule of the Act. Remaining occupations and processes, which are not listed in the Schedule of the Act, are covered under Part-III of the Act, which regulates working conditions of the children in other occupations and processes. Domestic work by children is not listed in the Schedule of the Act.

(f) There is no proposal to enact a separate law for child domestic workers at present.

[English]

Import of Cheap Steel

3845. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the domestic steel industries are suffering due to import of cheap steel from CIS countries; and

(b) if so, the details and the steps being taken to safeguard the domestic industries?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) Import of steel during the last quarter of 2004-05 and April-May 2005 has shown an increasing trend, particularly from the CIS countries, compared to the corresponding periods of the previous year due to reasons like decline in imports by China,

lower than expected demand in the European Union, reduction in exports to China by Russia and Ukraine and a higher demand of steel in the domestic market. The domestic steel producers have urged the government to monitor imports, particularly from the CIS countries, so as to avoid any injury to the domestic industry. Government is monitoring the trend and would take appropriate measures when the need arises.

Losses to Hotels

3846. SHRI RAJENDER KUMAR: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Government hotels running in losses in various States, hotel-wise and State-wise;

(b) whether the Government proposes to close such hotels; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) The details of ITDC owned and Joint Venture Hotels running in losses, State-wise and Hotel-wise are given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) and (c) There is no proposal to close the ITDC owned and Joint Venture Hotels of ITDC as a policy.

Statement

Details of ITDC owned hotels and Joint Venture hotels running in losses State-wise and Hotel-wise for the last three years

(Rs. in Lacs)

Sl.No.	Name of the Hotel State-wise	Net Loss		
		2002-03	2003-04	2004-05 (Prov.)
(A)	ITDC Owned Hotels			
	1. Bihar Hotel Patliputra Ashok, Patna	77.69	99.90	39.45
	2. Jammu & Kashmir Hotel Jammu Ashok	74.64	69.10	70.02
	3. Orissa Hotel Kalinga Ashok, Bhubaneshwar	103.34	138.50	141.78
	4. Rajasthan Hotel Jaipur Ashok	220.98	194.11	147.80
(B)	Joint Venture Hotels			
	Assam 1. Hotel Brahmaputra Ashok, Guwahati	34.04*	70.58*	9.77
	2. Jharkhand Hotel Ranchi Ashok, Ranchi	16.24	13.49*	1.44
	3. Madhya Pradesh Hotel Lakeview Ashok, Bhopal	12.51	10.08	20.42
	4. Orissa Hotel Nilachal Ashok, Puri	111.50	116.75	107.67
	5. Pondicherry Hotel Pondicherry Ashok, Pondicherry	14.35	5.17	9.44

*Net Profit (Before Tax)

[Translation]

Virus Affected Potatoes

3847. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KUSHAWAHA:
PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the reports of virus affected production of potatoes appeared in *Rashtriya Sahara* dated July 30, 2005:

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

(c) whether Pakistan has imposed ban on the import of Indian Potatoes;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government has conducted any test to the potatoes being exported to Pakistan;

(f) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(g) the total quantum of potatoes in tonnes exported to Pakistan so far during the current year?

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) Potato Leaf Curl virus infection at trace to low level was reported in Jalandhar, Kapurthala, Hoshiyarpur, Lucknow, Barabnki, Pratapgarh, Unnao and Kangra districts during the period December, 2004 to March, 2005.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f) The potatoes exported to Pakistan are subjected to inspection and testing to ensure freedom from pests and diseases and are, thereafter, certified to be pest free.

(g) Two Phytosanitary Certificates for export of 30 MT of potatoes to Pakistan have been issued during the current year.

[English]

Wage Labourers Retired Prematurely

3848. DR. SUJAN CHAKRABORTY:
SHRI G.V. HARSHA KUMAR:

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

(a) whether about 64% of wage labourers in the country retired prematurely due to health related reasons rather than the old age;

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is contemplating any scheme for upgrading the wage, working condition and health improvement facilities; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SHEKHAR RAO): (a) and (b) The Directorate General of Mines Safety and the Directorate General Factory Advice Service & Labour Institutes operating under this Ministry to look after the occupational safety and health of workers in the organized sectors have reported that they are not aware of any large scale premature retirement of workers due to health related reasons.

(c) and (d) In order to safeguard the health of industrial workers provisions are available in the Factories Act, 1948 for factory workers and in the Mines Act, 1952 for mine workers. The owners of the establishments and mine managements are responsible for ensuring the safety and health of workers employed by them, as per the provisions of these legislations.

North India Tourism Council

3849. PROF. CHANDER KUMAR: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to set up "North India Tourism Council" to address the issues concerning tourism, cooperation and collaboration in Northern region;

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal for setting up Tourism Circuits to attract more tourists to North; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Ministry of Tourism under its scheme of "Product/Infrastructure development for Destinations and Circuits" has prioritised several circuits in North India. Details of the circuits of Northern region for which central financial assistance was given during the 10th Plan period are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

List of Circuits Sanctioned by Ministry of Tourism during the Tenth Plan Period (Upto 31.3.2005)

Sl.No.	Name of State	Year	Circuit
1.	Uttar Pradesh	2002-03	Buddhist Circuit
2.	Himachal Pradesh	2002-03	Himalayan Circuit
3.	Delhi	2003-04	Monument Circuit
4.	Haryana	2003-04	Adi Badri Dholavira Circuit
5.	Jammu and Kashmir	2003-04	Amarnath Yatra Circuit
6.	Jammu and Kashmir	2003-04	Jammu and Kashmir Circuit
7.	Uttar Pradesh	2003-04	Buddhist Circuit (phase-II)
8.	Himachal Pradesh	2004-05	Integrated Development of Tourist Circuit Shimla
9.	Himachal Pradesh	2004-05	Development of Kangra Circuit
10.	Uttaranchal	2004-05	Integrated Development of Dayara Budyal Circuit

Drawal of Ground Water by Soft Drink Company

3850. SHRI A.V. BELLARMIN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that a franchise company of "Coca Cola" on the beds of 'Thamira Barani' River of Tirunelveli district of Tamil Nadu, obtained a license from the Government of Tamil Nadu for drawal of ground water;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to prevent them from exploitation of ground water?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) As per information furnished by the State Government of Tamil Nadu, M/s. South Indian Bottling Company (P) Limited, who are a manufacturer of soft drinks in the name of Coca Cola has been allotted land in Growth Centre at Gangaikondan, Tirunelveli district of Tamil Nadu. The water for this Growth Centre will be taken from Thamiraparani River. The company is yet to commence production and at present only 80% of civil work has been completed. As per the conditions of allotment, the company cannot dig borewells without obtaining prior permission. The clearance given to the company clearly stipulates that it should not use ground water or borewell water.

[Translation]

Pending Externally Funded Schemes of States

3851. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any externally funded schemes of the States relating to water resources are lying pending with the Union Government for clearance; and

(b) if so, by when the schemes are likely to be given approval?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) The clearance of the Union Government is not pending in respect of any scheme receiving external assistance.

(b) Does not arise.

Optimum Use of Godowns

3852. SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:
SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:

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

(a) whether Food Corporation of India (FCI) has failed to make the optimum use of its godowns;

(b) if so, the number of godowns operating under the control of FCI at present alongwith their total storage capacity;

(c) the details regarding the quantum and value of foodgrains handled by FCI during the last 3 years, year-wise;

(d) the total quantum of foodgrains stored in the open by FCI; and

(e) 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 capacity utilization of the Food Corporation of India (FCI) godowns (owned and hired) is 59%, as on 1st July, 2005.

(b) The FCI operates 1490 godowns (owned and hired) with a total storage capacity of 257.71 lakh MTs, as on 1st July, 2005.

(c) the year-wise details regarding the quantum and value of foodgrains handled by the FCI during the period 2001-02 to 2003-04 are given in the enclosed statement.

(d) and (e) As on 1st July, 2005, only a quantity of 5.91 lakh MTs of wheat/paddy, which was less than 4% of the total stock with the FCI, were stored in Covered and Plinth (CAP) storage, due to non-availability of suitable covered storage capacity.

Statement

The year-wise details regarding the quantum and value of foodgrains handled by the FCI during the period 2001-02 to 2003-04 are as under:

Qty. in lakh MTs
Value in Rs. crore

Year	Total quantity of foodgrains handled	Value
2001-02	1174.65	53,634.02
2002-03	1548.12	74,824.70
2003-04	1583.80	75,738.21

The Accounts for the year 2004-05 are not yet finalized.

Scheme for Development of Forests

3853. SHRI MAHESH KANODIA:
SHRI BHUPENDRASINH SOLANKI:

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

(a) whether the Government propose to formulate any special scheme for the development of forests;

(b) if so, the nature thereof and the time by which it is likely to be implemented; and

(c) if not, the manner in which the Government propose to develop the forests?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Environment & Forests is already implementing National Afforestation Programme (NAP) for regeneration, conservation and protection of degraded forests and adjoining lands during Tenth Five Year Plan. The Scheme is being implemented through two-tier decentralized Mechanism of Forest Development Agency (FDA) at forest division level and Joint Forest

Management Committees (JFMCs) at village level. As on 31.3.2005, 620 FDA projects were approved in all 28 States to treat an area of 8.68 lakh hectares through 21,262 JFMCs.

For protection and management of existing forests central assistance is already being provided under the Integrated Forest Protection Scheme started during the Tenth Five Year Plan. During last three financial year, Rs. 45.82 crores, Rs. 24.09 crores and Rs. 54.30 crores have been released to the States and Union Territories under the scheme.

[English]

Irrigation Projects under AIBP in Maharashtra

3854. SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE PATIL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are reconsidering its decision for providing grants of Rs. 707 crores to Government of Maharashtra for irrigation projects under the Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Project;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has received any correspondence from any State for modification in Accelerated Irrigation benefit Project; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) The Central assistance under the Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) provided to the States is in the form of Central Loan Assistance (CLA)/Grant on year to year basis keeping in view the budget provisions made by the State Governments in the State budget and the CLA ceiling fixed by the Planning Commission during a particular year. During 2004-05, the Planning Commission had fixed the CLA ceiling at Rs. 707 crore for Maharashtra and CLA/Grant of Rs. 529.286 crore was released. For the year 2005-06, Planning Commission has enhanced the ceiling to Rs. 800 crore.

(c) and (d) The Government of Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh have requested that the Union Government may provide both the grant and loan portion instead of the loan portion raised by the States themselves. The revised guidelines of AIBP effective from 1.4.2005 stipulate that the loan component of the assistance is to be raised by the States themselves from market borrowings and only the grant component will be released by the Centre.

Kallada Irrigation Project

3855. SHRI CHENGARA SURENDRAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Kerala has submitted any proposal to the Union Government to include Kallada Irrigation Project in Kerala under Command Area Development Programme;

(b) if so, whether the Government has conducted any feasibility study in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The proposal submitted by the State Government has been examined. As per the decision of the Government of India, only limited number of Projects have been included after consultation with the State Governments under the Centrally Sponsored Command Area & Water Management programme which has been implemented w.e.f. 1.4.2004. New projects can not be included unless any of the ongoing projects are completed and withdrawn from the programme.

Scam in ESIC Hospitals

3856. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the probe into the five year old financial scam in the Employees State Insurance Scheme Hospital at Nagpur has been completed;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons for delay; and

(d) the time likely to be taken for its completion?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SHEKHAR RAO): (a) to (d) During

a Special Internal audit and inspection of ESI Scheme Hospital, Nagpur conducted in August, 2004, certain irregularities and financial discrepancies of Rs. 1,09,589/- were detected in the Cash Book. A inquiry is on and is likely to be completed shortly.

Steel Plants

3857. SHRI JUAL ORAM: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Memorandum of Understanding has been signed between the State Government's and the steel players to set up steel plants in Orissa, Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand;

(b) if so, whether some steel plants are being set up in the tribal areas of the above states; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

Task Force on Life Saving Drugs

3858. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Medi-sin: New Drugs, Old Name" appearing in the Times of India, New Delhi edition dated July 18, 2005;

(b) whether lack of a Central law has led to several drugs being sold under similar or identical brand names putting the patients in serious risk;

(c) if so, the steps being taken to remedy the situation;

(d) whether the Task Force constituted on life saving drugs has recommended fixation of maximum price of scheduled and unscheduled medicines at a price obtained by government agencies against annual procurement tenders plus 50 percent mark up;

(e) if so, whether the Task Force has also recommended for debranding the prescriptions by medical profession in order to pass on the benefit of cheaper and competitive prices of medicines to the masses; and

(f) if so, the steps taken by the Government to implement the same without any further delay in public interest?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (c) Under the provisions of Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and the Rules made thereunder, every pharmaceutical company has to obtain a licence from the concerned State Licensing Authority to manufacture and market drugs. The Rules have prescribed detailed requirements in respect of the facilities to be provided by a drug manufacturer to obtain licence for manufacturing of drugs. The State Licensing Authorities while granting licence also approve the drug formulations along with the proposed brand names. There is no requirement of separately registering these brand names of drugs under the Rules.

(d) to (f) A Task Force has been constituted under the Chairmanship of the Principal Advisor (PP), Planning Commission to explore various options other than price control for achieving the objective of making available life-saving drugs at reasonable prices. No recommendations of the Task Force have been received by the Government so far.

River Valley Projects

3859. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of river valley projects, both multi-purpose and irrigation have spilled over from plan to plan due to financial constraints faced by the State Governments; and

(b) if so, the measures taken by the Government for expeditious completion of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As on 1.4.2004, there are 169 major and 219 medium on-going multipurpose/ irrigation projects which have spilled over from plan to plan due to various constraints including paucity of funds.

Irrigation being a State subject the irrigation projects are planned, formulated, funded and executed by the State Governments out of their own resources as per their priorities. Keeping in view, the fund constraints faced by

the State Governments for completion of irrigation projects, Central Government during 1996-97, launched the Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) to provide Central Loan Assistance (CLA) to such on-going approved major/medium irrigation projects which are in an advanced stage of completion or beyond the resources capability of the States. Under the programme CLA/grant of Rs. 17,120.820 crore has been provided upto March, 2005 for completion of major and medium irrigation projects.

[Translation]

Improvement of Environment

3860. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of proposals received from Madhya Pradesh during the year 2004-05 and 2005-06 for improvement of environment;

(b) the proposals approved along with funds allocated therein; and

(c) the details of funds provided for projects/schemes already under implementation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) The details of proposals received from Madhya Pradesh during the year 2004-05 and 2005-06 for improvement of environment are as under:

Name of the Programme/Scheme	Number of proposals received	
	2004-2005	2005-2006
National River Conservation Programme	8	1
National Lake Conservation Programme	2	—
National Wetlands Conservation Programme	10	—
National Afforestation Programme	4	3
Integrated Forest Protection Scheme	1	1
Assistance for Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries	22	22

(b) The proposals approved along with funds allocated during 2004-2005 and 2005-2006 are as under:

(Rs. in crores)

Name of the Programme/Scheme	Number of proposals approved		Total funds allocated	
	2004-2005	2005-2006	2004-2005	2005-2006
National Afforestation Programme	14	3	3.55	1.11
Integrated Forest Protection Scheme	1	1	4.44	—
Assistance for Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries	21	14	2.68	2.25

(c) Only a sum of Rs. 12 crores was released during 2004-2005 for projects/schemes already under implementation under the National River Conservation Programme.

Visit of Tourists to Thailand

3861. SHRI SITA RAM SINGH: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of domestic tourists who visited Thailand as against the number of Thai tourists, visited India during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the gap between the number of Indian tourists and Thai tourists; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to attract more Thai tourists to the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) As per the information received from Bureau of Immigration, details of Thai tourists visiting India, and as per information published by World Tourism Organisation (WTO) Indian nationals visiting Thailand during the years 2001, 2002 and 2003 and the gap is given below:

Year	No. of Thai Tourist arrivals in India	No. of Indian Nationals visiting Thailand	Gap between the Indian & Thai Tourists
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4) = (3)–(2)
2001	18,623	2,29,751	2,11,128
2002	19,649	2,80,641	2,60,992
2003	25,754	2,53,752	2,27,998

During the year 2004 an estimated 29,400 Thai tourists visited India. The corresponding figures of Indian nationals visiting Thailand are not available for year 2004.

(c) The Ministry of Tourism, through the India tourism office in Singapore, undertakes a series of promotional activities in the region, including Thailand, to attract greater number of tourists from Thailand to visit India. These include advertising, participation in fairs and exhibitions, organizing seminars, workshops and road shows, publication of brochures, joint advertising support and inviting media personalities, tour operators and opinion makers to visit the country under the Hospitality Programme of the Ministry.

[English]

Foreign Investment to Promote Research and Development

3862. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any plan to capital investment in agriculture sector and there is any tie-up in foreign sector to promote research and development;

(b) if so, details thereof;

(c) whether any scheme for small and marginal farmers has been made for crop insurance and capital subsidy; 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) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Under the National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS), 50% subsidy in premium is allowed in respect of small and marginal farmers, to be shared equally by the Government of India and State/UT Government. As the premium subsidy is phased out on sunset basis, small and marginal farmers are at present entitled to 10% premium subsidy under the scheme. Total subsidy in premium to the tune of Rs. 215.15 crores has been given to the small and marginal farmers during the last ten crop seasons i.e. from Rabi 1999-2000 to Kharif 2004 season.

[Translation]

Self-Sufficiency in Field of Oilseeds

3863. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country is self-sufficient in the field of oilseeds;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for achieving self-sufficiency in the field of oilseeds?

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) No, Sir. Government of India is implementing a Centrally Sponsored "Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize" (ISOPOM) in 14 major oilseeds growing States with a view to increase the production and productivity of oilseeds and to make the country self-sufficient in oilseed production. Under the Scheme, assistance is provided for purchase of breeder seed, production of foundation seed, production and distribution of certified seed, distribution of seed minikits, distribution of plant protection chemicals, plant protection equipment, weedicides, rhizobium culture/phosphate solubilising bacteria, distribution of equipment, weedicides, rhizobium culture/phosphate solubilising bacteria, distribution of gypsum/pyrite/liming/dolomite, distribution of sprinkler sets and water carrying pipes, publicity, etc. to encourage farmers to grow oilseeds.

In order to disseminate information on improved production technologies amongst the farmers, block demonstrations and Integrated Pest Management (IPM) demonstrations are organized through State Departments of Agriculture and Front Line Demonstrations through ICAR.

[English]

Development of Brackish Water Aquaculture

3864. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has accorded administrative approval for the continuation of the component development of brackish water aquaculture through Brackish Water Fish Farmers Development Agencies (BFDAs);

(b) if so, whether the Union Government had received any request to release a Central share of Rs. 20.285 lakhs for the implementation of Integrated Brackish Water Aquaculture and Strengthening of Technical wing in State Directorate;

(c) if so, whether the State Government has requested to release a balance Central share of Rs. 5,735 lakhs;

(d) if so, the reasons for delay;

(e) whether this amount was due for 2003-04; and

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

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) Yes, Sir.

(b) A sum of Rs. 20.46 lakhs of central share was released for development of brackish water aquaculture to the State Government of Karnataka during the year 2003-04.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) to (f) Question do not arise.

[Translation]

Plantation of Saplings

3865. SHRI SRICHAND KRIPLANI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of saplings planted under the Harit Yojna during the last two years, State-wise;

(b) the number of saplings proposed to be planted during the year 2005-06;

(c) the number of plantation schemes operating at present;

(d) whether the Government proposes to start any new scheme alongwith the existing ones;

(e) if so, whether some proposals regarding plantation have been received from the States; and

(f) if so, the action taken by the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (c) No scheme titled "Harit Yojna' is being implemented by the Ministry of Environment and Forests. However, a major afforestation scheme titled National Afforestation Programme (NAP) Scheme is being implemented by Ministry of Environment and Forests.

(d) Planning Commission has suggested to start a new scheme to undertake tree plantation on public, community and private lands in the country through Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs).

(e) and (f) 697 project proposals had been received under NAP Scheme and out of these, 620 projects were approved upto 31.3.2005.

[English]

Workers in Organised and Unorganised Sector

3866. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has made any classification regarding organised and unorganised sectors;

(b) if so, whether any assessment has been made regarding the quantum of workers working in both the sectors in the country;

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

(d) the percentage share of unorganised and organised workers in the total work force, sector-wise?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SHEKHAR RAO): (a) Under the Employment Market Information Programme of Directorate General of Employment & Training, Ministry of Labour & Employment, establishments with 10 or more workers are classified as organised sector and remaining establishments are in the unorganised sector.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Details of employment in the organised and unorganised sector for major States and All India during 1999-2000 are given in the enclosed statement.

(d) Percentage share of organised and unorganised sector workers in the total work force during 1999-2000 was around 7% and 93% respectively.

Statement

Employment in organized and unorganized sectors for major states and All India.

Sl.No.	Major States	2000 (in thousand)		
		Total Employment	Organised Sector	Unorganized Sector
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	36148	2071.6	34076.4
2.	Assam	9357	1084.5	8272.5
3.	Bihar	36437	1613.9	34823.1
4.	Gujarat	22931	1690.3	21240.7
5.	Haryana	7159	651.6	6507.4
6.	Karnataka	23599	1863.3	21735.7
7.	Kerala	12444	1209.8	11234.2
8.	Madhya Pradesh	34424	1593.7	32830.3
9.	Maharashtra	41241	3759.8	37481.2
10.	Orissa	14981	797.9	14183.1
11.	Punjab	9885	845.8	9039.2
12.	Rajasthan	23212	1275.7	21936.3

1	2	3	4	5
13.	Tamil Nadu	28895	2524.5	26370.5
14.	Uttar Pradesh	58924	2552.7	56371.3
15.	West Bengal	28237	2352.3	25884.7
	All Major States	387950	25887.4	362062.6
	All India	397000	27959.7	369140.3

Agreement with Malaysian Government

3867. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh proposes to initiate talks with the Malaysian Government for exchange of germplasm of high-yielding dwarf varieties;

(b) if so, whether any agreement with Malaysian Government has been signed;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the time by which action in this regard is likely to be started;

(d) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh had emerged as a leading producer of oilpalm in the country, harvesting has become a major problem as the trees seem to grow to great heights;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the extent to which help from the Malaysian Government is sought 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 (f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Exploration of Iron Ore Reserves

3868. SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether any strategy has been evolved to coordinate the proper exploration and exploitation of the iron reserves in Jharkhand;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the names of the PSUs and private entrepreneurs to whom the exploitation of different sectors thereof have been assigned alongwith the terms thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) The applications for grant of mining leases are received and processed by the State Governments. Mining leases are granted by the State Government concerned following the provisions of Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 and rules made there under which prescribe detailed procedure and conditions for grant of mineral concessions. Only for a select number of minerals specified in the First Schedule to the aforesaid Act, prior approval of the Central Government is required before grant of mineral concessions by the State Governments. Even in cases of prior approval, the grant of mining lease and execution of the lease deed with the leaseholder is done by the concerned State Government as per the laid down procedure under the Act and the Rules framed there under.

(c) During the last three years, Central Government has approved the following proposals, received from State Government of Jharkhand for grant of mining lease for iron ore:

Sl.No.	Name of applicant	Name of Mineral	Area/distt.
1	2	3	4
1.	Shri Bachan Singh	Iron ore	106.59 Acres, Latechar
2.	M/s Usha Martin Industries Ltd.	Iron ore & Manganese Ore	383.20 Acres, West Singhbhum

1	2	3	4
3.	M/s Balaji Industries	Iron ore & Manganese Ore	420.95 Acres, West Singhbhum
4.	M/s Prasad Group Resources Pvt. Ltd.	Iron ore & Manganese Ore	275.23 Acres, West Singhbhum
5.	M/s Niraanjan Hi-tec Ltd.	Iron ore & Manganese Ore	356.18 Acres, West Singhbhum
6.	M/s A.M.L. Steel & Power Ltd.	Iron ore & Manganese Ore	383.54 Acres, West Singhbhum

These approvals have been accorded with the following terms:

"Before allowing grant of mining lease the State Government may kindly ensure the compliance of the amended provisions of the Acts and Rules including Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and Environmental Notification dated 27.1.1994 as issued and amended by Ministry of Environment and Forests."

[Translation]

Permission for Iron Ore Projects in Maharashtra

3869. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has granted permission for Iron Ore Projects in Maharashtra pending for clearance;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the date by which the permission is likely to be granted;

(d) whether any assessment regarding the excavation of iron ore in tones per annum; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (c) Central Government has conveyed prior approval in respect of the following proposals for grant of mining lease for iron ore in Maharashtra since 1.4.2002 till date:

Sl.No.	Name of the applicant	Area/Distt.
1.	M/s Jayaswal Neco Ltd.	2.61 Hects distt. Gondia
2.	M/s Prakash Ramdeo Jaiswal	4.04 hects. District Gondia
3.	M/s. Jayaswal Neco Ltd.	37.34 hects. District Gondia
4.	M/s Nirmal Chand Jain	25.62 Acres district Gadchiroli.
5.	M/s Anju Mines Minerals & Chemicals Pvt. Ltd.	12.00 hect., district Gadchiroli.
6.	Shri Anoj Kumar Agarwal	12.00 hect, district Gadchiroli.
7.	Shri Ramesh Mahadeorao Rajkar Warora	8.00 hect., district Gadchiroli.
8.	Shri Manoj Kumar Ajitsaria	4.00 hect. district Gadchiroli.

There are two proposals for grant of mining lease for iron ore which have been received from State Government of Maharashtra seeking prior approval of the Central Government. It is not possible to indicate any specific time frame for conveying the approval in respect of these two proposals:

Sl.No.	Name of the applicants	Area/District	Date of Receipt
1.	M/s Minerals & Metals	51.79 hect. District Sindhudurg	1.10.2004
2.	M/s Gahra Minerals	4.63 hect. District Chandrapur	1.10.2004

(d) and (e) As per the information available in Indian Mineral Year Book, 2004 the production of iron ore in Maharashtra is shown below:

2001-02	33,000 tonnes
2002-03	36,000 tonnes
2003-04 (provisional)	35,000 tonnes

[English]

Pricing of Iron Ore

3870. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has a proposal to fix uniform price of iron ore for export and the domestic market; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to implement the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) No, Sir. In a liberalized and deregulated environment Government does not fix prices for iron ore either for the export or the domestic market.

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

Conservation of Threatened Livestock Breeds

3871. SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had launched a scheme for conservation of threatened livestock breeds of small ruminants, per animals and equine during Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the work done so far under the scheme; and

(c) the assistance provided to farmers/breeders/Non-Governmental Organisations for conservation of threatened breeds of sheep, goat, pigs, camels, yak, horse, donkey and ponies during the last three years and thereafter?

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) Yes, Sir. However, the scheme does not cover pet animals but includes conservation of pack animals and small ruminants.

(b) Altogether 14 States and the Union Territory Administration of Andaman & Nicobar Islands participated in the Centrally Sponsored Scheme who were provided with grants totalling Rs. 952.55 lakh since inception of the scheme in 2002-03. This assistance was provided for conservation of 22 breeds altogether which included 5 goat breeds, 2 sheep breeds, 6 pig breeds, 6 horse and pony breeds, 2 varieties of yak and mithun.

(c) During 2002-03 an amount of Rs. 42.00 lakh was released to Marwari horse Breeding and Research Institute for conservation of Marwari Horses. During 2004-05 an amount of Rs. 77.00 lakh was released to Manipuri Polo Association for conservation of Manipuri Pony.

Condition of Godowns

3872. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of godowns of the Food Corporation of India (FCI) in Gujarat alongwith their locations and the quantity of foodgrains stored thereon;

(b) the quantum of foodgrains found unfit for human consumption in the FCI godowns in Gujarat during the last three years;

(c) whether the FCI godowns in Gujarat are in a bad shape;

(d) if so, the details of the same; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Union Government to improve the condition of these godowns and to construct more godowns in the State?

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 (FCI) has 21 godowns for storage of foodgrains holding 3.44 lakh MTs foodgrains stock, as on 11.8.2005 in the Gujarat State. The location-wise details are given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) The quantum of foodgrains found unfit for human consumption in Gujarat State in FCI godowns during the last three years are as under:

Year	Quantity (in MTs)
2002-03	1478
2003-04	4189
2004-05	299

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Do not arise.

(e) The foodgrain storage capacity available with the FCI in Gujarat State is sufficient to meet the requirement, at present.

Statement

The details of the location-wise total covered storage capacity (owned and hired) alongwith the foodgrains stocks with Food Corporation of India (FCI) in Gujarat State as on 11.08.2005.

(in '000 tonnes)

Name of Revenue District	Name of the Centre	Total Capacity	Stocks held
1	2	3	4
Bharauch	Bharauch	8.20	3.02
Kheda	Nadiad	—	—
Anand	Vadod	12.00	7.21
Godhra	Bhomaiya	55.00	48.85
	Gohdra	23.96	23.20
	Karachia	3.40	3.14
Vadodra	Baroda	14.25	12.30
	Chhanni	10.00	5.00
	Ranoli	3.00	0.18
Valsad	Valsad	10.00	5.06
Bhavnagar	Bhavnagar	20.00	13.40
Jamnagar	Jamnagar (Dared)	30.00	24.24
Rajkot	Rajkot	—	—
	Wankaner	10.00	6.98
	Ghanteshwar	20.00	17.54

1	2	3	4
Surendranagar	Wadhwan (S. Nagar)	10.00	5.81
Junagarh	Veraval	5.20	2.75
Ahmedabad	Sabarmati	86.88	72.37
	Viramgam	35.00	19.64
Bansakantha	Palampur	23.25	22.18
Mehsana	Mehsana	11.12	7.71
Kutch	Gandhidham (SPG)	93.36	5.78
Kutch	Gandhidham (FSD)	50.00	38.04
Total covered capacity Gujarat State		534.63	344.40

[Translation]

Durgawati Water Reservoir Project of Bihar

3873. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission had accorded approval to Durgawati Water Reservoir Project of Bihar costing Rs. 234.41 crore on Durgawati river;

(b) if so, the amount of loan sanctioned for the project under Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme;

(c) the present status of the project; and

(d) the amount released so far by the Government to the State Government and the target fixed for completion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) The project was originally approved by the Planning Commission for Rs. 25.30 crore during 1975. Subsequently, the first estimated for Rs. 234.41 crore at 1998 price level was considered by the Advisory Committee of Ministry of Water Resources on 18.1.2000 and was found acceptable subject to certain conditions. Latest estimated cost of the project is Rs. 379.04 crore.

(b) to (d) Under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP), an amount of Rs. 63.69 crore has been released for Durgawati Water Reservoir Project as Central Loan Assistance (CLA) upto March, 2005. An expenditure of Rs. 269.06 crore has been incurred on the project upto March, 2005. As per information provided by Government of Bihar, the project is scheduled for completion by December, 2007.

[English]

Cultivation of Coconut and Groundnut

3874. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the area under cultivation of coconut and groundnut in Tamil Nadu;

(b) whether there is a vast scope to increase the area under said crops cultivation to contain its price rise in the state;

(c) if so, the steps taken to bring additional areas under said cultivation during the last three years;

(d) whether the central assistance has been extended for the same in the State; 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) As per the available data for 2003-04, an area of 3.68 ha. of coconut and 5.92 lakh ha. of groundnut is under cultivation in Tamil Nadu.

(b) to (e) Yes, Sir. The details of the schemes implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and the assistance provided for cultivation of coconut and groundnut in Tamil Nadu are as under:

Coconut: Coconut Development Board under the Ministry of Agriculture is implementing a scheme for expansion of area under coconut in Tamil Nadu by extending incentive subsidy @ Rs. 8000/- ha. for taking up new plantations of coconut. An additional area of 729.33 ha. has been brought under coconut in Tamil Nadu by providing assistance of Rs. 98.083 lakhs as subsidy to the coconut farmers.

The Board is also implementing programmes for production and distribution of quality seedlings of desired cultivars and hybrids required for taking up new plantations of coconut. An amount of Rs. 33.625 lakhs was released to the State Government for production and distribution of 2.90 lakh T x D hybrid seedlings during last three years. The Board has also released an amount of Rs. 37.50 lakhs during the year 2004-05 for the production of 3 lakh coconut seedlings under the scheme, "Establishment of Regional Coconut Nurseries" as a special case in view of the huge demand of coconut seedlings for taking up new plantations of coconut.

Under the scheme for promoting seedling production in private sector by establishing nucleus seed garden and coconut nurseries, financial assistance of Rs. 33.743 lakhs was provided to farmers for establishment of four seed gardens and 11 coconut nurseries in the State during the last three years.

Groundnut: Under the Centrally Sponsored Oilseeds Production Programme (OPP) of Ministry of Agriculture, which was in implementation in 28 States including Tamil Nadu upto the year 2003-04, assistance was provided for various inputs in order to encourage the farmers to undertake Oilseeds cultivation including Groundnut on a large scale.

From the year 2004-05, Ministry is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM) in 14 major oilseeds growing States including Tamil Nadu for increasing production and productivity of Oilseeds crops including Groundnut. Under the scheme, assistance is provided for purchase of breeder seed, production of foundation seed, production and distribution of certified seed, distribution of seed minikits, distribution of plant protection chemicals, plant protection equipments, weedicides, supply of rhyzobium/phosphate solublising bacteria, distribution of gypsum/pyrite/lime/dolomite, distribution of sprinkler sets and water carrying pipes, publicity etc. to encourage farmers to grow Oilseeds including Groundnut. 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 ICAR.

Besides, Government of India has been announcing a significant increase in the Minimum Support Price of Oilseed Crops including Groundnut every year as compared to other crops such as rice and wheat so as to encourage the farmers to undertake cultivation of these crops on a large scale. The financial assistance provided to Tamil Nadu under the Centrally Sponsored OPP and ISOPOM during the period 2002-03 to 2004-05 is as under:

Year	Rs. in lakhs
2002-03	420.00
2003-04	347.00
2004-05	990.00*

*Assistance provided for development of oilseeds, pulses, oil palm and maize.

[Translation]

Fund for Agriculture Training and Publicity Programme

3875. SHRI GANESH SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has provided assistance for Agriculture Extension Training and Publicity Programme to the State Governments;

(b) if so, the number of such Agriculture Extension and training Centres functioning in the country particularly in Madhya Pradesh at present;

(c) whether the Government had made adequate budget provisions for the strengthening and maintenance of these centers under the macro-management scheme;

(d) whether the above provisions have been withdrawn since 2004-05;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether the Union Government have received any request for the continuation of Macro-Management Scheme from the above State Government; and

(g) 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 Government of India has recently launched a Centrally Sponsored Scheme viz., "Support to State Extension Programme for Extension Reforms" with an outlay of Rs. 226.07 crores for the Tenth Plan Period for implementation in 254 districts in the country. Demonstrations, exposure visits, training, information dissemination through printed literature are some of the eligible activities under the Scheme. An amount of Rs. 1330.00 lakh has been released to the State Governments.

(b) The Indian Council of Agricultural Research has established a network of farm science centers called Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) in the country. Functions of these (KVKs are technology assessment/training of farmers/ extension functionaries and conduct front-line demonstrations. So far, 488 KVKs have been established in various States of the country, of which 36 KVKS are in the State of Madhya Pradesh.

In addition, 19 Agriculture Extension and training Centers and one State Institute of Agriculture Extension and Training of the State Government are functioning.

(c) to (e) The funds for KVKs do not come from the Macro Management Scheme.

The funds under the scheme "Support to State Extension Programme for Extension Reforms" are provided to State on Work Plan basis. An amount of Rs. 100.00 lakh has been released to Madhya Pradesh during 2005-06. The guidelines of the Scheme "Support to State Extension Programme for Extension Reforms" provide flexibility to States in implementing extension activities through both governmental and non-governmental agencies.

(f) The Macro Management Scheme, under implementation in all States/UTs, is continued in the X Plan.

(g) Does not arise.

[English]

Afforestation of Sea Coast

3876. DR. K.S. MANOJ: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is planning afforestation of sea coast with mangroves to combat sea erosion;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has received any such proposal from the Government of Kerala; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) Mangroves do prevent coastal erosion. However, not all coastal areas are suitable for mangrove plantation as mangroves require an appropriate mix of saline & freshwater, and soft substrate like mudflats to be able to grow and perpetuate. On a nation-wide basis, 35 sites have been identified as appropriate for planting of mangroves.

(c) and (d) Vembanad in Kerala is one of the 35 mangrove sites identified by the Government for intensive conservation and management. Management Action Plan for 2005-06 for Vembanad Mangrove area has not been received.

[Translation]

Bavandhari Irrigation Project of Maharashtra

3877. SHRI SHISHUPAL N. PATLE: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has provided any assistance to the Government of Maharashtra for Bavandhari Irrigation Project;

(b) if so, the total funds sanctioned/released by the Government to the State during the Tenth Five Year Plan; and

(c) by when the project is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) There is no project by the name of Bhavandhari in Maharashtra. Probably, the Hon'ble Member is referring to Bawanthadi irrigation project of Maharashtra. This project has started receiving Central Loan Assistance (CLA) under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) since 2004-05 and so far, CLA/grant of Rs. 30.47 crore has been released for this project to the State of Maharashtra. The scheduled year of completion of the project is 2007-08.

National Wetland Policy

3878. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA:
SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN:

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

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to formulate a National Wetland Policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the main objectives behind formulating such a policy; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (d) No Sir. The strategy for conservation and management of wetlands is embodied in draft National Environment Policy which envisages putting in place regulatory mechanism for identified valuable wetlands; developing a National Inventory of wetlands; enhanced participation of local communities in conservation strategies, and development of eco-tourism strategies among others.

[English]

Improvement in Tourism Infrastructure

3879. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the efforts being made by the Union Government to improve tourism infrastructure in the country to promote tourism;

(b) the details of funds allocated/released to State Governments especially to Gujarat during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise;

(c) whether the Union Government have issued any guidelines to the State Governments to improve facilities for domestic/foreign tourists; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith response of State governments thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) to (d) The Ministry of Tourism has been assisting State Governments to improve the tourist infrastructure in the country under its scheme of "Product/Infrastructure Development of Tourist Circuits and Destinations" under which there are guidelines issued to the State Governments to improve tourist facilities like landscaping, development of parks, illumination, improvement in solid waste management and sewerage management, construction of budget accommodation, wayside amenities, tourist arrival reception, interpretation centres, etc. The response of the State Governments in the form of Detailed Project Reports, land availability, etc. help in the sanction of the projects. Details of the funds allocated/released to the State Governments including Gujarat during the last three years are given in enclosed statement.

Statement

State-wise Tourism Projects Sanctioned during the Tenth Five Year Plan (as on 31.3.2005)

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Sl. No.	State/UT	2002-03			2003-04			2004-05 (provisional)		
		No. of Project Sancd.	Amount Sancd.	Amount Released	No. of Project Sancd.	Amount Sancd.	Amount Released	No. of Project Sancd.	Amount Sancd.	Amount Released
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2	507.50	195.00	6	946.50	896.44	16	2827.19	2240.68
2.	Assam	9	768.13	618.85	3	313.46	313.06	8	986.03	766.22
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	5	41.30	32.50	6	1044.60	700.00	9	1325.50	927.96
4.	Bihar	8	505.00	505.00	6	1019.42	913.89	7	1901.43	1527.71
5.	Chhattisgarh	9	308.00	98.50	6	1005.00	364.00	6	1117.94	897.93
6.	Goa	1	0.50	0.50	2	36.76	34.76	3	110.00	38.00
7.	Gujarat	2	197.12	59.13	8	920.51	815.82	2	138.93	111.14
8.	Haryana	8	332.25	311.00	16	1215.38	879.23	6	693.55	513.64
9.	Himachal Pradesh	30	779.32	760.38	4	182.32	85.00	12	2680.00	2161.00
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	3	94.38	89.47	5	895.00	895.00	5	819.25	699.04
11.	Jharkhand	0	0	0	2	1109.00	774.60	2	945.91	756.72
12.	Karnataka	6	902.49	625.49	14	932.66	792.51	12	2461.76	1937.37
13.	Kerala	11	861.36	829.86	6	608.50	564.15	10	2283.63	1820.33
14.	Madhya Pradesh	18	711.18	574.79	10	621.90	394.51	11	1595.19	942.21
15.	Maharashtra	8	623.46	546.25	10	931.83	914.58	10	1620.62	925.30
16.	Manipur	2	5.24	2.62	1	82.44	24.73	0	0.00	0.00
17.	Meghalaya	3	70.35	21.20	2	40.22	24.92	2	963.30	807.91
18.	Mizoram	6	141.16	48.46	5	567.70	186.75	6	1086.35	382.38
19.	Nagaland	5	360.50	323.43	4	711.00	220.80	7	2250.69	1413.40
20.	Orissa	2	47.50	15.75	5	419.55	138.50	8	1320.74	1059.38
21.	Punjab	3	23.00	14.60	2	96.00	12.30	7	724.68	581.47
22.	Rajasthan	13	1098.70	1096.20	14	1644.81	1414.25	13	2516.61	1375.07
23.	Sikkim	13	346.24	269.76	8	1151.09	681.49	8	660.81	531.33

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
24.	Tamil Nadu	5	559.00	316.10	14	1339.82	850.53	7	1308.92	705.83
25.	Tripura	5	216.13	67.78	6	4580.17	135.16	1	20.00	16.00
26.	Uttaranchal	3	548.00	418.00	4	230.44	203.94	7	2199.98	1750.73
27.	Uttar Pradesh	3	295.00	295.00	7	1115.80	916.26	9	1044.93	831.19
28.	West Bengal	5	201.10	60.00	10	717.44	384.34	10	513.04	407.43
29.	Andaman and Nicobar	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0.00
30.	Chandigarh	3	7.75	6.63	2	10.00	8.00	3	467.00	373.60
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	2	8.07	6.46	0	0	0	0	0.00	0.00
32.	Delhi	14	504.00	449.02	17	3316.28	3222.13	8	628.85	511.00
33.	Daman and Diu	3	49.50	16.90	1	265.07	238.56	0	0.00	0.00
34.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0.00
35.	Pondicherry	2	7.87	6.30	1	245.17	73.55	2	451.00	360.00
	Total	212	11121.10	8680.93	207	24185.84	18073.76	217	37663.83	27371.97

Note—This includes the projects relating to Circuits, Destinations, Large Revenue Generating Projects, UNDP Rural Tourism (Software and Hardware) Project, IT, Event, Fair & Festivals Projects.

Additional Fund by ICAR

3880. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the additional funds provided by the Indian Council for Agricultural Research (ICAR) is aimed to conduct studies on specific issues in problem areas;

(b) if so, whether the crops and subjects are identified for special studies; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to get the time bound result?

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) Do not arise.

Proposals from BVFCL

3881. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any new proposal from Brahmaputra Valley Fertilizer Corporation Limited (BVFCL) Assam regarding setting up of its Fourth Plant and Conversion of Ammonia-II Plant to Methanol Plant;

(b) if so, status of their clearance as well as target;

(c) whether the employees of BVFCL are deprived of their fringe benefit and North Eastern Region Allowance;

(d) if so, the reasons therefore and by when these are likely to be granted; and

(e) the action plan, if any, taken for viable sustenance of the plants at Namrup?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) No Sir.

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

(c) and (d) A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was entered into between the Workers Unions and the Management of BVFCL on the basis of mutual agreement w.e.f. 22.09.2003 which provides the framework for a wage settlement effective from 01.08.2003 to 31.12.2005. This settlement *inter-alia* covers pay scales, DA formula, fixation of pay of workmen, annual increments as well as withdrawal of certain allowances/financial benefits, keeping in view the overall financial status of the company.

(e) Any action plan for sustenance of the plants at Namrup is linked to the completion of the Namrup Revamp Project.

Gap between Retail and Wholesale Prices of Medicines

3882. DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a wide gap between the retail and wholesale prices of medicines;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (c) Prices of Scheduled drugs and medicines are fixed by the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) in a accordance with the provisions of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 (DPCO, 95). The trade margin to retailers in respect of Scheduled formulations is fixed at 16%. Prices of non-Scheduled medicines are fixed by the manufactures themselves keeping in view various factors like cost of production, marketing/selling expenses, R&D expenses, trade commission, market competition, product innovation, product quality etc. The Government takes corrective measures where the public interest is found to be adversely affected.

The Government/National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) regularly monitors the movement of prices of medicines of mass consumption marketed through trade channel and intervenes wherever instances of unreasonable increase in prices affecting public interest adversely are noticed.

The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has collected data on trade margin being offered by the manufacturers to the retailers for a limited sample. It was noted that some manufacturers had offered high margin to the retailers. However, the market share of such medicines was small.

A Committee under the Chairmanship of Joint Secretary (PI) was constituted to examine the span of price control (including trade margin) in the light of National Common Minimum Programme and the observations of the Supreme Court in SLP No, 3668/2003 and to suggest measures for fulfilling the objective of National Common Minimum Programme to ensure the availability of life saving drugs at reasonable prices. This Committee has submitted its interim report to the Government. Follow-up action has been initiated on the recommendations of the Committee made in its interim report.

A Task Force has been constituted under the Chairmanship of the Principal Advisor (PP), Planning Commission to explore various options other than price control for achieving the objective of making available life-saving drugs at reasonable prices. No recommendations of the Task Force have been received by the Government so far.

[Translation]

Flood Control Programme

3883. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD RAWAT: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of flood control programmes at present;

(b) the reasons for non-completion of these programmes as scheduled during the last five years;

(c) whether some State Governments are indifferent towards flood control inspite the availability of funds;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to complete the programmes on time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Flood Management being the State

subject, investigations, planning and implementation of flood management scheme are within the purview of the State Government. Flood control schemes are planned by State Government depending upon their priorities subject to availability of funds under the State sector.

However, Central Government also provides funds for execution of flood management schemes. The list of such ongoing Centrally Sponsored Schemes under execution and to be completed during 10th Five Year Plan is given in enclosed Statement.

(c) and (d) No information has been received which indicates that state Governments are indifferent towards flood control.

(e) The implementation of the scheme is also monitored by the concerned Central agencies from time to time.

Statement

Details of ongoing Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) of flood control/management during 10th Five Year Plan.

Sl.No.	Name of the Scheme
1.	Improvement of drainage in critical areas of the country
2.	Critical flood control and anti-erosion schemes in Brahmaputra & Barak Valley
3.	Critical anti erosion works in Ganga basin States
4.	Critical anti sea erosion works in coastal & other than Ganga Basin states
5.	Maintenance of Flood Protection Works of Kosi and Gandak Project
6.	Raising, Strengthening and extension of embankments on Lalbakeya, Kamla, Bagmati & Khando rivers

[English]

Labour Laws in SEZ Industries

3884. DR. BABU RAO MEDIYAM:
SHRI AMITAVA NANDY:

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

(a) whether the Labour Laws including Statutory Minimum Wages are not applicable to Special Economic Zones and Export Promotion Zones;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of the specific area where the laws were excluded;

(d) whether the Government proposes to review these decisions; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SHEKHAR RAO): (a) to (e) No significant exemption has been given to Special Economic Zones or Export Processing Zones from labour laws including from the application of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948. However, some concessions have been given to certain States, which generally relate to the delegation of powers to Development Commissioners of the Special Economic Zones in those States.

Bio-Tech Drugs

3885. SHRI MOHD. MUKEEM: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) is responsible for giving clearance for Bio-tech drugs;

(b) if so, the composition of GEAC alongwith the frequency of its meetings; and

(c) the time it generally takes to grant the approval for a bio-technology drug?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) The GEAC constituted under the 'Rules for the Manufacture, Use/Import/Export and Storage of Hazardous Microorganisms/Genetically Engineering Organisms or Cells, 1989 is the competent authority responsible for giving environmental clearances to recombinant biotech drugs.

(b) The present composition of the GEAC is given in the enclosed Statement. The meeting of the GEAC is held every month.

(c) The time taken for granting GEAC approval for a recombinant bio-technology drug in general is about 2-3 months.

Statement

Composition of the Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) Constituted under 'The Rules for the Manufacture, Use, Import, Export and Storage of Hazardous Micro-organisms/Genetically Engineered Organisms or Cells of Environmental Protection Act, 1986.

1. Mr. Suresh Chandra — Chairman
Special Secretary
Ministry of Environment & Forests
CGO Complex, Lodhi Road,
New Delhi

2. Dr. Amit Ghosh — Co-Chairman
Former Director,
Institute of Microbial Technology (IMTech),
Sector 39, A
Chandigarh-160 036

3. Shri D.D. Verma — Vice-Chairman
Joint Secretary
Ministry of Environment & Forests
CGO Complex, Lodhi Road,
New Delhi

4. Dr. Sushil Kumar
4/11, Sarvapriya Vihar
New Delhi-110 016.

5. Shri S.N. Sharma,
Head, RDPD
Council for Scientific & Industrial Research,
Anusandhan Bhawan, 2 Rafi Marg,
New Delhi-110 001

6. Dr. Gautam Kalloo,
Deputy Director General
Indian Council of Agricultural Research
Krishi Bhawan,
New Delhi-110 001.

7. Shri Prem Narain
Joint Secretary
Department of Agriculture & Cooperation
Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi-110 001.

8. Shri Rahul Khullar
Joint Secretary,
Biotechnology & Export Promotion (Agriculture)
E.P. Division, Deptt. of Commerce
Ministry of Commerce & Industry
Udyog Bhawan, New Delhi-110 001.

9. Shri Banbit Roy
Joint Secretary (ITP)
Investment & Technology Promotion (ITP) Division,
Ministry of External Affairs,
South Block, New Delhi-110 011.

10. Ms. Rita Teaotia
Joint Secretary
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi-110 001.

11. Shri R.K. Bansal,
Director
Ministry of Food Processing Industries
Panchsheel Bhawan, August Kranti Marg,
New Delhi-110 049.

12. Dr. T.V. Ramanaiah
Scientist SF
Department of Biotechnology
Block No. 2, 7th floor
CGO Complex, Lodi Road
New Delhi-110 003.

13. Shri D.R. Chawla
Industrial Adviser
Ministry of Industry,
Dept. of Industrial Policy & Promotion,
Room No. 430, Udyog Bhawan,
New Delhi-110 011.

14. Dr. S.K. Mahajan
Flat No. 10, Rohini Co-op Housing Society,
Sector 9A, Vashi,
Navi Mumbai-400 703.

15. Dr. Ashwini Kumar
Drug Controller General of India
Directorate General of Health Services,
Nirman Bhawan
New Delhi-110 011.

16. Dr. Vasantha Muthuswamy
Chief (BMS)
Indian Council of Medical Research
Ansari Nagar, P.B. No 4508
New Delhi-110 029.

17. Dr. (Mrs.) S. Kulshrestha
Medical Toxicologist, Plant Protection Adviser,
Deputy Director (Medical Toxicologist)
Directorate of Plant Protection Quarantine and Storage,
N.H. IV, Faridabad-121 001.

18. Dr. V. Rajagopalan
Chairman
Central Pollution Control Board
East Arjun Nagar, Parivesh Bhawan,
Delhi-110 032.

19. Dr. R.P. Sharma
Biotechnology Centre
Indian Agricultural Research Institute,
New Delhi-110 012.

20. Prof. Subhash Chand
Dept. of Biochemical Engineering &
Biotechnology I.I.T.
New Delhi-110 016.

21. Prof. A.K. Bhatnagar
Department of Botany
University of Delhi,
Delhi-110 007.

22. Dr. R. Warrier — Member Secretary
Additional Director
Ministry of Environment & Forests
CGO Complex, Lodhi Road,
New Delhi.

[Translation]

Norms for Assistance under Welfare Schemes

3886. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the norms for granting loan, grants and financial assistance under "Building and Equipment Grant to Voluntary Cultural Organisations" scheme under the welfare schemes being run by the Ministry;

(b) whether any amount has been provided to Rajasthan under this scheme during the last two years; and

(c) if so, the details of amount provided, year-wise, organisation-wise and objective-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) The Ministry of Tourism does not have any scheme for granting loan, grants and financial assistance under "Building and Equipment Grant to Voluntary Cultural Organisations".

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Spoilage of Foodgrains due to Heavy Rain

3887. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details regarding the different foodgrains stored in the godowns of Food Corporation of India (FCI) and Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) in Maharashtra and Gujarat;

(b) the quantum of foodgrains out of these spoilt due to recent heavy rains and floods in Gujarat and Maharashtra;

(c) whether the Government is working on any plan to safeguard against such losses in future;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which such a plan 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 (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) The details of foodgrains stored in the godowns of FCI, CWC and SWC in Maharashtra and Gujarat (as on 1st and 7th August, 2005 respectively) are as follows:

in MTs

	Maharashtra	Gujarat
FCI	4,40,608	3,40,793
CWC	64,652	17,235
SWC	85,319	2,562
Total	5,90,579	3,60,590

(b) In Maharashtra a quantity of 14,355 MTs of foodgrains and in Gujarat a quantity of 1,275 MTs of foodgrains got affected due to the recent heavy rains and floods.

(c) to (e) Government is already taking all necessary precautions for proper storage of foodgrains so as to minimise chances of damages due to natural calamities.

Iron Ore Mining Policy

3888. MOHD. SHAHID: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to formulate a mining policy;

(b) if so, the comprehensive features of the policy; and

(c) the benefits it is likely to bring to the steel industry?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) The Government already has a National Mineral Policy, announced in 1993 and revised from time to time, for non-fuel and non-atomic mineral including iron ore.

(b) Some of the features of the existing policy are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) The existing policy seeks to achieve the best use of available mineral resources-including minerals used by the steel industry-through scientific methods of mining, beneficiation and economic utilisation. It also aims at meeting the present and future needs of development of the country and at ensuring indigenous availability of basis and strategic minerals for core industrial production. Hence, the policy is intended to benefit mineral based industries like steel.

Statement

Features of National Mineral Policy

(i) Government will continue to formulate legal measures for regulation of mines and development of mineral resources to ensure basic uniformity in mineral administration and to ensure that development of mineral resources is in accordance with national policy goals.

(ii) Exploration activities will be co-ordinated by GSI but a multi-disciplinary approach will be adopted involving various organization. Focus will be on strategic minerals and minerals where country has poor or just adequate resource base.

(iii) Private investment is permitted for exploration and exploration of thirteen minerals, including iron ore, manganese ore and chrome ore. The mining sector has been opened up to Foreign Direct Investment and as of now such investment, upto 100% is allowed for all minerals except diamonds and precious stones.

(iv) The policy outlines the strategy for mineral development, which focuses both on present, and long term needs. The policy seeks to ensure best use of available resources though effective measures for conservation, beneficiation and efficient processing of minerals and prevention of sub-optimal and unscientific mining.

(v) The policy seeks to promote scientific methods of exploration, efficient mineral processing and beneficiation, strengthening indigenous manufacture of equipment and machinery, upgrading of basic and specialized training facilities, establishing linkage with end-use industries etc.

(vi) The policy also gives a thrust for development of infrastructure facilities in mineral bearing areas, development of such areas and the social and economic up-liftment of the local population.

(vii) The policy seeks to balance the need of mineral development with the need to protect forests, environment and ecology so as to ensure sustainable development of mineral resources in harmony with environment.

(viii) The policy envisages promotion of Research and Development in the areas of survey, exploration, mining, beneficiation and development of materials to various measures.

(ix) The policy envisages that foreign trade of minerals will keep in view the mineral inventory position and the long-term need of the country. Wherever, exports takes place these should be competitive and efforts will be directed towards export of minerals in value added form to the extent possible.

Offer of Electricity to Pakistan

3889. SHRI MOHD. TAHIR:
MOHD. SHAHID:
SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KUSHAWAHA:
SHRI MUNSHI RAM:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has offered electricity to Pakistan from Baglihar Hydro-Power Project, as appearing in the 'Rashtriya Sahara' dated June 17, 2005;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the neutral expert engaged to facilitate talks between the two countries on Baglihar and Kishan Ganga Hydel Power Projects have given any report;

(d) if not, whether Pakistan has given its assent to the proposal extended by India;

(e) if so, the details in this regard; and

(f) the quantum of electricity in MW India is likely to receive from the said projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Netural Expert appointed by the World Bank on the points of differences referred by Pakistan on Baglihar Hydroelectric Plant has not submitted any report. No Neutral Expert has been engaged in respect of Kishenganga Hydroelectric Project.

(d) and (e) Does not arise.

(f) Baglihar Hydroelectric Plant envisages an installed capacity of 450 MW (3 x 150 MW) in the first stage with provision for three similar units in the second stage. The Kishenganga Project envisages an installed capacity of 330 MW.

[English]

Development of Cellular Jail

3890. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the number of tourists including foreign visited cellular jail in Port Blair during each of the last three years;

(b) whether the Government is aware of encroachments by and around the cellular jail;

(c) if so, whether the Government has chalked out any plan to renovate the jail from tourism point of view and prevent further encroachments; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) The total number of tourists visited Cellular Jail during the last three calendar years are as under:

Year	No. of Tourists
2002	48594
2003	55912
2004	94311

(b) to (d) No, Sir.

All works of repair and renovation of Cellular Jail are being looked after by the Andaman Public Works Department.

Development of Transgenic Mulberry Plant

3891. SHRI M. SHIVANNA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Delhi University has developed the first transgenic mulberry plant in the world with drought and salinity tolerance;

(b) if so, whether these plants have been tested for proper gene expression; 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) Yes, Sir. Delhi University has developed the first transgenic mulberry plant harbouring gene with a potential to confer tolerance to drought and salinity tolerance.

(b) and (c) These plants are in the process of being tested for proper gene expression.

Brand Name of Drugs

3892. SHRI K.C. SINGH "BABA": Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any mechanism to regulate the composition or formulation of drugs manufactured and sold by pharmaceutical companies under brand names;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is aware that certain pharmaceutical companies are reported to have changed the composition of their fast selling drugs without changing the brand names;

(d) if so, the list of such companies and brand names of the drugs whose composition has been changed; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to ensure that composition of the drugs being sold under brand names is not altered without sufficient notice?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) It is not mandatory to require pharmaceutical manufacturers to register the brand names of their formulations. However, approval of drug formulations alongwith their brand name is granted by the concerned State Licensing Authorities. While granting the licence under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act 1940.

(c) Manufacturers may sometime modify the composition of their formulation to improve it or to substitute an obsolete active ingredient while retaining the same brand name and indications.

(d) As such changes are permitted by the State Licensing Authorities, routinely, in each State, no list of change of composition of formulations is maintained by the Central Government.

(e) Prior approval from the State Licensing Authorities is obtained by the manufacturers before changing the composition of the drug formulations.

Policy on Manufacturer and Marketing of Drugs

3893. SHRI K.S. RAO: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to register brand names of drugs with their ingredients for the benefits of consumers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has made any policy on manufacture and marketing of drugs by Pharmaceutical companies;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, by when it is likely to be made?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (e) Under the provisions of Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and the Rules made thereunder, every pharmaceutical company has to obtain a licence from the concerned State Licensing Authority to manufacture and market drugs. The Rules have prescribed detailed requirements in respect of the facilities to be provided by a drug manufacturer to obtain licence for manufacturing of drugs. The State Licensing Authorities while granting licence also approve the drug formulations along with the proposed brand names. There is no requirement of separately registering these brand names of drugs under the Rules.

Exploitation of Child Labour

3894. SHRI TUKARAM GANGADHAR GADAKH: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether several lakhs children are being exploited and forced to do work in carpet industries, zari industries, small electrical works, tea shops for more than 14/15 hours without any recess as reported in the 'Hindustan Times' dated July 22, 2005;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to constitute a committee to look into this serious matter;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the steps being taken so far by the Government to stop child labour and their exploitation;

(f) whether the Government proposes to amend the law banning child labour and incorporate strict punishment for use of child labour in certain industries; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SHEKHAR RAO): (a) and (b) As per the provisions of the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986, employment of children in 13 hazardous occupations and 57 hazardous processes are prohibited. The employers found engaging children in those occupations and processes are liable to be prosecuted under the Act. The Act also provides for regulation of working conditions for children working in non-hazardous occupations. This includes fixing working hours, period of rest, etc. Conducting raids and inspections to detect cases of violations of the provisions of the Act is the regular exercise carried out by the respective State Government. During the special campaign conducted by the Delhi Government in Zari & Embroidery units during April to July 2005, 198 children were found to be working. Prosecution proceedings against the offending employers have already been initiated by the Govt. of Delhi under the said Act.

(c) and (d) Instructions are regularly being given to the State Governments for strict enforcement of Act. In the instant case, Government of Delhi has already initiated action in the matter. There is as such no proposal to constitute a separate Committee to look into the matter.

(e) With a view to eliminate child labour of all forms from the country and to bring them into the main stream, a Scheme called National Child Labour Project (NCLP) Scheme is being implemented by the Central Government since 1988. The Scheme envisages withdrawal of child labour from work and putting them in special schools for their over all educational and vocational development in order to make them self-sustained adolescents before mainstreaming them into formal system of education.

(f) and (g) Under the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986, there are sufficient legal provisions available prohibiting employment of children in hazardous occupations and processes. Adequate quantum of punishment in terms of fine and imprisonment to the offending employers already exists under the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act. Effective implementation of the existing law with simultaneous rehabilitative measures alongwith the convergence with the other developmental programmes is the corner stone of the strategy of the Government in the elimination of child labour.

Foodgrains for States

3895. SHRI S. MALLIKARJUNIAH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Food Corporation of India (FCI), has released sufficient quantity of foodgrains including rice and wheat to States during the last three months;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; 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 PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Statement showing the State-wise Allocation of Rice and Wheat under Targetted Public Distribution System (TPDS) during the last three months is enclosed.

(c) Does not arise.

Statement

State-wise Allocation of Rice and Wheat under TPDS from April, 05 to June, 05

(in 000' Tonnes)

		Rice				Wheat			
Sl.No.	States/UTs	BPL	APL	AAY	Total	BPL	APL	AAY	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Andhra Pradesh	297.06	528.27	129.53	954.86	0.00	38.42	0.00	38.42
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	6.35	17.58	3.17	27.10	0.86	1.59	0.00	2.45

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
3.	Assam	156.92	118.78	43.21	318.91	0.00	120.00	0.00	120.00
4.	Bihar	221.93	229.14	42.00	493.07	332.87	343.74	63.00	739.61
5.	Chhattisgarh	111.35	155.18	59.78	326.31	25.78	106.28	0.00	132.05
6.	Delhi	10.61	70.61	1.67	82.88	26.51	178.52	4.16	209.20
7.	Goa	1.57	19.49	1.16	22.22	1.26	10.08	0.00	11.34
8.	Gujarat	44.58	264.24	11.21	320.03	111.78	432.65	44.84	589.27
9.	Haryana	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	63.08	253.55	19.06	335.69
10.	Himachal Pradesh	19.51	54.15	7.09	80.75	12.81	33.08	5.32	51.20
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	45.22	70.47	13.51	129.20	14.28	41.46	4.27	60.00
12.	Jharkhand	106.79	32.08	42.24	181.11	68.26	22.00	34.08	124.34
13.	Karnataka	180.05	414.12	79.80	673.98	30.76	103.53	19.95	154.23
14.	Kerala	85.21	340.26	49.54	475.01	28.40	111.98	0.00	140.38
15.	Madhya Pradesh	45.36	95.08	19.60	159.65	257.07	538.77	111.09	906.92
16.	Maharashtra	189.19	412.46	83.40	685.06	291.12	762.76	122.36	1176.24
17.	Manipur	10.97	7.43	2.68	21.08	0.00	4.44	0.00	4.44
18.	Meghalaya	13.44	9.31	5.78	28.12	0.00	1.94	0.00	1.94
19.	Mizoram	5.00	20.43	2.17	27.60	0.00	3.03	0.00	3.03
20.	Nagaland	7.29	11.01	3.17	21.47	1.78	19.50	0.78	22.06
21.	Orissa	319.08	198.89	105.10	622.94	0.00	90.00	0.00	90.00
22.	Punjab	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	41.60	368.31	7.53	417.44
23.	Rajasthan	1.88	16.85	0.88	19.61	161.67	674.09	75.70	911.47
24.	Sikkim	3.52	4.65	1.04	9.21	0.00	1.80	0.00	1.80
25.	Tamil Nadu	358.19	917.00	152.41	1427.59	0.00	30.00	0.00	30.00
26.	Tripura	23.84	32.82	7.13	63.80	0.00	11.99	0.00	11.99
27.	Uttar Pradesh	363.61	544.91	158.52	1067.03	417.26	1078.71	181.91	1677.88
28.	Uttaranchal	26.67	27.98	7.50	62.14	14.94	55.41	3.19	73.54
29.	West Bengal	184.27	145.67	67.05	396.98	184.27	876.63	67.05	1127.94
30.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	1.25	7.05	0.32	8.62	0.61	2.04	0.13	2.78
31.	Chandigarh	0.80	2.94	0.22	3.95	1.39	15.94	0.00	17.33

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	1.06	1.40	0.26	2.71	0.27	0.39	0.10	0.76
33.	Daman and Diu	0.24	2.09	0.04	2.37	0.12	0.26	0.02	0.40
34.	Lakshadweep	1.12	8.30	1.01	10.11	0.00	0.60	0.00	0.60
35.	Pondicherry	6.22	3.00	2.56	11.78	0.00	0.30	0.00	0.30
	Total	2850.14	4783.62	1104.74	8738.49	2088.73	6333.77	764.53	9187.03

Auditing of Export Transactions

3896. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:
SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH:
SHRI GANESH SINGH:

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

(a) whether the Food Corporation of India (FCI) had not envisaged internal audit system while commencing the export operations during 2000-2002;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether in May, 2002 the FCI had decided that all the export transactions were to be audited and reconciled by internal audit;

(d) if so, whether the FCI field offices did not implement the said decision;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(f) 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 (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (c) The Food Corporation of India (FCI) has a full-fledged Internal Audit System. In addition the normal audit, a special audit on the issue of stocks for export purposes was undertaken by the Internal Audit Wing at filed level, during 2001-2002, as per the directions of the High Level Committee.

(d) to (f) The Internal Audit Units of the field offices carried out the special audit and submitted their reports to the administrative heads and a consolidated report was submitted to the administrative head at the Corporate level.

Contract Labour in Industrial Units

3897. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that majority of the industrial units in the country including Andhra Pradesh have contract labour which are deprived of minimum wages, increments, bonus, ESI, PF and other benefits;

(b) if so, the number of complaints received during the last three years, regarding violation of labour laws, State-wise;

(c) the remedial states taken or being taken by the Government in this regard;

(d) whether instructions have been issued to the EPFO and ESIC conduct special drive in the country especially in Andhra Pradesh; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SHEKHAR RAO): (a) and (b) The Government is aware that contract labour system is prevalent in industrial units in the country including Andhra Pradesh and that some instances of violation of labour laws have come to notice. The appropriate Government, in respect of a majority of industrial units in the country, is the concerned State Government and as such, State-wise data in respect of complaints received under various labour laws is not being maintained centrally. However, so far as the State of Andhra Pradesh is concerned, during the last three years, in respect of establishments

coming under the jurisdiction of Central Government, 100 complaints have been received and 190 claim application have been filed for less payment under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948. The Government of Andhra Pradesh have reported that, during the last three years, 485 inspections were made, either complaint-based or *suo moto*, under the Contract Labour (Regulation & Abolition) Act, 1970 and 35 prosecutions were filed against the erring Principal Employers and Contractors, out of which 9 were disposed of.

(c) On receipt of the complaints, the same are investigated and remedial action taken, depending on the nature of violation, by launching prosecution against defaulting employers or filing claim applications in accordance with the provisions of various labour laws.

(d) and (e) The Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) and the Employees State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) have been instructed to conduct inspection of establishments within their jurisdiction, which includes the State of Andhra Pradesh, on a regular basis to secure compliance with the provisions of labour laws. As a result of intensive surveys conducted in April-May, 2005, by ESIC, 177 new units have been covered in Andhra Pradesh region. Special Drives conducted by EPFO in January-March 2005 have resulted in coverage of 1992 establishments in Andhra Pradesh with 69153 members.

Restructuring of FCI

3898. SHRI P.C. THOMAS:
SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA:
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:
SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE:

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

(a) whether McKinsey and Company has since submitted its report for restructuring of Food Corporation of India (FCI);

(b) if so, the recommendations made therein;

(c) the current status of implementation of the recommendations alongwith action taken or proposed to be taken to implement these recommendation fully;

(d) whether the Government is considering any plan to privatise FCI;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether any move is being contemplated for reducing the number of personnel under Public Distribution System (PDS); and

(g) if so, the details thereof and 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 Final Report of the study by M/s McKinsey & Co. to bring about substantial and sustainable efficiency improvements in the Food Corporation of India (FCI)'s functioning has been submitted on 17th July, 2005 and accepted by the Steering Committee in its meeting held on 28th July, 2005.

(b) The gist of the main recommendations made in the Report is given in the enclosed statement.

(c) Recommendations made in the Report of M/s McKinsey & Co. are at various stages of implementation.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Do not arise.

(f) No, Sir.

(g) Does not arise.

Statement

Main Recommendations in the Final Report of M/s McKinsey & Co.

The Final Report of M/s McKinsey & Co. has indicated the possibility of achieving savings upto Rs. 2200 cr. over the next 18-24 months, using a broader mix of financing instruments, streamlining operations, increasing manpower productivity and reducing statutory costs. These are as under:

- Adopting a multi-tired debt structure and reducing working capital borrowings (Rs. 700-850 cr).
- Optimizing rail movement using a linear programme (Rs. 190-285 cr).

- Consolidating handling and road transportation contracts within regions and outsourcing to large logistic service providers (Rs. 180-200 cr).
- Purchasing consolidated requirement of gunny bags through open tender and reimbursing farmers/millers/arthias for supplying paddy in used gunnies (Rs. 60-90 cr).
- Procuring directly at FCI depots or rice mills in Punjab and Haryana (Rs. 50-60 cr).
- Renting excess capacity to third parties, i.e. private grain companies, logistic service provider (Rs. 40-50 cr).
- Appointing 3rd party agency to monitor stock movement by rail and to check transit losses (Rs. 25-50 cr).
- Reimbursing State agencies for stocks carried by them prior to actual delivery to the FCI (Rs. 25-50 cr).
- Revision of staffing norms and initiatives to increase staff productivity (Rs. 180-200 cr).
- Revising incentive norms, balancing labour capacity and retiring excess labour (Rs. 160-255 cr).
- Reducing obligatory expenses by having the market intermediaries perform additional tasks in the mandis. (Rs. 90-110 cr).
- Reimbursement of procurement incidentals to State agencies to be bench marked to the cost incurred by the FCI; linking custody and maintenance charges to quality of storage infrastructure, and building year to year cost reduction/efficiency improvement clauses in the supplier contracts/Memorandum of Understanding with State agencies.

Release of Grant for Training Programmes under Horticulture

3899. SHRI SURESH ANGADI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of State Governments including Government of Karnataka have sent proposals to the Union Government asking of release of grants for conducting the training programmes under the Central Sector Scheme in horticulture;

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

(c) the details of proposals cleared, State-wise;

(d) whether due to non-release of grants, the training programmes have not been started by many State Governments; and

(e) if so, by when remaining proposals are likely to be cleared and grants released?

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 state-wise details of release of funds during the period 2001-02 to 2004-05 under the Central Sector Scheme on Human Resource Development in Horticulture are given in the enclosed statement.

(d) No, Sir. Funds have been released to the concerned State Governments based on their request.

(e) Does not arise.

Statement

State-wise Details of Release of Funds for Training in Horticulture during 2000-01 to 2004-05

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Name of State	Releases during 2000-01	Amount Released
1	2	3
Andhdra Pradesh	0.00	0
Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	0
Assam	0.00	0
Bihar	0.00	0
Goa	0.00	0

1	2	3
Gujarat	0.00	1.89
Haryana	1.00	6.00
Himachal Pradesh	0.00	2.00
Jammu and Kashmir	0.00	0
Karnataka	0.00	3.00
Kerala	0.00	3.80
Madhya Pradesh	0.00	1.00
Maharashtra	2.00	7.00
Manipur	0.00	0
Meghalaya	0.00	2.00
Mizoram	0.00	2.00
Nagaland	0.00	3.00
Orissa	0.00	2.00
Punjab	0.00	0
Rajasthan	0.00	4.99
Tamil Nadu	0.00	6.686
Tripura	0.00	0
Uttar Pradesh	0.00	5.00
West Bengal	0.00	1.00
Sikkim	0.00	3.00
Jharkhand	0.00	0
Uttaranchal	0.00	1.86
Chhattisgarh	0.00	0
Total		56.226

[Translation]

Forest Cover

3900. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN":
SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN:
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:
SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY:
SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY:
SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI:
SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD:
SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE:

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

(a) whether some proposals for development of forest areas and afforestation are pending for approval with the Union Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time needed for approval;

(c) whether the Government has started plantation for increasing forest area of the country;

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

(e) whether any assessment has been made regarding the shrinking of forest area during the last three years;

(f) if so, the outcome thereof;

(g) the target fixed for increasing the total percentage of forest area by plantation on an yearly basis;

(h) the ratio of funds fixed for expenditure by the Centre and States to increase the area under forests;

(i) the extent of afforestation done during the last two years, State-wise;

(j) the steps taken to ensure faster afforestation in all categories of areas including the mining areas;

(k) the funds allocated under national afforestation programme during the current year, State-wise;

(l) whether 33% forest cover is necessary for environmental balance;

(m) if so, the details thereof alongwith the time limit specified to achieve 33% forest cover; and

(n) the details of open/covered forest cover, State-wise as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (d) Ministry of Environment and Forests is implementing National Afforestation Programme (NAP) through two-tier decentralized mechanism of Forest Development Agency (FDA) at Forest Division level and Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs) at the village level for regeneration of degraded forests and adjoining lands. As on 31.03.2005, 620 FDA project proposals had been approved out of a total of 697

proposals received from the States. The State-wise FDA project proposals received and sanctioned, and the total area to be treated is given in the enclosed Statement-I. Pending proposals which are complete in all respects will be approved subject to availability of funds.

(e) and (f) As per the Stae of Forest Report 2003 published by Forest survey of India, there has been an increase of 2795 kms2 in Forest Cover as compared to 2001 assessment.

(g) No yearly targets have been fixed for increasing the total percentage of forest area by plantation. However, target for tree plantation in terms of "Tree Plantation on Private Lands" (number of seedlings) and "Area covered-Public and Forest Lands" (in Ha.) is fixed annually under Points 16A and 16B of 20-Point Programme respectively.

(h) No ratio of funds for expenditure by the Centre and States to increase the area under forests is fixed.

(i) Tree plantation done during the last two years (2003-04, 2004-05) under 20 Point Programme is given in enclosed Statement-II.

(j) The Ministry of Environment and Forests has taken a number of initiatives to increase the pace of tree planting in the country. These include rationalization of felling and transit regulations of trees species grown on non-forest private lands, request to the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations to involve all landowning departments in tree planting by constituting an inter-departmental committee under the chairpersonship of the Chief Secretary, and to formulate and implement a Media Plan to generate mass awareness amongst general public about tree planting.

(k) The allocation for National Afforestation of Programme Scheme during 2005-06 is Rs. 284.85 crores, including allocation for North Eastern States. Funds are released to the FDAs in the States as per their requisitions provided the proposals for release of money are complete in all respects.

(l) and (m) National Forest Policy 1988 states that the national goal should be to have a minimum of one-third of the total land area of the country under forest or tree cover. In the hills and in mountainous regions, the aim should be to maintain two-third of the area under such covert in order to prevent erosion and land degradation and to ensure the stability of the fragile eco-system. Planning Commission has set the goal of achieving 33% Forest and Tree cover by the year 2012.

(n) The details of State-wise Very Dense Forest, Moderately Dense Forest and Open Forest and Open Forest Cover as per State of Forest Report 2003 is given in the enclosed Statement-III.

Statement I

Progress of FDA Projects

(As on 31.3.2005)

Sl.No.	Name of State	No. of FDA Project Proposals received	No. of FDA Projects approved	Total Project Area (ha)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	32	28	43910
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	16	13	19476
3.	Assam	28	24	24015
4.	Bihar	9	7	10150
5.	Chhattisgarh	31	29	40289

1	2	3	4	5
6.	Goa	3	3	1250
7.	Gujarat	22	16	25445
8.	Haryana	16	16	21055
9.	Himachal Pradesh	28	27	32406
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	31	31	47839
11.	Jharkhand	27	27	38600
12.	Karnataka	45	41	56530
13.	Kerala	25	14	12845
14.	Madhya Pradesh	44	44	73350
15.	Maharashtra	45	41	62113
16.	Manipur	13	12	17874
17.	Meghalaya	7	7	7400
18.	Mizoram	30	19	26770
19.	Nagaland	18	16	25528
20.	Orissa	32	32	48997
21.	Punjab	12	5	4850
22.	Rajasthan	18	16	23100
23.	Sikkim	7	7	15280
24.	Tamil Nadu	32	31	50927
25.	Tripura	13	12	19405
26.	Uttar Pradesh	61	56	61987
27.	Uttaranchal	32	30	33479
28.	West Bengal	20	16	22656
	Total	697	620	867526

Statement II

Tree plantation done during the last two years under 20-Point Programme

(Seedling in lakhs and Area in Ha.)

Sl.No.	State/Union Territory	2003-04		2004-05	
		Seedling Distribution 16(A)	Area covered 16(B)	Seedling Distribution 16(A)	Area covered 16(B)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2466.94	106654	2802.75	179333
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	2.37	0	0.71	822

1	2	3	4	5	6
3.	Assam	24.29	1446	25.85	14126
4.	Bihar	129.26	10622	54.05	3206
5.	Chhattisgarh	226.00	45200	0.00	64779
6.	Goa	8.44	516	8.29	473
7.	Gujarat	1203.14	52000	1805.14	80020
8.	Haryana	317.26	18309	346.19	14554
9.	Himachal Pradesh	33.33	15222	33.10	17737
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	87.64	23468	96.77	28109
11.	Jharkhand	4.98	32157	24.19	41809
12.	Karnataka	356.96	20238	224.38	40167
13.	Kerala	2.13	6304	2.25	4681
14.	Madhya Pradesh	350.00	150016	350.00	167500
15.	Maharashtra	328.02	26916	340.03	41221
16.	Manipur	0.00	0	8.03	5304
17.	Meghalaya	30.03	1607	11.02	1
18.	Mizoram	43.30	13398	14.65	1941
19.	Nagaland	172.35	14358	282.45	20416
20.	Orissa	272.49	50986	112.60	54551
21.	Punjab	31.78	11871	17.80	12895
22.	Rajasthan	99.19	21801	117.56	43807
23.	Sikkim	0.00	0	10.64	8255
24.	Tamil Nadu	147.65	89275	119.86	110037
25.	Tripura	36.43	7812	20.40	9889
26.	Uttar Pradesh	1049.74	40223	2023.84	57145
27.	Uttaranchal	142.87	77383	154.33	102089
28.	West Bengal	23.58	5063	50.72	14
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	1.62	1128	0.82	573
30.	Chandigarh	0.32	162	0.19	179
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	7.97	219	6.25	322

1	2	3	4	5	6
32.	Daman and Diu	0.00	25	0.11	10
33.	Delhi	8.44	0	9.04	0
34.	Lakshadweep	0.00	3	0.10	22
35.	Pondicherry	2.81	17	1.99	128
	Total	7611.33	844399.00	9076.10	1126115

Statement III

(As per State of Forest Report 2003)

(Area in km2)

Sl.No.	State/UTs	Very Dense Forest	Modt. Dense Forest	Open Forest	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	23	24356	20040	44419
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	13907	39604	14508	68019
3.	Assam	1684	11358	14784	27826
4.	Bihar	76	2951	2531	5558
5.	Chhattisgarh	1540	37440	17018	55998
6.	Delhi	0	52	118	170
7.	Goa	0	1255	901	2156
8.	Gujarat	114	6231	8601	14946
9.	Haryana	2	518	997	1517
10.	Himachal Pradesh	1093	7883	5377	14353
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	2102	8395	10770	21267
12.	Jharkhand	2544	9137	11035	22716
13.	Karnataka	431	22030	13988	36449
14.	Kerala	334	9294	5949	15577
15.	Madhya Pradesh	4000	37843	34586	76429
16.	Maharashtra	8070	20317	18478	46865
17.	Manipur	720	5818	10681	17219

1	2	3	4	5	6
18.	Meghalaya	168	6323	10348	16839
19.	Mizoram	84	7404	10942	18430
20.	Nagaland	57	5650	7902	13609
21.	Orissa	288	27882	20196	48366
22.	Punjab	0	74.3	837	1580
23.	Rajasthan	14	4482	11330	15826
24.	Sikkim	458	1904	900	3262
25.	Tamil Nadu	2440	9567	10636	22643
26.	Tripura	58	4988	3047	8093
27.	Uttar Pradesh	1297	4699	8122	141.18
28.	Uttaranchal	4002	14420	6043	24465
29.	West Bengal	2303	3742	6298	12343
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	3475	2809	680	6964
31.	Chandigarh	1	8	6	15
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0	145	80	225
33.	Daman and Diu	0	2	6	8
34.	Lakshadweep	0	12	11	23
35.	Pondicherry	0	17	23	40
	Total	51285	339279	287769	678333

[English]

Upgradation of Hotel Management Institutes

3901. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Hotel Management Institutes functioning in the country under the control of Ministry, location-wise;

(b) the total intake capacity of each institute;

(c) the actual strength of each institute;

(d) whether the Government proposes to upgrade these institutes of international standard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) to (c) The requisite information is given in the statement enclosed.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The steps being taken are as under:

- The infrastructure in the older Institutes is being augmented and modernized.
- The work on the construction is at various stages in case of Institutes at Guwahati, Shillong, Srinagar and Shimla, Modern infrastructure will be available in next one year at all these places.

- Institutes at Patna, Gwalior, Ahmedabad have started operating from new campuses.
- For faculty development, National Council has approved sabbatical Scheme to facilitate quality improvement of faculty at all Institutes.
- Faculty exchange programmes with various Institutes abroad.

Statement

There are twenty one (21) Institutes of Hotel Management functioning in the country under the control of Ministry of Tourism as per details given below

Sl.No.	Name and location of Institute	Total intake capacity (2005-06)	Actual strength (2005-06)
1	2	3	4
1.	Institute of Hotel Management, Govt. Polytechnic Compund, Ambawadi, Ahmedabad-380 015, Gujarat	120	142
2.	Institute of Hotel Management, S.J. Polytechnic Campus, Bangalore-560 001, Karnataka	150	158
3.	Institute of Hotel Management, 1100 Quarters, Bhopal-462 016 Madhya Pradesh	180	185
4.	Institute of Hotel Management, Veer Surendra Sai Nagar, Bhubaneswar-751 007 Orissa	150	166
5.	Dr. Ambedkar Institute of Hotel Management, Sector 42-D, Chandigarh-160 036	150	147
6.	Institute of Hotel Management, CIT Campus, Tharamani, Chennai-600 113 Tamil Nadu	150	145*
7.	Institute of Hotel Management, P.O. Alto Porvorim, Bardez, Goa-403 521	190	193
8.	Institute of Hotel Management, Guru Nanak Dev College, Hardochanni Road, Gurdaspur-143 521 Punjab	120	124
9.	Institute of Hotel Management, AIDC Building, G.B. Road, Bhangagarh, Guwahati-781 005 Assam	90	90
10.	Institute of Hotel Management, Kherapati Colony, Opp. Sirdi Sai Baba Mandir, Gwalior-474 002 Madhya Pradesh	120	132

1	2	3	4
11.	Institute of Hotel Management, F-Row, Durgabai Deshmukh Colony, Vidyanagar, Hyderabad-500 007 Andhra Pradesh	150	153
12.	Institute of Hotel Management, Sikar Road, Near Bani Park Police Station, Jaipur-302 016 Rajasthan	120	123
13.	Institute of Hotel Management, P-16, Taratola Road, Kolkataa-700 088 West Bengal	200	213
14.	Institute of Hotel Management, Sector-G, Aliganj, Lucknow-226 020 Uttar Pradesh	180	188
15.	Institute of Hotel Management, Veer Savarkar Marg, Dadra, Mumbai-400 028 Maharashtra	240	248
16.	Institute of Hotel Management, Library Avenue, Pusa, New Delhi-110 0012	160	172
17.	Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition, Lumpyngad Shillong	30	15**
18.	Institute of Hotel Management, Hazipur, Bihar	100	77**
19.	Institute of Hotel Management, Kufri, Shimla-171 012 Himachal Pradesh	100	106
20.	Institute of Hotel Management, Boulevard Road, Nehru Park, Srinagar-191 001 Jammu and Kashmir	20	19
21.	Institute of Hotel Management, G.V. Raja Road, Kovalam, Thiruvananthapuram-695 527 Kerala	120	115

*Nominations from Andaman & Nicobar expected.

**Admission kept opened for rank 4548.

[Translation]

Reclamation of Agricultural Land

3902. SHRI DEVIDAS PINGLE: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that hundreds of acres of land goes waste due to heavy flood in the Godavari river;

(b) if so, the steps being taken by the Government for reclamation of agricultural land;

(c) whether the Government has reviewed any proposal regarding reclamation of agricultural land in district Nasik in Maharashtra destroyed by heavy flood in Godavari river;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (e) Flood Management being within the purview of States, the schemes for flood control are planned, funded and executed by the State Governments. The role of Central Government is technical, catalytical and promotional in nature.

As per information furnished by the Government of Maharashtra, the occurrence of heavy flood in Godavari river is rare. Whatever floods that occur are moderated due to various major dams constructed across the main Godavari river and various tributaries in its basin. It has further been reported by Government of Maharashtra that there is no case of land being destroyed due to heavy floods in Godavari in district Nashik.

[English]

Dirty Milk Supply Crates of DMS

3903. DR. K. DHANARAJU:
SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that crates of Delhi Milk Scheme (DMS) in which milk is supplied are dirty and no care is taken to clean them;

(b) if so, the number of times surprise checks were conducted in this regard during 2004-05 and by whom alongwith the outcome thereof; and

(c) the action the Government proposes to take to ensure that the milk is supplied only in neat and clean crates and periodical inspection conducted?

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) Delhi Milk Scheme (DMS) is supplying milk to its consumers in neat and clean crates. On return from the market, the plastic crates before reuse for milk storage are properly cleaned through mechanical crates washers, wherein tap water, hot water and hot detergent solution are used for the cleaning purposes.

(b) and (c) The cleaning of the crates is checked in each shift by the Supervisor and Senior Supervisory cadre officers. Also the Quality Control Laboratory twice in the shift checks the detergent solutions used for cleaning of the crates. In order to ensure that, as far as practical, not a single crate goes to the market un-cleaned, crate washing is divided in two stages. The crate washers have been re-located in the crate-washing hall. Each crate after subjecting to crate washing, is checked for cleanliness before conveying on the Poly pack machine conveyor and any unclean crate found is brushed manually (2nd stage). It is then only passed on to conveyors for poly pack loading. DMS ensures supply of milk in properly cleaned milk crates.

National Action Plan for Safeguard of Health of Industrial Workers

3904. SHRI ANANT GUDHE: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has prepared national action plan in order to safeguard the health of industrial workers and others in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor alongwith the time by which it is likely to be prepared;

(d) whether the State Governments are also being consulted; and

(e) if so, the reaction of the State Governments in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SHEKHAR RAO): (a) and (b) In order to safeguard the health of industrial workers provisions are available in the Factories Act, 1948 for factory workers and in the Mines Act, 1952 for mine workers. The owners of the establishments and mine managements are responsible for ensuring the safety and health of workers employed by them, as per the provisions of these legislations.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) The State Government/Union Territory Administrations are empowered to frame their own rules under the Factories Act, 1948 and also to enforce them

within their state. The Mines Act provisions are enforced by the Directorate General of Mines Safety. The Conference of Chief Inspectors of Factories is held regularly to seek the views of State Governments in the area of safety and health of workers. They are also consulted before any amendment in the safety legislations.

Funds for Rural Tourism Centre

3905. SHRIMATI MINATI SEN: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has not sanctioned any funds for Rural Tourism Centre; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when the funds are likely to be sanctioned and released to the tourism center?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) The creation of infrastructure in Rural areas having potential for tourism is being supported under the existing scheme of Destination Development. The objective is to showcase rural life, art, culture and heritage at rural locations and in villages, which have core-competency in terms of craft/handloom/textiles/culture, etc. Under the scheme funds are sanctioned and released based on the proposals received from the State/UT Governments for infrastructure development at Rural sites. Based on proposals received from State Governments during the Tenth Five Year Plan the details of Central Financial Assistance extended for development of each such village are given in enclosed statement.

Statement

The 57 Rural Sites for which Central Assistance has been extended for infrastructure creation till date are as follows

(Rs. in lakhs)

State	Sl.No.	Name of the Project	Year of Sanction	Amount Sanctioned	Amount Released
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1. Development of Pachampalli, Nalgonda Distt.	2003-04	50.00	40.00
		2. Rural Tourism at Konaseema Village, East Godavari Distt.	2003-04	50.00	50.00
		3. Development of Puttaparthi, Ananthpur Distt	2004-05	49.50	39.60
		4. Development of Chinchinada, East Godavari Distt	2004-05	50.00	40.00
		5. Development of Srikalahasti, Chittor Distt.	2004-05	50.00	40.00
2.	Assam	6. Development of Rural Tourism at Durgapur, Distt. Golaghat	2002-03	46.83	14.04
		7. Dehing-Patakai Kshetra, Distt. Tinsukia	2004-05	44.33	35.46
		8. Rural Tourism at Sualkuchi in Kamrup Distt.	2004-05	50.00	40.00
3.	Bihar	9. Rural Tourism Project, Nepura Village, Distt. Nalanda	2003-04	50.00	40.00
4.	Chhattisgarh	10. Development of Rural Tourism at Village Chitrakote, Distt. Bastar	2003-04	50.00	15.00
		11. Development of Rural Tourism at Chitrokote	2003-04	50.00	40.00
		12. Development of Rural Tourism at Champaran, Distt. Raipur	2003-04	50.00	15.00

1	2	3	4	5	6
		13. Rural Tourism at Nagarnagar, Distt. Bastar	2003-04	48.00	38.40
		14. Development of Kondagaon, Distt. Bastar	2005-06	50.00	40.00
5.	Delhi	15. Rural Tourism at Kotla Mubarakpur	2003-04	09.78	09.78
		16. Rural Tourism at Nangli, Razapur, Delhi	2003-04	36.30	36.30
6.	Gujarat	17. Development of heritage village at Tera	2003-04	50.00	40.00
		18. Rural Tourism at Hodka, Distt. Kachchh	2003-04	50.00	40.00
		19. Development of Navagaon and Malegaon rural tourism, Distt. Rajkot	2003-04	92.70	27.81
7.	Haryana	20. Rural Tourism at Jyotisar, Distt. Kurukshetra	2003-04	50.00	40.00
8.	Himachal Pradesh	21. Rural Tourism at Nagar, Distt. Kullu	2003-04	50.00	40.00
		22. Rural Tourism Paragpur, Distt. Kangra Valley	2003-04	50.00	15.00
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	23. Development of Rural Tourism at Village Drung, Ditt. Baramula	2005-06	50.00	40.00
		24. Development of Rural Tourism at Village Surinsar, Distt. Jammu	2005-06	50.00	40.00
		25. Development of Rural Tourism at Village Gagangir, Distt. Srinagar	2005-06	50.00	40.00
		26. Development of Rural Tourism at Village Phalgam, Distt. Anantnag	2005-06	50.00	40.00
10.	Karnataka	27. Rural Tourism Project at Kokkare Bellur, Distt. Bellur	2002-03	50.00	15.00
		28. Development of Attiveri Bird Century as a Rural Tourism Project, Distt. Uttar Kannada	2003-04	60.00	18.00
		29. Rural Tourism at Banavasi Distt. Uttar Kannada	2003-04	50.00	40.00
		30. Rural Tourism Project in Anegundi, Distt. Bellary	2003-04	50.00	40.00
		31. Rural Tourism Project in Coorg	2003-04	50.00	40.00
11.	Kerala	32. Development of Kumbalangi as Rural Tourism Destination, Distt. Ernakulam	2003-04	50.00	40.00
		33. Development of Rural Tourism at Arnamula, Distt. Pathanamthitta	2003-04	20.00	16.00
		34. Development of village Balrampur in Thiruvananthapuram Distt.	2004-05	50.00	40.00

1	2		3	4	5	6
12.	Madhya Pradesh	35.	Rural Tourism in Hatwa village, Distt. Sidhi	2002-03	44.00	13.20
		36.	Rural Tourism at Chaugan, Distt. Mandla	2003-04	50.00	40.00
		37.	Rural Tourism Project at Pranpur, Distt. Ashoknagar	2003-04	48.00	38.00
		38.	Rural Tourism Project at Orchha, Distt. Tikamgarh	2005-06	50.00	40.00
13.	Maharashtra	39.	Rural Tourism at Sulibhanjan-Khultabad Distt. Aurangabad	2003-04	50.00	40.00
14.	Nagaland	40.	Rural Tourism at Mopunchupket	2002-03	50.00	15.00
15.	Orissa	41.	Rural Tourism Project at Raghurajpur, Distt. Puri	2002-03	50.00	40.00
		42.	Development of village Pipli in Puri Distt.	2004-05	50.00	40.00
16.	Rajasthan	43..	Rural Tourism at Neemrana, Distt. Alwar	2003-04	50.00	40.00
		44.	Rural Tourism Project Samode Village, Distt. Jaipur	2003-04	50.00	40.00
17.	Sikkim	45.	Development of Village Lachen in North Distt.	2004-05	50.00	40.00
18.	Tamil Nadu	46.	Development of Kazhugumalai Under Rural Tourism, Distt. Thoothukudi	2003-04	48.66	38.94
		47.	Development of Theerthamalai, Distt. Dharmapuri	2003-04	50.00	40.00
		48.	Rural Tourism at Karaikudi, Chettinadu, Distt. Sivaganga	2003-04	50.00	40.00
		49.	Development of Devipattinam Navbhhashnam in Ramnathpuram Distt.	2005-06	50.00	40.00
		50.	Thirukurungudi, Distt. Tirunelveli	2005-06	50.00	40.00
19.	Tripura	51.	Rural Tourism at Kamlasagar, Distt. West Tripura	2002-03	42.92	13.48
		52.	Rural Tourism at Champui Hills, Distt. North Tripura	2003-04	50.00	40.00
20.	Uttaranchal	53.	Rural Tourism Project at Jageshwar, Distt. Almora	2002-03	50.00	40.00
		54.	Rural Tourism Project in Agora Village (Dodital) Uttar Kashi Distt.	2005-06	48.50	38.80
		55.	Development of Hub Village at Mottad and its satellite station	2005-06	48.05	38.44
21.	West Bengal	56.	Development of Rural Tourism Centre at Ballabhpur Danga, Distt. Birbhum	2003-04	50.00	15.00
		57.	Development of Village Sonada, Distt. Darjeeling	2004-05	50.00	40.00
					2787.57	1931.25

[Translation]

Violation of Labour Law by Multinational Companies

3906. SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI:
SHRI SUNIL KHAN:
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY:

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

(a) whether the Government is aware that the Indian Labour Laws are being openly violated by the multinational companies trading in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government have been receiving complaints from time to time regarding violation of labour laws by multinational companies;

(c) if so, the details about the complaints received during the last one year, State-wise;

(d) whether the incident which happened with the workers of Honda Motors Company of Gurgaon, Haryana on 25th June, 2005 is one such instance;

(e) if so, whether the Government proposes to take any measures to check the exploitation of workers by the multinational companies; and

(f) if so, by when and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SHEKHAR RAO): (a) The state governments are the appropriate Government of the enforcement of labour laws in the State sphere in respect of multinational companies under whose jurisdiction the factory/unit is set up. Whenever, there is any violation of labour laws appropriate action is taken in accordance with these laws by the state governments.

(b) and (c) The information in respect of complaints regarding violation of labour laws during last one year, by multinational companies is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) and (f) Do not arise in view of answer to (d) above.

Medicine Producing Factories

3907. SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:
SHRI M. ANJAN KUMAR YADAV:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of medicine producing factories in the country at present;

(b) the value of medicines being produced therein annually;

(c) whether the medicines are also produced by various non-registered medicine companies in the country;

(d) the rules framed by the Government to keep control over such medicine companies; and

(e) the reasons for these rules being not complied with?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) As per the information available from the State Licensing Authorities, the total number of medicine producing factories in the country is around 9000. The total turnover of medicines produced by the Indian Pharma Industry including exports is Rs. 35,000 crores approximately.

(c) to (e) Manufacture of medicines should be carried out under a valid drug license issued by the State Drugs Licensing Authority. Manufacturing of drugs/medicines without a valid drug license is a punishable offence under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act and rules. It is the responsibility of the State Drugs Control Authorities to keep a strict vigilance in this regard. In case, any company/person found manufacturing medicines without a license, prosecution has to be filed in the Court of Law by the State Drugs Inspector.

[English]

Forest Area under Mining/Quarrying

3908. SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI:
SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI:
SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI:

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

(a) the details of the prime forest area in the country wherein the mining and quarrying operations were permitted by the Government during 2004-2005;

(b) the details of the area in such forest land where the mining and quarrying is being carried out causing deforestation, State-wise as on date;

(c) whether the Government has adopted any strategy to discourage the mining operations in the prime forest lands and National Parks;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the State-wise details of the National Parks which are facing the onslaughts of mining and quarrying by which the Bio-Diversity and Wildlife of such National parks in endangered?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) During 2004-2005, 201 proposals from various States for mining and quarrying operations, involving 15753.704 ha. of forest land, have been granted approval under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. The details are given in enclosed Statement-I.

(b) So far, 95002.86 ha. of forest land has been allowed to be diverted for 1,198 number of mining and quarrying proposals of various States, since the enactment of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 the State-wise forest land diverted for mining proposals is given in enclosed Statement-II. It is a fact that most of the mines are located in forest areas, which lead to some de-forestation. However, most of the forest area, which has been diverted for mining operations, pertains to renewal of mines, which are in operation since long.

(c) to (e) The Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 is a regulatory Act and all the proposals requiring diversion of forest land including proposals for mining are considered on their merit and on the recommendations of the State/ UT Governments. To maintain a rational balance between development and conservation, mining is allowed in forest land under strict conditions and with appropriate mitigatory measures like compensatory afforestation, safety zone creation, reclamation of mined areas etc. Vide letter dated 04.05.2001 all the State/UT Governments, have been advised to obtain prior approval of the Supreme Court for diversion of forest land in National Park and Sanctuaries and vide letter dated 24.11.2003 they have also been directed to ensure suspension of all mining activities in National Park and Sanctuaries.

Statement I

Sl.No.	Name of Proposal	State	District	Area Diverted (ha.)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Mining Lease in Favour of M/s Singareni Collieries Company to SCCL	Andhra Pradesh	Adilabad	253
2.	Diversion of FL of Tandur RF for Goleti-IA Incline Underground Mines Enterics in Rebbena (A) in Favour of SCCL, Bellampally.	Andhra Pradesh	Adilabad	4.56
3.	Mining Lease to SCCL for Shantikhani Extension Block	Andhra Pradesh	Adilabad	285.89
4.	Underground Mining of Goleti No. 1 and Proposed 1A Incline Underground Mines in Favour of M/s SCCL Limited	Andhra Pradesh	Adilabad	83.77
5.	Diversion of 4.00 Ha. of FL for Purpose of ML for Extraction of Barytes in F/o Mehaboob Minerals.	Andhra Pradesh	Ananthapur	4
6.	ML for Extraction of Barrites in F/o Mehaboob Minerals	Andhra Pradesh	Ananthapur	4
7.	Diversion of Forest Land for Extraction of Black Granite in Favour of Nagamani Granites	Andhra Pradesh	Chittoor	5.4
8.	Diversion of FL in Basavapalli RF of Chittoor District for Extraction of Black Granite in Favour of M/s Sri Lakshmi Granites & Exports	Andhra Pradesh	Chittoor	3.187

1	2	3	4	5
9.	Renewal of ML in Batrapalam of Madinapadu in F/o Swamy Kasi Ratnam	Andhra Pradesh	Guntur	4.85
10.	Mining Lease for Purpose of Aerial Ropeway in Favour of KCP Limited	Andhra Pradesh	Guntur	8.18
11.	Diversion of Forest Land in Mangtagiri RF for Quarry Minor Minerals in Favour of Shri Ch. Tirupalu	Andhra Pradesh	Guntur	2
12.	Mining Lease to SCCL for Satu Pally-I Opencast Project	Andhra Pradesh	Khammam	244.02
13.	Realignment of Nallaer at Venkatesh Khani 7 Incline in Favour of M/s SCCL	Andhra Pradesh	Khammam	11.96
14.	Gouthami Khani OCP Mining Lease (Phase-I) in Favour of M/s Singareni Collieries Company Limited	Andhra Pradesh	Khammam	261.31
15.	Renewal of Mining lease in F/o SCCL for OCP-II Ph III Manuguru in Kondapur/Ext. 1 of Aswapura Range	Andhra Pradesh	Khammam	125.9
16.	Diversion of 11.96 HA. Ramavaram RF in Kothagudem Range of Khammam Circle for Realignment of Nallah at Venkatesh Khani-7 Incline in Favour of M/s SCCL.	Andhra Pradesh	Khammam	11.96
17.	Mining Lease to Kakatiya Cement Sugar Industrial	Andhra Pradesh	Krishna	121.46
18.	Compartment No. 29 of Pasupulabodu Block of Nalgonda Forest Division in Favour of M/s Chanakya Cements	Andhra Pradesh	Nalgonda	162.56
19.	Mining Lease for Quartz Vermaculite in F/o Bibijan	Andhra Pradesh	Nellore	2
20.	ML for Quartz, Vermiculate, MICA, Felser Over an Extent of 2.00 HA. in SY. No. 553 of Chagnam Village, Sydapuram Mandal, Nellore District in F/o Smt. S.K. Bibijan.	Andhra Pradesh	Nellore	2

1	2	3	4	5
21.	Diversion of FL for ML in SY. No. 1265 of Shameerpet of Forest Block, Hyderabad Dvn. in F/o M/s Laxmi Narasimha Metal Industries.	Andhra Pradesh	Ranga Reddy	4
22.	ML in F/o Lakshminarasimha Metal Industries	Andhra Pradesh	Ranga Reddy	4
23.	Diversion of Forest Land for Quarrying of Granite Metal in Favour of Smt. T. Sathyavathi of Mugada (V)	Andhra Pradesh	Vijayanagaram	1.25
24.	Quarrying of Granite Metal in Favour of Smt. T. Satyavathi	Andhra Pradesh	Vijayanagaram	1.25
25.	Mining Lease for Kakatiya Khani 9 & 9A Incline Underground Mine to M/s SCCL	Andhra Pradesh	Warangal	431.85
26.	Mining Lease to M/s Singareni Collieries Company Limited in Tadicherla Reserve Forest	Andhra Pradesh	Warangal	250
27.	Mining Lease to APMDTCL for Coal Mining in Namchik-Namphuk Coal Fields	Arunachal Pradesh	Changlang	128.97
28.	Renewal of Nakkati Hill Stone Quarry 2	Assam	Bongaigaon	0.5
29.	Sand Mahal Mining Under Dhemaji Division	Assam	Dhemaji	4
30.	Makrijhora Sand and Gravel Mahal under Dhubri Forest Division	Assam	Dhubri	3
31.	1 No. of Dudhnath Hill Stone Mahal & Opening of 4 Nos. of New Mahals under Dhubri Division	Assam	Dhubri	0.5
32.	Diversion of 0.4014 HA & 1.020 HA of Forest Land for Compressor Station and Laying of Underground Pipeline by Assam Gas Company	Assam	Golaghat	1.4214
33.	Diversion of 1.99 HA of Forest Land for Drilling Location Elab Under Golaghat Division	Assam	Golaghat	1.99
34.	Diversion of 1.735 HA of Forest Land for Drilling Location KPAA Under Golaghat Division	Assam	Golaghat	1.735

1	2	3	4	5
35.	Sand Mahal Mining under Kamrup West Division	Assam	Kamrup	2.8
36.	Renewal of Riverbed Mahals	Assam	Kokrajhar	4
37.	4 Nos. of River Bed Mahals under Kachugaon Division	Assam	Korajhar	3.5
38.	Renewal of Sand Mahals	Assam	Lakhimpur	9
39.	Renewal of 10 Number of Stone Mahals and 9 number of Sand Mahal	Assam	Nagaon	12.8
40.	Proposal for Opening up of Fresh Mahals under Nagaon Division	Assam	Nagaon	0.25
41.	Proposals for Opening up of Fresh Mahals under Nagaon Division	Assam	Nagaon	0.25
42.	Opening up of Kathalguri Stone Quarry Mahal No. 2	Assam	Nagaon	0.25
43.	Renewal of 6 Sand & Gravel Mahals	Assam	Sonitpur	5.985
44.	Renewal of Sand Mahals	Assam	Sonitpur	6
45.	Renewal of corundum Mining Lease by MP Mining Corporation	Chhattisgarh	Bastar	3.7
46.	Mining Lease to Bhilai Steel Plant (SAIL)	Chhattisgarh	Durg	283.6
47.	Mining Lease to Bhilai Steel Plant (SAIL)	Chhattisgarh	Durg	100.76
48.	Mining Lease to Steel Authority of India	Chhattisgarh	Durg	100
49.	Mining Lease to Jayaswals NECO Limited (Nagpur Alloy Casting Ltd)	Chhattisgarh	Jagdalpur	91
50.	Mining Lease in Favour of Shri Jeevan Lal Jain for Mining of Iron Ore in Village Barbaspur	Chhattisgarh	Kanker	14.714
51.	Opencast Mining in F/o SECL, West Chirmiri	Chhattisgarh	Korea	30.55
52.	Mining Lease to M/s Jindal Power Limited	Chhattisgarh	Raigarh	48.208
53.	Mining Lease to M/s SECL	Chhattisgarh	Raigarh	19
54.	Mining Lease in F/o Jaisawal NECO for Boria Tibbu Iron Ore Deposits	Chhattisgarh	Rajnandgaon	41
55.	Mining Lease to Gujarat Minerals Development Corporation	Gujarat	Vadodara	32

1	2	3	4	5
56.	Extraction of Quartizite for Cement Manufacturing in Billaspur in Favour of M./s Gagal Cement Works	Himachal Pradesh	Bilaspur	4.88
57.	Mining Lease in Favour of Smt. Chandal Nagar R/o Chamba	Himachal Pradesh	Chamba	0.4842
58.	Mining in Favour of M/s Orvit Minerals Udyog Association for Installation of Stone Crusher Palampur F.D.	Himachal Pradesh	Kangra	0.4852
59.	Quarrying of Stone Cursher in Favour of M/s Ashapuri Stone Cursher, Hurla, Parbati Forest Division	Himachal Pradesh	Kullu	0.4
60.	Stone Quarry for Feeding Stone Crusher, M/s Asha Puri Stone Crusher from Chagola in Kota-Dandi-III Hurla Forest Range Kullu on 30 Year Lease.	Himachal Pradesh	Kullu	0.4
61.	Stone Quarry for Feeding M/s Bhuvaneshwari Stone Crusher from Chagola, Parbati Forest Division Kullu.	Himachal Pradesh	Kullu	1.2
62.	Est. of Stone Quarry at Bataur Jole in Mandi Forest Div.	Himachal Pradesh	Mandi	0.095
63.	Establishment of Stone Quarry by M/s Jai Durga Stone Quarry Baggi-Kawial Distt. Mandi	Himachal Pradesh	Mandi	0.265
64.	Mining of Line Stones in Favour of Sh. Sant Ram Village Bharwana	Himachal Pradesh	Sirmaur	1.5
65.	Mining Lease to Shah Brothers for Karampada Iron and Manganese Ore	Jharkhand	Bokaro	24.856
66.	Amlo Opencast Mining Lease to CCL	Jharkhand	Bokaro	222.324
67.	Kaveri Opencast Mining Lease to CCL	Jharkhand	Bokaro	77.43
68.	Khasmahal Opencast Mining Lease to CCL	Jharkhand	Bokaro	174.48
69.	New Selected Dhori Underground Project in Favour of Central Coalfields Limited	Jharkhand	Bokaro	70.568
70.	Dhori Khas Underground Mining Lease to Central Coalfields Limited	Jharkhand	Bokaro	172.2

1	2	3	4	5
71.	Mining Lease to CCL for Rajmahal Open Cast Mining	Jharkhand	Dumka	69.75
72.	Bandhurang Uranium Project in Favour of Uranium Corporation of India Limited	Jharkhand	East Singhbhum	130.82
73.	Dhori Open Cast Project of CCL	Jharkhand	Giridih	69.183
74.	New Giddi C Opencast Mining Lease to CCL	Jharkhand	Hazaribagh	73.55
75.	Jharkhand Opencast Mining Lease to CCL	Jharkhand	Hazaribagh	96.28
76.	Mining Lease to CCL	Jharkhand	Hazaribagh	101.87
77.	Tapin North Opencast Project in Favour of CCL	Jharkhand	Hazaribagh	55.69
78.	Mining Lease to CCL for Pindra Underground Mining Project	Jharkhand	Hazaribagh	54.79
79.	Rajrappa Opencast Mining Lease to CCL	Jharkhand	Hazaribagh	510.82
80.	Mining Lease to M/s Central Coalfields Limited for Karma Opencast Mining Project	Jharkhand	Hazaribagh	132.28
81.	Pundi Opencast Project of CCL	Jharkhand	Hazaribagh	52.97
82.	Argada Underground Mining Lease to CCL	Jharkhand	Hazaribagh	90.1
83.	Mining Lease to M/s Central Coalfields Limited for Kedla OCP	Jharkhand	Hazaribagh	168.5
84.	Mining Lease to CCL for Kuju Project	Jharkhand	Hazaribagh	115
85.	Mining Lease to CCL ARA OCP Mines	Jharkhand	Hazaribagh	166.9
86.	Sayal 'D' Project in Favour of M/s Central Coalfields Limited	Jharkhand	Hazaribagh	192.32
87.	Mining Lease to CCL Religara OCP Mines Project	Jharkhand	Hazaribagh	135.66
88.	Urimari Opencast Project of M/s Central Coalfields Limited CCL	Jharkhand	Hazaribagh	91.04
89.	Laiyo Underground Mining Lease to CCL	Jharkhand	Hazaribagh	78.59
90.	Giddi C Opencast Mining Lease to CCL	Jharkhand	Hazaribagh	237.3
91.	Giddi a Mining Lease to CCL	Jharkhand	Hazaribagh	232.42
92.	Mining Lease to Central Coalfields Limited for	Jharkhand	Hazaribagh	196.55

1	2	3	4	5
93.	Topa Opencast Project of M/s CCL	Jharkhand	Hazaribagh	77.3
94.	Sirka Opencast Mining Lease to CCL	Jharkhand	Hazaribagh	50.8
95.	National Highway Authority of India Basarda & Kumardhia-Kunharkala Stone Quarry	Jharkhand	Hazaribagh	7.878
96.	Stone Quarry in F/o M/s Jai Shree Ram Stone Industries	Jharkhand	Koderma	4.994
97.	Mining Lease in F/o Panem Coal Mines Limited	Jharkhand	Pakur	400
98.	Renewal FO Bentibagda Limestone Project, BSMDC	Jharkhand	Ranchi	9.07
99.	Mining Lease No. 2 in Favour of M/s SAIL for Kiriburu Meghahatburu Iron Ore Mine	Jharkhand	West Singhbhum	55.9
100.	Renewal of Lease 3 of Kiriburu Meghahatuburu Iron Ore Mining Lease in Favour of M/s SAIL	Jharkhand	West Singhbhum	24.23
101.	Mining Lease for Iron Ore in Favour of M/s Usha Martin Industries in Ghatkuri Forests	Jharkhand	West Singhbhum	29.4648
102.	Mining Lease to Zeenath Transport Co.	Karnataka	Bellary	50
103.	Mining Lease No. 1898 in F/o M/s P. Balasubbasetty & Sons	Karnataka	Bellary	44.11
104.	Mining Lease in F/o M/s B. Abubaker in N.E. Block	Karnataka	Bellary	83.62
105.	Mining Lease No. 2183 to Sh. Abubaker in N.E. Block	Karnataka	Bellary	44
106.	Renewal of Mining Lease No. 130/1190 in F/o Chowgule & Co. Limited	Karnataka	Bellary	100
107.	Mining Lease No. 2002 to M/s Mysore Minerals Limited.	Karnataka	Bellary	176.724
108.	Mining Lease No. 1659 to Mysore Minerals Limited	Karnataka	Bellary	38.45
109.	Mining Lease No. 1634 to M/s S.V. Srinewasulee	Karnataka	Bellary	60
110.	Mining Lease No. 1046 to P. Venganga Setty & Bros.	Karnataka	Bellary	50

1	2	3	4	5
111.	Mining Lease No. 622 in F/O Ramgad Minerals Pvt. Ltd.	Karnataka	Bellary	20.23
112.	Diversion of Forest Land in Favour of M/s Nadeem Minerals for Iron Ore Mining in Donomalai Block	Karnataka	Bellary	53.2
113.	Iron Ore Mining Lease Application of SRI Sathyanarayana, Bellary-	Karnataka	Bellary	15
114.	Mining Lease in Favour of Shri N. Shaiksab in village Siddepur	Karnataka	Bellary	15
115.	Extraction of Iron Ore in F/o Bellary Mining Corpn.	Karnataka	Bellary	15.8
116.	Diversion of 30.00 HA. of Additional FL for Iron Ore ML No. 2141 in RM Block of Yeswanthanagar Village in Favour of M/s Kumaraswamy Mineral Exports in Bellary District.	Karnataka	Bellary	30
117.	Diversion of FL of ML. No. 995 in Favour of M/s. Mysore Minerals Ltd., Bangalore for Iron Ore Mines, Sandur	Karnataka	Bellary	33.6
118.	Diversion of 2.2 Acres (0.89034 HA.) for Granite Quarrying in Favour of M/s SKJS Granites in S.No. 887 of Gudekote RF Kudligi (T)	Karnataka	Bellary	0.8903
119.	Diversion of 0.8094 HA. of FL for Granite Quarrying in Favour of M/s Venkateswara Granites in S.No. 887 of Gudekote RF, Kudligi Taluk of Bellary District.	Karnataka	Bellary	0.8094
120.	Diversion of 28.0 HA. of FL for ML No. 1028 in Joga RF, Hospet Taluk in F/o M/s Gogga Gurushanthaiah & Bros.	Karnataka	Bellary	15.1
121.	Renewal of Kumsi Mining Lease in Favour of Mysore Mineral Limited	Karnataka	Shimoga	24.55
122.	ML (Limestone) in F/o Mysore Cements Ltd.	Karnataka	Tumkur	19.38

1	2	3	4	5
123.	Temporary Working Permission Regarding Sitapatore Mining Lease for Mining of Manganese in Favour of M/s Manganese Ore (India) Ltd. in Tehsil-Katangi	Madhya Pradesh	Balaghat	43.353
124.	Renewal of Mining Lease by M/s. Pacific Minerals	Madhya Pradesh	Balaghat	20
125.	Mangnease Ore Mining by Prafull Chand J. Trivedi	Madhya Pradesh	Balaghat	4.959
126.	Opencast Mining in F/o WCL, Damua Region	Madhya Pradesh	Chindwara	8.5
127.	Sand Mining by Shri Rajendra Kumar Jain,	Madhya Pradesh	Khandwa	0.95
128.	Renewal of Surface Right by SECL Jharkhand	Madhya Pradesh	Shahdol	9.158
129.	Renewal of Quarry Lease for Farshi Stone	Madhya Pradesh	Shivpuri	217.063
130.	Mining Lease in F/o M/s Singh	Madhya Pradesh	Vidish	0.99
131.	Extraction of Maanganese Mining Lease by M/s Manganese Ore India Ltd.	Maharashtra	Bhandara	6.81
132.	Durgapur Opencast Mining by WCL	Maharashtra	Chandrapur	80.77
133.	Renewal of Durgapur Opencast Mining Lease in Favour of M/s Western Coalfields Limited	Maharashtra	Chandrapur	0
134.	Extraction of Durgapur Rayawari Coolliery (Underground) Coal Mines, W.C.L. Ltd.	Maharashtra	Chandrapur	1172.74
135.	Mining Lease to M/s Gahra Minerals	Maharashtra	Chandrapur	4.63
136.	Diversion of Zudpi Forest Land for Mining Iron Ore Transmission Line and Approach Road to M/s Gadchiroli Metals and Minerals Limited	Maharashtra	Gadchiroli	374.9
137.	Mining Lease by M/s Sabir Stone	Maharashtra	Nagpur	1.99
138.	Mining Lease by M/s.BR Akre	Maharashtra	Nagpur	2.832
139.	Extraction of Manganese Mining Lease by M/s Manganese Ore India Ltd.	Maharashtra	Nagpur	5.72

1	2	3	4	5
140.	Renewal of Mining Lease by M/s. V.M. Kurdukar	Maharashtra	Thane	1.11
141.	Renewal of Mining Lease by M/s. M.A. Patil	Maharashtra	Thane	1.26
142.	Renewal of Mining Lease by M/s. Sikandara Ebrahim Shaikh	Maharashtra	Thane	1.03
143.	Mining Lease by Shri NG Ajawani	Maharashtra	Thane	1.42
144.	Renewal of Mining Lease Favouring NG Ajwani for Stone Quarry	Maharashtra	Thane	1.42
145.	Mining Lease to Mahanadi Coal Fields Ltd for Bhubneshwari OCP	Orissa	Angule	112.521
146.	Anantha Extension of Opencast Project in Favour of Mahanadi Coal Fields Limited	Orissa	Angule	62.67
147.	Jagannath Extension Opencast Project of Mahanadi Coalfields Limited	Orissa	Angule	58.096
148.	Underground Coal Mining in Natraj in Favour of Mahanadi Coalfields Limited	Orissa	Angule	289.856
149.	Nandira Underground Coal Mine of Talcher Area of Mahanadi Coalfields Limited	Orissa	Angule	325.38
150.	Mining Lease to Tata Refractories	Orissa	Cuttack	58.5
151.	Mining Lease for Mahagiri Chromite Mines of M/s Indian Charge Chrome Limited (ICCL) in Village Kaliapani Under Sukinda Tehsil	Orissa	Jajpur	63.91
152.	Quartz and Quartzite Mining by Shri P N Sahu	Orissa	Jajpur	3.089
153.	Miing Lease in Favour of M/s Kaypee Enterprises for Thakurani Iron Ore Mines	Orissa	Keonjhar	146.726
154.	Mining Lease in F/o Orissa Mining Corporation Limited	Orissa	Keonjhar	95.6

1	2	3	4	5
155.	Mining Lease to KJS Abluwalia	Orissa	Keonjhar	371.192
156.	Mining Lease to R.P Sao for Guali Iron Ore Mines	Orissa	Keonjhar	42.417
157.	Joruri Iron & Mn. Mines of Kalinga Mining Corp.	Orissa	Keonjhar	6.008
158.	Mining Lease to S. Pradhaji for Kalaparbat Iron Ore Mines	Orissa	Keonjhar	52.002
159	Bamebari Iron & Manganese Ore Mining by M/s TISCO Ltd.	Orissa	Keonjhar	145.329
160.	Renewal of Mining Lease in Tiringpahar Manganese Mines of M/s TISCO Limited	Orissa	Keonjhar	52.348
161.	Renewal of Mining Lease in Village Kamarjoda, Joda, Banspani, Bichhakundi and Baitarani RF in Favour of M/s TISCO Limited	Orissa	Keonjhar	463.678
162.	Renewal of Mining Lease for Khandbandh Iron & Manganese Mines of M/s TISCO Limited	Orissa	Keonjhar	453.15
163.	Iron Ore Mining by Smt. Indrani Patnaik in Village Unchabali	Orissa	Keonjhar	35.275
164.	Inganijharan Iron & Mn. Mines of S. Pradhan	Orissa	Keonjhar	15.316
165.	Balita Iron Mines of S. Pradhan	Orissa	Keonjhar	18.347
166.	Mining Lease to ESSEL Mining Industries	Orissa	Kyonjhar	152.229
167.	Mining Lease to M/s Ghanshyam Mishra & Sons	Orissa	Mayurbhanj	518.77
168.	Mining Lease to M/s Lal Traders & Agencies Pvt Limited	Orissa	Mayurbhanj	117.84
169.	Mining Lease to A.M.T.C. (P) Ltd.	Orissa	Sundergarh	244.327
170.	Mining of Iron Ore by M/s Feegrade and Company in Bonai Forest Division	Orissa	Sundergarh	39.308
171.	Mining Lease to M/s M.G. Mohanty of Bhubaneswar.	Orissa	Sundergarh	23.581
172.	Mining Lease in F/O Shri Rudrasen Sindhu M/s Rohtak Engineering Company	Orissa	Sundergarh	41.839

1	2	3	4	5
173.	Mining Lease in F/o M/s Rungta Sons (P) Limited	Orissa	Sundergarh	52.742
174.	Renewal of Leaser for Mahulsukha Manganese Ore Mines in Favour of M/s AMTC Pvt. Limited	Orissa	Sundergarh	227
175.	Iron Ore Mining in Village Patabeda of Bonai Subdivision by M/s M.G. Mohanty	Orissa	Sundergarh	12.058
176.	Iron Ore Mining by Sh J.N. Patnaik in Village Bhanjapalli and Koira	Orissa	Sundergarh	3.921
177.	M/L of Fireclay in Favour of Satish Mohan Gupta	Rajasthan	Alwar	3.746
178.	M/s of Masanory Stone in Favour of 11L/H	Rajasthan	Alwar	7.5999
179.	M/L of Masonary Stone in Favour of Laxmi Narayan Meena-for 3 L/H	Rajasthan	Alwar	2.742
180.	M/L of Limestone in Favour of Sri Om Prakash Gupta	Rajasthan	Alwar	9.08
181.	Mining Lease to Oriental Talc Products Pvt. Ltd	Rajasthan	Banswara	36.6107
182.	Mining Lease of Silica Sand in Favour of M/s Madan Lal Purohit	Rajasthan	Bharatpur	2.3638
183.	Mining Lease to 35 Lease Holders	Rajasthan	Bundi	38.04
184.	Mining Lease to 7 Lease Holders	Rajasthan	Jaipur	118.7562
185.	Mining Lease to RSMDC	Rajasthan	Jallore	5.788
186.	Renewal of Mining Lease to Rajasthan State Mineral Development Corporation Limited	Rajasthan	Jallore	60.503
187.	M/L of Masonary Stone in Favour of Shri Khem Ram	Rajasthan	Jalar	0.5
188.	M/L of Masonary Stone In favour of Vinod K Aggarwal	Rajasthan	Jaloar	1.4945
189.	M/L of Sand Stone in Favour of Salim	Rajasthan	Karoli	1.5372
190.	Mining Lease in Favour of Mangalam Cement Limited	Rajasthan	Kota	139

1	2	3	4	5
191.	Mining Lease in Favour of Smt. Amna Bai	Rajasthan	Kota	2.17
192.	Mining Lease in F/O of Sh Shah Kastoor Mal	Rajasthan	Sawai Madhopur	25.78
193.	M/L of Masanory Stone in Favour of Shri Ram Kishor Meena	Rajasthan	Sawai Madhopur	0.424
194.	Renewal of Mining Lease No. 6/84 in Favour of M/s Mahaveer Trading Company for Soap Stone Mining Near Village Band	Rajasthan	Udaipur	30.24
195.	Renewal of Mining Lease No. 7/84 in Favour of Mahaveer Trading Company for Mining Near Village Khandel Kipal	Rajasthan	Udaipur	34.22
196.	Mining Lease in Favour of M/s Associated Cement Company Limited (ACC) and Construction of Approach Road	Tamil Nadu	Coimbatore	1.479
197.	Proposal for Quarrying and Excavating Granite Dimensional Stones in Villavan Code Taluk Mancode Village.	Tamil Nadu	Kanyakumari	3.6828
198.	Krishnashila Opencast Project in Favour of Northern Coalfields Limited	Uttar Pradesh	Agra	235.99
199.	Collection of Sand	Uttar Pradesh	Sone Bhadra	68.0259
200.	Collection of Sand	Uttar Pradesh	Sone Bhadra	42.072
201.	Collection of Sand from 15% Area of 102.247 HA of Forest Land	Uttar Pradesh	Sone Bhadra	15.337
	Total Area Deverted			15753.74

Statement II

State/UT	Total Land Diverted (Ha.)
1	2
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	19.591
Andhra Pradesh	13,531.61
Arunachal Pradesh	141.67
Assam	87.061
Bihar	414.008
Chandigarh	0
Chhattisgarh	14,421.34
Dadar and Nagar Haveli	0

1	2
Daman and Diu	0
Delhi	0
Goa	1,281.60
Gujarat	9,663.78
Haryana	0
Himachal Pradesh	1,227.81
Jammu and Kashmir	0
Jharkhand	9,059.03
Karnataka	7,557.91
Kerala	29.196
Lakshadweep	0
Madhya Pradesh	10,057.78
Maharashtra	4,057.45
Manipur	0
Meghalaya	0
Mizoram	0
Nagaland	0
Orissa	15,386.65
Pondicherry	0
Punjab	0
Rajasthan	4,996.12
Sikkim	0
Tamil Nadu	436.27
Tripura	0
Uttar Pradesh	2,110.27
Uttaranchal	246.828
West Bengal	276.91
Total	95,002.86

[Translation]

Quality Testing for Foodgrains

3909. DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:
SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:

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

(a) whether despite the presence of the system and procedure for testing of foodgrains before procurement inferior quality foodgrains has been produced by FCI during last three years;

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

(c) the number of officers found guilty for the said procurement indicating their names and designations; and

(d) the number of officers prosecuted for the said lapses 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 (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) The inferior quality foodgrains out of stocks procured by officials of FCI during last three years is, as under:

(Figures in lakh MT)

Year	Quantity Procured	Quantity found beyond specifications	Percentage
2002-03	117.22	0.747	0.637
2003-04	148.42	0.526	0.354
2004-05	221.56	0.614	0.277

(c) The number of category-wise officers/officials found guilty for purchase of beyond specification stocks during last three years is, as under:

Category II	253
Category III	387
Total	640

A statement indicating name and designation of officers/officials found guilty for the said procurement is enclosed.

(d) Disciplinary proceedings have been initiated against the delinquents.

Statement

Name and Designation of the Officers/Officials found guilty for procurement of beyond specification Stocks during last three years

Sl.No.	Name of Assistant Managers (QC) (Cat. II officers)	Sl.No.	Name of Technical Assistants (Cat. III officials)
1	2	3	4
1.	O.P. Kamboj	1.	J.S. Bedi
2.	Raghbir Singh	2.	Babu Ram
3.	Janak Raj	3.	Suresh Singh
4.	Kulwant Singh	4.	R.S. Sood
5.	A.K. Sood	5.	Mukhraj Bhagat
6.	A.K. Arora	6.	Harbhajan Singh
7.	Amar Chand	7.	Subhash Mahajan
8.	A.M. Khosla	8.	N.K. Puri
9.	Sita Ram	9.	Brij Mohan Arora
10.	Avtar Singh	10.	Daman Kumar
11.	A.S. Kataria	11.	Vishan Chand
12.	R.N. Gupta	12.	Satpal
13.	Jagbir Singh	13.	S.C. Chawla
14.	Yogender Sharma	14.	Ratan Lal
15.	D.K. Sharma	15.	Nagesh Arora
16.	Gian Singh	16.	Bachhitar Singh
17.	P.N. Tuli	17.	H.S. Mallik
18.	S.K. Parshar	18.	B. Dayal
19.	R.R. Goel	19.	Balbir Singh
20.	K.P. Singh	20.	Boota Ram
21.	Mohinder Singh	21.	C.L. Batra
22.	Inderjeet Arora	22.	Munshi Ram
23.	V.K. Mishra	23.	Mohinder Singh
24.	Param Dass	24.	Gian Chand
25.	Santosh Singh	25.	Sukhdev Singh
26.	Jaswinder Singh	26.	C.P. Singh
27.	Dhan Singh	27.	Amrish Kumar
28.	V.K. Tyagi	28.	Surender Singh
29.	Dharam Singh	29.	Manider Singh
30.	Sital Dass	30.	R.C. Puri
31.	A.K. Chopra	31.	G.P.S. Kalra
32.	Mahabir Prasad	32.	Raj Kumar
33.	Surender Kumar Sharma	33.	Gurchan Singh
34.	Guljar Singh	34.	Pitambar Singh
35.	Rajender Sharma	35.	Kamail Singh
36.	Khem Chand	36.	Gulab Singh
37.	Sube Singh	37.	S.K. Sofat
38.	A.K. Bhatia	38.	H.P. Singh
39.	S.P. Gupta	39.	G.S. Sidhu
40.	A.C. Balia	40.	K.P. Singh
41.	Gurbachan Singh	41.	R.S. Meena
42.	Tirlochan Singh	42.	Gurvinder Singh
43.	O.P. Lakha	43.	Ashok Kumar
44.	Balwant Rai	44.	Amarjit Singh
45.	Balbir Kumar	45.	Nain Singh
46.	Joginder pal	46.	Ant Ram Singh
47.	Rachpal Singh	47.	K.L. Rishi
48.	Madan Lal	48.	H.R. Arora
49.	Ram Pal	49.	T.C. Khatri
50.	Suman Sharma	50.	Satnam Singh

1	2	3	4
51.	M.P. Khullar	51.	Gian Singh
52.	D.R. Anand	52.	Rupinder Singh
53.	Bhupinder Singh	53.	Amrit Lal
54.	Rajbir Singh	54.	R.K. Mehta
55.	Surender Nath	55.	N.K. Arora
56.	Dilbagh Singh	56.	Pratap Singh
57.	H.P. Verma	57.	Kishori Lal
58.	S.K. Dhir	58.	H.R. Bhagat
59.	Chaman Lal	59.	S.K. Dhir
60.	D.C. Kureel	60.	Narjeet Singh
61.	G.S. Chawla	61.	Jeet Kumar
62.	A.K. Sood	62.	Avtar Singh
63.	J.S. Saini	63.	Raja Ram
64.	Inderjeet Singh	65.	V.K. Bhavan
65.	Anand Prakash	65.	C.S. Jakhar
66.	Kailash Chand	66.	Harjeet Singh
67.	P.C. Puri	67.	Vishnu Kumar
68.	Tarlochan Singh	68.	Arjan Singh
69.	Devendra Singh	69.	Ram Chand
70.	K.S. Mann	70.	S.K. Mohindru
71.	A.K. Sharma	71.	P.H. Singh
72.	Rajender Pal	72.	Gurmukh Singh
73.	S.K. Gupta	73.	Ashwini Kumar
74.	P.K. Nanda	74.	Narender Kumar
75.	R.S. Bhatnagar	75.	Vinod Kumar
76.	Kashmira Singh	76.	G.P. Bedi
77.	Parshotam Garg	77.	Narinder Mohan
78.	Sudesh Kumar	78.	Mohan Singh
79.	Dharam Singh	79.	K.K. Goel
80.	S.P. Kalia	80.	Prabhat Singh
81.	Hardev Singh	81.	Jagdish Singh
82.	Bal Kishan	82.	Ranbir Singh
83.	Inderjeet Singh	83.	Kamall Singh
84.	D.K. Singla	84.	Pheru Singh
85.	D.S. Sokhat	85.	Atul Kumar
86.	A.K. Gupta	86.	Lakhbir Singh
87.	Nirmal Singh	87.	A.K. Gupta
88.	R.N. Sharma	88.	Vishav Kumar
89.	Raunaq Ali	89.	Gurvinder Pal Singh
90.	Gurdeep Singh	90.	Amarjit Singh
91.	Shyam LaL	91.	Devi Sahai
92.	R.S. Sirohi	92.	Sanjay Vohra
93.	R.P. Bansal	93.	Anil Kumar
94.	H.H. Dhami	94.	Balvinder Singh
95.	A.N. Gupta	95.	K.L. Kakkar
96.	P.K. Singla	96.	K.K. Aggarwal
97.	R.C. Verma	97.	K.R. Singh
98.	K.N. Sharma	98.	Ashok Kumar Bhardwaj
99.	R.D. Sharma	99.	M.N. Tripathi
100.	Bal Kishan	100.	R.K. Seth
101.	P.K. Garg	101.	J.N. Bhardwaj
102.	Inderjeet Singh	102.	Manmohan Vinyak
103.	R.S. Khurana	103.	Ishwari Parsad
104.	R.S. Sirohi	104.	Yash Anand
105.	A.S. Barar	105.	O.P. Sadotra
106.	Des Raj Arora	106.	K.K. Batra
107.	R.R. Verma	107.	Jit Singh
108.	Rahttu Mal	108.	Sri Chand
109.	S.P. Singh	109.	Jagir Singh
110.	Jagdish Jindal	110	Lakhbir Singh

1	2	3	4
111.	N.K. Anand	111.	Baldev Singh
112.	R.C. Malhotra	112.	N.K. Srivastava
113.	Peru Mal	113.	D.P. Bhardwaj
114.	Chander Mohan	114.	Basant Kumar
115.	Tara Prasad	115.	Kishan Sarup
116.	Gurmeet Singh	116.	Baljit Singh
117.	Harbans Lal	117.	Janam Singh
118.	R.K. Ratan	118.	R.C. Arora
119.	Ramesh Chander	119.	Ramesh Kumar
120.	Joginder Singh	120.	S.K. Tyagi
121.	Chet Ram	121.	S.K. Goyal
122.	S.K. Chabra	122.	K.C. Sharma
123.	Trilochan Singh	123.	P.K. Sadhu
124.	Vijay Kumar	124.	Tarsen Lal
125.	B.P. Tayal	125.	Kanchid Singh
126.	Zora Singh	126.	Onkar Singh
127.	V.K. Sharma	127.	Sham Singh
128.	Nachhatar Singh	128.	Lalit Mohan
129.	Jugul Kishore	129.	Gurcharan Singh
130.	H.K. Gautam	130.	S.K. Arora
131.	Ajai Anand	131.	Lakhbir Singh
132.	Ram Kishan	132.	Kulwant Singh
133.	T.P. Sharma	133.	Basheshar Lal
134.	S.P. Sharma	134.	Varinder Singh
135.	Chiranji Lal	135.	D.C. Puri
136.	Suneel Kumar	136.	Anil Kapur
137.	Randhir Singh	137.	Vimal Malhotra
138.	Ganga Prasad	138.	Varinder Didl
139.	Harjinder Singh	139.	Yash Pal Singh
140.	Ashok Kumar Sharma	140.	S.K. Gupta

1	2	3	4
141.	S.R. Dass	141.	Balkajeet Singh
142.	R.K. Gupta	142.	Duman Singh
143.	V.K. Puri	143.	Subhash Khurana
144.	Jasbir Singh	144.	A.K. Manocha
145.	Gurbachan Ram	145.	Umesh Kumar
146.	Kamail Singh	146.	Harjeet Singh
147.	Mahinder Pal	147.	K.P. Singh
148.	Mattiulla Khan	148.	Dalchand
149.	P.K. Noheria	149.	A.S. Sohi
150.	Pankaj Kumar	150.	S.P. Shukla
151.	J.S. Sekhon	151.	Nand Lal
152.	V.K. Handa	152.	Subhash Chander
153.	P.K. Mukhopadhaya	153.	Joginder Singh
154.	S.N. Tiwari	154.	Sukhbir Singh
155.	Gangadhar	155.	K.L. Gulati
156.	Ramesh Kumar	156.	Sadhu Singh
157.	H.P. Verma	157.	Subhash Garg
158.	S.S. Tripathi	158.	M.L. Vij
159.	B.S. Babran	159.	Pal Singh
160.	R.P. Singh	160.	Rasham Singh
161.	O.P. Rathi	161.	Kulwant Singh
162.	Jai Pal Singh	162.	R.S. Sirohi
163.	Hardev Singh	163.	Chiman Lal
164.	Moti Ram	164.	Nanak Chand
165.	Bharat Prakash	165.	V.N. Rajvanshi
166.	Jagat Prasad	166.	M.A. Khan
167.	Kharak Singh	167.	K.S. Garg
168.	D.V.S. Tewata	168.	Durga Prashad
169.	R.S. Dhillon	169.	Barham Singh
170.	J.N. Sharma	170.	Kashmiri Lal

1	2	3	4
171.	R.D. Tyagi	171.	Rajender Singh
172.	S.L. Ahuja	172.	Raghubir Singh
173.	B.S. Babran	173.	Grumej Singh
174.	Kamal Singh	174.	Jashir Singh
175.	Moti Ram	175.	Chanan Singh
176.	Murli Singh	176.	Mool Chand
177.	S.K. Singh	177.	G.P. Pandey
178.	S.S. Tyagi	178.	Satish Kumar
179.	S.K. Gosain	179.	Kashmira Singh
180.	P.R. Meena	180.	Malkiat Singh
181.	Ram Pal	181.	Tarlok Singh
182.	R.S. Dhillon	182.	N.L. Sonkar
183.	Rukum Singh	183.	Harinder Singh
184.	S.K. Sethi	184.	S.K.S. Mann
185.	V.P. Bansal	185.	Mani Ram
186.	S.L. Ahuja	186.	Jeet Bahadur
187.	K.N. Singh	187.	Adlal Singh
188.	P.K. Goel	188.	K.N. Yadav
189.	A.K. Pathak	189.	Mitter Sain
190.	H.S. Saha	190.	Nanak Chand
191.	Krishn Kant	191.	R.N. Bansal
192.	S.N. Malhotra	192.	R.C. Verma
193.	H.K. Seth	193.	A.B. Singh
194.	S.P. Dubey	194.	Harvansh Singh
195.	R.S. Sisodia	195.	R.K. Srivastav
196.	Chand Karan	196.	S.K. Loomba
197.	Mohinder Singh	197.	R.A. Maurya
198.	Ram Bhool Singh	198.	D.K. Shingari
199.	Farid Ajij	199.	N.S. Bhatti
200.	Abrar Khan	200.	Sham Lal

1	2	3	4
201.	Chauthi Ram	201.	Khem Singh
202.	K.V.S. Rathore	202.	Dharam Pal Singh
203.	Ram Kishan	203.	Basant Singh
204.	Lakhan Singh	204.	Iqbal Singh
205.	Dharma Raj	205.	Nirmal Jeet Singh
206.	P.C. Sharma	206.	Randhir Kumar
207.	Ram Dularey	207.	Deepak Kumar
208.	L.S. Gaur	208.	R.K. Chehal
209.	R.P. Chaturvedi	209.	Prem Kumar
210.	D.P. Lathe	210.	Ram Chander
211.	Sukhbir Singh	211.	Dwarka Nath
212.	S.A. Malik	212.	S.A. Rizviq
213.	S.C. Saxena	213.	Swaran Singh
214.	R.P. Verma	214.	Balkar Singh
215.	S. Sangram Singh	215.	Om Prakash
216.	S.C. Srivastav	216.	Surender Singh
217.	Bhoori Singh	217.	S.P. Saxena
218.	A.S. Rathore	218.	Bahadur Singh
219.	A.K. Asthana	219.	Lal Singh
220.	S.C. Sahu	220.	Pitambar Kumar
221.	B.S. Rathi	221.	Jagbir Singh
222.	Ramdhun	222.	Darshan Singh
223.	R.A. Sharma	223.	Soral Lal
224.	K.L. Gupta	224.	Sudhir Sharma
225.	M.L. Jakhar	225.	D.S. Diwana
226.	L.S. Shekhawat	226.	Nagesh Kumar
227.	C.K. Sharma	227.	Suresh Gupta
228.	G.S. Choudhary	228.	Kalish Chand
229.	J.S. Sengar	229.	Naresh Kumar
230.	K. Gamaiah	230.	Kirnat Rai

1	2	3	4
231.	Murthuza Saheb	231.	Sant Singh
232.	V. Rama Rao	232.	V.K. Singhl
233.	G. Madhu Babu	233.	Inder Pal
234.	P. Narayana Swamy	234.	S.S. Sohal
235.	P. Narayana Shetty	235.	Ravi Kumar
236.	D. Chittaiaii	236.	Jagtar Singh
237.	P. Dasarathi Ramareddy	237.	Bharpur Singh
238.	M. Shyamsunder	238.	R.N. Kapur
239.	Muneer Basha	239.	Joravar Singh
240.	S.R.K. Sasthry	240.	Mukhtiar Singh
241.	M. Bhashkara Rao	241.	S.P. Garg
242.	V.S. Ramanuja Charyulu	242.	Inder Pal
243.	N. Brahmam	243.	Girdhari Lal
244.	Kurbanali	244.	V.K. Rai
245.	Jaganathan	245.	Varinder Rajput
246.	B.A.K. Nair	246.	Purshotam Lal
257.	Saiiadevan	247.	Harinder Singh
248.	Tagoor	248.	Kamal Chand
249.	Qudrath Ali Khan	249.	C.S. Aggarwal
250.	C. Rajender Prasad	250.	J.P. Gupta
251.	K. Ramarao	251.	Rajinder Pal
252.	E. Balan	252.	B.R. Sharma
253.	A. Reeta Kumari	253.	Khayala Ram
		254.	Mahraj Singh
		255.	P.K. Gupta
		256.	R.L. Bhatia
		257.	Ajmer Singh
		258.	Rajender Chopra
		259.	Som Pal
		260.	Matwar Singh
		261.	S.H. Parcha
		262.	Surender Kumar
		263.	N.L. Verma
		264.	B.D. Khera
		265.	Hari Pal Singh
		266.	O.P. Bansal
		267.	Gurmail Singh
		268.	P.K. Yakmi
		269.	Iqbal Singh
		270.	Harish Kumar
		271.	S.P. Singh
		272.	Ram Dass
		273.	Bhim Sain
		274.	R.P. Sharma
		275.	Sukhbir Singh
		276.	A.K. Walia
		277.	Rakesh Kumar
		278.	B.D.V.P. Rao
		279.	V.K. Gupta
		280.	Devi Chand
		281.	N.K. Dinkar
		282.	Kehar Singh
		283.	S.S. Tyagi
		284.	Babu Lal
		285.	S.P. Singh
		286.	Thakur Singh
		287.	K.L. Malhotra
		288.	M.B. Singh
		289.	B.S. Saini
		290.	Sham Sunder

1	2	3	4
		291.	S.C. Sharma
		292.	S.P. Singh
		293.	Ashok, Sharma
		294.	Ganga Saran
		295.	B.P. Singh
		296.	R.A. Goldsmith
		297.	M.c. Berwa
		298.	R.P. Bunkar
		299.	A.K. Singh
		300.	K.K. Bhalla
		301.	P.K. Mathur
		302.	Ram Karan Walia
		303.	Om Pal Singh
		304.	Jugal Kishor
		305.	Sukhbir Singh
		306.	Ashok Sharma
		307.	N.K. Singhal
		308.	S.C. Aggarwal
		309.	Suresh Chander
		310.	Shiv Raj Singh
		311.	Krishan Kumar
		312.	Rajinder Singh
		313.	A.K. Singh
		314.	Parath Singh
		315.	S.C. Gandhi
		316.	Jagmal Singh
		317.	S.S. Rathi
		318.	R.K. Sethi
		319.	Sukhbir Singh
		320.	R.R. Shukla
		321.	Parikrama Singh
		322.	R.N. Yadav
		323.	Z.A. Siddiqui
		324.	M.A. Siddiqui
		325.	Ramesh Chand
		326.	Vishram
		327.	S.K. Srivastav
		328.	S.K. Abbas
		329.	Jhau Lal
		330.	Lalji Mishra
		331.	B. Bhattacharya
		332.	Ali Baqar
		333.	V.C. Gupta
		334.	S.P. Rajvansi
		335.	A.K. Aggarwal
		336.	R.B. Ram
		337.	Y.K. Awasthi
		338.	G.C. Aggarwal
		339.	N.K. Sharma
		340.	Aidal Singh
		341.	Ramkaran
		342.	R.C. Saxena
		343.	L.N. Rai
		344.	B.R. Krishna
		345.	K.K. Srivastava
		346.	J.P.N. Trigunayak
		347.	A.K. Srivastava
		348.	S.P. Singh
		349.	A.K. Rastogi
		350.	Sunder Lal

1	2	3	4
		351.	B.L. Malhotra
		352.	U.K. Srivastava
		353.	R.B. Vishwakarma
		354.	N.R. Garg
		355.	G.P. Bhargava
		356.	P.R. Gupta
		357.	Shiv Bahadur
		358.	I.H. Bohra
		359	O.P. Bisnoi
		360.	Prabhu Lal
		361.	C.R. Muley
		362.	M.K. Upadhyaya
		363.	Smt. Sushma Saxena
		364.	H.C. Gupta
		365.	P. Ravinder Babu
		366.	K. Soujanya Rao
		367.	G. Sudhershan Rao
		368.	Krishna Dass
		369.	D. Nageshwara Rao
		370.	B. Ashok
		371.	K. Sundara Rao
		372.	K. Sudhershan Rao
		373.	L. Baskhi
		374.	T.V.V. Sathyanarayana
		375.	P. Narasimha Rao
		376.	Basavaiah
		377.	Ramalingeshwara Rao
		378.	Nehru
		379.	P. Suryanarayana
		380.	Y.L.N. Bhattacharyulu
		381.	M. Upendra Rao
		382.	Ram Chander
		383.	Gracemani
		384.	Anand Mohan
		385.	D.N.R. Kumar
		386.	B. Laxman
		387.	M. Devaiah

[English]

Hazards of Global Warming

3910. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether temperature of earth and atmosphere is increasing rapidly due to the fast growing air traffic world over as per the opinion of environmentalists;

(b) if so, whether the hazard of global warming is taking alarming shape as a result thereof;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the preventive measures 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) The climatic impact of emissions, exclusively as a result of aviation are difficult to be quantified directly. However, aviation sector is also a source of greenhouse gases contributing to global warming. In 2002, total Green House Gas (GHG) emissions from international aviation were about 1.2 per cent of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)—a United Nation's body constituted for assessing climate change globally, contribution of aviation sector to global warming is projected to increase slightly over the next fifty years.

(d) As per the Kyoto Protocol only the developed country parties shall pursue limitation or reduction to emissions of Greenhouse Gases from different sources including aviation. Developing countries, such as India, have no GHG emission reduction obligations.

[Translation]

Expenditure on Agriculture/Irrigation

3911. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether increase in expenditure on agriculture is required in order to strengthen Indian economy;

(b) if so, whether the Government has drawn up any plan to incur more expenditure on agriculture and irrigation;

(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) and (c) the total budget outlay for agriculture including allied sectors of forestry & logging and fishing has been stepped up from Rs. 4150 crore in 2004-05 to Rs. 5998.,40 crore in 2005-06, thus showing an increase of investment by 44.5 per cent. Keeping in view the importance of agriculture in the Indian economy the Union Budget 2005-06 increased outlays in agriculture, including irrigation. The Budget has provided Rs. 630 crore in 2005-06 for the National Horticulture Mission, which will ensure end-to-end approach having backward and forward linkages covering research, production, post harvest management, processing and marketing, under one umbrella, in an integrated manner. The Budget has provided Rs. 4800 crore for the Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme for 2005-06 compared with Rs. 2800 crore in 2004-05. With a view to improving water use efficiency in Indian agriculture, the Budget has provided for Rs. 400 crore for promoting micro irrigation in 2005-06. Since the flow of credit is proposed to be stepped up by 30 per cent in 2005-06 over the credit disbursement of Rs. 1,15,243 crore in 2004-05, which exceeded the credit disbursement of Rs. 86,981 crore made in 2003-04 by 32 per cent. Livestock and Dairying have also received greater attention through enhanced budget outlays as well as defined policies towards cross breeding and delineation of disease free zone. Simultaneously since agriculture is a state subject, states will have to increase their budgetary outlays on agriculture.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Theft of Foodgrains from P.D.S.

3912. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA:
SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY:
SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT:
SHRI HITEN BARMAN:

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

(a) whether 40 per cent of wheat and 90 per cent of rice meant for sale through Fair Price Shops (FPS) at subsidized rates to poor persons do not reach the targeted persons and the same is sold in the black market at a premium;

(b) if so, the measures taken by the Government to check such diversion of foodgrains and ensure that it reaches the targeted people; and

(c) the details of the FPS owners and officials arrested/convicted during the last three years for black-marketing of such foodgrains State-wise and Union-Territory-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) No, Sir. However the following measures have been taken by the Government to check diversion of foodgrains and to ensure that it reaches the targeted people:

(i) The Public Distribution System (Control) Order has been issued on 31-08-2001 under Section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. As per the provisions of the Order, wilful adulteration, substitution, diversion theft of stocks from the Central godowns to fair price shops or at premises of the fair price shops shall be liable for criminal punishment under Section 7 of the Act.

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

(iii) In order to efficiently reach the essential commodities under PDS to the Consumer in a transparent and accountable manner, a model Citizen's Charter has been issued by Central Government for adoption by the State Governments.

(c) As per reports received from the State Governments, number of persons ordered for detention including owners/officials of the FPS under the Prevention of Black marketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980, for black marketing of essential Commodities during the last three years state-wise and UT-wise is as under:

State/Year	2002	2003	2004	2005*
Gujarat	80	101	63	60
Tamil Nadu	17	05	01	02
Orissa	01	—	—	02
Uttar Pradesh	—	01	—	—
Assam	01	—	11	—
Maharashtra	—	—	—	01
Total	99	107	75	65

*as on 08-08-2005.

[Translation]

Shortage of Drinking Water in Dhanbad

3913. SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR DUBEY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is acute shortage of drinking water, in addition to scarcity or proper irrigation facilities in rural, urban and industrial area of Dhanbad district; and

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to tackle the problem by providing about Rs. 200 crore to be spent through various schemes for permanent solution of drinking water problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) As per the information received from Government of Jharkhand, all the rural habitations of Comprehensive Action Plan, 99 (CAP, 99) are covered with drinking water supply of stipulated level of 40 litres per capita per day (lpcd).

(b) The Department of Drinking Water Supply, Ministry of Rural Development supplements the efforts of the State Governments in providing drinking water facilities in the rural habitations by rendering financial assistance and technical support through Centrally sponsored scheme *viz.* Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) and Swajaldhara. For both these schemes, there is a criterion laid down for allocating funds to the States/Union Territories. The said criterion takes into account the rural population, geographical conditions, number of not covered/partially covered habitations and water quality situation in the States/Union Territories. As per this criterion, amount of Rs. 55.29 crore and Rs. 8.06 crore have been allocated to Government of Jharkhand under ARWSP and Swajaldhara, respectively, for the current financial year. District-wise allocations are made by the State Government. Additionally, in 199, 141 schemes were taken up in Dhanbad under Sector Reforms Projects with Government of India share of Rs. 37.40 crore.

[English]

Control of Disease of Arecanut in Kerala

3914. SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Kerala has submitted a project proposal for control of the yellow leaf disease of Arecanut in the State;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal alongwith budget estimate; and

(c) by when said proposal is likely to be cleared and amount released?

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) Government have received proposal during January, 2005 from Government of Kerala for the management of Yellow Leaf Disease (YLD) affected Arecanut Gardens in an area of 66772 hectares amounting

to Rs. 2.19 crore. An amount of Rs 91.10 lakh have been released during March, 2005 to the Government of Kerala as an additional budget under the scheme. "Macro-Management in Agriculture-Supplementation/ Complementation of States' Effort through Work Plan" to manage the Yellow Leaf Disease.

Irrigation Potential

3915. SHRI ALAKESH DAS: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the total irrigation potential (in million hectares) during 2004-05 according to the Tenth Plan;

(b) the part of it through major and medium irrigation and from minor irrigation (in million hectares); and

(c) the extent of potential actually realized?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) As per the Mid Term Appraisal document of the Tenth Five Year Plan, the target for irrigation potential creation during 2004-05 was 2.297 million hectare. Out of 2.297 million hectare, 1.551 million hectare is through major and medium irrigation and 0.746 million hectare is through minor irrigation.

(c) The potential actually realized by the end of 2004-05 is about 85 percent.

[Translation]

Payment of Insurance Claims of Farmers of Rajasthan

3916. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the payment to farmers under National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) is due in various district of Rajasthan particularly Jodhpur;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years and thereafter alongwith the reasons therefor;

(c) the payment made against insurance claims in the State and the said district;

(d) the details of outstanding dues during the said period; and

(e) by when the dues are likely to be cleared?

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) National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) is being implemented in Rajasthan with effect from Kharif 2003. Till Kharif 2004 admissible claims in respect of all district except Barmer district in Rajasthan have been settled.

Details of total claims paid during last three crop seasons (Kharif 2003 to Kharif 2004) in the State and Jodhpur district are given below:

Crop Season	Total Claims Paid in Rajasthan	Claims Paid in Jodhpur District
Kharif 2003	2.47	0.55
Rabi 2003-04	11.72	Nil
Kharif 2004	11107.23	1484.76

(d) and (e) Claims amounting to about Rs. 18.42 crores in respect of Barmer district for Kharif 2004 season are pending due to non-submission of correct yield data. The pending claims will be settled on receipt of corrected yield data from the State.

[English]

Reviewing Permission for BT Cotton

3917. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) had recently held a meeting to review the permission granted to Monsanto-Mahyco Biotech BT. Cotton variety;

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

(c) whether the Government is aware that several Non-Governmental Organisations/Voluntary Organizations have opposed Monsanto-Mahyco BT. Cotton variety due to its failure in increasing crop yield;

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

(e) the action taken against Monsanto-Mahyco Biotech in this connection; and

(f) the measures taken by the Government to provide relief/compensation to the farmers who have suffered for yield losses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) The GEAC in its meeting held on 3.5.2005 decided to renew the permission for commercial cultivation of MECH 12 Bt, MECH 162 Bt and MECH 184 Bt for the Central Zone (Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra and MECH 162 Bt and MECH 184 Bt for Southern Zone (Karnataka and Tamil Nadu). The GEAC did not renew its permission for commercial cultivation of MECH 12 Bt, MECH 162 Bt and MECH 184 Bt in respect of Andhra Pradesh.

(c) The GEAC has received representations from some NGOs alleging failure of the Bt crop in Andhra Pradesh in general and Warangal district in particular due to lesser yield and higher disease infestation.

(d) Bt gene has been introduced in the cottonseed specifically to control bollworm infestation only. It would therefore not eliminate the crop management requirements for control of other pests or diseases. The yield potential of any hybrid depends on the type of germplasm and is virtually the same for both Bt and its non-Bt counterpart. However, the yield in Bt cotton is higher than its non-Bt counterpart because of the inbuilt resistance to bollworm, which protects the developing bolls from the pest attack. Therefore, there is no evidence of failure of Bt technology.

(e) Does not arise in view of reply to (d).

(f) The issue of compensation/relief to the farmers, if any, is decided by the State Governments in the light of their respective legislations.

Production and Consumption of Wine

3918. SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY:
SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has worked out any scheme to promote production and consumption of wine;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the concession planned to be provided therefor; and

(d) the benefits likely to be derived therefrom both the farmers and consumers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (d) Under the Scheme for Technology Upgradation/establishment/modernization of food processing industries, this Ministry offers financial assistance for setting up of food processing units including wine units. The assistance is released in the form of grant of 25% of the cost of plant & machinery and technical civil works subject to maximum of Rs. 50 lakhs in general areas and 33.33% upto Rs. 75 lakhs in difficult areas. Similarly, under the Scheme for Infrastructure development, assistance upto Rs. 4.00 crores for setting up food park/wine park for provision of common facilities like cold storage, food testing laboratory, effluent treatment plant, common processing facilities, power, water supply etc., is admissible so that small and medium enterprises could set up their units easily. The production of wine, would benefit grape farmers through better prices, generate employment in wine units and facilitate weaning people away from consumption of hard liquor.

[Translation]

Agreement by Steel Exchange India Ltd.

3919. SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Steel Exchange India Limited has signed an agreement to set up a joint venture with Mauritius Company SVR International and Coal India Limited;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the benefits likely to accrue therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the Lok Sabha.

BT Cotton in Maharashtra

3920. SHRI SURESH WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether BT. Cotton seeds inferior quality are sold at an exorbitant rates by various seed companies;

(b) if so, the reaction therefor;

(c) the measures being taken by the Government to compensate the farmers who suffered losses because of low quality seeds; and

(d) the details of the policies formulated by the Government to provide the remunerative prices of the cotton to 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) to (c) There have been reports of production and supply of spurious and poor quality of Bt. Cotton seeds particularly in Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Karnataka causing losses to the farmers. The concerned State Governments have taken necessary regulatory measures to check sale of illegal, unlabelled and spurious Bt. Cotton seeds. As per the information received from the Government of Maharashtra 24 police cases were filed and 11636 packets of illegal Bt. cotton seeds amounting Rs. 186.18 lakh were seized. In case of compensation to the farmers on account of losses due to inferior quality of Bt. Cotton seeds the State Governments take up the matter for redressal with the concerned seed company.

(d) The Government has been announcing Minimum Supporting Price (MSP) for major agriculture commodities including Cotton in each Season, backed by procurement by Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) and National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED). The designated Central nodal agencies are required to intervene in the market for undertaking price support operations in case the prices fall below the MSP level fixed by the Government.

[English]

Biotech Piracy

3921. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the fact that huge Biotech Piracy is taking place in the North East which is the hot spot of biodiversity;

(b) if so, whether the Government has directed the Sikkim Forest Department to seize 3 tones full of Herbarium collected by a Japanese team recently;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether it is also a fact that one Mr. Vojtech Holubee of the CZEH Republic collected very rare plant seeds from North and West Sikkim Reserve Forest—a restricted area in July, 2003 and has now advertised abroad for sale of the seeds through Website too;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken to ensure that the Biotechnical Tourists/Ordinary Tourists visiting Sikkim and the North East do not carry on Biotic Piracy in connivance with travel agents in operation?

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.

Pendency of Pension

3922. SHRI PARAS NATH YADAV: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the concerned District Officials of Food Corporation of India (FCI) have not furnished the necessary pension papers of employees who opted for Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS);

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether this has resulted in the inordinate delay in clearance of pension related matters in the case of certain employees as the retired AGI from Saharanpur district;

(d) if so, whether these employees are faced with serious inconvenience in the absence of pension;

(e) if so, whether the Government proposes to initiate CBI enquiry against officials responsible for the said lapse;

(f) if so, by when; 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 (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (g) In Saharanpur district of the Food Corporation of India (FCI), 24 employees opted for Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) in the year 2004. Out of these, 4 employees were not entitled for pension benefits. The pension cases of 18 employees were returned by the Zonal Office (North), FCI due to incomplete documentation, while the cases of the remaining 2 employees are currently under process for final settlement. The District Manger, FCI, Saharanpur has been instructed to complete the documentation for the pending cases and get the pension matter settled at the earliest.

[Translation]

Assistance for Sugar Mills of Bihar

3923. SHRI KAILASH BAITHA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a sum of rupees 39 crores sanctioned by the previous Government as central assistance for sugar mills in Bihar has been released;

(b) if so, the sugar mills which were allocated the said funds;

(c) whether the said mills have since paid the outstanding dues of the farmers with these funds;

(d) if so, the details thereof; 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) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Illegal Export of Wheat

3924. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:
SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:

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

(a) whether several firms are exporting wheat only on papers in order to appropriate Government assistance;

(b) if so, the number of complaints received by the Government during the last three years;

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon; and

(d) the steps taken to check such fraudulent dealings in future?

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) Fresh allocation of foodgrains for export from Central Pool has been stopped w.e.f. 11.8.2003. However two cases of such irregularity has come to the notice of Government.

(c) In both the cases, differential price has been recovered and the firms have been blacklisted.

(d) No stocks are being released for export since 1.10.2004.

Irrigation Projects

3925. SHRI CHANDRABHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the irrigation projects proposed to be set up for utilisation on 18.25 MAF water allocated to Madhya Pradesh by the Narmada Tribunal;

(b) the area in hectares likely to be irrigated and power likely to be generated from the said projects; and

(c) 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) The Narmada Water Disputes Tribunal (NWDT), in its award apportioned the utilizable quantum of Narmada Waters of 28 Million Acre Feet (MAF) at Sardar Sarovar Dam site on the basis of 75 per cent dependability and allocated 18.25 MAF for the State of Madhya Pradesh. The details of irrigation projects proposed to be constructed by the Government of Madhya Pradesh for utilization of 18.25 MAF of their share of Narmada waters are as under:

Project	No. of Projects	Water use (MAF)
Major	29	11.358
Medium	135	2.884
Minor (Micro Minor & Lift Scheme)	More than 3000	2.508
Municipal & Industrial Purposes	—	1.500
Total	—	18.250

(b) The land proposed to be irrigated and hydro power generation through the proposed projects are as under:

Project	Area for Irrigation (lakh hectare)	Installed capacity (Mega Watt)
Major	14.17	2464.5
Medium & Minor	13.40	—

In addition to the above, Madhya Pradesh is entitled to draw its share of 57 per cent of the power generated through the Sardar Sarovar Project as per the NWDT Award.

(c) The Government of Madhya Pradesh has reported the scheduled year of completion of all the 29 major projects as 2012 and 135 medium and more than 3000 minor projects as 2024.

[English]

Research on Varieties of Mango

3926. SHRI ALEMAO CHURCHILL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has undertaken a research on varieties of Mango, especially Mancurad available in Goa;

(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) Yes, Sir. The research work on varieties of mango is being taken up by ICAR Research Complex, Goa, especially on Mankurad mango.

(b) and (c) Most of the Mankurad mango types of Goa are of seedling origin, they exhibit remarkable variation in terms of fruit, size, shape, colour, yield, quality and bearing habit. Therefore, intensive research programme is being undertaken to identify an ideal Mankurad type with less fibre, attractive colour and long shelf life. Mankurad (Assolna) has orange pulp with less fibre content, excellent fruit quality high total Soluble Solid (TSS), attractive red shoulder and medium size of fruit (250g). Another promising accession of Mankurad recorded the fruit weight of 320 g with 20% TSS.

Accession A-115 possesses medium sized fruit (234g) with deep yellow peel, good TSS (21.4%) and less fibre in pulp.

Efforts are being made to popularize such varieties through exhibitions, multiplication an distribution of genuine grafts, publication and distribution of relevant literature and imparting training to Non-Government Organizations and private nursery men.

12.01 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Cooperative Store Limited (Super Bazar), New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Cooperative Store Limited (Super Bazar), New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005,

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2684/05]

(2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005.

(ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004, together with Audit Report thereon.

(3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at item No. (ii) of (2) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2685/05]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to lay the following papers on the Table of the House:

(1) A copy of the Statement (Hindi and English versions) explaining reasons for not laying the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the Hindustan Antibiotics Limited for the year 2003-2004 within the stipulated period of nine months after the close of the accounting year.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2686/05]

(2) A copy of the Chemical Weapons Convention Appeals Rules, 2005 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 391 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 14th June, 2005 under sub-section (3) of section 56 of the Chemical Weapons Convention Act, 2000.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2687/05]

(3) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) issued under various sections of the Chemical Weapons Convention Act, 2000:—

(i) S.O. 818 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 14th June, 2005 appointing the 1st day of July, 2005 as the date on which provisions of the Chemical Weapons Convention Act, 2000, shall come into force.

(ii) S.O. 819 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 14th June, 2005 regarding constitution of the Steering Committee for the purpose of overseeing the functions of the National Authority and exercising and performing the powers and functions of the Central Government under the Chemical Weapons Convention Act, 2000.

(iii) S.O. 820 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 14th June, 2005 establishing the National Authority for implementing the provisions of the Convention on the prohibition of the Development, Production, Stock piling and use of the Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction, signed on behalf of the Government at Paris on the 14th January, 1993.

(iv) S.O. 821 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 14th June, 2005 appointing the Chairperson and Director of the National Authority.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2688/05]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SHEKHAR RAO): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:

(1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of section 37 of the Apprentices Act, 1961:

(i) The Apprenticeship (Second Amendment) Rules, 2004, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 5 in Gazette of India dated the 1st January, 2005.

(ii) The Apprenticeship (Amendment) Rules, 2005, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 121 in Gazette of India dated the 9th April, 2005.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2689/05]

(2) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) issued under sub-section (2) of section 37 of the Apprentices Act, 1961:

(i) G.S.R. 6 published in Gazette of India dated the 1st January, 2005 specifying the State Council for Vocational Training, Haryana, Chandigarh, for Trade test of Examination in respect of the subjects mentioned therein for the purpose of the Apprentices Act, 1961.

(ii) G.S.R. 120 published in Gazette of India dated the 9th April, 2005 specifying the State Councils for Technical Education for Trade

test or Examination in respect of the subjects mentioned therein for the purpose of the Apprentices Act, 1961.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2690/05]

(3) A copy of the Employees' State Insurance (Central) (1st Amendment) Rules, 2005 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 322 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 18th May, 2005, under sub-section (4) of section 95 of the Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2691/05]

(4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Board for Workers Education, Nagpur, for the year 2003-2004, along with 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 2003-2004.

(5) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (4) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2692/05]

(6) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the V.V. Giri National Labour Institute, Noida, for the year 2003-2004, along with 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 2003-2004.

(7) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (6) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2693/05]

(8) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (4) of section 97 of the Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948:

(i) The Employees' State Insurance (General) (Amendment) Regulations, 2004 published in Notification No. N-11/13/2/2003-P&D in Gazette of India dated the 23rd October, 2004.

(ii) The Employees' State Insurance (General) (Amendment) Regulations, 2005 published in Notification No. N-12/13/1/2005-P&D in Gazette of India dated the 23rd July, 2005.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2694/05]

(9) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Employees' State Insurance Corporation, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004.

(10) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Employees' State Insurance Corporation, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004, together with Audited Report thereon.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2695/05]

(11) A copy of the Iron Ore Mines, Manganese Ore Mines and Chrome Ore Mines Labour Welfare Fund (Amendment) Rules, 2004 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 656 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 5th October, 2004, under sub-section (4) of section 12 of the Iron Ore Mines, Manganese Ore Mines and Chrome Ore Mines Labour Welfare Fund Act, 1976.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2696/05]

(12) A copy of the Limestone and Dolomite Mines Labour Welfare Fund (Amendment) Rules, 2004 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 765 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 24th November, 2004, under sub-section (4) of section 16 of the Limestone and Dolomite Mines Labour Welfare Fund Act, 1972.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2697/05]

[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): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to lay the following papers on the Table of the House:

(1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956—

(i) Review by the Government of the working of the Jammu and Kashmir Horticultural Produce Marketing and Processing Corporation Limited, Srinagar, for the year 1992-1993.

(ii) Annual Report of the Jammu and Kashmir Horticultural Produce Marketing and Processing Corporation Limited, Srinagar, for the year 1992-1993, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2698/05]

(2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

(3) A copy of the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmer's Rights (Amendment) Rules, 2004 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 843 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 30th December, 2004 under section 97 of the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers Rights Act, 2001.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2699/05]

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): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to lay the following papers on the Table of the House:

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Cooperative Store Limited (Super Bazar), New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Cooperative Store Limited (Super Bazar), New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Cooperative Store Limited (Super Bazar), New Delhi, for the years 2002-2003 and 2003-2004.

(2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2700/05]

(3) A copy of the Standards of Weights and Measures (General) Third Amendment Rules, 2005 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 351 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 4th June, 2005 under sub-section (4) of section 83 of the Standards of Weights and Measures Act, 1976.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2701/05]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) issued under section 3 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986:

(1) Notification No. S.O. 728 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th May, 2005 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 583 (E) dated the 22nd June, 2001.

(2) The Uniform Protocol on Water Quality Monitoring Order, 2005 published in Notification No. S.O. 2151 in Gazette of India dated the 18th June, 2005.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2702/05]

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 of Notification No. G.S.R. 414 (E)/Ess.Com./Sugarcane (Hindi and English versions) Published in Gazette of India dated the 21st June, 2005 containing order notifying the Statutory Minimum Price of Sugarcane for the sugar season 2004-2005 under sub-section (6) of section of 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1956.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2703/05]

12.02 hrs.

MESSAGES FROM RAJYA SABHA

[English]

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I have to report the following messages received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha:—

(i) "In accordance with the provisions of sub-rule (6) of rule 186 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to return herewith the Appropriation (Railways) No. 4 Bill, 2005, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 11th August, 2005 and transmitted to the Rajya Sabha for its recommendations and to state that this House has no recommendations to make to the Lok Sabha in regard to the said Bill."

(ii) "In accordance with the provisions of sub-rule (6) of rule 186 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to return herewith the Appropriation (Railways) No. 3 Bill, 2005, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 11th August, 2005 and transmitted to the Rajya Sabha for its recommendations and to state that this House has no recommendations to make to the Lok Sabha in regard to the said Bill."

12.03 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC UNDERTAKINGS

Sixth and Seventh Reports

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly): Sir, I beg to present the following Action Taken Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Public Undertakings:

(1) Sixth Action Taken Report on MMTC Limited—Trade in Gold (Import of Gold by MMTC); and

(2) Seventh Action Taken Report on ONGC—Avoidable expenditure due to creation of excessive handling capacity.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Next item, Report of Committee on Absence of Members from the Sittings of the House: Shri Rajesh Verma—not present;

Shri Khagen Das—not present.

12.03½ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Statement

[Translation]

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV (Sambhal): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each (Hindi and English versions) of the statement of the Standing Committee on Agriculture showing further Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Sixth Action Taken Report (14th Lok Sabha) of the Committee on Agriculture (2004-2005) based on the recommendations contained in the Second Report (14th Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants (2004-2005) of the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agricultural Research & Education)'.

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

(I) Status of implementation of recommendations contained in the third report of Standing Committee on Coal and Steel pertaining of Ministry of Steel

[Translation]

*THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am making this statement of the status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Third Report of the Standing Committee on Coal and Steel (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) in pursuance of the direction 73-A of the Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha vide Lok Sabha Bulletin—Part II dated the 1st September, 2004.

The Third Report of the Standing Committee on Coal and Steel (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) was presented to the Lok Sabha on the 25th August, 2004. The Report relates

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*Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 2740/05.

[Shri Ram Vilas Paswan]

to the examination of Demands for Grants of Ministry of Steel for the year 2004-2005.

There are 29 recommendations made by the Committee in the said Report with reference to Aims, Objectives and Achievements of the Ministry where action is called for on the part of the Government.

The Action Taken Statements on the recommendations/observations contained in the Report of the Committee had been sent to the Standing Committee on Coal and Steel on the 17th December, 2004.

The present status of implementation of the various recommendations made by the Committee is indicated in the annexure to my Statement, which is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. I would not like to take the valuable time of the House to read out all the contents of this Annexure. I would request that this may be considered as read.

Annexure

Ministry of Steel

The Implementation Status of each Recommendation contained in the 3rd Report of the Standing Committee on Coal & Steel (14th Lok Sabha)

Sl.No.	Recommendation	Para Nos.	Status of Implementation
1	2	3	4
1.	The Committee observe that the steel is the basic raw material for infrastructure. The consumption of steel has been identified as an indicator of economic well being of the country. It reflects growth in infrastructure and the maturity of the manufacturing industry of a nation. This industry has shown an impressive turn around during the last two years. The Committee, therefore, desire that the Government should take all initiatives to strengthen all the wings of iron and steel industry to enable them to face international competition in steel sector. The Government should ensure that all the constituents of this sector carry out their allocated duties and responsibilities with desired coordination and inter-PSUs cooperation and contribute to economic well being of the country significantly.	1.7	The Draft National Steel Policy (NSP) has already been placed before the CCEA once. As per the directions of the CCEA, a Committee of Secretaries (COS) headed by the Cabinet Secretary has also considered the draft NSP. After suitably incorporating the suggestions, which emanated during the discussions in the COS, the draft NSP was again circulated among the concerned ministries and departments with the request to furnish their comments early. After examining these comments, the draft NSP would be placed before the CCEA for final approval, shortly.
2.	The Committee have taken note of the approved plan outlay and actual expenditure made during the first two years of current Five Year Plan and express their concern that as against the approved outlay of 1409 crore only 442.90 crore were spent during 2002-2003 and during 2003-2004 against an approved outlay of Rs. 1461.30 crore only 606.40 crore has been spent. This shows only 36.51% of fund utilization during the	2.5	While it is true that the actual plan expenditure during the first two years of the 10th Five Year Plan has not been satisfactory, it may be noted that there is a distinct trend of increase in the utilization of plan outlay vis-à-vis the approved plan outlay. As against actual utilization of 31.40% and 41.50% in 2002-03 and 2003-04 respectively, the utilization in Annual Plan 2004-05 is 49.17% (Rs. 718.61 crore against approved

1	2	3	4
	first two years. The reasons given by the Ministry of Steel for not utilizing the budgeted amount like depressed market conditions, delay in obtaining forest/environmental clearances, acquisition of land and preparation of DPR etc. by the different wings of the Ministry and are not acceptable to the Committee. The current trend shows that the Ministry has not taken any lesson from the similar failures during the 9th Five Year Plan and the same trend is continuing during the current plan also. The Committee note that the mid-term appraisal of 10th Five Year Plan (2002—2007) exercise is underway. The Committee, therefore, strongly recommend that the Government should take all the possible initiatives for full utilisation of plan outlay during the remaining years of current Five Year Plan so that the projects and programmes of the PSUs do not suffer and the current turn around in the Steel sector is maintained during the current year and in the remaining period of the current plan.		outlay of Rs. 1446.40 crore). This trend is further reflected in the Annual Plan outlay of Rs. 2466.12 crore for 2005-06 which marks a 71% increase over the Annual Plan outlay 2004-05. Some of the PSUs are also expected to upward revise their plan outlays for 2005-06—for instance RINL has submitted its revised plan for completion of expansion plan scheme and its request for increasing the plan outlay for 2005-06 from Rs. 896 crore to Rs. 1147 crore has been taken up with the Planning Commission. Further, to ensure full utilization of the plan outlays during the remaining years of the 10th Plan, the progress of fund utilization by the PSUs is being monitored by the Ministry. Also, the Plan targets form part of the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the PSUs and the Ministry and the implementation of projects and programmes by the PSUs are reviewed at regular intervals in the Ministry in the performance review meetings.
3.	The Committee note that as against the proposed total plan outlay of Rs. 1658.36 crore including Budgetary Support of Rs. 23.00 crores, the Planning Commission has approved an outlay of Rs. 1461.40 crores with a Budgetary Support of Rs. 15.00 crores. The Committee find that several plan schemes of MECON Ltd., HSL and BRL are going to be affected due to lower plan Budgetary Support than the proposed and similarly many important schemes of NMDC Ltd., MOIL and KIOCL are going to suffer due to allocation of lower Internal and Extra Budgetary Resources than the proposed. All these schemes may contribute significantly in improving the performance of these undertakings. The Committee, therefore, desire that sincere efforts should be made by the Ministry of Steel for getting allocation of additional funds at the Supplementary/Revised Estimates stage with Planning Commission and Ministry of Finance as per requirement of those public sector undertakings.	3.6(B)	The Ministry of Steel has been making, and will continue to make, sincere efforts for getting budgetary allocations for the PSUs under its administrative control, as per requirement of the PSUs. As against Ministry's proposal of Rs. 19.00 crores Plan budgetary support in RE 2004-05, Planning Commission/Ministry of Finance retained the Plan budgetary support at the BE 2004-05 level of Rs. 15.00 crore, the affected PSU being MECON for which the additional amount of Rs. 4.00 crore was sought. However, the shortfall of Rs. 4.00 crore has been to a great extent made up by increasing the Plan budgetary support for MECON to Rs. 4.00 crore in BE 2004-06 vis-à-vis Rs. 1.00 crore in BE 2004-05. As regards MOIL, the Plan outlay of the company was increased to Rs. 34.41 crore in RE 2004-05 as against Rs. 20.00 crore in BE 2004-05. Since National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC) and Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Ltd. (KIOCL) did not seek any additional I&EBR allocations over and above the approved

1	2	3	4
			allocations in BE 2004-05, there was no need for seeking additional allocations in RE 2004-05 for these two PSUs from Planning Commission. In this context it is pertinent to note that as against the Annual Plan outlay of Rs. 2508.62 crore proposed by the Ministry for 2005-06, the Planning Commission has approved outlay of Rs. 2466.12 crore (decrease of Rs. 42.50 crores only vis-à-vis the proposed outlay).
4.	The Committee do not find any justification for the allocation of an amount of Rs. 3.79 crores in the name of the office of Development Commissioner for Iron and Steel, Kolkata when it was closed *w.e.f.* 23.5.2003 based upon the recommendations of the Expenditure Reforms Commission constituted by the Ministry of Finance. These functions have been transferred to the Ministry of Steel and Joint Plant Committee and they are doing it without any problem. The Committee note that there were 226 employees of DCI&S at the time of closure. Out of 215 staff declared surplus by Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT), special VRS has been declared in case of 8 persons and 82 persons have been redeployed/nominated by DoPT leaving 125 surplus staff, awaiting redeployment. The Ministry of Steel has made financial provisions for all 226 employees in the budget of 2004-2005 and they are making payments to them without any assignment. The Committee, therefore, desire that the Ministry of Steel should undertake the matter with DoPT for an earliest completion of the redeployment process and save the expenditure allocated for the purpose.	3.12	Redeployment of surplus staff of the office of the Development Commissioner for Iron & Steel (DCI&S) has been taken up with DOPT at the highest administrative level. It had earlier been reported to the Committee that 125 surplus staff are awaiting redeployment. Subsequently upon a representation from 36 surplus UDCs who had been relieved to join the office of Chief Post Master General, West Bengal Circle, Kolkata and were posted outside Kolkata, the DOPT and Ministry of Steel agreed to reconsider the decision for their release. The 36 UDCs were taken back on the rolls of the Surplus Cell on humanitarian grounds since redeployment outside Kolkata was causing undue hardship to these lowly paid employees. Hence the no. of surplus staff to be redeployed is now 161 (125+36). Till date, a total of 123 surplus staff have been separated by way of redeployment/Spl. VRS/ Retirement/VRS etc. DOPT has further issued redeployment orders in case of 32 surplus staff and they will be relieved after receipt of offer of appointment from the accepting Department/ Offices. The remaining 71 surplus staff are also likely to be redeployed in the near future. In the last three months 86 surplus staff have been redeployed (including the 32 Gp. B & C staff who have been nominated and are likely to be redeployed shortly). The progress of re-deployment of surplus staff is being monitored on a weekly basis.
5.	The Committee appreciate the financial loan assistance being given by the Government to Hindustan Steel Works Construction Limited for	3.16	Ministry of Steel monitors implementation of financial assistance provided to the company by asking utilization certificates from the company.

1	2	3	4
	payment of outstanding salaries, wages and other statutory dues to the employees of a company passing through tough phase of regular loss. The Committee, however, desire that the Ministry should ensure that the amount is utilized only for the assigned purpose and there should not be any diversion of funds, delay in payment of salary etc. to the employees of the company. The Committee also desire that the Ministry should ensure that if there is any gap in financial requirement and loan assistance being given, this should be taken up with the Ministry of Finance at RE stage to ensure the regular payment to remaining employees of the company.		As regards gap in financial requirement of the company, it is submitted that earlier it was decided that company would clear dues of its employees through its own resources. However, in view of the directions of the Standing Committee, the matter will be taken up with Ministry of Finance at RE stage for providing financial assistance to the company.
6.	The Committee are happy to note that during the year 2003-04 guidelines of the Ministry of Finance to effect 10% mandatory cut on non-Plan, non-salary expenditure in respect of the administrative expenditure of the Ministry of Steel and its attached office *viz.* the office of Development Commissioner for Iron and Steel was adhered to by the Ministry of Steel during 2003-2004. The Committee desire that Ministry should continue to undertake overall exercise to rationalize the expenditure under Revenue Section to effect the same economy during the year 2004-05 also.	3.21	In 2004-05, against Non-Plan, Non-Salary budgetary provision of Rs. 3.19 crore in respect of Secretariat proper and DCI&S, Kolkata, savings of Rs. 50.00 lakhs were made. Thus, instead of the 10% mandatory cut directed by Ministry of Finance, this Ministry achieved savings of 15.67% on the BE 2004-05 non-salary provision. The Ministry will continue with its efforts to rationalize the administrative expenditure of the Ministry and its attached office of DCI&S, Kolkata.
7.	The Committee are happy to note that through the loan assistance from the Government, HSCL has been able to reduce liability on account of statutory dues and wages/salaries of its employees. This has helped a lot in reducing the manpower and manpower costs of the company and ultimately resulting into minimizing loss. The Committee note that the total dues at present are 89.37 crores and HSCL has got 71.89 crores as loan assistance from the Government for this purpose. The Committee, therefore, desire that the company should take all possible initiatives to generate funds through their own means and if they fail to do so, they should take up the matter with the Ministry of Finance at Revised Estimates stage to obtain the remaining amount for payment of salaries/ wages of employees to boost the morale and avoid any possibility of litigation on this account.	3.26	Ministry of Steel would continue to assist company in its efforts for turnaround. The issue of financial assistance to the company to enable it clear the dues of employees would be taken up with Ministry of Finance at RE stage.

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8.	The Committee are surprised to note that a huge amount of Rs. 218.74 crores is pending with Steel sector PSUs since last several years. It is very painful that steel sector PSUs have kept the payments pending/under dispute for such longer periods particularly under the condition when the HSCL is trying to revive with Government's assistance. The Committee have no hesitation in saying that the Ministry of Steel has not played its desired role of facilitator and regulator. The Committee strongly recommend that the Dispute Settlement Committee of the Ministry should undertake the matter on top priority with a view to decide the matter at the earliest and direct PSUs to settle the accounts immediately. The Committee strongly recommend that the Ministry of Steel should now prepare a time bound schedule for an earliest settlement of issues and the matter should not be delayed any more.	3.28	The Dispute Settlement Committee of the Ministry has held two meetings involving an amount of Rs. 218.74 crores. The Ministry had earlier scheduled a meeting of the committee in June, 2005 and was hopeful to resolve the dispute by 30.6.2005. However, due to unavoidable circumstances this crucial meeting could not take place. A meeting was held on 12.07.2005 and further information is being collected from the parties to the disputes on certain matters.
9.	The Committee are happy to note that the HSCL have separated 11047 employees since implementation of restructuring package and manpower has been brought to the level of 2207 employees. They have a target of bringing the number of employees to the level of 1000. The Committee find that reduction in number of employees has contributed significantly and company has moved on the path of recovery after the implementation of revival package. The Committee, therefore, desire that the Ministry of Steel would facilitate HSCL by providing required assistance so that there is no hurdle in the path of recovery.	3.33	Ministry of Steel has already extended government guarantee to the tune of Rs. 2.50 crores in favour of the company apart from earlier guarantee of Rs. 318.16 crores. This amount is yet to be utilized by the company. Sufficient funds are available with the company for effecting VRS.
10.	The Committee note that HSCL is outsourcing labour of younger generation who are able to perform. The Committee do not support this approach of the company for the reasons that they are paying high salary to the regular employees without proper utilization of their services. In addition, they are spending money by engaging young contractual labour. The Committee, therefore, desire that such regular workers of the company should not be paid for sitting idle. HSCL should identify such workers	3.34	A large number of employees are posted at HSCL's units in Bhilai and Bokaro Steel Plants. The company has formulated plans to effectively deploy all the workers available. Wherever necessary, company proposes to impart multiskilling training. During 2005-06, the company proposes to impart multiskilling training to 125 employees. The company has also made a strategy to use only departmental labour in perennial jobs. This will be combined with procurement of jobs involving deployment of sub-

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	who have attained an age of 54 years and above and prepare a scheme to provide multi-skill training suitable to them with a view to utilize their services to an optimum level. The company should also analyse the expenditure being made by engaging contractual labourers and should minimize it.		contractors where company will provide overall supervision and technical support.
11.	The Committee note that for survival of BSLC and SSL, further rationalization of manpower is essential and for this purpose they require grant because they are not in a position to pay interest on Plan loan. The Committee, therefore, desire that the Ministry of Steel should take up the matter with Ministry of Finance so that the company may get financial assistance in the form of grants required for the implementation of VRS in these companies.	3.40	In view of improved financial performance of OMDC, Government has given an in principle approval for reorganization of Bird Group of companies wherein SSL will be merged with OMDC and BSLC will be made a subsidiary of OMDC rather than pursuing financial restructuring of these companies. The proposed amalgamation would benefit all the companies in view of better operational and financial efficiency. Hence, the issue of Grant to BSLC and SSL for VRS is not being considered at this stage. However, non-plan loan is disbursed for implementing VRS in BSLC for the time being.
12.	The Committee note that BSLC, KDCL and SSL are in the process of considering the revised restructuring proposals. The Committee, therefore, desire that these proposals should be finalized immediately and the Ministry of Steel should consider these proposals seriously on receipt so that these undertakings may be able to come out of red like OMDC.	3.44	In view of improved financial performance of OMDC, Government has given an in principle approval for reorganization of Bird Group of companies wherein KDCL and SSL will be merged with OMDC and BSLC will be made subsidiary of OMDC. The proposed amalgamation would benefit all the companies in view of better operational and financial efficiency. Ministry of Company Affairs has been approached for its opinion on proposed reorganization of companies under Bird Group.
13.	The Committee hope that this effort had helped the company in coming out of bad financial conditions and desire that they must take all initiatives to bring this reduction to the optimum level of 1000 by 2005-06 so that the health of the company may improve further. The Committee expect that this step may provide a strong base for success of revival package of the company. The Committee note that HSCL had proposed 6.60 crores subsidy for waiver of	3.51	The Ministry has asked the company to undertake a diagnostic/viability study of the company. This job has been entrusted to a consultant. Additional measures of support will be considered based on the report of the consultant.

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	guarantee in the Revised Estimates of 2003-2004 and Budget Estimates of 2004-2005. But in both cases they have got outlay of 0.92 crores each time. The Committee, therefore, desire that the Ministry should pursue vigorously to obtain the required subsidy for waiver of guarantee at Revised Estimates stage.		
14.	The Committee are very happy to note that Bharat Refractories Limited has made a turnaround and earned a net profit of Rs. 1.79 crores without considering interest on Government loan of Rs. 55 crores during 2003-04. When during 2002-03 company incurred a net loss of Rs. 74.50 crores. The recovery is impressive and they have overcome the main hurdles in the way of physical and financial performance particularly the excessive manpower. The Government subsidies have helped a lot in the turnaround of the company. The Committee strongly recommend that the Ministry of Steel should undertake the matter seriously with the Ministry of Finance to review the high rates of interest on Government loans particularly for the companies who are suffering losses for a long period and are recovering with the help of these loans. The Committee also recommend that the Ministry should make adequate arrangements for timely and proper implementation of revival package so that BRL may be able to get more strength in recovery process.	3.61	The issue of reduction of interest rate on govt. loan was taken up with Ministry of Finance. However, Ministry of Finance has not agreed to this proposal. BRL at the instance of the Ministry, has asked MECON to prepare a fresh viability plan for the company. Based on the recommendations of MECON fresh revival measures will be considered in consultation with Board of Reconstruction of Public Sector Enterprises (BRPSE). Meanwhile the Ministry continues to closely monitor the performance of the company in terms of the review package already approved.
15.	The Committee note that Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) have made an appreciable turnaround during 2003-2004 by making a profit of Rs. 2512 crore. The Committee, however, find that as against the target of downsizing the manpower to the level of 1 lakh, at present 130,854 employees are there in SAIL. The company is facing difficulty in achieving the target since now there is lukewarm response due to better performance of the company, falling rate of interest on savings and bleak job opportunities	3.68	Under the Financial & Business Restructuring Plan of SAIL approved by Government of India in March 2000, an MoU was signed which inter-alia included manpower target of 100000 to be achieved through Voluntary Retirements and Divestment of some of the units in addition to the separation of manpower on account of natural superannuation. It was more of a direction towards turn-around, which SAIL was aiming for. SAIL had recognized the need for rationalization of manpower in 1998 itself and had accordingly

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for VR optees. The Committee hope that SAIL would be able to adhere to its time frame as set in the MoU signed with the Ministry for rationalization of manpower. The Committee also observe that as against the subsidy requirement of 54.65 crore as interest subsidy to SAIL for loans raised from banks for implementation of VRS only 18.60 crore has been allocated in budget estimates. The Committee, therefore, desire that the matter should be taken up seriously with the Ministry of Finance at the Revised Estimates stage so that the work relating to downsizing of manpower may not suffer due to paucity of funds.

embarked upon manpower rationalization through the route of Voluntary Retirement Schemes in 1998 and 1999 even before signing of MOU that indicated a direction for manpower rationalization. The Manpower of SAIL, which was 176147 as on 31st March 1998, has come down to a level of 126305 as on 31st May, 2005 thereby achieving a reduction of more than 49000 since March 1998. Till date, SAIL has operated 8 editions of VR schemes through which 35356 employees have separated.

Coupled with rationalization of manpower, various supplementary initiatives have also been carried out such as introduction of cluster system of working, multi-skilling, redeployment and retraining, automation and computerization, rationalization/merger of departments and introduction of improved work practices. All the above mentioned actions have led to efficient utilization of manpower and increase in labour productivity to 144 Tonnes of Crude Steel/man/year.

It may be mentioned here that in the year 2000-01, no VR Scheme could be operated due to non-availability of funds for VR and the impending wage revision. It is being observed that the response to the VR Schemes has gradually become lukewarm because of:

- Improvement in the financial performance of SAIL.
- Decreasing rate of interest on savings and
- Inadequate availability of alternate employment opportunities.

A sizeable rationalization was to be achieved through the envisaged divestment of some of the Units in the MOU viz. Power Plants, Rourkela Fertiliser Plant, Salem Steel Plant, Alloy Steels Plant and VISL which did not materialize as expected. The combined manpower of ASP, SSP,

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			VISL and Rourkela Fertiliser Plant as on 31.3.2000 was 11077, which was envisaged to be rationalized. Even in the Power Plants divested earlier, out of 2321 employees only around 568 could be rationalized. The envisaged divestments in the MOU did not fructify and therefore the associated manpower, which was to be rationalized alongwith divestment of units, did not take place. SAIL is aware of the need to further rationalise the manpower and therefore plans to implement a lumpsum payment VR Scheme, similar to earlier schemes w.e.f. 1.7.2005. However, keeping in view the enhanced level of production envisages under Corporate Plan 2012, an intermediate target of 1,20,000 has been fixed which will be achieved by natural separation and VRS. While efforts will be directed towards reducing the manpower further, increased emphasis is being placed for achieving higher level productivity. SAIL proposed a provision of interest subsidy of Rs. 54.65 crore in Budget Estimates (BE) 2004-2005, against which a provision of Rs. 18.60 crore was made. Out of this an amount of Rs. 9.30 crore was released to SAIL during the year. In view of the improved financial position of the Company, further it has been decided to discontinue this facility to SAIL. Presently funds will not be the constraint in the work relating to the downsizing of manpower.
16.	The Committee are very happy to note that after a consistent negative gross margin since 1998-99, MECON has earned gross margin of 25.85 crores during 2003-2004. In this positive turnaround of the company, there is a significant contribution of vigorous implementation of VRS in the company. Due to this approach, now there is no surplus manpower in the company. At this point of time there is a need to maintain the same type of performance in future. The Committee, therefore, desire that MECON should now focus on cost reduction through outsourcing and adopt austerity measures and timely implementation of restructuring plan based on recommendation of consultants appointed by	3.72	A revival/restructuring proposal for MECON was sent to Board for Reconstruction of Public Sector Enterprises (BRPSE). The BRPSE in its meeting held on 29.4.2005 recorded that the proposal of MECON was justified. Based on this, inter-ministerial consultations have been commenced by this Ministry. On conclusion of this exercise, the restructuring proposal will be set to CCEA for consideration. Meanwhile, the company continues to focus on cost reduction and procuring jobs in diversified sector in addition to jobs in steel sector. It may also be noted that the company has registered a net profit of over Rs. 13.00 crores during 2004-05.

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	them. The Committee also desire that MECON should also pay specific attention in diversified services like power, environmental engineering, roads and highways, oil and gas pipelines, information technology, defence projects, etc. in addition to their traditional expertise in providing engineering and consultancy services for establishment of steel plants in the country. The Committee hope that the substantial jobs contracted during the year 2003-04 would also contribute significantly in improving the financial performance of the company.		
17.	The Committee find that SAIL had lowered the target of investments during 2003-04 from Rs. 600 crores to Rs. 425 crores and actual amount spent through Internal and Extra Budgetary resources was Rs. 454.32 crores only. This was done due to reprioritization of schemes. Similarly, during the year 2004-05, this target has been kept at Rs. 650 crores. The Committee have analyzed the plant/unit-wise allocation and find that most of the schemes are essential for the concerned plants. The Committee, therefore, desire that the government should ensure that there is no downward revision in the targets and all the schemes are completed in time with the help of Internal and Extra Budgetary Resources allocated for specific purpose. The Committee would appreciate if there is better internal resources availability during 2004-2005 and more and more schemes for upgradation/modernization are undertaken during this period.	3.78	The revised estimate for 2004-05 for Planned Capital Expenditure was maintained at the original level of Rs. 650 crores. Hence, there was no downward revision compared to BE 2004-05. The Schemes are being funded primarily from internal accruals. In view of better internal resource availability, more & more schemes are being taken up for upgradation/modernization. During 2004-05, schemes for up-gradation/ modernization worth Rs. 1315 crores have been sanctioned which were in addition to most essential schemes approved at plant level. In addition, during this period, schemes with anticipated cost of Rs. 693 crores have been approved 'in-principle' by SAIL Board. During 2005-06 (upto June'05), schemes worth Rs. 393 crores were approved 'in-principle'. During this period, schemes worth Rs. 118 crores were sanctioned.
18.	The Committee appreciate the achievements of SAIL in the financial performance and reduction in borrowings. The Committee note that such significant improvement in the turnover and financial performance was due to improved production and sales volume, market oriented product mix, intensive cost control measures, rationalization of manpower, reduction in borrowings supposed by external factors like growth in steel demand and firming up of international and domestic prices. The Ministry has expressed their hope that buoyant demand conditions are likely to continue in 2004-2005	3.92	SAIL has drawn a well-defined road-map, Corporate Plan 2012, to achieve growth with cost and quality competitiveness. The plan is under various stages of implementation. Based on the perspective outlined in the Corporate Plan, the following major steps have already been taken: 1. SAIL has done prioritisation of investments to ensure long term growth and cost & quality competitiveness. Some of such investments have been planned on top priority to be undertaken and completed by 2006-07.

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	also on the basis of substantial investment in infrastructure and industrial projects in domestic front and stability in global demand. The company has now put thrust on debt reduction and fund management. Outstanding borrowings as on 30.6.2004 is Rs. 7728 crores and they propose to make the repayment by 2006-2007. The Committee, therefore, desire that SAIL should work as per the road map proposed with specific short term and long term targets to maintain the present performance and further strengthening of financial status of the company so that the sudden changes in national and international scenario may not affect them adversely.		2. To expand the capacity of SAIL, the company has already initiated actions to complete merger of IISCO and is in process of chalking out its expansion plan. 3. Actions have been taken to install and use maximum quantity of auxiliary fuels like Coal Dust Injection and Coal Tar in the Blast Furnaces. In additions, MoU has been signed with GAIL for supply of Natural Gas, as and when available for SAIL plants. 4. To meet input requirements of Oxygen, strategic option of BOO has been decided and the tendering process for the identification of part for each plant has been initiated. 5. To meet input requirements of Coking Coal, strategic alliances with national and international organizations are being planned. 6. To meet power requirements at competitive prices, SAIL has leveraged power wheeling facility, under Electricity Act 2003. In addition, to meet the future requirement of power, expansions of Joint Venture Companies are being planned. 7. For ensuring long term availability of iron ore to SAIL plants, developments of mines are being planned by own resources and strategic tie-up with other organizations. 8. For setting up JV for Cement Plant, for utilizing Blast Furance slag, the process of identification of strategic alliance partners has been initiated. 9. To ensure smooth movement of input and output of material, infrastructure supports have been examined in detail. Based on these, certain actions like owning few rakes under "Own wagons Scheme" etc. have been taken.
19.	The Committee find that after implementation of the financial and restructuring proposed for SAIL, majority of the tasks have been completed successfully. A few tasks like downsizing of manpower are still under implementation and they are also anticipating difficulties in decision of disinvestments of SAIL units. The Committee	3.93	In view of changed market scenario, SAIL has decided to close the divestment process for Salem Steel Plant (SSP), Alloy Steel Plant (ASP), Visvesvaraya Iron & Steel Plant (VISP) and Fertilizer Plant of RSP. As far as Indian Iron and Steel Company (IISCO) is concerned, the Govt. has decided to merge it with SAIL.

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	would like to draw the attention towards the announced Government policy that profit making PSUs will not be considered for disinvestments. Now, SAIL is a profit making company in all terms and any disinvestments at this stage may create great difficulty on the path of recovery. The Committee, therefore, strongly recommend that the issue of disinvestments of SAIL units should be reconsidered in view of changed situation and final decision should be taken as per the present policy.		
20.	The Committee are surprised to note that RINL has spent Rs. 24.28 crores only as against the Budget Estimates of Rs. 227 crores and Revised Estimates of Rs. 99 crores. The Committee do not favour this type of under utilization of funds because this directly affects the implementation of important schemes and ultimately the performance of the company. The Committee note that for the year 2004-2005, there is an allocation of Rs. 300 crores. The Committee strongly recommend that the Government should ensure that RINL utilized the full allocation made for the year 2004-2005 so that the schemes for which the allocations have been made do not suffer due to poor utilization of funds.	3.97	The existing procedure for AMR schemes has been reviewed and a modified procedure has been introduced for cutting delays and for faster decision making. Further, out of initial allocation of Rs. 300 crores for the year 2004-05, which was later revised to Rs. 174.73 crores, RINL has spent Rs. 70.90 crores. The schemes which were approved during 2004-05 but could not be implemented, due to various reasons, are being carried forward to the current year i.e. 2005-06 and all efforts are being made to ensure that optimum utilization of the allocated funds is made for ensuring better and quicker results. The Ministry is also monitoring on monthly basis with regards to the expenditure incurred on various schemes.
21.	The Committee express their happiness to note that Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (Visakhapatnam Steel Plant) has improved their financial performance and net profit of the company soared to Rs. 1547 crore in 2003-2004 from Rs. 521 crores in 2002-2003. This increase in profit of 192% from the last year is supposed to be very impressive. The Committee hope that RINL would maintain this performance in future also. The Committee also welcome the long term policy being prepared by the company for expansion. The Committee desire that RINL should undertake the work relating to expansion on priority and start the work in this direction after getting the approval of the Government without any delay. The Committee also strongly desire that the Government should work as facilitator in the task of implementation of the prosperous expansion plan of RINL.	3.100	Ministry is taking all the necessary action for obtaining approval of the expansion project of Visakhapatnam Steel Plant (VSP). Public Investment Board (PIB) meeting was held on 24.6.2005 in which the expansion proposal of RINL was taken up. PIB considered and recommended the expansion proposal of RINL (VSP) and advised that the observations made along with the action taken should be brought out while seeking the approval of CCEA. This is being separately done.

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22.	The Committee note that as against the allocation of Rs. 481.55 crores at Budget stage, the allocation was revised to Rs. 212.43 crores and actual expenditure was Rs. 65.05 crores only during 2003-2004. The Committee are surprised to note that as against, the allocation of 150 crores for new schemes not a single penny was spent during the whole year. Similarly, in continuing schemes also only 31.30 crores were spent against the allocation of 252.74 crores. The Committee strongly disapprove this type of under utilization of funds allocated for investments and direct that they should adopt more practical approach at the budget stage in allocation of funds and latter on at implementation stage also so that this type of under utilization of fund may not take place during 2004-2005. The Ministry should also ensure that the company may adhere to the projected estimates strictly so that the implementation of schemes do not suffer more.	3.107	The under utilization of I&EBR as pointed out by the Committee is due to various constraints being faced by the Company which are as follows: 1. Delay in issue of environmental/forest clearances for setting up iron ore projects in Bailadila and Donimalai regions by concerned State Govts. 2. Technology provider of Romelt Shop in respect of Nagarnar Iron and Steel Plant (NISP) has not come up with a reasonable cost which resulted in NMDC looking for alternate technology. 3. The political instability in Madgaskar let to suspension of the investigation works for Gold deposits. 4. The investigation works at Namibia/ Tanzania suspended pending detailed analysis of the initial results which are not very encouraging. Ministry of Steel monitors the I&EBR target alongwith the Performance Review of the company. Recommendations noted for compliance.
23.	The Committee note that in view of order of Hon'ble Supreme Court has permitted mining at Kudremukh upto 31st December, 2005 only, KIOCL has started looking for alternative mines and on account of additional investments, the allocation has been enhanced to the extent of 54 crores. The Committee welcome the impressive performance of the company during 2003-2004 and hope that it will continue during 2004-2005 and in coming years. The Committee desire that KIOCL should undertake the work vigorously to explore the possibility to identify and develop new mines to prepare themselves for continuance of the operation of the company beyond December, 2005 on the similar pattern.	3.110	In view of the Hon'ble Supreme Court Judgement, which has permitted KIOCL to mine at Kudremukh only till end 2005, the Company has made many efforts to locate alternative mining areas in Karnataka and other States. The Company has identified Ramanadurg Iron Ore deposits in Bellary Hospet Region in the State of Karnataka. These deposits are spread over an area of 6.5 sq. miles and consist of about 210 million tonnes of Iron Ore. The Government of Karnataka had issued a Gazette Notification on 15th March, 2003, dereserving some areas for grant of Mining Lease to private entrepreneurs. The Company has submitted its application to the Govt. of Karnataka on 16.4.2003 for grant of mining lease for exploitation of Ramanadurg Iron Ore Deposits.

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			There is a Writ Petition field in the High Court of Karnataka in this regard and the matter is sub-judice. The Hon'ble High Court of Karnataka is yet to pronounce its Judgement. **Mining in Orissa** On 28.9.2004, KIOCL entered in to an MoU with SAIL to form a Joint Venture Company to mine Iron Ore at Kalta, Taldih and Barsua mines in Orissa. Work Order was placed on M/s. NMDC on 20th September, 2004 to carry out the test on the Iron Ore samples of Taldih deposit for Ore characterisation, type of beneficiation etc. and their report has been received. An order was placed on M/s. MECON for preparation of a Pre-feasibility Report. Their draft Report has been received and the same has been examined. Discussions are being held between SAIL/KIOCL and MECON.
24.	The Committee note that during the year 2003-2004, the Bird Group of companies raised Rs. 16.78 crores through IEBR as against the non-plan Budget Estimates of Rs. 1.50 crores during 2003-2004. On the other side, the Plan budgetary support was only Rs. 1 crore which was not found adequate for additions/modifications and replacement schemes. The Committee also note that for the year 2004-2005 an amount of Rs. 7.23 crores have been proposed to be appropriated for the AMR schemes. The Committee expect that this budgetary support should be utilized appropriately so that through replacement/modifications of old plant machinery, the company may be able to obtain better operational efficiency.	3.118	Comments of the Committee have been noted. Addition/Modification and Replacement (AMR) schemes funds are being utilized for replacement/ modification of old plant machinery of the company.
25.	The Committee are surprised to note that the Empowered Committee under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Ministry of Steel have approved only 33 R&D projects since 1998 and only 17 projects have been completed so far. The Government have reduced the allocation for R & D purpose from Rs. 95 crores during 2002-03 to Rs. 60 crores during 2003-04 and 2004-05. During 2003-2004 only an amount of Rs. 13.426 crores was disbursed. The Committee	4.11	Though Government had decided to spend Rs. 150.00 crore per year from the interest accrual from Steel Development Fund (SDF) to supplement R&D expenditure in Iron and Steel Sector, actual expenditure has been very low. In view of the above and also the remarks of the Standing Committee on Coal and Steel (2004) in its 3rd report; Ministry of Steel (MOS) organized a brain storming session during the 12th meeting of the Empowered Committee held

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	are not convinced with the justification given by the Government that they are not receiving the sufficient number of R & D projects requiring high investments particularly when steel PSUs and private sector has been making good investments for this purpose. The Committee strongly criticize the neglecting approach of the Government towards such an important activity of steel sector. The Committee feel that there is a lot of scope of R & D in this sector but the Government is not paying desired attention to facilitate the important and good projects which may be useful for the welfare of the steel sector. The Committee, therefore, desire that the Government should take up the matter seriously in consultation with all the public and private sector players and invite projects which can benefit the industry in improving the cost of production and efficiency.		under the chairmanship of Secretary (Steel) on 23rd December 2004 to find ways and means to increase the R&D expenditure in the Iron and Steel Sector. During the brain Storming Session the following road maps were identified: (i) While there is a view that a new institution would be more functional there is also a view that it would be more beneficial if the existing institutes are strengthened and coordinated. (ii) India needs another driver/institution that would look to the need of various components through multi disciplinary and international expertise to formulate projects. (iii) Pilot plant facilities and engineering capabilities need to be developed and dedicated groups need to be appointed/ organized to implement the project(s). (iv) Empowered Committee (EC) needs to work out the programme for achievement of these. The aforesaid matter was further reviewed in the MOS and the following actions have been taken: (a) MOS wrote to experts in the Iron and Steel Sector for submission of specific R&D proposals concerning Iron and Steel Sector including the raw materials sector. (b) Dedicated Groups under the Chairmanship of renowned experts for iron ore and coal are being constituted to formulate & prioritise R&D proposals based on current/future needs of the industry for consideration of the Empowered Committee. Adequate thrust is being given to formulate and implement R&D projects and also set up centres of excellence for the areas where sufficient expertise is not available in the country at this movement.
26.	The Committee note that our per capita steel consumption is only 29 kg. which is perhaps the lowest in the world. The consumption in developed nations is about 400 kg. with a world	4.20	The recommendation of the Committee is noted. It is also informed that the Government has prepared a draft National Steel Policy (NSP), which is likely to be placed before the Cabinet

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	average of 150 kg. The Committee also note that the apparent consumption of Finished steel crossed 30 million tonnes in 2003-04 and there was a growth of 5.2% over the year 2002-2003. The Committee also note that the Government have a target of enhancing the use to 65 million tonnes by 2011 and 100 million tonnes by 2020. The Committee, however, find that there is a wide scope for triggering the domestic demand. The Committee find that the Ministry of Steel has to play a role catalyst in triggering demand and as facilitator for removing supply side constraints. The Committee are not satisfied with the present growth trend of steel consumption which was 21.3 million tonnes in 1995-96 and during 2003-04 it has reached to 30 million tonnes only. The Committee find that the target set to enhance the consumption to 65 million tonnes by 2011 requires many assertive efforts on all fronts. The Committee, therefore, desire that the Ministry of Steel should prepare a time bound programme along-with year-wise targets to tap the tremendous domestic market. They must play a role of effective facilitator in resolving the supply side constraints like raw material, iron ore, coal wagon availability, etc. The Committee express their hope that these targets would be achieved because the steel industry is doing well during these years when several loss making steel sector companies have made a positive turnaround. Moreover, the Government have promised a lot of investments in infrastructure in coming years and there is upward trend in international market also.		Committee on Economic Affair (CCEA) for final approval, shortly. The basic objective of the NSP is to prepare a roadmap for the Indian Steel Industry in its journey towards reform, restructuring and globalization. The long-term goal of the NSP is that India should become self-reliant and globally competitive in the steel sector. The NSP seeks to remove the supply-side constraints to the growth of this industry in an open, globally integrated and competitive environment. Apart from the broad-based policy statements, the NSP also chalks out specific action points to achieve the policy objectives. After finalization of the NSP detailed action plans are proposed to be formulated by a group of ministers headed by the Minister of Steel.
27.	The Committee observe that steel prices have started increasing from the beginning of 2002 primarily due to increase in global demand for steel. Since then, the prices have been growing continuously and during 3 years of time span the prices have almost doubled. Very surprisingly, despite various steps taken by the Government, these steps have not controlled the domestic prices of steel. These steps have affected the imported steel prices but not the domestic prices at all. The Committee do not agree with the justification given by the Ministry that the national	4.31	There has been a downturn in steel prices both in the international as well as domestic markets. The price of Hot Rolled Coil, considered to be the mother material by the downstream steel sector, has come down in the international market from US $ 570 per tonne (ex Europe) in April 2005 to US $ 450 per tone (ex Europe) in June 2005. Likewise the domestic price of HR Ceil has come down from Rs. 36,750 per tonne (Mumbai) in April 2005 to Rs. 30,500 per tonne (Mumbai) in June 2005. Further, in the Union Budge 2005-06 certain changes have been made

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	price have been increasing in tandem with the international steel prices because the factors which govern the international steel prices are different than those prevailing in the country. The Committee, therefore, desire that the Government should make a detailed study of factors responsible for continuous price increase of steel items and also analyse the impact of various duty exemptions being given from time to time to contain the steel prices. The Committee have also an apprehension that there may be cartelisation of private sector steel companies in enhancing the prices continuously for profiteering. The Government should seriously consider this while taking measure to contain prices. The Committee also desire that the Government should take up the matter with private as well as public sector undertakings of steel sector and play a positive role of facilitator in stabilizing steel prices in the country and if necessary, they should also consider to establish specific type of regulatory mechanism to control steel prices in future.		in the duty structure on items pertaining to the steel sector. Important among these changes is the reduction in customs duty on alloy steel from 15% to 10% and increase in the Excise Duty on steel from 12% to 16%. The Economic Research Unit has been requested to factor in these changes also before finalizing the study on factors responsible for continuous price increase of steel items and the analysis of the impact of various duty exemptions being given from time to time in containing steel prices.
28.	The Committee have been apprised of the opinion of the Disinvestment Commission on the various steel PSUs status of disinvestment process undertaken by the Department of Disinvestment on the basis of Disinvestments Commission. The Committee have noted significant change in the view of the Government pronouncement that profit making PSUs would not be disinvested. The Committee have a view that India has marched ahead with its economic reforms and disinvestments being constituent of these reforms. At this point of time, policy makers should evaluate the policy of disinvestment by having a close examination and observation of the PSUs in their post divested phase and accordingly decide the future course of action. The Committee observe the performance of steel sector PSUs and find that the companies like SAIL, MOIL, MSTC, FSML and RINL have made a positive turnaround and they have again moved on a path of very good recovery. Under these circumstances, there is a need to reconsider the disinvestment proposals of steel sector.	4.36	Disinvestment of various PSUs etc. comes under the purview of Ministry of Finance, Department of Disinvestment. In view of this, the recommendations of the Standing Committee on Coal & Steel in this regard have been conveyed to M/o Finance, D/o Disinvestment for their further necessary action. In response Ministry of Finance, D/o Disinvestment has stated that there was no proposal of disinvestment in SAIL or any of its units with the Department of Disinvestment. The Ministry of Steel and SAIL had themselves been considering certain investment proposals. While the Disinvestment Commission had in its 12th Report of August, 1999, recommended disinvestments of 51% equity through strategic sale in RINL, the proposal was not pursued by the Government. The policy of the present Government in regard to disinvestment is laid down in the National Common Minimum Programme (NCMP). The NCMP envisages inter-alia that profit-making PSUs will not be generally privatised.

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29.	The Committee strongly criticize the lethargic approach of the Ministry of Steel in finalizing the Steel Policy for the country. This policy was to be prepared essentially during the period when the steel industry was passing through very tough phase of recession. The Committee are happy to note that the steel sector has passed that phase and it has taken a positive turnaround during the last two years. Now in the changed situation there is an urgent need of a policy which can bring a stability in this sector and strengthened to fight with the national and international situations in future. The Committee, therefore, desire that Government should adhere to their promise and bring out a National Steel Policy with an objective to prepare a road map for Indian Steel Industry in the context if ongoing reforms, restructuring and globalization.	4.40	As desired by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), Committee of Secretaries (COS) headed by the Cabinet Secretary examined the draft NSP on 18.3.2005. During the discussion in the COS, various suggestions were received from the participating ministries/departments. As per the extant guidelines, after suitably incorporating these suggestions the draft NSP was again circulated among the concerned ministries and departments with the request to furnish their comments early. After examining these comments, the draft NSP would be placed before the CCEA for final approval, shortly.

12.05 hrs.

(ii) Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Summit held in Astana

[English]

*THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, which includes China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, was set up in 2001. The basic objectives of the organisation are strengthening mutual trust, good neighbourliness, friendship and cooperation amongst the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation member-states, maintenance of regional peace, security and stability, assistance for economic and social development in the region. The various Summit and other meetings have issued declarations and taken forward cooperation amongst member countries not only by adopting confidence building measures but also undertaken activities like joint military exercises, training programmes, and establishment of a Regional Anti Terrorist Structure headquartered in Tashkent. SCO has a Secretariat in Beijing and the Council of Heads of State in the supreme decision-making body.

As the SCO has emerged to be an important regional organisation involving countries of the Central Asian region and those around it, India applied for observer status in the SCO in March this year. In the SCO Summit held in Astana on 5th July, 2005, India, Pakistan and Iran were admitted as Observers (Mongolia was admitted as an Observer last year). I represented India at the Astana Summit in July. The Astana Summit focussed on terrorism, drug trafficking and promoting economic cooperation. I also had very useful bilateral meetings with the leaders assembled there. In view of our own interest in strengthening relations with countries in our extended neighbourhood including Central Asia, it is in our interest to be closely associated with the SCO.

On the sidelines of the Summit, had bilateral meetings with leaders of SCO countries. President Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan received me warmly and welcomed economic cooperation with India. The Chinese President Mr. Hu Jintao emphasised the need for cooperative partnership and coordination in international affairs. In my meeting with the Pakistan Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz and Foreign Minister Kasuri, we reviewed the status of our bilateral relations. We discussed possibilities of enhancing air, rail and road communications between India and Pakistan. We also noted the potential for cooperation between India and Pakistan in areas such as climate change and ozone depletion. Other bilateral meetings were with the President

*Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2705/05

[Shri K. Natwar Singh]

of Tajikistan, and the Foreign Ministers of Uzbekistan and Mongolia. I also had a pleasant exchange of views with President Putin of Russia. In the discussions with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, we reviewed our bilateral relations as well as the trilateral cooperation with China.

12.09 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTERS OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

[English]

Re: Situation arising out of Flood in Karnataka, particularly in Belgaum, Bagalkot, Gulbarga, Bijapur, Raichur and Mangalore resulting in loss of lives and damage to crops and property and steps taken by the Government in regard thereto

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR (Bangalore South): Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Home Affairs to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon:

> "The situation arising out of flood in Karnataka, particularly in Belgaum, Bagalkot, Gulbarga, Bijapur, Raichur and Mangalore resuting in loss of lives, damage to crops and property and steps taken by the Government in regard thereto."

*THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): Sir, the State of Karnataka, during current South-West Monsoon, has received 706 mm rainfall as against its normal rainfall of 605.3 mm, that is, 17 per cent more than the average normal rainfall till 19th August, 2005.

Some parts of the State received moderate to heavy rainfall in the months of June and July, 2005. The latest spell of heavy rainfall in the State commenced from 23rd July, 2005 and lasted for about three weeks. These heavy rains filled up almost all reservoirs and caused unprecedented floods in the major rivers of the State.

The major rivers and their tributaries which went into spate were the Cauvery, Bhima, Tungabhadra, Hemavathi, Krishna, Vedganga, Ghataprabha, Netravathi and Kamaradhara. Because of the heavy inflow of water in the reservoirs, most of the reservoirs in the State, namely KRS, Harangi, Kabini, Tungabhadra, Hemavathi, Almatti, Narayanpur, Hidkal and Bhadra were overflowing. However, with the decline of rainfall activity in the region, now, the water level in all these rivers and reservoirs has started receding and the situation is improving.

The Krishna Basin, spanning over five districts, namely, Belgaum, Bijapur, Bagalkot, Gulbarga and Raichur were the worst affected. In addition, Dakshin Kannada district was also affected due to high sea waves. The district-wise details of these six districts, in terms of damage and rescue and relief operations undertaken are given in the Annexure.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please be silent. Otherwise, I will discontinue the discussion. It is a very important issue. You can go out and discuss. I do not stop that.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Based on preliminary estimates made by the State Government, the cumulative impact of the heavy rains and floods in Karnataka, during the entire South-West Monsoon is:

No. of district affected	19
No. of talukas affected	16
No. of villages affected	1,315
No of villages inundated/marooned	250
Population affected	29.05 lakhs
No. of human lives lost	130
No. of livestock perished	11,601
No. of houses damaged	88,204
Cropped area damaged	1.96 lakh hectare
Damage to infrastructure (roads, public buildings, bridges, etc.)	Rs. 578.80 crore
Total estimated loss	Rs. 2.079 crore

The Government of Karnataka initiated immediate rescue and relief operations in the affected areas. The Government of India helped the Government of Karnataka. Twelve platoons of Karnataka State Reserve Police Force and 400 Home Guard personnel, nine columns of the

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*Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2706/05.

Army, 219 mechanized boats, four IAF helicopters, eight relief teams of Indian Army were mobilized and deployed for rescue and relief operations.

Elaborate medical arrangements comprising teams of doctors, ambulances and a medical team of the Indian Navy have been deployed in order to prevent the outbreak of any water borne diseases and post-flood epidemic. Veterinary doctors have also been deployed in the affected areas.

The Government of India have already released Rs. 143.00 crore to the Government of Karnataka to enable the State Government to undertake rescue and relief operations in different flood affected areas.

On 16th August, 2005, the hon. Prime Minister had announced an additional amount of Rs. 300 crore to the State Government. The hon. Prime Minister has also announced that all possible assistance will be extended to the State Government for restoring normalcy in the affected areas and a special relief package by NABARD to the affected farmers of the region.

For long term rehabilitation and reconstruction, the Government will constitute an Inter-Ministerial Committee on the lines of Core Group set up by the Planning Commission for Tsunami rehabilitation and reconstruction.

The State Government has submitted its memorandum. The total provisional damage, as per the latest estimates is Rs. 2,079 crore. A Central Team has already visited the State between 17th and 20th August, 2005 to assess the damage and the requirements of funds for relief operations.

I would like to assure the august House that the Government will extend all necessary assistance to the Government of Karnataka for meeting the situation caused by heavy rains and floods. The Ministry of Home Affairs is in constant touch with the State Government.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Sir, Karnataka has witnessed the severest of floods in the last 100 years. Before I ask for clarifications, through you, Sir, I want to request the hon. Home Minister to sort out the discrepancies in his statement, because according to the preliminary memorandum given by the State Government of Karnataka on 5th August, and the recent submissions they have made to the hon. Prime Minister and the hon. Agriculture Minister in Panaji, they have said that the number of Talukas affected is 66. But somehow in the statement, it has been stated that the number of Talukas affected is 16.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: It shoud be 66. I am sorry; it can be corrected.

MR. SPEAKER: Is it 60?

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: It is 66.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Secondly, Sir, regarding the total estimated loss, the hon. Chief Minister and the hon. Deputy Chief Minister have told in the All-Party meeting in Bangalore, which has been widely publicized in the newspapers also, that they are sending a memorandum to the Union Government for an amount of Rs. 3,272 crore.

The floods and the releases from the Koina dam in Krishna River have affected the entire northern parts of Karnataka. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Rajaram Pal, if you want to speak, then you may go out. I have not called you, please sit down. This is not a place for internal meetings here. I will not permit this. This is a bad habit being developed. A very important issue is being discussed. If you do not wish to hear, you can go outside, please.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Sir, it is a very sad state of affairs that the Government of India and the Government of Karnataka have failed in their rescue, relief, rehabilitation and compensation activities. Calamity management has collapsed. The floods have hit on 23rd July, and today after one month, after the announcement of the hon. Prime Minister when he came to Panaji with the hon. Agriculture Minister, he could not visit the flood-affected areas of Belgaum, Bagalkot, Bijapur, Gulbarga and Raichur, because of the inclement weather. He said that Rs. 300 crore will be released immediately. But to my amazement, till now, Karnataka has got only Rs. 100 crore—Rs., 43 crore as Karnataka's due from Management Relief Care and Rs. 57 crore from the National Calamity Contingency Fund. Therefore, through you, Sir, I want the hon. Home Minister to again verify those figures.

Regarding Rs. 300 crore, which has been announced, and today I spoke to the Revenue Secretary, Government of Karnataka also, that even after six days after the announcement from the hon. Prime Minister, there has been no order of the draft or cheque for the amount of Rs. 300 crore. They have not received it. Not only that, it is heart-wrenching that yesterday, the hon. Chief Minister

[Shri Ananth Kumar]

of Karnataka, when he was in Gulbarga,—according to media reports—has expressed great annoyance that the amount, whatever has been released, has not been distributed to any affected farmers.

According to the Chief Minister, till this moment, not a single farmer, who has lost his cattle, his house or crops, has been given a single *naya paisa*. Not only that, according to media reports, when he spoke to the Revenue Secretary, Karnataka, he replied: "...because we have not received any amount, especially those 300 crore rupees from the Government of India as announced by the Prime Minister, we have not distributed anything." For that, the Chief Minister of Karnataka has replied: "This is not the way to help distressed people." This is the situation out there. The reason why I am bringing all this in front of you and this august House is that the hon. Home Minister and the hon. Agriculture Minister have handled many natural calamities. Especially, the hon. Home Minister had been a witness to the catastrophe that occurred due to earthquake in Latur. They know as to how much it is necessary that they be given immediate relief and compensation.

Despite inclement weather, we—the hon. Leader of Opposition, Lok Sabha, Shri Advaniji, Ramesh Jigajingiji, Leader of Opposition in the Assembly, Shri Yedlyurappaji and myself—visited the affected areas on the 19th. We landed there with great difficulty and went to a rehabilitation centre at Janawada, 31 kilometeres from Athani, Belgaum District. More than 8,000 farmers are awaiting relief for the last one month. They are living in most deplorable conditions. Therefore, I urge the Union Government that it should accept this request for Rs. 3,272 crore as a flood-relief grant from the Union Government. Half of the amount—Rs. 1,500 crore—should be immediately released today only. Not only should it be released, it should also see that it is distributed to the affected people.

Sir, the second clarification I want to put forth to the hon. Agriculture Minister, Shri Sharad Pawarji. He is all too keen to revise the guidelines of the Calamity Relief Fund (CRF). It is a mockery. As per the present guidelines, if the crop is lost due to flood in a dryland, compensation is Rs. 400 per acre, in a wet land, it is a thousand rupees per acre and in garden land, it is 1,600 rupees per acre. He and Shri Shivraj Patilji know very well, and the entire House also appreciates it, that a farmer loses Rs. 15,000 to Rs. 50,000 rupees per acre when such things happen. If a paltry sum of Rs. 400, Rs. 1000 or Rs. 1,600 is given, it is of no avail. The CRF norms are mainly for the drought hits. There is a great difference between Tsunami, flood and earthquake and drought because whenever the Tsunami—Tsunami is a sea flood and flood is by the rivers and rains—floods or earthquake comes, the destruction is immediate. Therefore, we urge the Government that it should revise the guidelines immediately; it should see this difference and should raise it to Rs. 10,000 per acre.

They are only giving Rs. 6,000 for one destroyed house whereas for the Tsunami package, the Government of India has decided that Rs. 40,000 per house will be given. What is the difference when a house of a poor farmer is destroyed because of a flood or a Tsunami? Therefore, I urge that the same amount of Rs. 40,000 should be given. In the CRF guidelines for the infrastructure—especially for roads, bridges, buildings, canals, etc.—and also for electrical transformers—no amount is given. Only a small amount has been kept for the repair but nothing is kept for reconstruction of the devastated infrastructure.

Therefore, the CRF guidelines should be immediately re-drawn and it should be taken up immediately.

The last clarification is this. Both the hon. Home Minister and the hon. Agriculture Minister knew that Koina Dam which holds 93 tmc ft. of water is a dangling sword both for Karnataka as well as for Maharashtra. Recently on the 1st of August, the 3rd of August and the 14th of August, there have been earthquakes near Koina; according to the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, the magnitude of the earthquake is 2.7 to 3.2 on the Richter scale. Due to these three recent earthquakes in that area, the Koina Dam had developed many cracks. Therefore, there is scare-driven reservoir management on Koina and they are releasing water without any coordination with the Irrigation Department of the Karnataka Government.

Due to this 'dangling sword' Koina, the areas of Sangli, Kolapur and Satara in Maharashtra and the entire Krishna basin areas of Karnataka, especially Belgaum, Bagalkot, Gulbarga, Bijapur and Raichur, are going to get seriously disturbed. I want to bring to the notice of the Union Government that Krishna River starts as a small river in Maharashtra, but before coming into Karnataka—with Koina, Erla, Varna, Ved Ganga, Dhoodh Ganga and Panch Ganga—it becomes a mighty Krishna River. So, six Rivers are coming into Krishna. Therefore,

I urge upon the Union Government that they should direct the Central Water Commission to monitor the safety of Koina Dam and Koina Reservoir.

If Koina is not safe, the entire Krishna basin areas in Karnataka will be flooded and it will add to the rain havoc and it will add to the flood havoc; and there will be an artificial tsunami in the State of Karnataka. Finally, the breach on Koina Dam should be repaired. Till it is repaired, they should not store 93 tmc ft. of water because of the consequent dangers.

So, ultimately I request that 50 per cent of the estimated loss of Rs. 3,272 crore should be immediately released; the CRP guidelines should be revised; and Koina Dam's safety should be ensured. Thank you very much.

*SHRI S. MALLIKARJUNIAH: Hon. Speaker Sir, Gulbarga, Belgaum, Bidar, Bijapur, Raichur and other districts in North Karnataka and some districts in Southern Karnataka are seriously affected by the recent floods. The people in the coastal Karnataka are also affected by the recent floods in the State. I do not want to go into the details. I endorse all the views expressed by Shri Ananth Kumarji.

I urge upon the Centre to come to the rescue of the people of Karnataka who are severely affected by floods. I hope that a substantial amount would be released by the Centre as demanded by the State for the relief works. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat. Let me conduct it.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This is a very important issue and I have allowed it. It was very ably pub and very exhaustively put. I am sure the hon. Minister will reply to that.

Now, I wish to read out the names of the hon. Members who would associate with Shri Ananth Kumar.

...*(Interruptions)*

*Translation of the speech originally delivered in Kannada.

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not do this. I have got names of ten hon. Members here. I cannot allow everybody.

S/Shri Suresh Angadi, D.V. Sadanand Gowda, Gaddigoudar; Pralhad Joshi, G.M. Siddeswara, Basangouda R. Patil, Ramesh Chandrappa, Jigajinagi, Manjunath Kunnur and M. Shivanna, all of them, very rightly, wanted to associate with it. I will not allow anybody to speak. They are allowed to associate with it. Now, the hon. Minister will reply.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Sir, Shri Sadanand Gowda may be allowed to speak. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I am sorry. I cannot pick and choose.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I would then say that the hon. Minister need not reply.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have read out all the names. You all are associating with it. It is not possible to allow you. I am very-very sorry.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except the Minister's submissions.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: Only hon. Minister's statement will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You are not doing justice to your State. Hon. Members, you are not doing justice to your State. I will not allow it. The issue has been raised very exhaustively. I have allowed this matter to be raised. I cannot pick and choose between ten Members. I am sorry.

SHRI D.V. SADANAND GOWDA (Mangalore): At least one minutes may be given to me. ...*(Interruptions)*

*Not recorded.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, the Government of Karnataka had indicated ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Do you not want to listen to the reply? Let me know. I will ask him not a reply. I am sorry. I will not allow. I have said, I cannot discriminate between ten Members. I am sorry. Your names have been recorded.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ananth Kumar, if you do not want to hear the reply, I will request the Minister not to reply. I will move on to the next item.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: No, I cannot allow. There are nine Members.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to coastal Karnataka. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister will also deal with coastal Karnataka. This is not the way. There are some rules, some procedure. I did not interrupt your Members. Please take your seats.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, that is the case. I have allowed him to speak for 2s minutes.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Coastal Karnataka and Mangalore are the affected areas. ...*(Interruptions)* The affected areas of Southern Karnataka also require attention by the Government. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: I will reply to that also.

MR. SPEAKER: This is not the way. Do not pressurise the Chair.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: If you are so concerned, you should have given a separate notice.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I am sorry. Shall I ask the Minister not to reply? Shri Ananth Kumar, it is entirely for you. I request the leaders of the Party.

SHRI D.V. SADANAND GOWDA: I am walking out in protest. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANJUNATH KUNNUR (Dharwad South): You are not giving time to the new Members. So, I am walking out in protest. ...*(Interruptions)*

12.34 hrs.

[At this stage, Shri D.V. Sadanand Gowda, Manjunath Kunnur and some other hon. Members left the House.]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: I am sorry, Sir. The hon. Members could have signed this statement.

MR. SPEAKER: I cannot allow ten more Members to speak. Shri Ananth Kumar has made an exhaustive statement. This is not the way. Two hon. Members of the same Party have made their submissions. I appreciate it. I never interrupted anyone of them. It cannot go on and on. Ten Members want to put questions. There are methods of putting question in this House. If you say that you are a new Member, you should also know how to behave in the House.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, the Government of Karnataka had initially estimated that the losses sustained were to the tune of Rs. 1301 crore.

Now this estimate was changed later on and they suggested that Karnataka had sustained the losses to the tune of Rs. 2079 crore. Mr. Ananth Kumar, hon. Member, has said that they have now come to the conclusion that the losses would be in the vicinity of Rs. 3273 crore. We have already said that let them calculate the losses sustained and let them come to the final conclusion and when we receive their final memorandum, the demand made by the Government of Karnataka can be properly considered for appropriate response to their demand. So let us not quarrel with these figures because they have not ultimately come to the final figure which would be given to the Government of India.

Sir, the procedure which is followed in giving relief and assistance to the people who are affected is this. When a calamity occurs, the immediate response is to save the lives, to bring them out of the dangerous

situations and to give them food, temporary shelter and medicines. That is the first step which is taken by any Government in any calamity. The Government of Karnataka had done that immediately after the floods started inundating the area. The people living in the villages, which were inundated, were rescued. They were taken to the safe places and were given food, clothing, medicine and shelter also. That is the first step they have taken.

The second step which is generally taken after this is a provide them some shelter where they can live for a few months and give them some means which they can use to earn a livelihood for themselves. In some areas, foodgrains are supplied, which are sufficient for one month or two months or three months. At some places, the jobs are given to them and the money is also distributed. A small amount of money is given to each of the family. In some places, Rs. 5000 and at some places more than Rs. 5000 are given. If any person has died in any family because of the calamity, the compensation is given to that family and the compensation is in lakhs of rupees. This is the second step which is taken.

The third step which is generally taken is to find out the actual damages sustained by the area. If the electricity supply lines are damaged, if the drinking water projects are damaged and if the houses have collapsed, they calculate the actual damage which is sustained. Then they make all estimates and proper estimates are made and those estimates are given to the Government of India.

Here a committee is appointed consisting of officers coming from different Departments to consider the memorandum given by them and then a decision is taken. The amount of money which is required for this purpose is huge. It is a very big amount of money. It is not possible for us to provide funds out of the two Funds which are at the disposal of the Government. The funds which are required are really very huge and on the basis of their demands and the assessment done by the Government of India, the matter is taken to the Cabinet and the money is given to them.

The Government of Karnataka is a big and strong Government. We have been in discussion with them. Initially, an amount of Rs. 140 crore has been given to them which has to be used for the first phase of meeting the requirement of the people because of this calamity.

I have signed the file saying that a sum of Rs. 300 crore shall be given as per announcements made by the hon. Prime Minister and Shri Sharad Pawar when they were there. That amount is also going to them. Later on, when they come with the final memorandum, that memorandum will be discussed and then it would be decided as to what amount of money will be given. That amount of money is not going to be required immediately. The job which has to be done to restore the infrastructure over there is going to take years and years. It is not going to be immediately done. So, it is not necessary that we fill gunny bags with currency notes and send them there. If we take a decision that a particular amount of money will be given to them, that amount of money shall be made available to the Government of Karnataka. The Government of Karnataka is in a position to use the funds that are with them. We have asked them not to worry about these things and they should manage these things.

Sir, as far as the earthquake in Koina is concerned, Shri Sharad Pawar told me—he was the person who was responsible for managing the calamity which had occurred in Latur as the then Chief Minister of Maharashtra—that immediately after tremors were felt in the region an expert Committee was sent to Koina. That Committee examined whether the dam that is constructed was strong enough or not to withstand the tremors which could be caused because of an earthquake. At that time the Committee had come to certain conclusions and the dam was strengthened. I was also told that the area suffers from tremors of around 2 to 3 or sometimes even less than 2 to 3 on the Richter scale. However, may I put before this august House that the entire Earth of ours is all the time trembling. There is not a moment when the Earth is not trembling, whether it is trembling at 2 or 3 on the Richter scale or less than that is the question. We do not have to bother about these things. Moreover, the Government of Karnataka is taking care of it and the hon. Members could go back to their respective States and constituencies and assure the people that necessary steps have been taken, otherwise unnecessarily there will be a scare created amongst the people because of the statements made in the Parliament itself. The Government of Maharashtra has taken steps and whatever is necessary will certainly be done. It is not going to cause any damage over there. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Sir, a breach has already occurred in the dam. It is the report of the BARC.

[Shri Ananth Kumar]

...*(Interruptions)* The Government should take it very seriously. It is not an ordinary matter. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: This is exactly what I am submitting. Without getting full information if you, a former Minister and a sitting MP, are making such statements, then noting but a scare will be created amongst the people. It has not happened.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Sir, the point is that it is not my statement. This is the statement of BARC. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ananth Kumar, you have expressed your views, the hon. Minister has refuted that. Let both the views be there.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Whose statement are you referring to? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, you have already refuted that.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, this is not a simple thing. What is happening is that responsible persons are making all kinds of statements. This is creating a scare amongst the people. I am standing here as a Minister of the Government of India and making a statement, yet the hon. Member finds it difficult to rely on my statement being made on the floor of the House and willing to rely on what statements, I do not know. I am saying that it has not happened but he is again and again saying that it has happened. Shri Sharad Pawar has told me, the Chief Minister of Maharashtra has told me, we have acquired information and is making a statement on the floor of the House and yet he is insisting and sticking to his statement. Please for God sake let him not do that.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Sir, I am mentioning about the basis of my statement. ...*(Interruptions)* The BARC has stated. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You have already made certain observations and the hon. Minister has refuted those.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, this is exactly creating a scare. It should be avoided. If the hon. Member really wants to help the people in that area, then he should not create fear in their minds. On the contrary, the best thing for him would have been to talk to the Chief Minister of Maharashtra and get the information from him and then say whether this has happened or not. Instead of doing that a person like him is making a statement like this. I would also look into this matter with great care and caution and I would go into it. But even after I have said that this has not happened, the hon. Member is repeating the same thing. I would request him not to do that. Necessary precaution has been taken. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Sir, the point is that the Government of Karnataka is always abreast of this serious problem about the Koina dam. Therefore, it is not my personal opinion. It has been conveyed to Government of Maharashtra. ...*(Interruptions)* But they have not received anything. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ananth Kumar, you have made your point. I have no manner of doubt that you have said what you felt was necessary. We have got the reply of the hon. Minister.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, I am sorry to say this but I thought that it would not have been difficult for Shri Ananth Kumar to understand the position who knows as to how the Government functions. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Sir, the hon. Minister has not mentioned anything about the places like Chamrajnagar and such other places which lie in the southern part of Karnataka. What about the losses to the plantation crops? There is a Tsunami like situation in the coastal areas of Karnataka. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This cannot go on like this.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, I have said that whatever money is required by Government of Karnataka to help the people in these districts, not only in the coastal areas but also in other parts of Karnataka, to provide them with food, to provide them with shelter and also to help agriculturists, that much of fund would be made available to them. It is for the people, the leaders from that area. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Sir, it was said that the CRF guidelines would be changed. This is not fair. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Who is unfair?

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Sir, the Government of India is unfair. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Discussion on this topic has gone on for 42 minutes now.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Sir, it is the question of 32 lakh people in the State.

MR. SPEAKER: Therefore, I have allowed you full time. The hon. Minister has given an exhaustive reply.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: What about the CRF guidelines? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: We are not going to change the guidelines in this fashion. You can take it from me. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: It seems the hon. Member does not need a reply. If it continues like this, then I will have to adjourn the House. We are taking up two Calling Attentions every day. But unless the hon. Members co-operate, then it would not be possible. The maximum time taken to dispose of the Calling Attention should be 20 to 25 minutes. If the Members do not co-operate, then I have to discontinue discussions under Calling Attention notices in future.

12.48 hrs.

(II) Situation arising out of spread of infectious diseases in Mumbai after heavy rains and floods, resulting in loss of human lives and steps taken by the Government in regard thereto

[Translation]

SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR (Chandrapur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I draw the attention of the hon. Minister of Health and Family Welfare to the following matter of urgent public importance and urge him to make a statement in this regard:

"The situation arising out of spread of infectious diseases in Mumbai after heavy rains and floods, resulting in the loss of human lives and the steps taken by the Government in this regard."

[English]

*THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): Sir, I would like to brief the House on the situation arising out of spread of infectious diseases in Mumbai, after heavy rains and floods, resulting in loss of human lives and steps taken by the Government in this regard.

The State of Maharashtra experienced unprecedented rains from 27th to 29th July, 2005. Mumbai city experienced record rains in a single day. Coupled with the high tides, the exit channels for the rain water got blocked submerging large areas of Mumbai city; suburban areas of Kalyan, Kurla, Thane and districts of Ratnagiri, Raigarh, Sangli, Kolhapur and Sindudurg. Health facilities including medical stores in Raigarh and Ratnagiri, Kolhapur and Sangli got damaged.

The post flood scenario was conducive to vector-borne and waterborne diseases. The diseases that recorded a higher incidence were fever, diarrhoea, hepatitis, cholera, leptospirosis, dengue and malaria. As informed by the State Government up to 18th August, 2005, there were 42133 diarrhoea cases (21 deaths), 381 hepatitis cases (2 deaths), 68257 fever cases (26 deaths), 1042 leptospirosis cases (77 deaths), 1166 malaria cases (21 deaths), 191 dengue cases (6 deaths), 54 cholera cases (1 death) and 25 undiagnosed deaths. In all, up to 18th August, 2005, there ere 179 deaths due to above mentioned diseases in the affected areas of the State. If permitted, I would like to bring in a small correction in these figures. The data received from the State Government of Maharashtra today shows that there were 202 deaths in Mumbai and 104 deaths took place in other parts of Maharashtra. So, in total there were 306 deaths in the whole of Maharashtra including Mumbai.

I am reviewing the situation on daily basis. The Health Secretary, Government of India has discussed with the Chief Secretary and the Secretary (Health) of Maharashtra in details about the situation. Officers of Directorate General of Health Services are in constant touch with the State helath authorities.

I would like to inform the hon. Members that the Government has taken adequate steps to contain the increased incidence of above-mentioned water borne and vector borne diseases. The steps taken are:

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*Also placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2707/05.

[Dr. Ambumani Ramadoss]

A high level team lead by the Director-General of Health Services including the Director General, Indian Council of Medical Research and the Additional D.G. Health Services & the Director, National Institute of Communicable Diseases and the Director, National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme visited Mumbai on 12th August and reviewed the situation.

Eleven clinical specialists, including 12 public health specialists and six entomologists deputed by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare from NICD, Central Government hospitals, National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme and ICMR provided relief material and assisted the State health authorities in instituting pubic health measures under the overall supervision of Director-General, Health Services, Government of Maharashtra.

In addition, three public health specialists from All India Institute of Hygiene and Public Health, Kolkata and ten doctors from Central Government Health Scheme, Mumbai are ready to be deputed at a short notice on State's request.

A laboratory set up by the Central Government in National Institute for Research in Reproductive Health, Mumbai by pooling resources from ICMR and the Directorate General of Health Service's institutions is providing laboratory support. Upto 18th August, this laboratory has tested 400 samples by IgM Elisa method of which 297 were found positive for leptospirosis.

A coordination mechanism has been established at All India Institute of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation with the Director of the Institution as its head, the Director, National Institute for Research in Reproductive Health, and the Joint Director, NICD, who is liaisoning and coordinating with State health authorities for prevention and control of outbreaks. This team is in constant touch with State health authorities.

Advice on post-flood public health measures have been communicated to Maharashtra health authorities.

The Central Family Welfare Training Institute at Mumbai organized 17 health camps and exhibitions on water borne diseases with their own staff, CGHS doctors and help from NGO sector. About 50,000 people attended these camps.

All the critical essential drugs requisitioned by the State Government such as bleaching powder (45 metric tonne), halazone (one crore tablets), chloroquine (5 lakh tablets), doxycycline (15 lakh tablets), IV fluids (50,000), ORS (5 lakh packets), tetracycline (2 lakh tablets), crystalline penicillin (one lakh vials) and arithromycin (5000 injections), 500 chloroscopes, 50 leptospira ELISA diagnostic kits have been sent.

Three water treatment plants of Indian Red Cross Society are already deployed in the field. IRCS has also dispatched 5000 family kits. Further, the International Federations of Red Cross through the Indian Red Cross Society is providing 20 ventilators to augment critical care.

A round the clock help line and control room of the State health authorities was functioning.

The State Government deputed about 1,289 medical teams for rendering medical relief. Sufficient stocks of medicines were made available at the district/sub-district level. Public health measures have been undertaken, which includes chlorination of water, sanitation measures and insecticide spraying.

The State Government also carried out health education activities which included creating health awareness through visual media, health information through public address system, press notes and advertisements regarding dos and don'ts.

Adequate man-power and medicines are available to provide medical relief. The situation is under control.

The Government of India have released about Rs. 1000 crore for immediate relief measures including emergency health measures to be taken in Maharashtra to help people. So, it is expected that there should be no shortage of resources.

The situation is being monitored on day-to-day basis. In the last 24 hours there is only one death in Mumbai.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Hansraj G. Ahir, you can seek only one clarification.

[Translation]

SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I want to ask a question in regard to the Calling Attention motion. I thank you that you gave me opportunity to speak on the important topic of Maharashtra's city, Mumbai. The torrential rainfall in metro cities like Mumbai

and Thane and in many areas in Maharashtra in the month of July has destroyed this commercial capital completely. It is certain that it will take time to bring the life of the people of this mega city back to normal. The State Government could not make the efforts which it should have made in order to deal with the aftermath of rain and flood and thus left the people in the dark as a result of which the people came in the grip of infectious diseases after the flood. The serious proportions acquired by the epidemic in the cities like Mumbai and in other areas has endangered the life of thousands of people. We have lost many people in the aftermath of this natural calamity. The Government cannot save the situation in the name of natural calamity because around 1.5 crore people are living in Mumbai even after the flood and people are living in the adjacent Thane city in large numbers. As per my information, twenty percent of the total population of Maharashtra lives in these two cities.

The Government did not prepare itself to deal with the flood situation even after knowing that people live there in such large number. Thousands of people lost their life due to this flood. Thousands of livestock got killed in it. Almost whole of the Mumbai city got drowned in the fury of this flood. The water not only submerged the basement and ground floor but even reached upto the first floor during the flood which resulted in the large scale loss of foodgrain and food material. The Government could not think that filth and stench can spread there due to the rotten foodgrains and dead animals which can result in diseases. Only because of this, not only the ex-petroleum minister of our party but, I also have called the attention of the House. Shri Ram Naik ji even wrote a letter to the Government on 28th that diseases can spread there due to floods but the Government did not pay any attention. As a result of Government not taking action immediately. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister has stated all this in his reply. You should seek clarification on what you want to ask.

SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister himself has accepted that many diseases have spread there and contagious diseases can spread there due to Government's fault in dealing with the aftermath of floods. As the hon. Minister said in this reply that diseases have spread in districts Yavatmal, Chandrapur, Gadhchiroli in Vidarbha region also besides districts Kalyan, Kurla, Thane, Ratnagiri, Raigarh, Sangli, Kolhapur, Sindhudurg. ...*(Interruptions)*.

MR. SPEAKER: Please ask a question about Mumbai.

SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, some district have been left out which I am mentioning. The whole of Maharashtra has been living under the threat of death due to spread of various diseases like diarrhoea, hepatitis, leptospirosis, diarrhoea fever, dengue and malaria in the aftermath of flood caused by heavy rains.*

MR. SPEAKER: This will not go on record. What do you want from the Central Government, ask that question.

SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: I wanted to say that the State Government did not seek assistance from the Union Government in time to deal with this calamity. Had the State Government sought help from the Union Government in time? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You Please do not ask about the State Government, you better ask about the Union Government.

SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Union Government extended help in response to the request made by the State Government but the State Government did not seek help in time. Had it sought help on time..... the number of lives lost. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I do not think you have any question to ask.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You have no question to ask.

[Translation]

SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in Mumbai alone, as many as 202 lives have been lost and overall 306 people have died in entire Maharashtra, this is what the Minister has stated. I would like to tell hon'ble Health Minister that the Government should dispatch a team of doctors there, a special team should also be sent for supply of medicines there and also to ensure that medicines reach the affected areas in adequate quantity. I am saying this because all the medicine godowns located in this area are inundated. ...*(Interruptions)*

*Not recorded.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You want more drugs and more doctors to be sent there.

[Translation]

SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government has given the compensation of Rs. 1 lakh to the families of those killed this calamity. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Which question do you want to ask?

SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is an important question. I would request that the Government should give Rs. 1 lakh to the families of each person killed in this flood.

13.00 hrs.

MR. SPEAKER: You ask about the discuses and leave for Mumbai.

[English]

You have to give more drugs, more doctors and proper attention.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I appreciate your effort. I know your anxiety.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would also like to share the concern of the hon. Member. Even though this is the responsibility of the State Government, the Central Government has been supplementing the State with more assistance of not only the specialists, but also medicines etc. We had given more than what all the State Government asked and the situation today is under control. Many camps have beet set up and I can read out the details regarding the camps. In fact, I have already given an elaborate statement giving all the details. Many officials of the Central Government have gone there, they have stayed put there and they are having a surveillance of diseases and monitoring the situation very closely. The State Government has taken numerous steps to control the whole situation.

MR. SPEAKER: You will continue to have it properly attended.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Yes Sir. I am reviewing the situation every day.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you very much.

Shri Hansraj Ahir, I think you have got the reply you wanted.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: He does not need your support. You are not Mr. Hansraj Ahir.

13.01 hrs.

KHADI AND VILLAGE INDUSTRIES COMMISSION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2005*

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Khadi and Village Industries Commission Act, 1956.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Khadi and Village Industries Commission Act, 1956."

The Motion was adopted.

[Translation]

SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD: Sir, I introduce** the Bill.

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*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, part-II, Section-2, dated 22.08.2005.

**Introduced with the Recommendation of the President.

13.02 hrs.

PREVENTION OF INSULTS TO NATIONAL HONOUR (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2005*

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT): Mr. Speaker, Sir, on behalf of Shri Shivraj V. Patil I beg to move that leave be granted to introduce a bill further to amend the Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971."

The motion was adopted

[Translation]

SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I introduce the Bill.

13.03 hrs.

PROTECTION OF WOMEN FROM DOMESTIC VIOLENCE BILL, 2005*

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): Mr. Speaker, Sir, on behalf of Shri Arjun Singh I beg to move that leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for more effective protection of the rights of women guaranteed under the Constitution who are victims of violence of any kind occurring within the family and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for more effective protection of the rights of women guaranteed under the Constitution who are victims of violence of any kind occurring within the family and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I introduce **the Bill.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJARAM PAL (Bilhaur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, you have allowed me to speak on a very important and serious subject. Bread, clothes, houses, medical treatment, education and security are the basic rights of a citizen of India as enshrined in the Constitution. This House is being run on the basis of this constitution and here were talk about the betterment of the poor and deprived people under the same constitution. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: It's a State subject and you are raising it here.

SHRI RAJARAM PAL: The right to vote has also been granted to the citizens by the constitution. But in large number, they are being deprived of this right all over the country. Panchayat elections are being held in Uttar Pradesh. These elections are being held there in four phases. The election in two phases has already been completed. On the 17th ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: It is a State subject.

SHRI RAJARAM PAL: The people belonging to Dalit Community were standing in queues for casting their vote in Muzzafarr-Nagar on the 17th ...*(Interruptions)*

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*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, part-II, Section-2, dated 22.08.2005.

**Introduced with the Recommendation of the President.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: That expression will be omitted. This is not the way. You are misusing the opportunity. Please do not do it.

[Translation]

It's a State matter. You should say that the Dalits should be treated properly everywhere.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please bring it to me. I will see that.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJARAM PAL: Sir, the way...* they were dispersed; it's a major blot in the history of our democracy.

Sir, it's not about Muzaffarnagar alone, this is about the entire Uttar Pradesh.

MR. SPEAKER: You don't speak about the State matter, say that the Dalits should not be prevented from casting their votes.

SHRI RAJARAM PAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, many Dalit labourers of Uttar Pradesh who got an opportunity to become Pradhans in our democracy have been deprived of voting. In this House, too, concern regarding the Election Commission has been expressed many times. ...* .... I would like to say through you that this issue does not relate to a single district, but to the entire Uttar Pradesh. At the time of nomination, their nominations are rejected on one ground or the other and other candidate is declared elected unopposed....*...

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please cooperate with the Chair.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAJARAM PAL: Sir, there are places where the administrative officials belonging to the same village have been deputed for election duty and they have made the election one sided by...*....

*Not recorded.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Sorry, it will no more be recorded. Nothing more to be recorded.

*...(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: You are defying the Chair.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Sorry, we have provided you an opportunity to speak. Whatever you said is on the record. After that you please co-operate with us.

SHRI RAJARAM PAL: Sir, elections of two phases in Uttar Pradesh are still to be held. The Government must assure that during the elections of next two phases, Dalits, the poor will get an opportunity to use their franchise and proper security will be provided to them.

MR. SPEAKER: Now it is the proper submission.

[English]

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Sir, the Coir Board is a statutory body constituted under the provisions of an Act passed by this House. The Board has not done anything for the benefit of the coir industry and at the same time, I may point out that no representation of the workers is given on the Board.

Till the UPA Government assumed power, for all Boards, there was a representative of the workers on the Board. But now, there is none from the workers. They are on warpath and they are on a hunger strike before the Secretariat for demanding certain things. But the Coir Board is giving deaf ear to all these demands and they are doing nothing for the benefit of the coir workers.

They have been demanding a minimum support price of their product, which has not been implemented so far. The workers, numbering about six lakhs, are on hunger strike. All of them are women workers. We are at the age of women empowerment, but they are thrown out of employment. So, I request the Central Government to intervene in the matter to declare the minimum support price and give representation to the workers on the Coir

*Not recorded.

Board. Nobody from the coir industry, particularly in Kerala, is represented.

MR. SPEAKER: You do not have to raise your voice so much.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: So, I once again request the Central Government to take immediate steps. It is a deviation from the previous Government's decision. So, I request the Central Government to give representation to the workers.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Chaudhary Lal Singh please be brief, it will go on record. Your purpose will be served.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail): Sir, Samajwadi Party? *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Have I any personal animosity with Samajwadi Party? What are you saying?

...(Interruptions)

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH (Udhampur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, in my constituency the people living in far flung areas are not getting protection of their lives and property. As you are aware that an army outpost located in my area at Mahaur has been removed recently. As soon as the outpost was removed, this area was attacked very next day. The 26 families living in the protection of the army were also attacked. Four people were killed on the spot and ten got injured.

He is lying hospitalised in the medical college. I mean to say that there are no security arrangements at all in any of the remote areas. The people are very much scared of terrorism there and the terrorists keep them under intimidation. We keep trumpeting every other day that we have curbed terrorism, but if one takes a glance at the record, it becomes evident that the people are still getting killed daily. It is very important to re-build check-posts there. If the check-post of army can not be built there, the check post of BSF may be built there to save the lives of the people.

Rule LS-43 has been in force there. Only the literate people get employment there. There are 26 families living in this village and none of them is literate. Jobs are hard to come by for the poor segment of the population in the village. I request that this rule be implemented in a simplified form to protect and provide employment to the people for their livelihood.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Shailendra Kumar.

Please sit down, you have to hear something very important. Please take your seat and listen. It is very easy to make passing comments. There are two hon. Members who have put questions, whose names are there, belonging to your party, namely, Samajwadi Party. You have given the notice on a matter namely 'encephalitis' which has been fully discussed on the floor of the House on a Call Attention only a few days back, and you have repeated that without caring to find out whether it has been discussed. The other hon. Member is Shri Ramji Lal Suman who happens to be absent. Do not make such comments. You are a responsible member.

Shri Avinash Rai Khanna. Speak only on the death sentence awarded.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Do not make such comments on the floor of the House. It does not behove of a responsible Party.

[Translation]

SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA (Hoshiarpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a very serious issue seeking to malign our country too. The Supreme Court of Pakistan has awarded death sentence to Shri Sarabjeet Singh from Bhikhi Pind of Amritsar. This is a case of wrong identification. The Supreme Court of Pakistan has awarded Capital Punishment to Sarabjeet Singh of Punjab in the name of Manjeet Singh. All the newspapers today have carried reports that he has two daughters, one of whom has yet to see the face of her father for the first time. He has been languishing in jails for 15 years. It is a matter of regret that our Government is not worried in the least regarding the matter. I urge upon the Government through you to bring to bear its influence in order to get capital punishment commutted. The charges

[Shri Avinash Rai Khanna]

framed against Shri Sarabjeet Singh are serious enough and deserve the Government's attention.

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR (Bareilly): Sir, it is a very serious issue. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: What are you doing?

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I am helping you. Please listen to me.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Dr. Ajnalajee, please sit down. Your notice has been received. The time of issue of notice is 9.30 a.m. You have served the notice at 11.45 a.m. You have served the notice late by quarter past two hours.

[English]

But, as it is an important matter, I will allow you to raise it. Please do not think that you can do anything you like. Rules have been framed for your convenience.

Do. Rattan Singh Ajnala, just associate yourself with this issue.

[Translation]

*DR. RATTAN SINGH AJNALA (Taran Taran): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am thankful to you that you have allowed me to speak on this very important topic.

Sir, this matter relates to my constituency and the boy who has been sentenced is Sarabjeet Singh but in Pakistan he is being punished as Manjeet Singh. This is an important issue and is a setback for people residing in border areas. The people of border areas are second to none whenever the need arises and they always come forward to help the country.

So, I appeal to the Foreign Minister to talk to Pakistan and find a solution to this problem.

*Translation of the speech originally delivered in Punjabi.

[English]

SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA (Sangrur): Sir, please allow me to speak for a second. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Your name also will be recorded.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This is not the way. I am not going to permit you. Your name will be recorded.

Shri Santosh Gangwar and Shri Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa will also be associated with this matter.

Shri Dhindsa, I have allowed, going out of the way, the hon. Member of your Party to speak because of the importance of the matter.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: Sir, you please direct the Government to take steps. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I am saying that it is an important matter.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI TEJASWINI SEERAMESH (Kanakpura): Sir, I also associate with this. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I think, the entire House associates with this matter.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA: Sir, the Rajya Sabha has passed a Resolution on this. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Maybe. It is not relevant here. I am saying that certainly everybody in this House associates with this.

SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA: Sir, I request the Government to have a talk with the Pakistan Government immediately on this. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I am sure that the Government is looking into the sentiments of the entire House and they will take appropriate action.

Now, Shri Basu Deb Acharia. You can only raise one matter, that is, on the reservation issue.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, the National Common Minimum Programme has promised to bring a legislation to provide reservation in jobs for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes in the private sector. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You are raising the same thing.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, it has not been discussed.

MR. SPEAKER: It will be discussed.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, when?

MR. SPEAKER: We shall fix up the time. The hon. Minister has called a meeting last week. They want to bring a Bill.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, it is not pertaining to the professional institutions. It is providing reservation in jobs in the private sector.

MR. SPEAKER: Very good. You may continue.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, in the private sector, there is no reservation for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes. When a public sector is changed to a private sector due to disinvestments, the owners of the private sector are not complying with the reservation policy because there is no legislation to provide reservation in jobs for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes in the private sector.

Sir, there is a large-scale unemployment among the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes. Eighty-nine per cent of the Scheduled Castes have no land of their own. India cannot become a modern society unless the State intervenes for affirmative action to empower *dalits*. Sir, reservation is a small part of empowerment of the people and even that is being eroded. When there is a change in the management of industries, this is being eroded in the case of reservation to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes.

Sir, the UPA Government has committed to provide reservation for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes in the private sector. I am told that a Committee has been constituted, a few months back, to examine this matter. We want the Government to take a decision on this very urgent matter. Lakhs and lakhs of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes are facing unemployment and poverty.

Sir, I urge upon the Government to bring forward legislation for providing reservation for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes in the private sector.

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY (Sriperumbudur): Sir, I also associate with this matter. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I associate myself with this matter raised by the Hon. Member Shri Basudeb Acharia.

[English]

SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH (Tamluk): Sir, I also associate with this matter. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I too associate myself with this matter I would like to request that. OBCs should also be included in this.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The name of the hon. Members who wish to associate with this matter will also be recorded.

Now, Shri Santosh Gangwar to present the Report of the Business Advisory Committee.

13.19 hrs.

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Sixteenth Report

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR (Bareilly): I beg to present the Sixteenth Report of the Business Advisory Committee.

MR. SPEAKER: The other matters of urgent public importance, which I have admitted, will be taken up at the end of the day, as already decided.

Now, the House stands adjourned to meet again at 2.15 p.m.

13.20 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till fifteen minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

14.20 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at twenty minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, item No. 20—Matters under rule 377, may be treated as laid on the Table if the House agrees, and they would form part of the proceedings.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh): Sir, for Matters under rule 377, we wait for a week's time. If we just give a notice for 'Zero Hour', that is taken up. Here, we wait for the ballot because we want certain points to be raised. It is not just a matter of laying on the Table; there are certain matters concerning our constituencies which we want to raise. This is not a very good practice. I must say with all humility, this is not the right way of dealing with Matters under rule 377. Scrap Matters under rule 377; we would stop giving notices and start shouting during 'Zero Hour'. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. Speaker has taken the decision. What can I do now?

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT (Shajapur): Sir, I agree with Pawanji. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Every time, this happens. So, what are we given this for? We wait for our turn and we wait for the ballot. This comes only according to the ballot. *...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

There is time for all other matters but in this regard it is always said 'laid on the Table'. Always this is the casualty.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: There are many items of business today.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If the House agrees we way start 377.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, all the hon. Members are saying that this should be taken up. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE): It is not that it is always laid; it is also read. Today, we are hard pressed for time. *...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, it would take only three minutes for a Member. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA (Kheri): It would take only 15 minutes. We can extend the time of the House by 15 minutes. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, we can take it up at six o'clock. We would wait for that. We can take it up at the end of the day. Treat them like 'Zero Hour' matters. *...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your point has been accepted.

14.22 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let the matters be raised by each hon. Member. Shri Chandra Shekhar Dubey.

(i) Need to give status of telecom district to Bokaro in Jharkhand

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR DUBEY (Dhanbad): There are nearly 45,000 (forty five thousand) telephone

connections in Bokaro district in Jharkhand out of which 30,000 (thirty thousand) are basic phone connections and 15,000 (fifteen thousand) are mobile phone connections. Besides, there are 15,000 (fifteen thousand) applications in the waiting list for mobile phones and 5,000 (five thousand) in the waiting list for basic phone connections which adds upto a total of 65,000 (sixty five thousand) connections. Bokaro has not been made a telecommunications district despite the fact that it has 14 telephone exchanges whereas smaller districts such as Gumla, Deoghar, Khagadiya etc. have been made telecommunications districts. Bokaro has fulfilled all the criteria for being made a telecommunications district since 1985. The consumers and the employees of the district have to make rounds of Dhanbad as a result of the denial of this status.

Hence, I would like to request the Government to bestow the status of a telecommunications district on Dhanbad in public interest without further delay.

(II) Need to accord Scheduled Tribe status to Koch-Rajbangshi community of Assam

[English]

SHRI ANWAR HUSSAIN (Dhubri): Sir, the Kuch-Rajbangshi communities of Assam have been agitating over last two decades demanding Scheduled Tribe status. In the different phases of their agitation at district, State and National headquarters, they observed *satyagrahas, anasanas, dharnas* including several hundred-hour bandhs.

During the Narasimha Rao regime, an Ordinance was made by the President of India fulfilling their aspirations by re-scheduling them as Scheduled Tribes. They enjoyed it for some time. But the successive Union Governments did not bring legislation and made the Ordinance lapse.

The ALA and the Government of Assam have duly and repeatedly proposed and pressed for it; and also, in many States, Koch-Rajbangshis are alerady listed as Scheduled Tribes. The INC, in its election manifesto in Assam, promised to do so.

I urge upon the UPA Government to ensure social justice and reschedule the Koch-Rajbangshi of Assam as Scheduled Tribe immediately. The *Adivasi* people of Assam serving in tea gardens and also the ex-tea garden *Adivasis* deserve Scheduled Tribe status. I urge upon the Government to include them as Scheduled Tribes.

(III) Need to prepare and implement a time-bound action plan for the development of villages in Chandigarh

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh): Sir, the twenty-two villages of U.T. Chandigarh, with an allocation of just one per cent of the UT's plan allocation to the panchayats and resultant neglect cry for an urgent attention. With manifold increase in population over the years, lack of commensurate expenditure on roads and streets, sanitation and health has reduced the UT villages to virtual slums. Declaration of pious intentions to convert the villages into model villages have yet to be translated into action. Non-formulation of a perspective plan for their development involving active participation of the stake-holders and denial of electricity and water connections only point to the urgency of the issue. Various Central Schemes for rural areas have also not been availed of by the Chandigarh Administration.

Accordingly, I urge the Government to prepare and implement a time-bound action plan for the development of Chandigarh UT villages.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Rayapati Sambasiva Rao—not present.

(IV) Need to accord the status of a Central University to Jai Narain Vyas University in Jodhpur, Rajasthan

[Translation]

SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI (Jodhpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Jodhpur city in Rajasthan is a very ancient city. It has been a leading seat of education since the time of British. There are several educational institutes such as Ayurved College, National Law University, Jai Narayan Vyas University, MBM Engineering College in Jodhpur. It is the most important city of the Western Rajasthan. On several occasions, I have demanded to accord the status of a Central University to Jai Naraian Vyas University in the city.

I am requesting hon'ble Minister of Human Resources through hon'ble Speaker to accord the status of a Central University to the Jai Narain Vyas University, situated in Jodhpur.

(V) Need to develop the barren unproductive land in Dholpur district of Rajasthan for generating employment

[Translation]

SHRI RAMSWAROOP KOLI (Bayana): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in the Dholpur District of my parliamentary

[Shri Ramswaroop Koli]

constituency, there is a large area of barren land which is lying waste. This land could not be made fertile despite efforts made for many years.

I request the Government to establish any public or joint undertaking on the said land to provide employment to people on one hand and compensation to the owners of land on the other hand.

I hope, the Government will take immediate steps for welfare of poor people.

(vi) Need to extend the Eighth Bipartite Pay Revision settlement to Regional Rural Banks (RRB) at par with Commercial Banks

[English]

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR (Bareilly): Sir, this refers to implementation of Eighth Bipartite Pay Revision Settlement in Regional Rural Banks in terms with National Industrial Tribunal Award and hon. Supreme Court orders dated 31.01.2001 and 07.03.2002. It may be recalled that the employees of Regional Rural Banks have been considered at par with their counterparts sponsor commercial banks staff and their salary is revised as and when any bipartite settlement is held in Banking Industry. Since, the Eighth Bipartite Settlement has been implemented in other commercial banks, the same is to be extended further to RRBs staff through notification by the Central Government under section 17(1) of RRB Act 1976.

In this regard, it may also be mentioned here that RRBs Employees are entitled for the actual wage hike as decided for commercial banks staff. Hence, it is requested that RRBs staff should be given all benefits admissible under the Eighth Bipartite Settlement like Computer Increment, Computer Operator Allowance, Transport Allowance and other Staff Welfare Loan Schemes and payment of arrears be decided as has been done in case of sponsor commercial banks, so as to maintain parity with the sponsor banks.

It concerns industrial relations and unrest among RRBs Staff. This matter is resting at Government's end, and I would therefore, urge upon the Government to expeditiously issue notification in this regard.

(vii) Need to expedite the relief and rehabilitation measures in landslides-affected Uttar Kashi district of Uttaranchal

[Translation]

LT. COL. (RETD.) MANABENDRA SHAH (Tehri Garhwal): Sir, due to rock sliding in Varunavat hills in Uttarkashi district of Uttaranchal entire city of Uttarkashi was ruined and the Gangotri-Risikesh National Highway was completely blocked in the year 2003. The Central Government had sanctioned a package of Rs. 250 crore to save the city, assist the people affected by rock sliding in Varunavat hills and repair the said hills and the State Government had invited proposals from M/S Jai Prakash Industries, M/S Karam Chand Thapar and Brothers., M/S Hydel Construction Company and Sharing Construction Company. It seems strange that the Sharing construction company which was earlier known as Raj Kumar construction company, was awarded the work and an advance of Rs. 5.61 crore was given to company for purchasing machines etc. as they did not have the same. The company did not complete the work on time and cited the reason for this that the design was not proper. The Government renewed the contract and paid another 27 crore rupees to the same company. The work in Uttarkachi city and on the Yatra-road is very slow and there is a consistent threat of sliding of Varunavat hills.

I, therefore, request the Minister of Environment and Forests to take action to save the Varunavat from sliding, save the city and provide relief funds which have yet not been provided to the affected people and whatever little assistance has been provided is negligible. In addition to this, a CBI enquiry be instituted to investigate in to the scam of the funds provided so far by the Central Government.

(viii) Need to Accord Approval to the Proposal of Maharashtra Govt. for Lifting Ban on Nik-Lakhori Pulse and its by Products

[Translation]

SHRI SHISHUPAL N. PATALE (Bhandara): Sir, a ban on the sale of Nik-Lakhori pulse and the items and there from has been imposed. Medical Education and Drugs department of Maharashtra Government has not detected and adverse effect of the said pulse on health. Therefore the Central Government should accord formal permission to lift the ban on sale of the said crop which has proved profitable to the farmers. An early decision in

this regard will give immediate benefit to the farmers as the produce is available with them and all the farmers will be able to benefit themselves from to. Therefore, it is urged upon the Government to accord formal sanction to the decision of the Maharashtra Government to lift the ban on sale of the said pulse and the food items made therefrom.

(ix) Need for stringent action to check sexual harassment at workplace and other atrocities against women

[English]

SHRIMATI JYOTIRMOYEE SIKDAR (Krishnagar): Sir, on 8.8.2005, the hon. Minister of State in the Ministry of Human Resource Development, in her written reply, informed the Rajya Sabha that from 2001 to 2005 (till date), 287 complaints of sexual harassment at workplace have been received by the National Commission of Women. Again, according to data compiled by the Ministry of Home Affairs, 7,11,778 cases of atrocities on women had been reported during 2000-2004. The Government claims that it has initiated different actions to prevent sexual harassment at workplace as well as other crimes being committed against women. But the ever-rising graphs on these two scores prove that initiation of actions, as claimed by Government, is not enough to control this social menace.

I, therefore, demand stringent action against the offenders. I also demand establishment of special court for speedy trial of all such cases. Thank you.

(x) Need to convert the existing Bareilly-Lakhimpur-Sitapur-Lucknow Railway Section from Metre Gauge to Broad Gauge

[Translation]

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA (Kheri): Mr. Dy. Speaker, Sir, I want to draw the attention of Hon'ble Minister of Railways through you towards the backwardness of the Tarai (foothill) area of Uttar Pradesh. This region remains cut-off from the rest of the country due to not being connected with broad gauge railway line. The people inhabiting this region face major problems in absence of a broad gauge railway line there. The matter has all along been raised in the House by the Members of Parliament elected from the Tarai region, but to no avail.

Mr. Dy. Speaker, Sir, I request the Hon'ble Minister to have the Bareilly Lakhimpur-Sitapur-Lucknow metre gauge railway line converted into broad gauge, to bring about proper development of the Tarai region and affinity with the other regions of the country through the broadgauge line.

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR (Bareilly): Mr. Dy. Speaker, Sir, I associate myself with it.

(xi) Need to expedite setting up of Centre for sale of Agricultural Products under National Horticulture Mission at Patna

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna): The Government has talked of setting up of National Horticulture Mission in this year's budget. Hon'ble Prime Minister has also mentioned about this mission several times. Through this mission, a single window system is proposed to be provided for research, production, post harvesting management, processing and adequate marketing in an integrated form. The horticulture sector, with just 8.5 per cent of the total cultivated land, constitutes 20 percent of the agricultural sector and 50% of the export component thereof in the Gross Domestic Product. This sector has immense potential to increase production. There is a scheme for setting up of outlets for agricultural products in various parts of the country under this mission; out of which one is to be set up at Patna also. I want to draw the attention of Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture through this House and request him to take immediate steps for setting up of this centre at Patna as early as possible so that the farmers of the State get benefited.

(xii) Need to include all the villages with a population of more than One Thousand people in Hardoi and Khiri districts of Uttar Pradesh under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojna during the year 2005-2006

[Translation]

SHRI ILYAS AZMI (Shahabad): Two districts of Uttar Pradesh namely Hardoi and Khiri falls under any Parliamentary constituency. At present work is in progress under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojna with the package provided for the year 2003-2004 and there is no information about the package for the year 2004-2005.

In the year 2005-2006 all the villages with a population of one thousand and more are to be covered

[Shri Ilyas Azmi]
under the said scheme. In the core note drafted by the department most of the villages with a population of more than one thousand have been left out. On my recommendation a number of villages have been included in it still many villages have been left out.

Through this august House I request the Government that authorities of both the districts should be directed that any village with a population of one thousand or more should not be left out in the scheme for the year 2005-2006.

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA (Kheri): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I associate myself with it.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: All right.

(xiii) Need to ensure uninterrupted gas supply from GAIL to various industrial units in Nagapattinam parliamentary constituency, Tamil Nadu

[English]

SHRI A.K.S. VIJAYAN (Nagapattinam): In my Nagapattinam constituency, there is an edible oil mill run by a Gujarat-based businessman. In this oil mill, around 500 workers are employed directly and indirectly. This mill uses gas fuel as energy source instead of diesel to protect environment from pollution and hazardous effect. Moreover, in my constituency availability of natural gas is there as ONGC is exploring oil and gas from these places and it is supplying gas to GAIL and it sells and distributes gas to the needy people and companies. As such, this edible oil mill and M/s. Kannappan's Steel Factory are getting gas from GAIL since its inception, that is, for the past several years. Now, the GAIL is refusing to supply gas to these factories without citing any reason. On the one side, ONGC is supplying plenty of gas to GAIL as much as they want or require, and on the other side, the extra gas produced by ONGC is burnt as flare. Due to this, these companies are not getting gas to continue their operation. Both ONGC and GAIL offices are functioning in my constituency, but they are not ready to supply gas to these factories which are located in my constituency. At the same time, they are willing to sell to outside agencies in my constituency. I understand that ONGC office, which is currently functioning effectively without any problems from Nagapattinam is, sought to be shifted to some other place.

Hence, I urge upon the Government to take immediate steps to ensure uninterrupted supply of gas to these industrial units and also stop the move to shift ONGC office from Nagapattinam.

(xiv) Need to declare Nagpur in Maharashtra as the sub-capital of India

[Translation]

SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE PATIL (Parbhani): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Nagpur should be made second capital of the country as it is situated in the middle of the country. Geographically Nagpur is located in the centre of the country. People from every nook and corner of the country can come easily here within the shortest possible time. One can see the composite culture of entire India here and this city represents the people of various castes living in India. Besides this city has the pleasant climate through-out the year. Maharashtra Government has constructed an Assembly hall there where one session of the Lok Sabha can easily be run. This city has its own historical importance.

Through this House I request the Government to declare Nagpur the second capital of the country where one session of both Houses of the Parliament in a year should be held.

(xv) Need to accord approval to the proposal of Government of Orissa for linking the State with the network under Edusat programme of ISRO

[English]

SHRI ARJUN SETHI (Bhadrak): Sir, the Edusat Satellite dedicated exclusively for educational services have been launched in the geo-synchronous orbit by ISRO on 20th September 2004. It is primarily meant for providing connectivity to schools, colleges and higher levels of education and also to impart formal distant education including developmental communication, especially, for development of the rural and remote regions.

Besides the extensive coverage of VSAT and DRS Network of Gram-Sat pilot project, Orissa have a studio and digital satellite uplink, which can serve as the regional hub for Orissa for the Edusat programme. The Government of Orissa have recently riginally 450 High

Schools in Orissa through the Eleventh Finance Commission (EFC) grant. These schools can be brought under the Edusat network, besides schools located in close proximity to the VSAT and DRS nodes of the Gram-Sat network. The Universities, Engineering Colleges and Polytechnic Schools/Institutions can also be covered under the Edusat network.

In view of the above, the Government of Orissa have requested the Department of Space, Government of India to consider the needs of the State for networking with Edusat and select Orisa as one of the two pilot States to be covered under Edusat programme by ISRO, Department of Space, Government of India. ISRO, Department of Space, Government of India have also been requested to arrange to evaluate the existing network capability of Gram-Sat network and advise Government of Orissa to rigina our needs and support the same technically and financially.

Hence, I urge upon the Government to accord their approval to the project as per the request made by the State Government of Orisas in this regard.

(xvi) Need to widen the National Highway No. 202 on Hyderabad-Warrangal section, with a view to streamline the flow of traffic

SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR (Hanamkonda): Sir, the National Highway 202 Hyderabad-Bhopalpatnam passes through Warangal district. The traffic between Hyderabad-Warangal is heavy, and for the last few months many accidents are occurring regularly, which are causing many casualties. Such an accident occurred last week, that is, on 15 August 2005 costing ten lives and injuring forty-five. This road has to be widened, particularly, from Hyderabad to Warangal, which is about 150 km. only. Hence, I draw the attention of the Ministry of Road and Transport to take necessary steps immediately.

(xvii) Need to set up a Food processing with cold storage facility in Chamrajanagar Parliamentary Constituency, Karnataka

*SHRI M. SHIVANNA (Chamrajanagar); Sir, the farmers, particularly vegetable, fruit and flower growers, are facing a lot of problems due to lack of marketing facilities in Karnataka. The tomato growers in Chamrajanagar, Mysore, Kolar, Tumkur, and many other areas are forced to throw tomatoes on the roads as there were no takers. This has happened three months ago. Now, the onion growers, including rose-onion growers, are facing the same problem at present. There is a set back for the flower exporters also. Chilly growers of Karnataka and Maharashtra are also agitating for the last several years demanding remunerative price for their produce.

The result of all these problems has led to suicide of farmers as they cannot pay back the bank loan. Chamrajanagar became a district headquarter seven years ago and since then the people, particularly the farmers, are demanding setting up of a food processing rigin. Unfortunately, till today, this has not been taken seriously by the Centre. There is an urgent and genuine need to set up a food processing rigin in Chamrajanagar.

I, therefore, urge upon the Centre to provide sufficient funds and set up a food processing rigin in Chamrajanagar immediately.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I reqaest the hon. Members to read only the text that they have already given. The text, which has already been approved, will only go on record.

(xviii) Need to take preventive measures against various industrial units spreading toxic effluents and waste in Amroha Parliamentary Constituency, Uttar Pradesh

[Translation]

SHRI HARISH NAGPAL (Amroha): A number of factory units owned by the company of Jubilant Organosys are situated in a wide stretch on a single plot in Gajraula city of my parliamentary constituency Amroha in Uttar Pradesh which have now has become synonymous with emitting pollution and toxic wastes. The land there has become barren due to the toxic effluents emanating from these factories and water has become contaminated. The local people are suffering from various diseases like blindness, Levan, skin disease, T.B. etc. Crops cannot ripen under the impact of toxic effluents. Fruit trees are not bearing fruits and cattle are growing weaker. The milk cattle now have little or no milk left in them. Most of the children have become prone to illness and are having a stunted growth due to the release of toxic gases in the water and air. Drinking water has become contaminated with toxins. Crops are getting damaged due to the use of contaminated water in irrigation. The farmers

*Translation of the speech originally delivered in Kannada.

[Shri Harish Nagpal]

are in great trouble. A major tragedy, even bigger in scale than the Bhopal gas tragedy, can take place here any time due to gas leakage. Every time the inquiry is conducted by the Government and report is repeatedly given in favour of the said factories. Factory owners threaten the farmers and ask them to sell their land at good rates and leave the place.

Therefore through this House I urge upon the Government to take stern and immediate steps against those factory units which are adversely impacting the human life.

14.49 hrs.

NATIONAL RURAL EMPLOYMENT GUARANTEE BILL, 2004

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, we will take up item No. 21, that is, further consideration of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Bill. The time allotted was eight hours; we have taken 3 hours and 53 minutes; and the time left with us is 4 hours 07 minutes. Last time when the House was adjourned, no Member was on his feet.

I would now give the floor to Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to put before you my views in detail in support of this Bill brought in the House by the responsible Minister of Rural Development Raghuvansh Prasad ji.

Firstly, I want to congratulate the hon. Members of the Standing Committee and their Chairman Kalyan Singh ji who have put in great effort in presenting the report in the House unanimously. The cabinet had an in depth discussion on the report. Thereafter, the Government presented this legislation in the House.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur): Not legislation, but a Bill has been presented in the House.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Please, help me in my speech in Hindi.

I want to put some points before you regarding this Bill. There an be numerous arguments either from this side or that side but it is not possible for any Government to find a solution to the problem of unemployment or poverty easily. The Government has taken a step to instil confidence among these people by legally introducing it in the form of social security. The population of the country is rising rapidly. I had participated in a symposium a few days back. Irrespective of how much production is there, how many resources are collected, all the efforts will fail in a day if the increasing population is not checked. The same point was reiterated in this House in 1974 by Indira ji that any programme in the country should be looked at by linking it with the issue of the rising population. However good a scheme may be, it will not work in such time.

Sir, today, I want to speak on two or three issues. A serious debate was held on this issue in the House. I have read all the speeches with due respect relating to the debate which took place on it a day before yesterday. Every one expressed concern over it and said that it should not be taken in haste and what can be done with the paltry sum of Rs. 55. After calculations, Nitish ji asked as to what could be possible to accompalish with such lowly and meagre amount and how it would be possible for there to manage. He said it rightly that whether any party can present a single policy here? We do not have magic wand. Can we solve the problem of all the poor and unemployed people out of the population of 100 crore through that magic wand? Nobody has such a magic wand, it is neither with us nor with you, but it is necessary to show the path.

I want to begin from here to put across the point before you for which I have come here. Shri Kalyan Singh ji, who has the experience of the office of the Chief Minister and is also one of the senior leaders in the party of Vajpayee ji, said at the beginning of his maiden speech, "I want to congratulate for adopting the right view point even after 40-50 years. Secondly, I want to congratulate that till now, the Congress had kept the country in illusion by the slogan of 'Garibi Hatao'. They contested elections and also won on that basis but the common man could not understand the meaning of this slogan."

It is right to talk about and throw light on the shortcomings of any legislation or Bill in Politics. But, I can confidently claim that whatever be the level of globalization in the world prior to adding socialism in the preamble of our constitution, Indira ji had taken the first revolutionary step. You all can ask about that by going to each and every part of the country and ask whether the poor people did not gain from that step or not? Indira ji had said in this House that the Government wants to help the poor by taking over the Banks from the capitalists such as Birla, Tata, Singhania and Goenka etc. We did not get support form all sides in the House that day. But, Indira ji amended the constitution immediately on her come back after getting the majority. What is the situation today? One can see printed on the back of any cart, rickshaw, public bus that this vehicle is hypothecated to a Government bank, thereby proving that nobody is a slave in our society. If today's record is considered then as per the NPA's estimate which I had studied in the previous House, the unemployed people and group cooperatives had received the relief and their loans were waived of. They waived the 90% loan of the NPA but the 10% was not waived of by big and medium industrialists. Therefore, I want to say that the benefits of the first step of nationalisation of banks went to the poor. Whatever be the number of tractors used by farmers, agricultural implements employed in the agricultural development in the country; nothing could have been possible without the help of land development bank or national banks had the banks not been nationalised. This step was taken earlier. We are disregarding this step. Shri Kalyan Singh ji said that nothing has been done for the last 40-50 years. I would like to read out a statement before you. It is not exactly a statement but a reply given in the House. Shri Sunderlal Patwa ji is a respected politician and I heard his views during the last session. He had also held the portfolio of the Minister of Rural Development in the past also. He was asked if any measures were being taken to provide employment to the unemployed people in order to reduce poverty in the country. He had replied-

[English]

Yes Sir, Government have been implementing a number of programmes, poverty alleviation programmes from time to time. Some major poverty alleviation schemes were launched in the past.

[Translation]

Further he said—IRDP, TRAINI, TRISEM, DWACRA, JRY, MWS, EAS, SITRA, JGSY all these schemes are being implemented. Then he was asked about the results achieved from such schemes. He gave a positive reply. He said

[English]

the programmes have successfully achieved their objectives and helped in alleviating the rural poverty in the country. Statement is now placed to justify the facts.

[Translation]

Shri Sunderlal Patwaji had experience. He had rightly said that although the objectives of such programmes being run for some time now have been achieved to a large extent, yet a lot remains to be done. This does not mean that the Congress has not done any work in the States since the last 40-50 years. I would like to say that the State Government and the Union Government both have to contribute a stipulated share for the implementation of each of the programmes and the actual implementation is carried out by the State Governments. Is it not a fact that during the last 50-55 years Congress has not been the sole party in power. If we look at the State Governments, Uttar Pradesh, the most prominent among the States, has been governed by parties other than the Congress for the longest period of time. The same holds true for Bihar as well as Bengal which is under the governance of another party for the last 28 years. The rest of the States have got the chance to be governed by other parties for five, six or nine years and at the Centre, parties other than the Congress have got the chance to govern for a total of eleven years. Hence, we do not wish to point fingers at any one party. We have already said that it is a serious problem and we have to find a way to deal with it. Shri Rajiv Gandhi had adopted the right approach and had said that the Parliament and the State Assemblies may pass any number of legislations but their effect would not reach the villages till the time we do not transfer democracy through constitutional means.

[English]

The 73rd and 75th amendments gave new life to the 'Panchayats'.

[Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi]

[Translation]

Had Rajiv Gandhiji not adopted this approach at that time the infrastructure to implement so many schemes with such efficiency would not have become available in the villages. It can be observed that the Gram Panchayat has been vested with the basic powers under law. Gram Panchayat has been bestowed the right to choose the king. Villages have been granted parliamentary rights. The legislation lays down that the decision to enforce the said rights has to be taken in consultation with the people of the villages.

15.00 hrs.

What else can be more important than this work? The National Rural Employment Guarantee Bill lays down the method of implementation of this work keeping in mind the maturity of the Indian democracy. I believe that the Parliament as a whole should support

[English]

the decentralized democratization of the whole power, empowerment to the panchayats is necessary.

[Translation]

One-third of the seats have been reserved for women in the Panchayats. The schemes that have been made in the context of this basic premise should be welcomed without making undue comments in this regard. Yes, there is a shortage of resources and a shortage of funds. A person may earn ten or twenty rupees a day by begging but the mafia which promotes such activities snatches the earnings of the beggars. The poor have their compulsions but what have we done for them? We are saying the same thing that late Rajiv Gandhi had said. He had said that the poor do not need pity, they need empowerment. They should not be at the mercy of the Panchayat, the SDO or the municipality. Constitution can grant actual powers. So far we had been calling this scheme Rural Employment Programme. That had implied munificence because it was within the power of the District Magistrate or the BDO to refuse implementation of the scheme citing lack of funds or the Panchayat not being in place as reasons for doing so. Now, this work should be started. Today, this is no longer munificence but a right. We can move forward in 200 districts. Yes, we can move forward. IRDP was implemented in 54 districts in 1976 and it was later-one extended to 100 districts. In 1980, when late Indiraji was in power, the concept of implementing IRDP in the whole of the country was given clearance. Therefore, now we are going to make a start. Initially, the funds that remain unutilized this year would be utilized for the Food for Work and IRDP programme. A fund of nearly eleven thousand crore rupees would be created next year. We had thought that the NREG Bill would lighten the fiscal burden of the State Governments but we had not imagined it would make such a big difference, but it did. The released funds would definitely reach the 200 districts which would be increased later on. If there is one young man in a family he would be reassured that he would not have to resort to begging. He would mobilize some amount on his own and look towards the country for the rest.

[English]

I have not said, we are not saying, and Soniaji never said that this is the end of everything. It is the beginning to restore confidence in terms of social security in the villages of the country. All we have to do is to take them as the pilot projects.

[Translation]

No scheme can be successful without having confidence. I say that let us have confidence in Panchayats. Whatever the politics may be there but it is the Panchayat only which can really know where a nullah should be constructed. Our Ministry of Water Resources has a major role in this scheme. We will say that we will irrigate 10 hectares of land, let us pick up the spade and go to village, rain water is coming, let us store it. People will be identified for their contribution in the reconstruction of the country. There is no contractor in between these things.

[English]

It is a very beautiful and very revolutionary concept of the whole system.

[Translation]

Therefore, I request everybody not to play politics in it. Who says that nothing has been done? You will be surprised to know the facts. In the main market of a city, a boy along with his mother came and started begging in front of our car. I thought that whatever had been done had proved a shame but the officer told me that it

was not the case and something was being done for them. He told me that we could know the facts if we visited three or four markets. I saw that when a boy came in front of a silk saree shop, the shop keeper stopped him. It does not mean that all have got rid of their plight. I believe that efforts have not been made to alleviate poverty in a regimental way. We should not implement family planning programmes by adopting coercive means. We should not take any steps in the society contrary to the democratic norms. In view of the rate of our population growth, family planning does not seem to be successful as Shri Sharad Pawar was saying that day. That day, Shri Sharad Pawarji was informing that the Prime Minister has constituted a Committee which will suggest measures to double the food production during the 11th Plan. Sharad Ji himself has told us that he would work in this direction and the farmers of our country would also work to double the production, and to double the irrigation facilities. But we should have a long term perspective in this regard as to what should be the ultimate programme for the country. I, therefore, want to tell everybody that the introduction of the Bill by the U.P.A. does not involve any political motive. How there is no politics in it—Nitish ji said that political mileage should not be taken from it. U.P.A. has got a clear mandate and we have to strengthen our national unity and secularism. We have to think on priority basis about every step to give a new direction to the poor. We have to do a balancing act keeping both these aspects in mind. We have seen that Jawahar Rojgar Yojana has welfare as its basis and so is the case with Employment Assurance Scheme and these schemes create employment opportunities for the people but there is not cent percent certainty for providing employment. But we want to give them a legal right to employment rather than on ground of mercy. This shift in approach has been brought by us. These steps are the ideas and political approach of U.P.A. Whatever one may feel about it but we are sure that this is a measure to make the people confident. All political parties are there and all are present in this august House. The person who will get money under this law will get more in consecutive years which will make all of us proud. All of us will together think.

[English]

The Indian Parliament thought together that it is an issue beyond politics. It is a dedication of the Indian Parliament to ensure social security and confidence of the poorest of the poor in this country with another commitment to ensure that further poverty is not extended and population management is under control. That should be the logical consequence and the conclusion of the entire theme of the Employment Guarantee Bill. The word 'guarantee' itself is a confidence.

[Translation]

The amount of Rs. 500, 1000 or 1500 is not an issue, it may increase gradually. This will replace our Food for Work Programme. In addition to this Employment Guarantee Scheme, we will also further strengthen other existing schemes. The hon. Members should take into account the approach of the Government and understand this concept. I am not saying all this just for the sake of saying.

[English]

Is a jump from Rs. 4,500 crore to Rs. 11,000 crore in the food for work programme not a paradigm shift of the whole approach to the rural poverty by the UPA Government!

[Translation]

You may ask as to where the funds will come from. We have already said that there is no problem for the current year. We will make provisions after the fund is created. We are not going to run away, we all will decide together. The Prime Minister has directed all the ministries and departments to stop extravagance. I am not saying this for my own party. Serious thought was given to this aspect in the meeting held in Guwahati in the year 1984. Soniaji herself had observed that mere delivering speeches to the unemployed is not going to yield any results. Plan some models as pilot projects. Start with the first step followed by next ones, if this can make them confident to some extent, then we should hope to get some thing for sure. To begin with, gather 50 people of every village of these 200 districts to educate them about the provisions of the Employment Guarantee Bill. This is beginning not the end. The end will come when we will come to this august House and say that the Bill is no more required as we have surpassed by the targets fixed thereunder. Now repeal it as our villages have become prosperous. But while speaking on the Bill introduced to create confidence among the people, it is not fair to say that nothing has been done during last fifty years.

[Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi]

Had there been no progress during last fifty years. This House would have not been in function. This is vitality of Indian democracy. I want try too hard to regulate this allegation that we have done nothing during the last fifty years. Had there been the case and we been able to remove poverty, the Member belonging to our party would have been seen sitting on either sides of the House *i.e.* on treasury benches as well as on opposition benches. We could not remove poverty; hence we could not occupy either of the sides in sufficient number. I have no hesitation in accepting it. The opposition may say that they got opportunity for seven years only whereas we got the same for longer period. You can imagine the condition of the country at the time of independence when Panditji became Prime Minister. You know the quantity of food grains produced in the country at that time and the quantity imported from outside. How much starvation we had faced and how many battles we had fought. A large number of refugees came here from East and West Pakistan and we had to provide them food and shelter. I would not like to go into the detail of all these things because they are now part of history. But I would like to state that the Bill which has been introduced in the House is a resolution that we have to provide security on all counts—social security, food security and above all the security of the country. The security of the country can not be ensured by means of weapons only.

[English]

The first step towards country's security is the social security of the people of India and especially the downtrodden.

[Translation]

National security of the country gets strengthened with their social security and self-confidence.

I am surprised to see a number of young men wandering in the villages. I would like to talk about West Bengal. Earlier narcotic drugs were not available in our State, but now they have started pouring in. Young men are getting addicted. We tried to stop it. I do not give credit only to the Congress but good people from all the parties whether they belong to this side or that, are trying to fight this menace. Today main problem before us is that how to tackle this problem. Ten major industrialists did not return the loan taken from bank and hence the policy of bank to provide loan to the youth has been made more restrictive. I am proud that our UPA Government is restoring the earlier policy so that the doors of the bank may remain open for self-reliant courageous youth. I would talk about two more schemes.

I belong to rural area. DWACRA Programme has been launched under Panchayati Raj in India these days. I do not know people from which sect have adopted it. In every Panchayat under DWACRA.

[English]

I can tell you with confidence that at least in my State and in my constituency, in every village panchayat that programme is there and it involves not less than 500 women belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other communities. It is the case with the municipal towns also. I addressed the workshop last week, where we had 3,000 women.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam): It is there in Andhra Pradesh also.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: I am happy that you are admitting it.

[Translation]

Women participation is there in DWACRA Programme. Our Government initiated this programme. ICDS is a programme of child development in which 6th, 5th or 3rd pass ladies are working in Anganwadi. Do you know their numbers? I have seen 10000 ladies myself in a procession. No flat of any party—whether it be BJP, or Congress or CPM—was seen in that procession. IV or V standard pass women are working in ICDS Anganwadi Programme. How did it become possible? It became possible through Panchayati Raj programme. Who launched this programme? This programme was launched by Indiraji under 20 point programme. Minister of Environment is not present. I can say with confidence that social forestry programme implemented by Panchayati Raj has registered progress as many as seven times more than the deep forestation programme. You know that social forestry programme was one of the important programme of 20 point programme passed by Indiraji.

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI (Bhagalpur): Nothing was done in Bihar.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Modijee, I do not want to say anything about Bihar, because you are

responsible for Bihar; we are responsible; Laluji is responsible and all are responsible for that. You had parted your ways only for some time that is the another matter. In social forest.

[English]

Seven times the coverage was extended only through the Panchayati Raj scheme. That is why, while launching the 20-Point Programme, the Poverty Alleviation Programme.

[Translation]

Indira ji had correctly said that it would help us in removing poverty and the programme would continue as long as poverty was not removed. Removing poverty can not be done through a magical wand. Programme should be launched to remove poverty.

[English]

I say with confidence anybody can challenge me, that the tribal folk of the country, the Scheduled Castes in the village.

[Translation]

Shri Yerannaidu of Andhra Pradesh knows that, with the help received through these programmes the poor people have become self-dependent and started sending their children to schools. Its benefit will be seen in Sarva Siksha Abhiyan. A large number of women have their participation in SC and ST programme. We never thought of figures. Only the negative picture was projected before the country that nobody can harm us. I am not talking in favour of Shri Tony Blair. I liked it very much.

[English]

On the 27th of June, I was in Europe when Tony Blair addressed the European Parliament for the first time. In the past, China used to be the synonyum of Asia in their eyes. For the first time he acknowledged that it would not be wise for the entire Europe to have any underway it stance regard China as well as India. We have a pool of scientific talent, rural manpower, and innovative ideas.

[Translation]

Please go through his speech on internet. He said that Europe was overlooking India. Let India develop quickly. Do not overlook India. Earlier they used to say—'destination China', but now they say—Destination India and China. It was started in 200 districts in India, now it will be started in 600 districts in India. 50 families will be benefited in each village. We do not have money for 100 families. We can say honestly with courage that more than one thousand families will be benefited in next ten years. This is importance of our programme. I am ready to say even that Mr. Chidambaram will present budget next time for allocating funds for this programme. I also ask Shri Raghuvansh Prasadji to start to getting funds from MPs. Take money from MPLAD funds. It would begin from home. This will generate self-confidence. Funds for each State govt. will be created. We shall also ask the officers to provide funds. The sum total of the money will not be more than hundred crore. This is a scheme involving Rs. 36 or 40 thousand crore. The contribution of 100 crore rupees will show us the direction.

[English]

The Indian democracy, cutting across Party lines, fought to ensure the social security concept for the people of India who are in villages.

[Translation]

As far as cities are concerned, Nitishji and Kalyanji asked whether there was any scheme for towns too? There are 4-5 ways to generate confidence in towns. The people residing in towns may get employment by setting up of industries, establishing offices and opening shops. Villages are being urabinsed, expanded and agriculture is being transgressed upon. I do not want to go into detail, this will invite argument. But works should be done to provide food to increasing population and to connect rural infrastructure to irrigation projects. If you include youth in this scheme, I think, it will initiate new progress in India and its villages. I would like to say that we should not question BJP about the work done by them in seven years neither should they ask us as to what we have done.

Sir, if we shall say such things, it will be an endless matter. Schemes to eradicate poverty were initiated during Third Five Year Plan. It can be seen from Third Five Year Plan. Poverty could have been eradicated by implementing programmes on poverty eradication from Third Five Year Plan to Tenth Five Year Plan. But we would not check population increasing at the rate of 20 percent. Therefore, poverty could not be eradicated from the country.

[Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi]

[English]

That is why, when I saw the Business that there is going to be further discussion regarding increasing population in the country raised by Shri Prabodh Panda, I was delighted. The population management should go together with our economic management. Irrespective of Party lines, we are united on this issue. We may differ on many issues. If all Parties give a combined-mandate for the population management and economic management at the grassroot, I tell you that India will prosper and become the greatest democratic nation with wealth as also economic achievement and grow in the whole world very soon.

[Translation]

Mr. Deputy Speaker, thank you for giving me opportunity to speak.

*SHRI P. MOHAN (Madurai): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Union Government led by the United Progressive Alliance has introduced the National Rural Employment Guarantee Bill in this august House. I welcome and support this Bill on behalf of my party, Marxist Communist Party of India. At least after 58 years of independence we have evolved a near comprehensive bill to provide guaranteed job to the rural poor. I am happy to note that our CPI (M) and other left parties have played a major role in introducing this historic Bill in this session.

The salient features of this Bill are noteworthy. One hundred days of guaranteed job at a minimum daily wage of Rs. 60 with specified developmental work for enhancing infrastructure facilities in the rural areas are the highlights of this Bill. This Bill also provides for 33% reservation of jobs for women under this scheme. Various works under the scheme will be implemented through the departments concerned is another assured aspect in this Bill. Firstly, the Bill states categorically that no work under this scheme will employ machines like earth movers and pokline. I wholeheartedly welcome this. Providing jobs to the needy poor who are prepared to render manual labour is the aim of this Bill. It has been ensured that funds allotted for this scheme will be spent only on men but not on machines. I welcome it. Rain fed districts and States that depend on river irrigation would find this scheme a boom. More particularly the States like Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh will be greatly benefited by this scheme. Only 150 districts were originally intended to be covered under this scheme. Now 50 more districts have been added to this. In Tamil Nadu there are 29 revenue districts and only 4 districts from Tamil Nadu come under the ambit of this scheme. I had already stated the need to include all the districts that have more dry land and depend on rain and rain fed river irrigation. Hence I feel more districts from the southern States especially from Tamil Nadu should have been included in this scheme. Tamil Nadu is not a fertile State with perennial rivers like Punjab, the State which our hon. Deputy Speaker hail from. Tamil Nadu is dependent on release of water from neighbouring States. Hence there is a need to bring the entire Tamil Nadu under the ambit of this scheme. I would like to reiterate the same through this august House. Respective departments must take up the job themselves and must not go in for contract system. No contractors and middlemen should be there in the implementation of this scheme. It is a welcome aspect that contract system will not be there. I would like to know from the hon. Rural Development Minister as to how they implement the scheme with departments taking them up directly involving people directly.

In this regard I would like to point out what I had witnessed myself in the 'Food for Work' programme in Melur that come under my constituency. Though the scheme envisages that only local people would be involved and no machines would be utilised, about Rs. 98 lakh worth of jobs were undertaken using earth movers like pokline machines. I had verified myself this on my spot visit to monitor the progress. Machines were fully used and engaged to complete the jobs for the entire allocated funds there. Men were given work only for about Rs. 8 lakh worth of job. Manual labour was not resorted to in the 'Food for Work' programme. I would like to record a serious and verified allegation that 'Food for Work' programme in my constituency and in all other constituencies in the entire Tamil Nadu were carried out by the ruling party men and their 'benamis' using earth movers and machines like 'Pokline'. I had taken up this with the Union Minister concerned. I had written about this and I am yet to get a reply in this regard. I want a reply about his study of the ground reality there. Thiruvannamalai, Nagapattinam, Cuddalore, Villupuram are the 4 districts that are covered in this NREG Scheme. Even in these 4 districts every development work employes more machines than men thereby depriving

*Translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

people of jobs. There is no involvement of local people, no identification of local beneficiaries and no manual labour.

This NREG Bill is a very good scheme. It is a historical one. For the first time a National Rural Employment Guarantee scheme is conceived to give 100 days of work to the rural poor. Those who have no other livelihood would be greatly benefited by this scheme. In case when guaranteed job is not provided then unemployment allowance would be paid as a compensation under this scheme. I appreciate the Government for this bold and humanitarian initiative. At the same time I would like to express my eagerness to see that this scheme shall be implemented ensuring that the intended beneficiaries get all the benefits of this scheme. There is a monitoring mechanism at Panchayat level and I feel it is not enough and beneficiaries should also be included in the monitoring committees and councils. Machines are not supposed to be used in the completion of jobs pertaining to this scheme. If machines are used then such jobs must be scrapped from this scheme. No funds should be utilised for such deviations. The intended benefits must reach the poor for whom this scheme has been conceived.

Hon. Minister who intervened in this discussion was referring to bank nationalisation. It is true that bank nationalisation has helped the country and our countrymen in many ways. But at the same time public sector banks have also given rise to non performing assets. About $1^1/_2$ lakh crore of rupees extended as loans could not be recovered. Bigwigs like industrialists and corporates took huge loans and fleeced the PSU banks as NPAs. Why do I point out at this? We have now evolved a very good scheme. We must ensure that all loopholes are plugged and there is no scope for any lacunae. We must ensure that the goals are achieved and the aims are accomplished. We must see that the people at the grass root level reap the benefits of this scheme.

Even 5 year plans, all the ten of them, were aiming high but we could not achieve the target as intended. We are still anguished that the plan schemes did not reach the needy. I want this scheme not to face with such failures. 'Garibi hatao'—'remove poverty' was a slogan used earlier. This scheme is here to achieve that ideal. So I welcome this Bill on my own behalf and on behalf of CPI(M). The minimum wage rate fixed in this Bill is Rs. 60 per day. Similarly I find only 200 districts all over the country that have been identified for this scheme. I wish the Government enhances soon the wage and increase the number of beneficiary districts. All the rain-fed, drought-prone districts must come under the ambit of this Act soon. Only then this Bill could accomplish its purpose fully.

With this, I conclude my speech and thank the Chair for the opportunity given.

SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN (Deogarh): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I express gratefulness to you for providing me an opportunity to participate in this important discussion.

The House supports this bill in principle rising above party level. I, too, support this bill. Especially, I would like to thank Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, Hon'ble Minister of Rural Development. As far as I know, the effort of Raghuvansh Babu has come in a new form for the poor people in India. Therefore we should thank him. I also thank Shri Kalyan Singhji, the Chairman of Standing Committee, since it was unanimous view of the Standing Committee.

It was a separate matter of discussion in the Standing Committee and views expressed were unanimous. I want to thank the mature Republic of India for discussing such an important issue after fifty eight years of independence. The matter of today's discussion is also the need of the time. The matter was also discussed at the time when the constitution was framed and it was demanded that the right to employment should be included in the category of fundamental rights. If you go through the speech of Constituency assembly in November 1949, you will see the then Deputy Chairman of Planning Commission. Shri K.T. Shah and Baba Saheb Ambedkarji were of the view that right to employment be brought into the category of fundamental rights. But it was included in the list of directive principle instead of fundamental rights. Such demands are being raised continuously since then and today this dream seems to become true. The Parliament of India is going to pass it. If this bill is passed, then it will also be homage to those great leaders. I was listening to the speech of Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi. Priya Ranjanji delivered a good speech and I agree with him. But he has some misgivings about the question asked by Kalyan Singhji which he has sought to know why Congress felt after 40 years that there should be a law on the matter. Kalyan Singhji has delivered a good speech. He had said in his speech that thank God, Congress had thought of removing poverty by framing a

[Shri Dharmendra Pradhan]

law after 40 years. It proves that there is something in Hon'ble Minister's mind.

KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH (Mathura): This is not true. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN: If it is not true, please amend it. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing should be recorded except Shri Pradhan's speech.

...*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The members from your party are also to speak, he will rely to it.

SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN: I am of the view that there should not be politics on such matters. I have been elected from Orissa. As per the figures available, 47 percent people in my State belongs to BPL category but as per the information available with me, correct figure is 50 per cent. It is very painful for me because I am a young member of Parliament and I am before you as a young representative. I am pained to see as to why it is so? We should not do politics over this and that is why I have expressed my gratitude to Shri Raghuvansh Prasadji for bringing in this bill. UPA Chairperson Shrimati Sonia Gandhi in her speech said that a meeting of Chief Ministers of Congress ruled State was organized in Guwahati and in which it was committed that there should be a law in this regard. During NDA regime famine occurred in many parts of the country and Congress ruled States were discriminated against. Who is playing the politics? I would like to present some figures before you. At that time there was Congress rule in many States but later on Congress was voted out. I do not want to refer to all the States but certainly want to put figures pertaining to Rajasthan before this august House because much uproar was made in regard to this State. The figures which I am going opt furnish are also available with Shri Raghuvansh Prasadji and he can also go through these figures. In 2002-2003 the quantity of foodgrain demanded by the Government of Rajasthan was made available to it. At that time 2,49,000 metric tonnes of wheat was provided to Rajasthan. But now NDA is in power in the State and 1,59,116 metric tones of wheat has been provided to the State. Today, BJP is in power in that State and UPA is in power in the centre. You are implementing food for work programme vigorously all over the country. What does the figures for the last year indicate. In 2004-05 rupees one lakh sixty thousand crore were given to Rajasthan and in the year previous to the said year rupees two lakh forty nine thousand crore were provided to the State. You have increased or reduced it? These figures indicates as to where politics has been played and who has played it. But it is unpleasant for them today. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please do not disturb him. Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing is to be recorded except his speech.

...*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN: During the course of her statement Soniaji has said. ...*(Interruptions)* Please speak when you are called to make your speech. Right now I am speaking, listen to me with patience. I will listen to them also. ...*(Interruptions)* It has been said that politics was played at that time. We agree that politics should not be played. It has been said that no programme was implemented during NDA regime for poverty eradication in the country and all good things have been done by the Government functioning under the leadership of one family and no other can do any thing good. They are the people who are having such an ego. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to quote the facts given by these very people. Shrimati Utash Patnayak, a professor in JNU had quoted something from the economic survey for the year 2004-05. On that day Shri Hannan Mollah a very senior Member of Communist Party was speaking.

*Not recorded.

*Not recorded.

In 2002-2003, the Ministry of Rural Development and all the departments related to rural development spent Rs. 42 thousand crore during NDA regime. ...*(Interruptions)* Please listen to me. ...*(Interruptions)* Similarly Rs. 51 thousand crore were spent under this head in 2003-04 but budget survey for the current year shows that only rupees 13 thousand five hundred crore have been spent.

[English]

This is the lowest amount even given.

[Translation]

He shows his commitment for rural development. What is his commitment for rural development is evident from the figures given in the economic survey. Just now Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi ji while referring to the Tenth Five Year Plan has said that rupees three lakh thousand crore were earmarked for the purpose but only rupees one lakh crore were spent during the first two years and a period of three years of the said plan is left. The question is how and when the Government will spend the remaining amount. Even after 58 years of independence, I am not talking about the entire country, if fifty percent population in my home State Orissa is living below the poverty line, he should apologize for this and think over the causes which have brought such a state of affairs.

It was said that the Panchayati Raj would be strength. I do not want to go into other details but Raghuvansh Babu while replying to it should not forget to tell the House about this. I quote what he said about the intention of the Finance Minister of the Government of India. Has the Finance Minister decided, has he made up his mind in this regard? The entire House agrees to this bill but has the Union Finance Minister agreed to it, has the Finance Minister, or the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission agreed to it, has the Prime Minister agreed? Making speeches alone does not serve the purpose; it should come on the ground.

I would like to quote one thing. All works would be carried out through the Panchayati Raj. ...*(Interruptions)* It gave a silver lining. When the Manmohan Singh ji took over, a Panchayati Raj Department was created. Shri Mani Shanka Aiyar is its Minister.

[English]

"The Panchayat Raj Minister finally got his staff after 349 days".

[Translation]

After the creation of the Panchayat Raj Department, it needed a staff of 133 people but only 43 people were given to it after 350 days. What Shri Aiyar ji says, that is significant. He is the Minister of the Panchayat Raj Department. All the Programmes are to be implemented through the Panchayati Raj Department.

[English]

"That is the way the system works. I had repeatedly sent the request for staff to the Cabinet and the Group of Ministers. After everything was sanctioned, it went back to the Finance Minister"—said Mani Sahnkar Aiyar.'

[Translation]

Sir, this shows the condition of the Union Panchayati Raj Ministry in this Government, what will happen in villages. I would further say that this is merely a shame. Nobody has objection to this bill, everybody wants that it becomes a law unanimously but is your intention clear on it? We have doubt over your intention whether you will implement it or not. Mere enactment of a law does not serve; it has to be implemented for the betterment. All the speakers who spoke on behalf of the UPA, have praised hon. Kalyan Singh. Shri Kalyan Singh ji is a representative of the parliamentary system, he is the Chairman of the Standing Committee, he is an institution. To praise him is to praise the Standing Committee. So far as I know, the Standing Committee have had discussion and interaction with so many people in the country including intelligentsia and voluntary organization. The Standing Committee itself comprised senior politicians and senior leadership. They all made an effort. Raghuvansh Babu should tell you how many recommendations of the Standing Committee have been accepted by him? Not a single one and although only partially he has accepted. He had earlier said only the BPL people would be included in the definition of the household but when the recommendations of the Standing Committee came, he called it household. The Standing Committee had recommended that any person who is willing to work should be given work. But has he done that? Has he given work to one person from each family?

He has also struck at the roots of democracy through this bill. Who is GOM to take a decision on this? Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this House is yours. Mr. Speaker is the custodian of this House and now you are presiding this House. This House takes up the issues of common

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man of this country under your guidance and Standing Committee is a part of that. Several people may be unhappy with Hon. Kalyan Singh on some issues but every one is congratulating him today on this issue. However, I would like to express the element of hypocrisy behind it. The answer to the question whether he has accepted even a single recommendation of the Standing Committee, is emphatic no. Not a single recommendation has been accepted. This raises doubt about his intention, is he really serious on this issue? This bill is incomplete one, introduced in the House half heartedly. It is feigned that this is our heritage and only we are the champions of the poor, we or our family only can do good to them and none other. It has been mentioned in the common minimum programme of the UPA government that they have been given the mandate but I want to make it clear that they have got no mandate from any of the poor States, they did not get mandate from so many places, and even then they make a mention of it, its alright, we accept that too. The following has been mentioned at page 3 of the Common Minimum Programme of the UPA.

[English]

"The UPA Government will immediately enact a National Employment Guarantee Act. This will provide a legal guarantee for at least 100 days of employment to begin with on assets-creating public works programme every year at minimum wages for at least one able bodied person in rural, urban poor and lower middle class household. In the interim, a massive food-for-work programme will be started".

[Translation]

Sir, I do not want to go into the details of urban because, there have already been so many questions-answers but I represent the youth of the society. Who is vocal in India today? Only those are vocal who can read and write. Just Hon. Member gave the example of rural area. I also come from a rural area. Can any Hon. Member or person tell that when a youth approaches a bank for loan, does he get loan there without collateral security.

Does any public sector bank give loan to them? No, no bank gives. Commitment was made for the people of this class that this facility would be made available to the lower middle class also. Where is that facility? The Government is going to amend the Constitution of India, he is going to put a new system in place and enact a new legislation then why is he doing all this half-heartedly? He talks about skilled and unskilled people in lower-middle class too. All this system he has made is for unskilled people. Who has he done for an ITI trained poor chap? He has not done anything for a matriculate. This is a bill introduced half-heartedly. Raghuvansh Babu, why does he do any work half-heartedly? He also has a rural background, I respect him, but we understand his reply as well. He must fight for this; this House, the entire Parliament and the country is with him on this issue. I do not want to repeat anything here but whatever I say is based on my experience. Let us agree that one member of a family will be registered. Heads of the families would work. Tall claims are made in that rights would be given to women; they would be empowered as has been done in Maharashtra. Soniaji says that participation of women has increased in Maharashtra. I want to tell my Congress colleagues that women's participation in Maharashtra has not increased due to EGS-nor is this the reason for their empowerment. In Uttar Pradesh a person dictates a fatwa for Panchayat elections that women can not contest elections, they will not get job. This is not a system. The hon. Minister may please tell us as to who in a family will work, man or women, elder son or the younger? If it goes like this, it will create feud in the families, therefore, he would amend this Bill and accept the recommendations of the Standing Committee. The law is fine, but who should get work, one who is willing. Otherwise corruption will creep in this scheme as well and the law will become meaningless. Therefore, it is a very risky job, his intentions may be good but this is a technical matter, so he should keep this aspect in mind.

There is a possibility of another scam which I would like to criticize. Under the provisions of Minimum Wages Act, 1948, the State Governments are supposed to provide minimum wages. Many Senior Parliamentarians are present here; I expect them to guide. Under the said Act of 1948, the State Governments are entrusted with the work of providing minimum wages as the term 'appropriate government' has been used therein. The concerned State Government can revise it keeping in view the price index in the State. If we take a look on minimum wages in various States, it is Rs. 48 in Assam, Rs. 52 in Chhattisgarh, Rs. 80 in Haryana. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is Rs. 84 in his your home State, Rs. 46 in Karnataka, Rs. 50 in Orissa which has now been increased to Rs. 52. It is Rs. 44 in Maharashtra and Rs. 134 in Kerala. Raghuvansh Babu may tell us how

minimum wages will be determined at Rs. 60. For this, I have expressed my apprehension about the possible scam in the scheme. I am apprehensive about this scheme so I allege that this is the design of the Finance Minister of the Government of India and he will simply try to pass the buck by saying that they have made the law.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you belong to Punjab. You are aware that Food for Work Programme is implemented there under the EGS. When minimum wages in the State are Rs. 80 then how will one accept Rs. 60 for a day's work? It is Rs. 134 in Kerala, then who will bridge this huge gap? For this, only I have expressed my apprehension on this point. CPM leader, Budhadev Bhattacharya has also expressed his concern on this issue. All are aware of the economic condition of the States. No State Government is in a position to bear this burden. This is a conspiracy, a deception. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY (Sabarkantha): This is not correct. He should not try to mislead the House. He should correct his figures. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing is to be recorded, except what Shri Pradhan says.

...*(Interruptions)**

SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN: He should not interrupt me. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mistry ji, what you are saying is not going on record.

SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, he is a senior parliamentarian and I am a common man. If he believes in democracy he should listen to me. I would like to tell him what happened in Maharashtra. ...*(Interruptions)* We want to learn from him and he is interrupting me. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: I am not interrupting him. I am trying to correct his figures. ...*(Interruptions)*

*Not recorded.

[Translation]

SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN: Mistry ji, when your turn will come then you can speak.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Pradhan, you should address the Chair and not to any individual Member.

[Translation]

SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN: Hence, we are apprehensive. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mistry ji, several members of your party are to speak, so, please sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there are various provisions to conduct the business of the House. If I am wrong, I may be corrected. But if his intention is to. ...*hon. Raghuvansh Babu, then it is a different thing. I would not like to say anything. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is not to be recorded.

...*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mistry ji, what you are saying is not going on record.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN: An amount of Rs. 500-1000 crore is to be released in the year 2004-2005. ...*(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: These words are to be expunged.

SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN: We would like to present certain facts regarding wages before hon. Raghuvansh Babu.

*Not recorded.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude.

[English]

You have already taken 22 minutes.

[Translation]

SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN: I am concluding in five minutes. I would like to say one thing. Are they serious about this Bill? In the meantime I introduced one amendment. They told us to bring five amendments. Here I am reading out one amendment.

[English]

Amendment No. 33 page 11, after line 6 he has added:

"(2) Without prejudice to the provisions of sub-section (I), the Central Government may, on receipt of any complaint regarding the issue or improper utilisation of funds granted under this Act in respect of any Scheme if *prima facie* satisfied that there is a case, cause an investigation into the complaint made by any agency designated by it and if necessary, order stoppage of release of funds to the Scheme and institute appropriate remedial measures for its proper implementation within a reasonable period of time."

[Translation]

Raghuvanshji, we did not expect this from a person like you. Who is concerned with the welfare of the masses. Who will commit irregularities.—Officers, Sarpanch, Chairman of Block, or Zila Parishad, MLAs, I may commit irregularities or these may exist in the system, but who will face the music? The poor people will suffer whose scheme will be discontinued. As far as we know you cannot do it. You might have inserted this clause under certain pressure. We are raising objection only on these two issues and questioning your intention. You want to do the opposite thing due to political reasons. If there is Government of Opposition party in any State and malafide complaints are filed, you will exercise control over that scheme. What kind of system is this? This is the other name of switch off and witch on system. What have you said? My question is how far the Panchayati Raj Institutions have been empowered? My objection is on this issue. Why have you inserted this clause? After 58 years of Independence we are debating whether the salary of MPs will be increased or not. This clause should at least be dispensed with. How can you take away the rights of the poor people? It is not fair that the poor face the consequences of the irregularities committed by others. It will be used for political purposes. Hence it should be reconsidered. Please scrap this.

I would like to conclude after giving two-three suggestions. I support this Bill. My party and the House also support but there are certain apprehensions. In a democratic set-up I can only expect hon. Finance Minister to intervene. The question that where will the funds come from is raised time and again? But we never raised this question? I am only saying that he should, atleast, spend the remaining amount of two lakh crore rupees of the 10th five year plan. The Government should get the work done in the whole of the country. If the Government wish to implement it all over the country, then this should be done. The Finance Minister of the country should intervene into the matter and assure the country and the House that necessary allocation will definitely be made for this purpose and there will not be any cut in it. My demand is that it should be implemented all over the country and not only in 150 districts. But it has been said that 50 more districts will be covered under this scheme. Where will they be added? Is it not that the Government has got another lollipop to be offered in the form of forthcoming elections in Bihar where manipulation can be resorted to. There should be a transparent system for it. Atleast, Orissa as well as Bihar, is a fit case for it and Orissa in highly fit for which I am thankful to you and appreciate you. But I am also concerned about the Government as it is not being allowed to work. My only request is that the rest of the districts of Orissa should be kept in mind while adding fifty districts. I will conclude my point in a minute.

Sir, it has been called food for work pre condition. I would like to tell one thing from my experience. Five districts fall in the area represented by me. Food for work programme is run in four of them. Hon. Minister, Sir, there are four main schemes in four districts. As has been said, there should be some focussed long term planning for them. Many times tall claims have been made that it is beyond civil work. There is nothing new in it, many types of works are going on even today. But, it should be seen as to what extent the Panchayat is involved in selection process in reality. Some transparent and proper long term planning perspective should be made. The Government should think about it. In the end, I would say one thing that this system is going to be

implemented through the Panchayati Raj system. What is condition of the Panchayati Raj system in the country today? Whether there is any arrangement for assigning a master role to the Panchayats? Right to Information Act has been implemented but can any comparison be made of the villages in reality? Different States have different kind of experiences. Sir, the Government should provide funds separately for capacity building. Houses should be built in Panchayat, training should be imparted in Panchayat, computers should be installed in Panchayat and the whole staff should be empowered. I would like to put a special example. There is one development block for one lakh population in my area and four JEs live there. Five Panchayats come under one J.E. About crore rupees are sanctioned for each of the area under the programme. It is beyond the power of a JE. The Govt. should further increase the number of technical members, personal members and bring technology there. Talks are going on about village set. The Govt. should provide funds for all this arrangement separately. I have doubts about the intention of the Government but the feeling of the House as a whole is that is a revolutionary Bill and it is the demand of the present time. But, I have doubts because the Government has two different approaches. On the one hand the Government speaks of reforms and on the other it talks of human face. It should be seen as to which approach prevails. Once again, I make a demand on your Government's policy that the Finance Minister of the country should intervene in this debate and assure the House and the country as to how irregularities will not be committed in it.

Sir, I am very grateful to you for allowing me to speak.

15.59 hrs.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Re: Postponement of Half-an-Hour Discussion

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Members, in today's Order Paper, half-an-hour discussion on the points arising out of the answer given by the Minister of State of the Ministry of Civil Aviation is listed as item No. 25. Subsequently, a request has been received from the Minister concerned seeking postponement of the Half-an-hour discussion. Shri Kharabela Swain, who was to raise the half-an-hour discussion, has also agreed for the postponement. Therefore, the hon. Speaker has now decided to postpone the half-an-hour discussion listed for today.

16.00 hrs.

NATIONAL RURAL EMPLOYMENT GUARANTEE BILL, 2004—*Contd.*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, I request Shri Yerrannaidu to speak. You have only five minutes' time.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam): Thank you Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to speak on this Bill.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this is a very important Bill. We are discussing the National Rural Employment Guarantee Bill, 2004 on the floor of the House. From the Government side and from the Opposition side many speakers have spoken on this Bill. This is the UPA Government's promise. 'It will immediately enact a National Employment Guarantee Act. This will provide legal guarantee for at lest 100 days of employment, to begin with, on asset creating public work programmes every year at minimum wages for at least one able-bodied person in rural areas, urban poor and lower middle-class households.' This is the commitment they have given to this nation under the National Common Minimum Programme. The National Rural Employment Guarantee Bill, 2004 says that in the aforesaid background, this Bill has been introduced in this Parliament. As stated in the Objects and Reasons of the Bill, the proposed legislation seeks to enhance the livelihood security of the poor households in rural areas of the country by providing at least 100 days of guaranteed wage employment to every poor household whose adult members volunteered to do unskilled manual work. They have given the promise. They have not implemented as it is. This is the failure of the UPA Government to implement the National Common Minimum Programme.

[Shri Kinjarapu Yerrannaidu]

This is not a full comprehensive Bill. This is a part of the Bill. It has not mentioned about the urban poor. Members from the Congress Party, the UPA Chairperson and other senior parliamentarians have said on the floor of the House that this is a historical Bill. I will support this Bill. But how can you say that this is a historical Bill? This is an incomplete Bill which you have introduced on the floor of the House. This Bill will not be applicable to the whole country. This is not a universal Bill.

16.02 hrs.

[Shri Ajay Maken *in the Chair*]

According to the Objects and Reasons of this Bill, it will be implemented only in 200 districts, including in the 150 districts where the Food-for-Work programme is already implemented. After the implementation of this National Rural Employment Guarantee Bill, the existing SGRY and the Food-for-Work programme, which is being implemented in 150 districts, will merge. Additionally, they are providing for only 50 districts. So, this is not a universal programme.

For example, I am hailing from Srikakulam district. In Andhra Pradesh, we have 23 districts. According to the National Common Minimum Programme of the UPA Government, this Bill will have universal implication. But in one district, there are thousands of people who are below the poverty line having no work. They are migrating from village to urban areas. This Bill will not provide employment in those districts. This Bill will provide employment in only 200 districts. What about the other 400 districts? The Minister has to answer this.

All right, if you say that it will be applicable to the whole country after five years means the spirit of the Bill is deviated. There are already so many wage employment programmes. There is the National Rural Employment Programme. There is RLEGP. There is Jawahar Rozgar Yojana Programme. There is Employment Assurance Programme. The Employment Assurance Programme is also a demand-driven programme but there is no legal guarantee for the poor people. Even the SGRY is also a wage employment programme to provide employment to the rural poor but there is no legal guarantee. By this Act we are giving legal guarantee for 100 days to a particular person in a poor household. But it should be applicable to the whole country. Otherwise there is no meaning in it. This is not a historical Bill. So, my Party is demanding this UPA Government that instead of waiting for five years, you have to implement this Bill in the whole country. Then only the poor people who are living below the poverty line in the rural areas will get benefit out of this Bill.

According to this Bill, we have given power to the *gram panchayat,* intermediate *panchayat* and district *panchayat.* We have to strengthen these organisations. Without strengthening all these organisations, this programme would not percolate to the ground level and ultimately the poor people would not get the benefit.

For example, it has been stated that 'a shelf of projects would be prepared by the *gram sabha'.* It has to be approved by the *gram panchayat;* then, it would be sent to the intermediate *panchayat;* and ultimately it reaches the district *panchayat.* The district *panchayat* would approve all these projects. The whoever applies for employment, the shelf of projects is available in the *gram panchayat.* For all these things, where is the infrastructure in the *gram panchayat*?

Throughout the country the size of the *gram panchayat* is not the same. In Kerala, the population of a *gram panchayat* is 25,000 to 30,000; in Andhra Pradesh, it is only 2,000 or 3,000. With a population of 3,000, where is the infrastructure for the *gram panchayat*? There is no *gram panchayat* which has the infrastructure. There is no village secretary. There is no infrastructure. How can they prepare a shelf of projects? The hon. Minister has to answer this because in different States, different *panchayat* organisations are of different sizes. If you adopt an Employment Guarantee Bill, it has to be implemented properly, with commitment, with honesty, with integrity, and without any corruption. So, the hon. Minister has to answer all these questions.

According to the UPA Manifesto, they have to include the urban poor also. If it is not possible in this Bill, the Government of India should bring in another legislation for the urban poor. It is only then that they can fulfil their promises according to the Common Minimum Programme and claim that this is a historic Bill. So, I do not agree with this claim.

In Maharashtra, they are implementing Employment Guarantee Act since 30 years. Even after 30 years, there is no shortage of migration from rural areas to urban areas. Still people are migrating to urban areas. In this situation, with these experiences, the hon. Minister should

have thought in detail, in practical terms considering the way the Maharashtra Employment Guarantee Act has been implemented.

According to my party, they have to implement this measures throughout India. I told my people in my constituency: "The National Employment Guarantee Bill is coming up. You would get mandatory wage employment for 100 days in a year." But this Bill would be applicable only in 200 districts. What can I say tomorrow to the people of my Parliamentary constituency, when those poor people approach me and ask me why they have not got employment? Where is the work to provide for them? These are some lacunae in this Bill. That is why, I humbly request that instead of implementing it in 200 districts, the Government has to implement it in all the 600 districts at a time. The hon. Minister of Panchayati Raj is also here and I hope he would agree with me.

The Government claims that this is a historic Bill. I would like to say that I support this Bill fully but it is only partly implementing the Scheme in 200 districts, which makes it old wine in a new bottle. That is why I am giving all these suggestions. The Government of India should incorporate all these suggestions. It is only then that this Bill would benefit the poor people in the rural areas and they would get 100 days' employment legally.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Chairman, Sir, this is an attempt by the Government to bring about an end to or alleviate poverty and unemployment. Mr. Chairman, it is not as if this is the first time that the House is expressing its concern about poverty and unemployment. Ever since the House came into being it has been discussing from time to time the problems of poverty and unemployment and relentless efforts have been continued to be made to get worthwhile results in this regard. It is not as if this is the first attempt to ameliorate the state of unemployment and poverty pervading the rural regions.

We have been trying to remove poverty and unemployment from the country since 1960 without pause. Countless schemes have also been formulated in this regard. The extent to which such schemes have proved to be effective, the results achieved therefrom or the shortcomings noticed in the implementation of such schemes, all these are matters which ought to be given consideration. The intentions of the Government are honourable but the extent of success achieved thereon remains to be seen.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, Shri Dasmunsi spoke for a long time. The thrust of his argument was that the growing population of the country is the reason behind most of the problems being faced by the country. It has increased the economic burden on the country. I would like to say that with the increase in population the labour force which should have been used while utilising the natural resources and mineral wealth of the country was not optimally used. If this labour force had been harnessed properly, then I can assert that the problems being faced by the country could have been contained.

It is disputable that this Bill would enable on unemployed member from one family to get employment for 100 days in a year. In addition, the Bill raises the question that in the case of a joint family, which may consist of five or six brothers as also a number of women how is it to be determined as to who would be granted employment. The Bill is silent in this regard. If the whole family is unemployed it should be clear as to who should be granted employment in the order of priority. The previous speaker said that urban and rural unemployment cannot be measured with different scales. When the Government is proposing to remove rural unemployment isn't it natural for the urban unemployed persons to react against it. I would like to request the Government that concrete efforts should be made to remove urban unemployment as well.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the basic point is that the more we talked about removing unemployment the lesser it is because the employment opportunities in the country are too meagre. This leads to the conclusion that we have failed to recognise our own situation. We overlooked our climate, environment, geographical conditions, social structure. Mechanisation, computerisation, automation led to a rise in problems. The main reason is that we forget the ideals of Gandhiji. Restrictions on open trading, unrestricted import of foreign goods, negligent attitude towards agriculture and unfavourable conditions for small and cottage industries are factors leading to a rise in unemployment in the country. On the one hand, we talk about removing unemployment, we talk of providing employment to the people but on the other hand posts in government sector are being reduced. World Bank, International Monetary Fund etc. have called for retrenchment. They want public undertakings to be shut down. As a consequence, the avenues for employment for people have been closed off. The bulk of wealth is in hands of a few people. As a result, a large part of the

[Shri Ramji Lal Suman]

population is deprived of purchasing power which has further led to economic slowdown and an increase in unemployment.

Mr. Chairman, I have with me a copy of the Business Standard newspaper which has published a survey unveiling astonishing facts. It says that an examination of the reports of 600 companies has revealed that the profit margin of these companies has increased upto 50 percent but the expenditure incurred on labour is merely 8 percent. It clearly shows that though the rate of development in the country has increased there has been a reduction in employment of labour. This is development without employment. I would like to impress upon you that the direction we have taken is unlikely to lead towards any positive results further on.

Two hundred districts have been identified under the proposal brought by the Government regarding employment generation. It proposes to include the whole of the country in this scheme in the subsequent five years. As per my understanding nearly one lakh crore rupees would be needed for this purpose and all of it would be unproductive expenditure. This large amount of expenditure is unproductive expenditure. Would we succeed in removing unemployment despite spending one lakh crore rupees. We are not moving towards eliminating unemployment. I would like to request the Government through you, that despite these measures we would not be able to rid ourselves of unemployment. The need of the hour is to formulate a policy in accordance with the capability, the means and the capacity of resources available in the country. The agricultural sector has been ignored and the small and cottage industries have been neglected to the point of ruin although these are the areas where it would have been possible to create employment opportunities. We cannot deal with the problem of unemployment if we continue to neglect these two sectors. Hence, it is my respectful submission to the Government that this problem would remain prevalent in the country till the time that we resolve to eliminate unemployment completely instead of merely taking remedial steps. This is a remedial step not a fundamental step. Till we take fundamental steps, I do not think that we would be able to derive the required results from the remedial steps. I fear that this problem would remain as it is. I conclude my statement with these words.

*SHRI A.K.S. VIJAYAN (Nagapattinam): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, after 58 years of independence, after completing the golden jubilee celebrations and recently the freedom anniversary celebrations, we have evolved and introduced a Bill in this august House with a viable scheme that would touch the needy poor directly. I welcome the National Rural Employment Guarantee Bill. Let me express my views on behalf our party Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam while extending our support to this historic Bill.

Our leader Dr. Kalaignar used to say, "We assure what we could do and we do what we assure". Within this one and a half years of coming to power our UPA Government has ventured to implement several social welfare schemes to ameliorate poverty. The significant one among such measures is the legislation of this National Rural Employment Guarantee Bill. At the moment, when we seek to pass it in this House I would like to thank the Chairperson of our UPA Annai Sonia Gandhi and our Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and the prime mover behind this governance our leader Dr. Kalaignar Karunanidhi.

Our UPA Chairperson Smt. Sonia Gandhi pointed out that women would get priority while identifying the beneficiaries for this scheme and 33% of jobs guaranteed to them. I appreciate and welcome this right move. I am duty bound to bring to the notice of this august House a valid information related to this move. When Dr. Kalaignar Karunanidhi was the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, he appointed in all the 12000 panchayats 2 social welfare volunteers—a lady volunteer and also a male volunteer in each panchayat. but the Government led by Jayalalitha that came to power in 2001 retrenched all those village welfare volunteers about 25000 of them that had equal number of men and women among them. They were removed from employment so suddenly that some of them were shell-shocked and driven to suicide attempts. They were deprived of their livelihood in a heartless fashion. I just think of UPA's Chairperson Annai Sonia Gandhi who always thinks about the poverty stricken people of this country. I also see in her a compassionate leader championing the cause of women at the national capital. But I find another lady leader in Tamil Nadu who takes away even hard won jobs of women mercilessly. What a contrast it is?

*Translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

More than 72% of our population live below poverty line in this great country of ours. They battle for life everyday. Now we have evolved a plan and seek to implement them touching the needy rural poor directly. I would like to thank the UPA Government for legislating this Employment Guarantee Scheme to benefit the rural poor.

The beneficiaries under this scheme would be getting Rs. 6000 per annum by way of getting Rs. 60 for 100 days a year. Considering the rise in price index, I wish this minimum wage rate is enhanced soon. I urge upon the Union Government to look into it. If they are to be paid in kind, that is in the form of food grains, then it should be one third of the wages to be paid. 90% of Central funds and 10% of State funds are to be allocated to carry out this scheme. I wish the Centre come forward to bear the entire expense and bear cent percent of expenditure involved in implementing this scheme. I request the hon. Rural Development Minister to look into this and make it a fully funded Central scheme.

My esteemed colleague and fellow member from my neighbouring constituency the hon. Petroleum Minister is present here in this august House now. He knows that our Nagapattinam district did not witness the flawless implementation of 'Food for Work' programme conceived as a Centrally funded scheme by the present Union Government. It was not at all implemented satisfactorily. Both of us know how the present State Government in Tamil Nadu mishandled it. We all know the reason. I have recorded this in this august House earlier.

SGRY, SGSY, IAY, PMGSY, 'Food for Work' are all Central schemes aimed at rural poor. Even in the implementation of these poverty alleviation programmes, Central Government's guidelines were not followed by the State Government in Tamil Nadu now. This accusation of mine has been recorded by me in this august House and we have taken up this with the Union Minister concerned.

This remarkable NREG Scheme must be implemented in all the 200 districts identified to begin with. We would be able to wipe out poverty only when we implement it in all the 600 districts of the country. We must find ways and means for that.

We have evolved monitoring mechanism to oversee the implementation of this programme. I urge upon the Union Government to employ rural youth in those localities as 'overseers' of the implementation of these schemes in their local areas. Youth who have passed Class X could be given these jobs. It would generate further job opportunity under this scheme. Lasting employment opportunities to literate/matriculate youth in rural areas can be provided. This suggestion may be seriously considered. The rural youth so employed to monitor the implementation of this scheme can ensure people's participation, ensure the welfare of the beneficiaries in particular apart from ensuring a livelihood for themselves through a constructive mission taken up in the cause of the nation and its poor. There are certain areas where people come forward to work for even Rs. 30 while it is shown on record as Rs. 50. We have witnessed such things when similar scheme was implemented in States like Maharashtra. We must bear in mind all our past experiences and must ensure a viable monitoring mechanism. Though the Centre has fixed Rs. 60 as the minimum wage under the scheme which in itself needs an upward revision, there are also certain States and regions in the country where people would be ready to work for even Rs. 30 per day. It is a hard reality because poverty is so severe in certain rural pockets. I urge upon the Government take note of the severity of poverty.

Sir, the Union Government has announced that we have the right now to get information from the offices of Government. We have Right to Information Act in place. But have we ensured it? I would like to inform the hon. Minister that I wanted to know about the implementation of centrally funded schemes implemented through the State Government in my constituency. Hoping that we have the right to know under the Right to Information Act, I wanted to know about the Central schemes being implemented in Nagai-Thiruvarur districts. Last month I wrote a letter to the District Collectors of those districts about the implementation of Central schemes and their stages and progress commensurate with the fund allocation. A request from a Member of Parliament, a people's representative from the local area, has not been attended to as yet and the needed information has not been furnished to me as yet. This is how District Collectors respond to a Member of Parliament. So it is imperative that Right to Information Act is implemented with all seriousness it warrants. The District Collectors must be instructed to put up notice boards displaying the details pertaining to the fund allocation, scheme wise allotment, list of beneficiaries under all the schemes area-wise in the districts. Name of projects/schemes, total number of man days, required man power scheme/projects

[Shri A.K.S. Vijayan]

wise, list of local village beneficiaries, must be displayed in public places in all the districts all over the country.

My esteemed colleague Shri P. Mohan noted that the use of machines in carrying out these schemes must be avoided completely. I happily welcome the avoidance of contract system in this scheme.

Nagapattinam district comes under the ambit of this scheme. It must be extended to the neighbouring Tiruvarur district also.

[English]

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Let it be extended to all districts in Tamil Nadu.

[Translation]

SHRI A.K.S. VIJAYAN: I would welcome if all the districts of Tamil Nadu are covered under this scheme to ameliorate poverty in rural areas with dry spell. Instead of 200 districts as indicated now, all the 600 districts must be covered as an ambitious scheme. As far as Tiruvarur, my esteemed colleague hon. Petroleum Minister is well aware that it had severe drought in the last 4 years consecutively. There were at least 20 starvation deaths in Thiruvarur district. Hunger is a problem yet to be wiped out. A seven year old boy named Prakash, Shanmugam a small farmer, Padmavathi an agricultural labour were among those who died due to starvation in the drought conditions. I have repeatedly recorded these starvation deaths in this House. I urge upon the Union Minister to include Thiruvarur district also in the identified districts that would be covered under this scheme. Our colleague Shri Yerrannaidu stated that passing of this Bill cannot be construed as a historic one. I would like to point out that it is a scheme to make poverty a history. Father of our nation Mahatma Gandhi said that only when poverty in villages are wiped out nation could attain self sufficiency and prosperity. This historic Bill aims at reaching the poor to help them overcome poverty thereby increasing their productivity to usher in prosperity. There cannot be two different opinions about this Bill that his can ensure social security to the rural poor of this country.

Thanking the Chair again, let me conclude.

[English]

SHRI V. KISHORE CHANDRA S. DEO (Parvatipuram): Mr. Chairman, I rise to support this Bill, which we have been discussing now for nearly two days. This is a path-breaking legislation. For the first time, by statute, the Government will be ensuring some kind of employment to provide social security to the poorest people in the country.

Poverty alleviation programmes have been there earlier on. They have been mentioned by many of my colleagues who have spoken from all sides of the House. However, there is a qualitative difference between those programmes and the one which is before the House today. Earlier programmes provided only for an average of 20 days of guarantee. They had no statutory backing and, hence, the legislation which Parliament is going to enact, which this august House is going to enact now, will be a path-breaking law and a historic legislation. This was a commitment that was made by the UPA Government. The Commitment was not to provide jobs for one crore people every year; the commitment that we made was to provide some kind of succour to the poor people in the rural areas of this country.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, economic reforms do not mean betterment of only the business houses or the industrialists. In a country like India, there can be no reforms which do not address the needs of the poor. A majority of our people live in rural areas. There has been migration from rural areas to mega-cities, which has been a pressing problem of recent times. We do hope that in course of time, this will reverse the trend of migration from rural areas to cities.

Several Members who have spoken have lamented the fact that only 200 districts are being taken up under this Scheme to begin with. This is only a beginning; this is not the end of it. After all, every Government has its constraints. And, a provision which was not there in the original Bill when it was introduced has been incorporated now that within a time-frame of five years, the entire country will be covered by this Scheme. So, it is not as if the Scheme will end with 200 districts. In course of time, certainly, this will spread to different parts of the country. I am sure that with the six to eight per cent growth in our economy that we have been witnessing every year, finances will not be a constraint, as far as this aim is concerned or this end is concerned.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Standing Committee in its Report had recommended universal entitlement on a self-targeting basis. Personally, I wish that this Bill gave universal entitlement to every citizen. However, as I said

earlier, this is only the beginning. So, the concept of household has also been changed, and every household will be given 100 days of work. I do hope, and the Minister is sitting over here, that in time to come, maybe next year, he will bring an amendment to see that this entitlement becomes universal and self-targeting.

I would just like to point out one or two lacunae in the Bill. This Bill provides for the Panchayati Raj institutions in implementation of works. An amendment was brought to the Seventy-third Amendment to the Constitution: Panchayat Extension to Scheduled Areas. I would just like to quote a certain provision in the new amendment that was brought to the Seventy-third Constitutional Amendment. Section 4(e) of PESA states:

"Every Gram Sabha shall—

(i) approve of the plans, programmes and projects for social and economic development before such plans, programmes and projects are taken up for implementation by the Panchayat at the village level;

(ii) be responsible for the identification or selection of persons as beneficiaries under the poverty alleviation and other programmes;"

Section 4(f) states:

"Every Panchayat at the village level shall be required to obtain from the Gram Sabha a certification of utilisation of funds by that Panchayat for the plans, programmes and projects referred to in clause (e);"

I quoted this Section of the amended Constitution (Seventy-Third Amendment) Act because unless Gram Sabhas are entitled to undertake this job, it will be a violation of the Constitution. It means that the provisions of this Act cannot be implemented in the Scheduled areas. Therefore, I would urge upon the hon. Minister to make a change in sub-sections (1) and (3) of Section 16. I suggest that the words 'recommendations of' in those sub-sections may be substituted by the words 'shelf of projects approved by the Gram Sabha'. If this amendment is made, I believe there may not be any problem to implement the provisions of this scheme in the Scheduled areas of the country.

I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to a recommendation made by the Standing Committee. This is at para 2.36A on Page 20 of the report wherein the Committee has strongly recommended that in view of the fact that the Schedule Five and Schedule Six areas in the country are the most backward and people residing there are the poorest, these areas should be included in the first phase of implementation of Employment Guarantee legislation. I would presume that the additional 50 Districts would include such areas as the Standing Committee has recommended unanimously.

The Standing Committee has given a unanimous report. The report is there with the Government and it will strengthen the hands of the hon. Minister. I would like to appeal to the hon. Minister to utilise the recommendations of the Committee to bring in amendments as and when necessary. For instance, I would certainly like to believe that not very far from now, maybe in the coming year, the Minister would extend this entitlement to everyone to make it universal. I also believe that apart from extending the present facility at this stage to the Scheduled areas, every backward region will be considered in the near future. I am sure that it may not take us even five years to cover the entire country. Let us not be pessimistic about the fact that only 200 Districts have been covered now. A noble beginning has been made. An effort which was never made before is now coming into the Statute Book. I do not see any reason why this is not going to work out.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to say to the Minister a word about the wage rate. The recommendations which came from various quarters and sources stated that the minimum wage rate that is decided by every State under the Wage Act of 1948 should be taken into consideration. However, there are certain States where the wage rate was much less than the wage rate in certain other States. Therefore, the Standing Committee felt that the minimum wage rate fixed by a State should be taken as the minimum wage rate as long as it is not less than 75 per cent of the national wage rate. This is because this has covered most of the States which have already fixed the minimum wage rate. Now the Government has decided to make a uniform wage of Rs. 60. It is all right. Let Rs. 60 be the minimum wage. However, I would prefer that those States where higher minimum wages are fixed, those rates should be made applicable as the Bill originally intended it to be.

I would like to appeal to the Minister to ensure that the quality of food grains which are given is good and fit

[Shri V. Kishore Chandra S. Deo]

for consumption. Most of the other aspects have been gone into by most of my colleagues and I would not take the time of the House.

But again I would like to repeat that this change which I had recommended had to be taken up. Otherwise, it would be a futile exercise.

[Translation]

SHRI KISHAN SINGH SANGWAN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me time to speak. The House is having a discussion on the Bill and after going through the Bill and listening about it, crores of unemployed youths have started nurturing hopes that after 58 years of independence something is going to be done for them. We were also thinking on the same lines when we came to know through media that an employment guarantee Bill is going to be introduced. We were very happy that the UPA Government is going to bring forward a Bill for the first to do something good but when Shri Raghuvansh Prasadji introduced this Bill and we went through that Bill we felt very strange. It appeared as there was great cry and little wool. It was hoped that this Bill has been brought forward the provide for employment. Hon. Raghuvansh Prasadji is sitting here and he should ask from his inner conscience and tell as to whether it is an Employment Guarantee Bill or a Bill for daily wagers. This is a Bill for the daily wagers under which there is still no and there is no guarantee of that also. There is no mention in the Bill of crores of youths, crores of unemployed educated youths whose names are registered in the employment exchanges. No provision has been made for them in this Bill. It is evident from this Bill that only provision of wages has been made for uneducated and unskilled labourers. There is much drum beating to create an impression as if something very big is being done but infact nothing has been done.

Many hon. Members have dealt in detail on this matter before me. I am a great fan and admirer of Shri Raghuvansh Prasadji. When he was in opposition he used to speak very loudly here in House on behalf of the rural poor and the farmers and use to give an impression that he actually has an affection for them but ever since he has shifted to the treasury benches his loud voice is no longer heard at all. Earlier when he used to speak from this side, his voice happened to be so vibrant that all the hon. Members had to take off their headphones and several times it was also demanded that a silencers along with headphones should also be provided for in the chamber so that it could be brought in use while Shri Raghuvansh Prasadji speak. At that time when the hon. Minister used to speak from his seat it gave an impression that he actually has some feelings for the poor people. *...(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): When I used to speak loudly even then the Government did not pay any attention.

SHRI KISHAN SINGH SANGWAN: Now he has introduced the Bill and the form in which the Bill has been introduced is far away from reality. There is no employment guarantee in it. There is even no guarantee regarding wages in it. It the just that the schemes of the Union Government for labourers have been compiled in the shape of a Bill. There is no mention as to how much budget will be allocated for this and what will the schemes? There is a mention of providing job to one member of a family. Does the other people have no right? This scheme will be implemented in 150 districts first. What about rest of the 450 districts of the country. Which schemes will be implemented in these districts? Where will the wages earner of these districts go? Rs. five hundred per month will be given which means a family will get daily wage of Rs. 17. This is not sufficient. Hon. Kalyan Singh ji has rightly suggested that whosoever wants to get employment he or she should have been provided with work under this scheme. The family restriction should not be there. It is an individual who does work. This scheme is limited to two hundred districts. This has not been specified as to in which districts this scheme will be implemented. There is no guarantee of it. Besides this has also not been said that whether this scheme will be implemented in each village of those two hundred districts and which schemes will be implemented? Nothing has been said about rest 450 districts of the country and what will be the fate of the unemployed people in those districts. Hon. Kalyan Singhji has rightly said that this Bill has been brought in haste and this could have been made better. Are there is no unemployed persons in Urban Areas? Where should the urban people go? No provision has been made for them in this Bill. All this has been done in a hurry.

I want to say that this will lead to confrontation. On the one hand they say that the Panchayats should be strengthened and on the other hand we are divesting them of their rights. Whichever scheme will be implemented under it a committee at state level and a

committee at district level has been envisaged to co-ordinate the work thereunder. Now what will be the fate of Zila Parishad, block committees and Panchayats? This will lead to division of work and result in confrontation and Panchayati Raj System will weakened. The provisions made under it are not good. The provision for only hundred days out of clear 350 days has been made in it. In the main Act it is clearly mentioned:-

[English]

Sir, in the Chapter II, clause 3(4) says:

"The Central Government or the State Government may, within the limits of its economic capacity and development, make provisions for securing work to every adult member of a household."

[Translation]

It means there will be fund and scheme, then there will be work otherwise there will be no work and no development will take place.

[English]

Similarly, in the Chapter-III, clause 4(1) says:

"For the purposes of giving effect to the provisions of section 3, every State Government shall, within six months from the date of commencement of this Act, by notification, make a Scheme, for providing not less than one hundred days of guaranteed employment in a financial year to every household in the rural areas covered under the Scheme and whose adult members, by application, volunteer to do unskilled manual work subject to the conditions laid down by or under this Act and in the Scheme."

[Translation]

That means if there is any scheme then it will be covered and if there exists no scheme then how it could be covered.

What Shri Priyaranjan Dasmunsi was stating is correct and we agree with him that it is not an easy job. In 58 years of independence, unemployment and poverty have increased. Poverty and unemployment are inter-linked. If a person is poor then he is unemployed and vice-versa, as both the proposition are inter-linked. As long as we do not provide employment to the poor, the poverty cannot be removed. Shri Priyaranjan Dasmunshi just said that it should be implemented by going beyond party lines. This issue is such. But which party ruled for 50 years out of 58 years. Today villages have got the largest number of poor. The artisans like ironsmith, washerman, barber, oilman, cobbler etc. all have been rendered jobless, their traditional jobs are not remunerative any longer and these people have shifted to the cities.

Gandhiji dreamt of encouraging cottage industries. The Congress party always chants his name but does not believe in his policies. The biggest mistake of Nehru was that he promoted big industries. Had he believed in Gandhiji's policies and set up cottage industries in villages then unemployment would not have reached such ominous proportions. Dr. Raghuvansh ji has presented a huge budget. I would like to humbly suggest him that he should usher in comprehensive changes in it, do not do anything in haste otherwise the entire budget will be wasted, no poor person will be benefited, not to speak of employment to them, they would not get their daily wages. There is rampant corruption in our country and bureaucracy rules the roost.

All those people will eat up the entire funds and the poor will get nothing, instead it will be better for the government to provide Rs. 50,000/- or Rs. 1,00,000/- directly to people belonging to SCs and OBCs engaged in small vocations for promoting their vocations in the rural areas. The Government implements scheme each year in phases, same way financial support should be extended to them for starting their small trades. It will create employment opportunity on the permanent basis and it will not be a temporary employment. This will be rather better. It would be achieved through this Bill also. A provision could be made, the details and people belongings to SCs and STs, the farmers as they have also been rendered jobless because their holdings have shrinked, population has swelled, the majority of the farmers have only half acre of land, therefore, they have also come down to their level. Therefore, financial support should be given to boost the job opportunities so that they get employment on the permanent basis and thus unemployment is removed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Sangwan ji, thanks, your party has allotted you 10 minutes time. You have already spoken for more than 10 minutes, you should, therefore, conclude. You are now taking other member's time.

SHRI KISHAN SINGH SANGWAN: Shri Raghuvansh Prasad ji, I would like to make a suggestion in this regard that all different committees set up by the Government under the Panchayati Raj should be abolished.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: This change has been effected.

SHRI KISHAN SINGH SANGWAN: No Sir, this change has not yet been made. Funds should directly go to Panchayats because hon. Minister knows the people who act as commission agents and he also knows the country's system and how the bureaucrats indulge in loot as just now an honourable member was saying that the Panchayat would pass the resolutions, but I would like to know if there is any scheme wherein money is spent without a resolution passed by the Panchayats whether the scheme is of the State Government or Central Government. All the proposals are passed by Panchayats. A separate authority will be set up with this law, therefore, it is requested that Panchayats should be strengthened. Today corruption is rampant everywhere, it is there in Panchayats also but it is better to have corruption at one place instead of it being prevalent in all places. Atleast, Gram Sabha can ask the Village Panchayats about the accounts. It is accountable to them.

First of all Panchayats should be strengthened which will improve transparency. The poor of the cities should be included in this Bill and every person of such family should also be covered thereunder. This is my humble suggestion. You have initiated a legislation, all the parties are thankful to you but as stated by Shri Dharmendra Pradhan ji, this legislation is being pushed through half heartedly, Shri Raghuvansh Prasad ji is being used and credit is being taken by someone else. You need to be alert in this regard.

[English]

SHRI SHRINIWAS DADASAHEB PATIL (Karad): Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity. On behalf of Nationalist Congress Party, I am here to stand and support this Bill.

'The National Rural Employment Guarantee Bill', its name itself, and especially its third Section relating to guarantee of rural employment to poor households, connotes that this is the Bill for rural people. When we are thinking of 'Bharat Nirman' and are looking to the welfare of poor people, this scheme means and is meant for the welfare of poor people or poor households from the rural areas. In fact, I am proud and I feel privileged to tell you that, when minimum employment guarantee scheme was pioneered in Maharashtra, I was one of the officers who were implementing that scheme as District Magistrate. I have seen people, after the agricultural operations, without any work and taking money from the local creditors and as such paying huge interest payments. As soon as the harvest was over, they used to be without money. There, the Government thought of giving them employment guarantee. When a hundred or more people came together and applied to the Tehsildar, the Tehsildar was bent to give them the opportunity. But here, in this Bill, there is no necessity of even hundred people coming together. Even if a man, one poor man, applies to the machinery with a request that he should be employed and given an opportunity. I welcome this Bill because employment is to be given to a poor household and that too, at the same time, in the rural areas. Provision for providing guaranteed employment is there—one is aware that, under this scheme, he will have work for hundred days at least. The wage rate is also worth mentioning. Minimum wage guarantee is given. So, there is no exploitation of any sort of a labour. Minimum guarantee is given and different areas are to be given different rates of such a minimum wage. Payment of unemployment allowance as such is one of the main features of this Bill.

This is the speciality of this Bill because if he applies for it and if he does not get the opportunity or if he does not get any response from the authorities, then from the date of his application, for at least 15 days, he will be given non-employment allowance. It is to look after the poor household or a poor man or poor people in the rural areas. It will be useful especially when they have nothing to do because when the agricultural operations are over, they are without any work. So, I am here to support this Bill.

In fact, when my leader Shri Sharad Pawar was the Chief Minister of Maharashtra, he implemented one scheme in the area of horticulture. The only thing that a farmer is expected to do is to volunteer his field to be taken over. The plantation was done in those fields; and I will tell you that the fruit bearing trees all over Maharashtra are fetching good prices. So, here my submission would be that the horticulture processing industries should also be brought within the net of this Employment Guarantee Scheme.

Some of the educated unemployed youth should be promoted to have small processing factories or workshop in rural areas; maybe one workshop or a factory amidst ten villages so that whatever fruits are cultivated—when they are not getting guaranteed prices—they would be brought to the workshop or factory and they would be processed. In fact, this scheme is being implemented to look after each and every individual from the poor family.

May I tell you that women are more likely to be benefited by this scheme? As we have seen, the number of women in doing labour is much more and their final status in the village will be increased because they practically honestly do the work and earn money.

In Maharashtra, food is also being given to the labour. So, cash payment alongwith food is being given to the family and he is not to extend his hand for any credit, in a rural area. I support this Bill on behalf of the Nationalist Congress Party. This scheme is very much beneficial for soil conservation efforts, for water conservation measures, for building roads, for construction of earthen dams, etc. Those who want to work will get the work and those who want to get the work done will get good people and honest people to work on the projects.

Therefore, I congratulate the Government for bringing forward this Bill. I wholeheartedly support this Bill on behalf of my Party. Thank you very much.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Raghunath ji, the time attached to your party is over. Still I have given you a chance to speak. Please be brief.

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (Bettiah): Thanks a lot. Hon. Chairman, Sir, I rise to speak on the National Rural Employment Guarantee Bill, 2004 introduced by the Minister of Rural Development Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh. Sir, I have been associated with the socialist movement. Several of the hon. Members, sitting on either side, have had participated in the socialist movement under the leadership of Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia ji and Jai Prakash Narayan ji. During that movement, our leaders said for the first time that the right to work should be included in the constitution as a fundamental right. If amendment is required for that, it should be carried out. Keeping this in view, Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia had given a slogan and that is—Bina nafe ke khetibari, usa par lage ne malgujari. He said that Bhoomi Sena should be formed and give minimum wages to the poor and employment guarantee as well. This slogan is there on since the period of the socialist movement. I want to congratulate the present Government and the Prime Minister for they have taken a commendable step in the direction of fulfilling the promises they have made in the Common Minimum Programme. And this bill introduced in the House is a commendable step in that direction.

17.00 hrs.

Hon. Kalyan Singhji who was the Chairman of the Standing Committee put forth his views on behalf of the opposition in the House. The Chairperson of the UPA, Madam Sonia Gandhi also put forth her views and the hon. leaders of all the parties also expressed their views and they have pointed out some shortcomings in it. But the hon. leaders of all the parties have strongly supported this bill.

India is a country of villages. We cannot overcome poverty, diseases and pitiable condition of villages until we provide employment to the rural people. The hon. Minister and the Government have introduced this bill to provide employment. A large number of people have been migrating from the area where I come from, they do not get any work at all for three months in a year. If they are willing to work even then they do not get work for these three months of the year because they do not have any work during these three months. This bill will go a long way to put a check upon this migration.

The Hon. Minister is going to launch it in 200 districts to begin with and they have decided to launch it in the remaining four hundred districts in a phased manner once this bill is passed. They have reiterated that they would cover the remaining four hundred districts in the next five years. There will be no district in the country that would be deprived of its benefit. That is why it is a commendable step. We want to congratulate the hon. Minister for this work. The items of work which are to be carried out have been prioritised area-wise so that if facilitates work in various parts of the country. They have also said that they will also carry out the work of water conservation, flood control and afforestation. The area where I come from, a large area there is facing water logging problem. About ten lakh hectares of land is facing the problem of water logging there. Therefore, the work of draining out of water from the said area should also be included in that. One-third women will be provided work, it is also a

[Shri Raghunath Jha]

commendable step. I want to say one thing to the hon. Minister that the passage of this bill would certainly add a new dimension to the lives of the unemployed as it would improve their standard of life and they would be brought into the mainstream of the country. I would like to request the Government and the hon. Minister to seek the cooperation and ensure the participation of people's representatives. Participation of people's representatives should be ensured in all the centrally sponsored schemes so that their speedy implementation could take place. Last year 9 lakh houses of the BPL families in Bihar collapsed due to flood, the Government of India gave grants for construction of two lakh houses and some assistance was also given by the State Government. Bribe to the tune of Rs. five thousand is being taken under the Indira Awas Yojana. Various schemes are being implemented at various stages, but their implementation is not taking place properly. The Government should also take this aspect into consideration so that these schemes are properly executed.

The second thing, as I was listening to all the members in the House, is that they were saying that there should be some arrangement for the urban poor also because there are so many poor in the urban areas also. The Government should also think of them over it.

I do not want to take much time of the House and hence I heartily welcome this bill introduced by the Hon. Minister.

[Translation]

*THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): Sir, Shri Kalyan Singh Ji, an hon. Leader from the opposition and Chairman of the standing committee has in his speech raised a very basic question as to whether we have drawn lessons from our past experience while formulating this Bill. In this connection, I would like to assure the House that we have learnt many lessons and as a result, they get adequately reflected and manifested in the Bill itself. I think the motivating factor is the report prepared by the standing committee of which Shri Kalyan Singh Ji was the Chairman. So, in reply to his query, let me make it clear that we have learnt the lesson what he intended to bring home to us. What is this lesson? The lesson is that in the absence of fixing accountability and ensuring participation, there is always enough room for corruption and corrupt practices like works being done on paper only. Schemes cannot be implemented in toto if we solely depend on the bureaucracy as we have learnt it from the erudite Shri Kalyan Singh Ji. I would like to draw the attention of this august House towards Section 13(1) of the Bill, which, I understand, makes it a historical Bill. Section 13(1) says:

[English]

> "The Panchayats shall be the principal authorities for planning and implementation of the schemes made under this Act."

[Translation]

Sir, it is enshrined in the Article 243(g) of the constitution that the Panchayati Raj Institution should be made the institutions of Self-Government. There are two main areas in which there is need to formulate the schemes. Secondly, there is need for proper planning and implementation in order to give shape to and complete different projects. I don't think that such a wider participation of our Panchayats has so far been ensured in any of the projects of the Govt. of India during our tenure or for that matter when Shri Kalyan Singh Ji himself was a Minister as has been provided for in the present Bill. Therefore, I understand that once we have clearly and openly declared as also provided in the Bill that the Panchayats shall be the principal authorities for planning and implementation, the opposition leader hon. Shri Kalyan Singh Ji should appreciate that we have really taken a historical step and that too in the direction in which Shri Kalyan Singh ji wished to move forward.

SHRI KALYAN SINGH (Bulandshahar): I am grateful to Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar for referring to my name while saying certain things. I agree that you have learnt something but you have not learnt it completely. I want that you learn the complete things. You have termed the Gram Panchayat as the principal Agency but you have imposed a Programme Officer above the same. He will allocate 50 percent work not the Gram Panchayat.

It will be better if you correct yourself in what I had mentioned. Gram Sabha is the proper forum for public and social audit. The Gram Panchayat should formulate

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*Reproduced from the Lok Sabha Debates dated 22.08.2005 with permission of the Hon. Speaker. The Translated portions of the speech were originally made in Hindi. For the authoritative text of the speech see Original Version of Lok Sabha Debates.

the scheme and get it approved by the Gram Sabha. Evaluation of performance should be done in relation to the works undertaken with respect to the progress of work, expenditure of funds, use or misuse of funds etc. A detailed statement in the form of audit should be presented before the Gram Sabha for approval, this may reduce the scope for corruption.

[English]

SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU (Rajapur): Sir, can I make a submission? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: If he yields, then only you can make your submissions.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Sir, first let me finish answering Shri Kalyan Singh and then I will yield.

[Translation]

I am sorry to say that Shri Kalyan Singh Ji has not gone through the present Bill as thoroughly as he had gone through the previous Bill. That is why he has some apprehensions about it. I am dwelling upon the areas related to Gram Panchayats. It has been said that

[English]

the Gram Panchayats shall be responsible for identification of the projects as per the recommendations of the Gram Sabhas and the Ward Sabha.

[Translation]

There is no scope for any misconception. The Gram Panchayat has to undertake work on schemes as suggested by the Gram Sabha and the Ward Sabha.

Secondly, as he has mentioned right now that the Gram Sabha should conduct the social audit, I would like to draw Shri Kalyan Singh ji's attention to Section 17(2) of the Bill.

SHRI KALYAN SINGH: Please tell me the page number.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: I do not have the page number but I do have the Section in which it is clearly written that 'The Gram Sabhas shall conduct', nowhere in it has been written that 'the Gram Sabha will conduct' at their own sweet will. The word 'shall' has been used there.

[English]

The Gram Sabha shall conduct regular social audits of all the projects under the scheme to be taken up within the Gram Panchayat.

[Translation]

We have accepted this. It further states about the Gram Sabha that

[English]

Gram Sabhas shall monitor execution of works for the purposes of conducting social audit.

In 17(3) it says:

"The Gram Panchayats shall make available all relevant documents including Muster Rolls, bills, vouchers, measurement books, copies of sanctioned orders and other connected books of accounts and papers to the Gram *Sabhas* for the purpose of conducting social audit."

We have given so much importance to the Gram *Sabhas* that it constitutes the foundation of the entire National Rural Employment Guarantee Bill. In this connection, I am obliged to refer to the comments of my colleagaue, Shri Kishore Chandra Deo, who is not with us at this moment, who asked whether in PESA, in the Fifth Schedule areas covered by the Panchayat (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 provisions—he specifically mentioned 4(3)—of the Act would be implemented or not. I am afraid Shri Kishore Chandra Deo made a mistake, I apologise for using that word, in saying that the PESA amended the Constitution.

It did not. It fulfilled the Constitutional requirement. The Constitution directs that Parliament shall, for Fifth Schedule Areas, prepare an Act which covers the extension of these provisions to those scheduled areas. In pursuance of that, the 1996 Act was passed by this Parliament and it has gone to the States. It is for the States to enact their laws in accordance with the PESA. This involved, very often, an amendment of their extant Panchayati Raj Acts.

[Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar]

Now, if in some States this is not being done, the concerns expressed by Shri Kishore Chandra Deo should be addressed to that State Government and not to this Parliament. I certainly hope that in all States of India, which have Fifth Schedule Areas, the letter and the spirit of PESA will be fully respected. If it is so, then automatically, the concerns that he has expressed with reference to this Bill will also be met. In these circumstances, we now come to the *gram panchayat.*

SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU: May I intervene?

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: I am sorry. I won't forget you. Let me finish answering Shri Kalyan Singh.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Suresh Prabhu, you can wait. Anyway, you will be the next Member to speak.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Otherwise, I get distracted. I will come to you in a minute.

[Translation]

Shri Kalyan Singhji has said that the Programme Officer has been given overriding powers in the Gram Panchayat and only he would decide as to what is to be done and how to be done. To some extent he is right because that could be possible and with this in view an amendment was brought. On the basis of his recommendations the new Bill is here before us, and I would like to draw the attention of Shri Kalyan Singhji towards Section 15(2) which says:

[English]

"The Programme Officer shall assist the panchayat at the intermediate level in discharging its functions under this Act and any scheme made thereunder."

[Translation]

This means that the Programme Officer shall function as facilitator and assist the Panchayat Samiti, but the decisions will be taken by the intermediate level Panchayat because at this level the Pradhan or Sarpanch, whatever you may call them, will also be present and in case of disagreement with the Programme Officer's decision. The Intermediate Panchayat can tell the Programme Officer that the decision taken by him is not right. Further, he has stated that it is upto the Programme Officer to decide whether he will or will not allot fifty per cent of the works to be implemented through the Gram Panchayat and in what manner. But in the amended Bill now brought before you, it has been stated—

[English]

"The Programme Officer shall allot at least fifty per cent of the works in terms of its cost under a scheme to be implemented through the gram panchayat."

[Translation]

If there are any disagreements, the members of the Gram Panchayat or the Gram Sabha and the Panches of the Panchayat are free to go to the Intermediate level Panchayat and tell them that they do not agree with the Programme Officer, and then it will be decided there whether the decision of the Programme Officer is right or not and whether the same needs to be corrected. Thus we see that the Programme Officer will not enjoy overriding powers. Section 16(6) says:

[English]

"The Programme Officer shall supply each gram panchayat with (a) the muster rolls for the work sanctioned; and (b) a list of employment opportunities available elsewhere to the residents of the gram panchayat."

[Translation]

"All the information will be with the Gram Sabha on whose recommendation the Gram Panchayat would decide as to what works should be done and what should be left. In case of any disagreement between the Programme Officer and the Panchayat, that door is open for them to approach the Intermediate level Panchayat which is also an elected body like them and register their complaints with them, and this way things may move ahead. The Intermediate level Panchayat which is also known as Panchayat Samiti or Kshetra Samiti or Taluka Panchayat, will undertake the works. In Section 13(3) of the Bill, it is clearly mentioned:

[English]

"The functions of the Panchayat at the intermediate level shall be—

(a) to approve the Block level plan for forwarding it to the District Panchayat;

(b) to supervise and monitor the projects taken up at the Gram Panchayat and Block level."

[Translation]

So, there will be certain works which will be monitored at the Intermediate Level Panchayat. In case the work is undertaken by the Gram Panchayat and if there is a need for any monitoring, that will be done by the Intermediate Level Panchayat.

[English]

(c) to carry out such other functions as may be assigned to it by the State Council, from time to time."

[Translation]

Now, I do not know why Sangwanji has objected to the constitution of the State Coordination Committee. I want to know whether the views of Sangwanji or somebody else's will prevail in the State Council. He should ask the Minister of that State or he should take up this issue with him that this should be fully assigned to the Block Panchayat and then, it can be taken up under Section 13(2) of the Bill:

[English]

You have to go ahead with clause 13(3)(c). You go ahead and do these functions as assigned by the State Council.

The same provision is for the Panchayat at the district level:

The functions of the Panchayats at the Districts level shall be—

"(a) to finalise and approve," not to prepare, "the block-wise shelf of projects."

The block-wise shelf of projects is being prepared on the basis of the Gram Sabha and Ward Sabha suggestions by the Gram Panchayat to be forwarded to the intermediate panchayats which take a fresh look at them and then they recommend it further to the district level. So, at every stage, there are checks and balances to see to it that worthwhile schemes are included in the shelf of projects. Then, it is to supervise and monitor the projects taken up at the Block level so that, in addition to the Block Panchayat, the District Panchayat is looking after it as well as such projects as may be taken up at the District level. ...*(Interruptions)*

Then, of course, the next is to undertake such other functions as may be assigned by the State Council. So, what I want Shri Sangwan, Shri Kalyan Singh, Shri Yerrannaidu and others to understand is that if you look at the different sections of this Bill as presented before the august House, you can see that there is integration of activity at every single level—from the Ward Sabha to the Gram Sabha, from the Gram Sabha to the Gram Panchayat, from the Gram Panchayat to the intermediate panchayat and the officer serving the intermediate panchayat who is the Programme Officer. Finally, it is that of the District level where again the district bureaucrat is serving the District Panchayat and not the other way round. ...*(Interruptions)*

Please wait for a second. I think Shri Suresh Prabhu had a question to ask. ...*(Interruptions)* Please excuse me. Let him ask. he wanted to ask me something.

SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Minister mentioned a very important point. He said that clause 13 of the proposed Bill gives unqualified powers to the panchayats and, therefore, the point raised by Shri Kalyan Singh will not apply. If you read clause 13,—Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar can read it—clause 13(1) says:

"The Panchayat at district level in every district within which a Scheme is being implemented shall constitute a Standing Committee consisting of such number of its members and subject to such terms and conditions as may be prescribed by the State Government to supervise, monitor and oversee the implementation of the Scheme within the district."

Therefore, it is not an unqualified power that is given to the panchayat. It can vary from State to State. The State Government can decide as to what should be the powers of supervision of that Standing Committee which is going to be constituted under clause 13. Therefore, if the spirit with which he is saying that is to be taken to the logical conclusion, then what we really need to do is to take away the powers from the State Government, to change from one State to another State the power of the respective Standing Committee which actually is going to exercise the power that he talked about.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Sir, it would be undesirable to give unfettered powers to any institution in our democracy. Democracy functions best when there are checks and balances.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (Kalahandi): Mr. Chairman, Sir, if the hon. Minister yields I would like to seek a clarification.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Let me finish. I do not yield. I will give you a chance after I finish.

Sir, it is precisely to check the unfettered powers of any element of the system that these checks and balances have been built in. I do not believe that it would be constitutional for us here to prescribe a uniform model for all the State Governments because the State List in the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution clearly puts the responsibility for Panchayati Raj on the State Governments and what we have to always perform is a delicate constitutional balancing act between the advocacy role of the Centre and the constitutional responsibilities that have been entrusted to the States. If one sees that any given State Government is violating either the letter of the Constitution or the law or, more importantly, the spirit in which that law has been prepared, then it is the job of the Union Ministry of Panchayati Raj to go there and arrive at a conclusion by a process of cajoling, begging, persuading and at some times, perhaps, with a little bit of threatening.

Sir, it has been my experience in the last year that if you get together the representatives of the State Governments, there is total unanimity, not just consensus; 150 action points have been agreed by all of us sitting together in a period of just 150 days last year. Now I am undertaking tours of the States and I find that it is very easy to be able to arrive, by consensus with them, at the important steps that need to be taken to improve things in any given State.

So, with trust in our constitutional order, a constitutional order which gives responsibilties to the panchayats within a framework where the State Governments have an overall responsibility to the people through their State Legislatures and which gives certain responsibilities to the Centre to be responsible to the same people of India through this august House, the Parliament of India, I think, we need to move forward. We are moving forward. This is truly a historic Bill, because for the first time unambiguously the Panchayati Raj Institutions, the Gram Sabhas and Ward Sabhas which support these Institutions, have been given full recognition, full devolution of powers and full respect.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to ask a question to the hon. Minister Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am not going to allow any question now. The Minister to reply tomorrow. If you get a chance to speak, then you make the point in your own speech, not now.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Your name is in the list of speakers. You have to speak and when you speak you make your point. I will not allow you now. We have a very long list of speakers. Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record other than what Mr. Prabhu says.

*...(Interruptions)**

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Minister, you will not reply to him.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: I am obliged to you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Prabhu, you please speak. We have a very long list of speakers and my name is also there in that list.

SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU (Rajapur): Sir, we are about to pass a very important legislation. India is a country, which should not be proud of the fact that we have the highest number of people living below poverty line. I sometimes wonder, if those people were to live in a separate country, that would be the poorest country in the world, with the second largest population in the world.

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*Not recorded.

17.31 hrs.

[SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV *in the Chair*]

So many poor people are living in a country like India and therefore, when we are addressing the concern of such poor people by way of a legislation, this is a welcome step. While doing that we must be sure that the object, which has been stated in the object clause of this particular legislation, is really reflected in the substantive position of the legislation.

Sir, why we are talking about it and why I justify this because the only way of survival for poor is his ability to work. He has no asset and therefore, no resort to using his capital for earning income. Therefore, the only way he can earn income is by working. Therefore, when we are actually guaranteeing a right to work, it is something which was not even stated in the Constitution, it is something which is definitely welcome. While we are doing that, we must be absolutely sure that we are actually doing what we really need to do.

Sir, we are talking about livelihood security for the poorest of the poor in the country. When we talk about livelihood security, can you believe that those people, who are going to work for 100 days in a year earning less than the minimum wage, which is stipulated—I will come to that point later—save something which will help them to earn income for the remaining 265 days in a year? When you earn for 100 days, you need to also survive for the remaining 265 days. Therefore, if you are providing livelihood security, which is really required, then in that case, it is not sufficient to say that we will provide you guarantee for only 100 days and for remaining 265 days, how you will survive is not my concern. Therefore, if you are providing livelihood security, which is the basic object of the Bill, as has been stated in the object clause, in that case it is not enough that we can give for 100 days, it must be given round the year, for 365 days of the year and that too at the minimum wage and not below that. It is because the minimum wage is the wage which is calculated under the Act passed by this Parliament on the basis of the minimum amount of money required for a person to survive. On this basis the minimum wage is calculated. So, how can you pay anything which is lower than the minimum wage? It is a violation of the Act passed by this Parliament itself. Therefore, I personally feel, that the clause 100 days should be removed and it should be round the year and the amount should not be Rs. 60 per day, but minimum wage.

Sir, when we are talking of livelihood security, the other important issue is that when we are going to give a minimum wage, if at all we do that, even the State Government is unable to provide jobs. In that case, the amount of money that will be entitled for that poor person is only 25 per cent of the minimum wage.

Now, when we are talking of livelihood security, do you mean to say that the State Government finds it easier not to provide a wage and 25 per cent of the wage will be paid? Do you think he will be able to survive? So, if you are talking of livelihood security, it is not enough to say that we will provide only 100 days wage and not even minimum wage and that too after assuring that to say that if the Government is not willing to provide it, we will give only 25 per cent of that. Therefore, this goes against the spirit for which we are discussing this. Therefore, I really request that that should be done.

Sir, I am talking of minimum wages, minimum employment, so give me minimum wage please.

Sir, why is this really done and why only in 150 districts? I am really worried that they will do it for 150 districts out of 600 plus districts of the country. Many people will migrate from one place to another. But then there is a clause saying that if a person goes from one village to another, unless he resides in the vicinity of that village, he will not be entitled to draw wages. Just imagine, some workers, some poor people want to migrate from an adjoining district, which is not identified as a poor district, to get a job will not get a job. How is it going to work? Therefore, I also feel that this provision also needs to be properly amended while doing this.

Sir, the other issue is a very important issue and I hope my friends from the Left will sympathise with this. We are told that of the 100 days in a year, he will get a job only six days in the seven days' week.

Do you mean to say that on the seventh day, he is not going to get paid? it is what is required. When they talk about Schedule-2 of this Bill that there are going to be a number of labour-friendly incentives like providing fresh drinking water, medical facilities, why not seven days' wage also should be paid having a person worked for six days? It is because that is what is normally done. Therefore, this again is required to be introduced and incorporated. Therefore, I feel that this needs to be done.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Prabhu, please conclude.

SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU: Sir, I am going very fast; I am just reading out the points. I am not taking much time.

Why there is only one member of the family? There again the definition of the 'household', as done in the present Bill, says that if a person is sharing a common kitchen, it is a common household. Just imagine a person having more than ten members living in one family, sharing a household and sharing a family kitchen. There only one person will get a job. That will create more rifts in the family than in the past because now the amount of money that he is going to earn is not on the basis of the amount of labour he is going to put in, but on the basis of amount of entitlement. It is because that entitlement is taken away from one member of the family, the remaining members of the family will not be able to opt for the wages under this Act. Therefore, they are actually going to cause a division in the family. Therefore, I think this one-member family household definition should also need a drastic change in total form. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please do not interrupt. I am not allowing you. Please take your seat.

SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU: Before we start the programme, I hope we take certain precautions. One of the precautions that we need to take is this. Our former Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi himself has said that out of the amount of Rs. 100 that we send from Delhi only Rs. 22 reach finally the destination. I do not know what has happened in the last twenty years. It can be more. If that is the case, how it will be awarded is a major challenge, and therefore before we prepare to launch this Programme, we must absolutely ensure that it will really not happen. Therefore, to avoid that I would personally feel that Maharastra experience needs to be studied. In a district like Dhule, there were large number of violations because there were bogus wagers who were actually registered as a result of this and many went away. Therefore, before we start this programme we must prepare the best practices manual drawing practices from best of the units, benchmarking against the cost of that. If you do that, I am sure this will ensure that the irregularities will be reduced.

The other issue is that wages payment is a major problem. At least, wherever there are banks and wherever there are branches of any other bank, the wages should be paid through a bank. If you make payment through banks, there could be a possibility that the amount of money that is pilfered will be reduced, and also we should involve the NGOs. There was a very good example in the State of Rajasthan. There Aruna Roy worked, and as a result of that the bogus wage earners list has been reduced to a great extent. Therefore, I think we should really ensure doing that.

Schedule 1 only talks about descriptive list of the amount of activity that can be done. You must prepare a sequence of events. Unless a detailed project report is prepared, the work should not start. Having prepared that, it should be approved by the gram sabha and the gram panchayat. It should also be ensured that wage register should be maintained first.

Now, there are only identity cards which are going to be issued but a wage register should also be registered properly. It should be taken to this, and while this is done, how we are going to find out the money for this is still an important thing. It is because nowhere it is mentioned in the clause how the money is going to be raised for this. It is only mentioned that as and when notified the State Governments, the Central Government, will find the funds. I think it is also important before the Bill is passed by the Parliament we should also lay before the House how the money is going to be raised, whether a separate fund is going to be created. How that is going to be funded finally? Is it only through the budgetary provision or like in the case of Maharashtra where the employment cess is collected is actually contributed by that. That also really needs to be done. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU: I have also moved some amendments. I will just take one single case which is stated in Schedule-2 as the first item. There are certain issues. The Finance Minister had mentioned while presenting the first Budget of the UPA in May last year. He said that one million tanks are going to be restored. Now, this one million tanks which are to be restored is a very good and laudable objective. Firstly, I do not know how many they have been able to restore. But, you have to ensure that this happens in real sense of the term and the Schedule-1 talks, these are the first priority.

I personally feel that you can prepare a complete DPR Wing GIS and remote sensing to help the villagers and the Panchayats and also give them the technical support, whereby they will be able to do the job in a

manner that there is a linkage between water bodies and the Water sheds and catchment areas. The village Panchayats will not be able to handle the linkage between land and forest, and all these issues. If you can prepare a national level database and provide the technical support to these institutions, then it will happen. Therefore, I think, it is a very classical case of the Ministry like the Ministry of Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar and it should be able to provide such an umbrella support to the local bodies whereby the capacity of the local body will improve, and the objective that you really intend to do, rather than using and waiting for capacity to be created first and then implementing the programme, can be achieved. While a programme of this magnitude is implemented, this is a good opportunity to develop such capacity.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now.

SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU: Sir, I conclude my speech now.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Sir, our Party is not opposed to this Bill specifically when the Standing Committee of Rural Development has in its recommendations described this Bill as a path-breaking piece of legislation brought forward by the Government of India. Shri Kalyan Singh, who has initiated this debate, has chaired the Standing Committee on Rural Development. Shri Kalyan Singh has already mentioned in detail about the lacunae that this Bill is having. I shall not repeat those. The only thing, along with him, I shall mention right from the beginning is this. I urge upon the Government to implement this Bill all over the country including the urban areas within the next two years and also to open this Bill for anybody who wishes to take up such manual job. It should not be confined to any one person in the family.

Sir, it seems that the UPA Government has set all its hope and expectation on this Bill since it could turn out to be the only tangible achievement of this Government. This desperate hope was the hallmark of the maiden speech made by Madam Sonia Gandhi in the Fourteenth Lok Sabha, ably followed by a highly politically-oriented speech made by the hon. Member, Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia, who among themselves claimed about ten times that this National Rural Employment Guarantee Bill is the brainchild of the Congress Party. There was a total hesitation on their part of cede any credit to any other party including their colleagues in the Left. Naturally, at the end of the speech, there was very reluctant thumping of desk by the Members belonging to the Left Parties.

I have no quarrel with the Congress Party. Let them appropriate all the credit; if this Bill succeeds. It is all their credit and I wish them the best. You may call me a pessimist, you may call me a cynic and you may call me a person having a negative mentality but, as a Member of the Opposition, I think, it is my bounden duty to bring it to the notice of this Government as to where lies the bottleneck and what could throttle such a scheme from eradicating poverty.

Sir, take the example of the Maharashtra Bill, which is the pre-cursor of this National Rural Employment Guarantee Bill. My basic question is this. This Bill is going to put the exchequer under tremendous pressure. But will it bring in compensatory spin-off in the form of reduced poverty level?

I will just quote the recommendations of the Standing Committee on Rural Development. It says, in page 7, about the failures of the Scheme in Maharashtra. I shall go one by one. It says:

> "The programme still continues after 30 days without any decline in the demand for unskilled wage work under the scheme."

Does it mean that after 30 years nothing has happened in Maharashtra and still people are going for unskilled work?

That clearly means there is a lot of pilferage in this project. The second one is, 'there has been modest impact in poverty reduction or in unemployment reduction in the State'. There has been a very-very modest reduction. The third one is, 'the distressed seasonal migration of workers from backward region continues as the guarantee is not really implemented in many cases'. You will understand that is has not done anything with the migration of the labour. And the last one is very important. 'The quality of the assets created and their maintenance are frequently not satisfactory'. That means the quality of the sustainable assets, the creation of the durable assets, which is the main purpose of the Bill, has failed in Maharashtra even though it has been implemented for the last 31 years.

You see, why this has happened. Now, let us see page 39. It has been given in the Bill what are the

[Shri Kharabela Swain]

schemes, what are the projects that would be taken up. They are, water conservation and water harvesting, drought-proofing, irrigation canals, provision of irrigation facility, land development, renovation of traditional water bodies, flood control and rural connectivity to provide with all weather access. There are works like this. Mostly, these are all earth-related works. We know and all the Members of this House know that when most of our Party members and contractors come to us and demand that they should be given some work, what do they want? They want this *kachcha* work of laying the *kachcha* road and digging the pond. Why? It is because the pilferage is the highest there. The officers take the highest percentage in these cases. That is the position. I am very scared that this might happen in this case because this is not going to create any durable asset. It is only going to create some *kachcha* assets.

Now, I will come to another point. I will simply give another example. This is *The Indian Express*. I will give you this as a proof. This is *The Indian Express* of August 18. It says, "Lesson for Delhi is here. Maharashtra stops work in Solahpur. District Collector signature forged. Musters manipulated by the Government staff. Only in one district, there has been a pilferage of Rs. 9.1 crore." This is the result. This is what happened in Maharashtra. This is from *The Indian Express* of August 18th.

So, this is my point. Is this Bill not going to open the floodgate of corruption? That is my apprehension. This is a very sincere apprehension, and I gave you the example. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Anil Basu, please take your seat.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: This is my actual question. Actually how many people are going to come for that work? Let me tell you I am having a printing press in my State. I want a person who is a machine operator who is to be trained. I have been giving advertisements through newspapers, including through my newspaper. I am telling many people that I want a person to whom I am prepared to pay Rs. 1,500 per month. But for the last six months nobody is coming for work. Even if anybody is coming for work, he is quitting the job after 10 days. It is only because he thinks that Rs. 1,500 per month is a pittance; it is a very small amount. You are going to give Rs. 60 per day. That means, it would come to Rs. 6,000 for 100 days in a year. That means, it is Rs. 500 per month. When you are going to give Rs. 60 per day, I do not know how many people will come forward. I am asking a very simple question. Are the educated people of this country very interested in a salary of Rs. 500, a pittance, per month? They want white-collar jobs. I am very doubtful whether many people will come forward. In a State like Kerala, the minimum wage is Rs. 130. If you say you will give Rs. 60, who is going to come forward to take up this job when more wage on daily basis is available outside? So, that is my doubt.

There are two aspects relating to poverty: one is absolute poverty and the other is relative poverty. Absolute poverty refers to the number of people or proportion of population below the poverty line. Relative poverty is exactly the story you narrated several times in this House. You were describing the other day the difference between the poor and the rich. You said that while the poor man was walking on the street the rich man was climbing on an elephant; thus, there was a difference of 10-12 feet. Now, the rich people are flying by aircraft at a height of 30,000 feet. This is relative poverty and these are our poverty dimensions.

During the early decades after Independence, the levels of income were low and the GDP growth was meagre. Consequently, poverty levels were too high, both in terms of proportions and absolute numbers but relative poverty and income disparity were virtually low. Since the mid-1980s, there was economic acceleration of about six per cent per year and poverty declined but the relative poverty has increased. Now, the major problem before this Government is how to eradicate this relative poverty so that poverty would go away altogether.

Let us take the example of Telengana. In Telengana, there is a Naxalite movement because they say the level of poverty is very high. I had gone to Telengana. If you compare Telengana with the prosperous areas of Orissa, I think, Telengana would fare much better than the prosperous areas of Orissa. I come from these more prosperous areas that they are worse than Telengana. This is not absolute poverty. This is relative poverty because the people of Telengana think that the people of coastal Andhra Pradesh are rich. If they come to Orissa, they would actually know how poor Orissa is. That is why, I say, it is a question of mindset and it should be done away with. The Government should carefully design the economic growth strategy. We should aim at reducing the imbalances between States, between rural and urban areas, and among various social groups.

During the time of the NDA Government, the Government had created infrastructure that aimed at removing relative poverty but the UPA Government is rather more interested in removing absolute poverty, which has actually come down during the last two decades.

Another point relates to the quality of work. I have carefully gone through the recommendations of the Standing Committee. Many experts have appeared before the Standing Committee and given their opinion. The opinion of the experts was that the Government never talked about the quality of work. The experts simply wanted that we should relax all the work norms. Actually they want a relaxation of work norms. There was a provision that people should work diligently for seven hours. The Government wants to remove it. They say: "There is no question of diligence. He would just do whatever work he wants." If there were five women, one woman among them would be a babysitter. So, out of five women, only four women would work. For pregnant women, there is also a provision that three months' wages would be paid without any work. There would be separate types of work for the handicapped and disabled persons. Can we not directly help those pregnant women and disabled persons? Why should this be done in the name of Employment Guarantee Scheme? Are we not keeping more loopholes in this bill by leaving room for discretion so that the officials would get excuses to resort to corrupt practices?

Hon. Minister, Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar, was telling about the muster roll. In the EGS scheme which was implemented earlier, there was also a provision for a muster roll. You come to our village and you will find that there is no muster roll anywhere.

I am putting the question to the Government. The hon. Minister is present here. Does the Government feel that the good quality of irrigation project should actually be done through manual work? I do not think that good quality of irrigation work could be taken up through manual work. It is because, if you dig the canal, you dig the canal and you put it on the bank and with one shower of water everything will just come to the canal and again it will be silted. Actually, this happens and this is my experience and this is also your experience.

I am putting another question. This Government has made this Bill a legal entity. Now, I have an apprehension that many people will go to the court. Some of them also maybe politically motivated. Now, what are you going to do about it? How many cases will you fight? It is because some people will say, 'I asked for job and the Government did not give it to me.'

Now, I would just like to read what the *Times of India* has said. It cannot be said that it is an Opposition-oriented newspaper. I quote:

> "The Group of Ministers has given a go-by to 'fiscal prudence', in pursuing an expensive and potentially 'highly wasteful' national programme of political expediency. He Finance Ministry raised a 'Fiscal Defence Wall' against the Bill. Fiscal experts within the Government are aghast that it is not the usual suspect—the Left, but the Congress Chief who is attempting to endear herself to the '*aam admi*' at the risk of leading the Government to Financial ruin. Even if the States foot a part of the bill, the costs are likely to be prohibitive for the Centre."

These are the comments given by the newspaper. Under no stretch of imagination you can tell that it is the 'Opposition' newspaper.

The hon. Minister for Water Resources, Shri Priyaranjan Dasmunsi, was telling that because of the great nationalisation and because of the pro-poor effect of the late Shrimati Indira Gandhi Government, the fate of the poor had changed. I will just give you one example. During 1991, Shri Chandra Shekhar was the Prime Minister for only four months. He had to pledge gold for bringing some foreign exchange reserves. Why did it happen? Did he commit so much of a mistake that within four months he had to pledge gold? It was because of the economic mismanagement from 1980 to 1990 that we had to suffer. I apprehend that this is exactly going to happen now.

My last point is about removing the relative poverty. The first thing is that more money should be put to make the people literate. It is the education which will ultimately remove poverty. The Government should put more money in the rural infrastructure like road, power, health and irrigation and not in the name of Employment Guarantee Scheme. You put the money and people will get the opportunity to stand on their own legs and to generate work on their own. If that is not done, then I have an apprehension that in a State like West Bengal, the entire money will be appropriated by the Comrades and by the Cadre.

Thank you very much.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Prof. M. Ramadass. Nothing will go on record except the speech of Prof. M. Ramadass.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ANIL BASU (Arambagh): We will send you money. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Anil Basu, I am not allowing you. Why are you disturbing every time?

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Sunil Khan, please take your seat. Prof. M. Ramadass to speak now. Nothing will go on record except the speech of Prof. M. Ramadass.

...(Interruptions)

18.00 hrs.

PROF. M. RAMADASS (Pondicherry): Respected Chairman, Sir, I am glad to participate in the discussion on a path-breaking legislation or a radical law that we are going to pass today which will have an indelible impact on the rural society of India.

Now this National Rural Employment Guarantee Bill is a right step in the right direction and it recognizes the right to job, for the first time in the country. Therefore, the *Pattal Makkal Katchi* whose objective is...

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is six o'clock, if the hon. Members agree, the House may be extended for discussion. Other items will be taken up only after the discussion is concluded. We have to conclude the discussion today itself. Special Mentions will be taken up after the discussion is concluded.

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT (Shajapur): Sir, my submission is that the issues to be taken up in the Zero Hour should be taken up now.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Member, please help in conducting the business so that this subject can be concluded early and special mention can be taken up thereafter. This depends on the hon. Members that if they want that special mention should be taken up then they should conclude their discussion early.

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Sir, hon. Mr. Speaker had given a decision that Zero Hour business would be taken up from 6 p.m. Therefore, I request that Zero Hour business should be taken up.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Other business can be taken up only after conclusion of this discussion, which has also been the usual practice.

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Sir, this discussion will keep on going till 11 p.m. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are a senior Member, you should understand it. Other subject can not be taken up till this Business is going on.

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Sir, that is why I am requesting that the items of Zero Hour should be taken up now.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is a standing order that special mention is taken up only after finishing the business.

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Sir, the standing order is for 6 p.m.

MR. CHAIRMAN: This depends on the circumstances.

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Sir, this is not the case. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Member, you might remember that sometimes Special Mention has been taken up even at 7 or 8 p.m. Perhaps, you do not remember it and that is why you are saying so to the Chair. It is alright, you may take your seat. Now, nothing from you will go on record.*

[English]

PROF. M. RAMADASS: Sir, we welcome this Bill because this is in consonance with the policy of our Party—PMK. This intends to ensure full employment to all able-bodied persons in the country. Our policy is to provide education to all and jobs to all and, therefore, this National Rural Employment Guarantee Bill provides for the achievement of this objective. Therefore, we appreciate and congratulate the hon. Minister for Rural Development. I think he will go into the annals of India's economic history by bringing this radical, rather a revolutionary Bill which will go to wipe out the tears of Indian eyes.

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*Not recorded.

In 1947, when we got Independence, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru said: "The objective of India's Independence is to wipe out every tear from every Indian eye". That may be beyond us. But as long as there are tears, our work will not be over. I find that this Bill is designed to achieve that long-eluding goal of Government of India and also of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru.

Our friend on the other side, Shri Kharabela Swain, was talking like an economist and saying that this will not reduce the relative poverty and that the relative poverty is increasing. If he had read a little amount of Economics, he would have known that this Bill is intended to a targeted group who are actually unemployed and who do not have any income and hence the purchasing power.

Therefore, among the two unequals, this Bill tries to address those people who do not get employment. So, this is going to address the people who will get some income and therefore, the gap between the absolute poverty and the relative poverty will be reduced by the introduction of this Bill. Perhaps, if there is a nation-wide application of the Bill, that may contribute to widening of the gap, but this Bill for rural areas will bridge the gap between the relative poverty and the absolute poverty.

He was also mentioning about *The Times of India* according to which the fiscal experts in the Finance Ministry are alarmed about the cost. The cost of implementing this programme for this year would be only Rs. 13,000 crore which can be easily funded by the Finance Ministry without increasing the fiscal deficit or the revenue deficit of the Government, but with regard to the benefit of the scheme to the people. I should mention that 150 million rural households in this country will have bread-winners, after the passage of this Bill.

We will have to look at this Bill from the background in which this Bill has been piloted. When I read this Bill, I was reminded of the statement of one of the greatest economists of the 20th Century, Lord John Maynard Keynes who had said:

> "The outstanding faults of the economic society in which we live are its failure to provide for full employment and its arbitrary and inequitable distribution of wealth and income..."

What he had said in 1936 holds good for India even today.

The two major problems that we are facing today are unemployment and poverty. Unemployment and poverty are the two sides of the same coin. If a person does not get any job, he does not have any income and if he does not have income, he does not have consumption. Therefore, either from the consumption point of view or from the income point of view, you cannot eradicate poverty unless people get income as well as employment. This Bill precisely provides for it. It may be true that the past experiences have failed, but the past experiences' failures need not be a lesson for the failure of the future also.

There are a number of innovative features in this Bill which would try to ensure greater employment opportunities to the people in this country. He said that the relative poverty is increasing. Yes, the relative poverty has been increasing, but it has been increasing because his NDA Government was pursuing relentlessly the economic reforms without a human face. Economic reforms that had been initiated during the last six years have created a path of jobless growth, a path of human-faceless growth, what we call a nihilistic development. When we allow these economic reforms to take the country forward, it will not automatically generate employment opportunities. That is why, Madam Sonia Gandhi while participating in the discussion on the Bill said that 'I believe that we cannot just sit idle and hope that economic reforms alone will create adequate employment opportunities in rural India'. This is true.

When you look at the evidences that are coming out of the economic reforms, we have seen a marginalisation process where the big industries are swallowing the medium industries, medium industries are swallowing the small-scale industries and small-scale industries are taking away cottage industries. As a result, we have produced only unemployment in the country, even among the unskilled labourers. Therefore, if these unskilled labourers are to be taken care of, who are in greater majority, we have to make specific provision for the employment opportunities and this Bill, for the first time, recognises this faulty planning process in this country and tries to give a boost to the bottom up approach to development. Therefore, it will provide a lot of employment opportunities.

Many of the deficiencies he has mentioned, like it will lead to corruption, it will not bring about qualitative work etc., are all taken care of by the Bill. If you look into the various components of the Bill, you will be able to understand that there is a greater amount of monitoring

[Prof. M. Ramadass]

of the scheme at every level. There is a transparency and there is accountability. There is vigilance on the part of the people who are involved in this scheme. Therefore, all the past mistakes associated with the Maharashtra Bill or the Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Bill or the Employment Assurance Scheme, which we have implemented in the past, will not be committed or will not be repeated in this scheme because there are built-in mechanisms where there will be greater vigilance in evolution of the scheme, at every level. Therefore, given theses superior salient features of the Bill, I hope that this Bill will be able to tackle the basic issues of unemployment and poverty in the country. One of the important salient features of the Bill is that this a need-based programme. Perhaps there are only very few programmes in the country which are need-based.

What is a need-based programme? It would provide employment to those who are in need of it. This Bill does not say that all of you come and get the job. Those who want the job are registered, and they can apply to get a job. This would also be need-based because it would help to create the assets needed by the society, as the labour power is not going to be wasted. The labour power of this country is going to be used for conversion of manpower into real assets. Therefore, all the assets or infrastructure that are required by the society would be created with the help of employment, to be given through this programme. On the one hand we would be creating assets needed by the society, and on the other, we would be using the labour power required for the society.

Therefore, the entire programme is a need-based one. At the time of its implementation, namely, when the people get employment and income, and purchasing power, consumption and the demand for goods and services would increase. As a result of this, the industrial production and agricultural production would increase, and it would result in higher growth rate in the economy to rise. We are already reaching a stage of seven per cent growth rate in the economy, and the provision of employment opportunities would increase the growth rate.

If this growth rate is sustained, then we would be able to follow the path of social justice, and growth in the economy. This is the same point that our Hon. Prime Minister made during his Independence Day address. He aptly said that if we sustain this pace between seven and eight per cent growth, then in the next five year to 10 years we would be able to wipe out poverty in the country.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Ramadass, please conclude your speech.

PROF. M. RAMADASS: This would no longer be a dream, but it would become a possibility now. Eradication of poverty has been a dream so far, but it is going to be a possibility now. I am saying this because by providing employment opportunities we are actually going to accelerate the growth or development or the tempo of development, which would wipe out poverty. It has now become a possibility, and it has become a possibility because of the introduction of this Bill. Therefore, this Bill has got a long term objective, and we will have to appreciate the Government for bringing this Bill.

One Hon. Member asked a question: Have the State Governments been consulted on this Bill? Have the State Government agreed to implement this Bill? The answer is yes. There is greater co-operation and great co-ordination between the Centre and the States as far as this Bill is concerned. I am also aware of the fact that the Hon. Rural Development Minister has sent the draft Bill to all the States twice on this issue. Their comments on this Bill were received, and those comments have been incorporated in this Bill. This Bill has come before us in this form today after going to the Standing Committee also.

All the State Governments have agreed to share 10 per cent of the total funds, and 90 per cent of the funds would be borne by the Central Government. The Central Government has also agreed that it will make advance payment of the quarterly money every time, so that the State Governments would not feel reluctant to spend the money. Therefore, by involving the States and involving the *Panchayati Raj,* the Government is now bringing a real, true devolution of powers from top to the bottom. It is in real terms grass-root democracy taking a greater and vibrant shape in this country, and this Bill provides for it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Ramadass, please conclude your speech.

PROF. M. RAMADASS: Sir, having said this, I would also like to draw the attention of the hon. Rural Development Minister to one or two lapses in the Bill, which I hope the Chairman would be able to identify. I

am a professor of economics. Therefore, I should be given grace of speaking on some of the technical points of this Bill. Sir, I am sure that you would be able to give me some more time for it.

I would now like to talk about some of the inconsistencies in the Bill. I would like to satisfy the other camps also by pointing out the deficiencies in this Bill. One of the important points is this. In the first paragraph of the Bill it is said that:

"...wage employment in every financial year to every household..."

But in the very next page, namely, in Chapter II it is stated:

"...provide to every poor household..."

What does it mean? In the earlier page, the word 'poor household' is removed. I find this inconsistency here, and I want to make a comment about it. Have you made BPL census survey to decide about poor household? Are they available at the level of the States? I know that the Supreme Court has intervened in this matter, and your Department has already written to various State Governments asking them not to finalise the census reports on poverty line. How did you draw the poverty line? Have you taken income as the basis for it or consumption as the basis for it or the various indicators on poverty?

Now, if that has been taken into account it is right. When the BPL Census is not available, how are you going to implement the Scheme immediately by drawing the people from below the poverty-level households? That is one thing.

Secondly, the Bill mentions that an adult means, "a person who is 18 years of age". I would feel that instead of merely saying 'an adult', you must say, 'an unemployed adult'. Supposing a boy of 18 years of age going to college may enter into a kind of collusion with the programme officer and say, "Sir, I will go to the college in the evening, but give me a job in the morning. If you do not provide a job, you give me half of the unemployment allowance." Will it not lead to a situation where people who are not willing to work also get enrolled in this? Therefore, we should clearly say that if there is a college going boy, he will be treated as an employed boy and not an unemployed boy. We have to clearly say that.

I have two more points to make. Coming to the payment of unemployment allowance, the Bill says that if a person is not to get a job within 15 days, then for the first 30 days, you are going to give him only one-fourth of the minimum wage; and for the remaining 70 days, you are going to give him half of it. Why is this distinction? When the Government is not able to find a job for a person within 15 days of his enrolment, he is going to remain unemployed, whether it is for 30 days or 100 days. You should give him Rs. 30 because you are going to give only Rs. 60, if he works. Why do you distinguish between 30 days and 70 days? You must make it that half of the wages will be given as unemployment allowance, and you must provide jobs for all those who are registering.

When you look at the monitoring mechanism, there is definitely a fault in the composition of the Central Council. The functions of the Central Council with regard to implementation of the scheme will be more of technical in nature. They will have to evolve, formulate and implement the schemes and monitor them. All these aspects are technical tasks. Have you provided for any technical expert in the composition of this Council?

Who are going to be consultants for this project? The Bill says that there will be a chairperson. It is not mentioned whether he will be an Economist or not. Nowhere, the Bill has mentioned or provided for an expert. I would urge upon the Government to specifically mention that some economist or statistician or sociologist will be involved in the Central Council.

When we come to section 10, Sl. No. 30, the Bill says that, "Provided also that not less than one-third of the non-official members shall be belonging to the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and minorities." They are going to be there in the Council as Members. Why do you not include 'Other Backward Classes"? Therefore, I would suggest that OBCs should be included in both the State Councils and in the Central Council.

There is no scope for management information system in the Bill. Throughout the country, there should be a uniform proforma; there should be a uniform computer software, and all kinds of instructions must be uniform. Therefore, you must create a management information system for the effective implementation of this Scheme.

[Prof. M. Ramadass]

The District Planning Coordinator is going to play an important role. You say that the Collector may be the Coordinator. A Collector cannot be the Coordinator or the Chairperson for everything. Just look at the workload he has. He will not be able to do the work under this Bill and they do not have the technical background also. Therefore, I urge, this is a very important point that you should note, that a large number of officers belonging to the Indian Economic Service and the Indian Statistical Service, who are located in Delhi, should be sent to all the districts to look after this programme, including DRDA programmes, and the economic administration should be left in their hands only.

Then, the Bill mentions about a labour budget. I feel that the labour budget takes into account only the demand for labour and not the supply of labour. Supply is not mentioned. I feel that before you commence the scheme, you should try to prepare an output budget. That is what the thinking of the Government of India today is.

What is that output budget? Before you take up a scheme, you should state as to how many days of employment is going to be created, how many people are going to be employed, what are the assets that you are going to create, etc. If you prepare that kind of an output budget, it will be possible for you to monitor the scheme and bring the benefits of the scheme to the people.

18.20 hrs.

[SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN *in the Chair*]

I would agree that all works mentioned in Schedule-I are important. In addition to them several other works in the rural areas should also be included. You must take up community sanitary latrines. The Hon'ble Minister has already written a letter to all the MLAs in the country stating that the condition of sanitary work is awfully bad in the rural areas and that it should be taken up. But the Bill does not inlcude that. So, we must be able to take up the work of community latrines, houses for SCs and STs, community centres, etc. In fact, all the works that have been mentioned in the MLPAD Scheme should also be entrusted to those people who are coming under the purview of this Bill. School buildings should also be taken up. Solid waste management works should also be taken up.

More important than all this is the maintenance. The buildings that have been built, the assets that have been created, the schools that have been constructed, the hospitals that have been created are not properly taken care of. Therefore, they are drying without maintenance.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Prof. Ramadass, please conclude now. Your time is over.

PROF. M. RAMADASS: You should create proper supervisory staff.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please address the chair. Why do you address the Minister?

PROF. M. RAMADASS: Through you, Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to mention only two points to the hon. Minister.

The National Rural Employment Guarantee Bill involves manmoth work, gigantic work. It cannot succeed unless proper, motivated, dedicated, supervisory staff is provided. Unfortunately, this Bill does not provide for it except to make a peripheral mention that some administrative staff would be given to the District Officer.

This is a landmark Bill. Everybody should accept it. Let us make a beginning. Let us address this issue in a very serious way at the all India level. As the Opposition parties have said, we will have to take into account the urban unemployment also and an all India Bill should come in future.

Finally, there is no benefit provided for my Union Territory Pondicherry in this Bill. It has been completely left out. District Karaikal of Pondicherry is as backward as any of the most backward Districts in the country. I would urge upon the Hon. Minister to include District Karaikkal as the 201st District in the country under this Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members are hereby informed that not more than five minutes will be allowed hereafter.

[Translation]

SHRI TEK LAL MAHTO (Giridih): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the 100 days Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme is really a welcome step. Availability of work in Jharkhand is merely for 2 months which is called Bhadai harvest. The workers get work during the season only. Secondly, only 2 months work is available during the time of harvesting. The poor workers there remain idle for

10 months. There is a plan to provide guaranteed employment for 100 days *i.e.* for about three months and ten days under this Bill. Whatever schemes are undertaken these are not implemented. Funds are provided for a scheme for digging of a pond but it is received either in the end of May or first week of June. As a result, people are not able to work there. The poor people about whom we are discussing here, do not get the money but this money goes to big capitalists. The machines needed for that kind of work are also with the big capitalists. The digging of a pond takes just one week. Muster roll was being talked about but that also is not made because the work is done by machine and not the labour.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, what is needed is that the money should be disbursed on time and it should be monitored properly. People's representatives are grossly ignored there and DC and DDC act in an arbitrary manner. If there is filling work related to road construction then they take the help of machines there and do not employ labour. Thus a labour stands to lose the wages which a labour should have received. If a well has to be dug and the money is received in January then digging is possible in January, February, March and upto April but it is constructed in June. But, what actually happens? The money is given in June around first, second or third June and a letter is sent to the Commissioner on Tenth June asking him to stop the digging of the well with the result the work gets suspended. He gets money on 25th or 26th for digging of pond and then a letter is sent to the DC to stop the digging work on Tenth June. What happens is that it begins to rain from 10th June and a little water gets accumulated there and money is withdrawn in full by making bogus bills. A very big scam is going on. In order to stop this scam, I would urge the Government that funds should be provided on time for sanctioned projects or schemes passed by us. Money is needed in January, February and March if a mud road has to be made but the money is received in June. Similarly, money is needed in January, February, March for construction of a tank but it is received in June. The Money really goes in the hands of big capitalists and industrialists and ultimately the poor remain jobless. Therefore, workers from our area are migrating to other places in large number as they are not able to get employment in their own place. The contractor does not employ the workers where school building has to be constructed. The influential people, feudalists and capitalists in the village take control of the schemes and many works are declared as departmental. The Panchayat Sevak, Gram Sevak or overseer, whoever is given the work, the same person prepares and passes the bills. The same person is doing billing, as well as digging work. Can any work be done in this manner? You can fund out as to who will it be possible to do a work if the same overseer to whom the work is assigned prepares as well as passes the bills.

SHRI RAVINDER NAIK DHARAVATH (Warrangal): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

"Tamam umra main ek ajnabi ke ghar me raha
Safar na hote hue kisi safar me raha
Honge ve log jinhe hogi khabar sitaron ki
Lakin mera yah desh roti ke fikr me raha."

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I on behalf of TRS Party I support the Rural Employment Guarantee Bill. I would like to elaborate on certain points.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, many of the schemes which are being implemented in the country, have failed. For example participation, accountability and honesty all these three elements are missing from our system. That is why there is unrest throughout the country and poor women are pushed into the profession of prostitution. They are grappling with diseases like AIDS. In Andhra Pradesh and Telanganga area children upto the age of 10-12 are being sold and killed due to poverty. The Government of the state has done nothing to provide employment to the poor during the last 10-12 years I congratulate the Central Government for introducing a bill like this. The benefits of those schemes should reach to them.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, in my State (Andhra Pradesh) there are several schemes which have not been implemented properly. Under these schemes like ITDA, MADA, PTG, FFW, DTG, NSTFDC, TRICOR, GCC, TRIFED, IFAD, DRDA, SCA and schemes under Article 275(1) are included. The Government has been making provision in the budget for the last 57 years but where that many is being spent, it should be monitored. The Governors have been empowered by the Fifth and Sixth Schedule to take direct action in case states show negligence. It is also provided that the Governor will send a report the President every year but it is not being followed. Today the poor people are dying of various disease. The opposition party puts forward the figures but the Government says the other thing. The opposition

[Shri Ravinder Naik Dharavath]

and the Government put contradictory figures regarding the member of people who die. It is a shame that children are being sold and killed in our state. What would be the fate of this country? There is banjara community and dalits in our state. Crores of rupees have been spent during the last 57 years. The World Bank has been providing loans for the last 12 years. Canals have been dug but there is no water. Crores of rupees have been pocketed by the contractors and brokers. There is no environmental clearance and technical permission for a project but budget is sanctioned. Though, crores of rupees are being spent but the poor are dying. Are they giving alms to the people? What kind of guarantee Government will provide through this Employment Bill? Whichever party being in power, no one has done anything properly for the poor. I request the Government to deal with this condition.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, if you ring the bell time and again, I shall get confused. I am speaking on behalf of my party. The Government is doing all this for the benefit of the poor. There are one lakh banjara, tanda in the country. What this Government is doing for this nomadic tribe. These people are neither under any Gram Panchayat nor do they have any kind of recognition. I have requested for them earlier in this House. There population is about six to ten crore, but even minimum facilities are not available to them. I would like to request hon. Minister for Rural Development, Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh ji, though he is not present here, but Minister of State and the Tiger of Telanganga Shri A. Narendra is here and I request him to make some provison for more than one lakh banjaras, tandas of the country. If the Government does not do anything with honesty and responsibility, nor all efforts will go in vain.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I was to speak something but you are to ring the bell once again. Therefore, I would conclude in one minute. I would like to tell the Government to pay attention towards them immediately and provide employment for these people in tribal and scheduled areas throughout the year. Dr. Manmohan Singh is a very good Prime Minister. He has the blessing and support of Soniaji. I hope that after 57 years of Independence the Government will provide some facilities to the banjaras and Tandas. I would like to conclude with these lines:

"Ho Gayee pir parwat si, ab pighalani chahiye,
Ab is himalay se koi Ganga Nikalani Chahiye
Har gaon, har gali, har sadak, laharate huye hath har lash chalni chahiye
Sirf hangamana khada karna mera maksad nahin,
Meri koshish hai ki surat badalni chahiye
Mere sene me na sahi, tere sene me hi sahi
Ho kahin bhi aag, lakin aag jalni chahiye."

[English]

SHRI ARJUN SETHI (Bhadrak): Thank you Mr. Chairman for giving me this opportunity to participate in the discussion on this Bill which is under discussion since Friday.

Sir, much euphoria has been generated, both inside this House and outside, that with the introduction of this Bill it is hoped that this will be a panacea for all the ills that are prevailing in rural India. But, I must say, this won't solve the problems but, on the other hand, will create problems.

Sir, since I have very less time available at my disposal, I straightway would ask a few clarifications. First of all, I would like to know this. In my constituency, there is a Scheduled Area named Nilgiri. Under the Fifth Schedule of the Constitution, this area has been declared as a Scheduled Area but the District in which it is included is a forward area. That District has not been identified as a backward District and has not even been included in the National Food for Work Programme. So, what will be the fate of this particular Scheduled Area, that is, Nilgiri in my constituency in the State of Orissa? If that District is not selected for undertaking this kind of national rural employment guarantee programme, then this particular Scheduled Area, that is, Nilgiri, which is a part of Balasore District, may be debarred from getting all the facilities under this particular scheme. If it is debarred, certainly a Constitutional impropriety will be committed. So, I would like to know from this hon. Minister—unfortunately he is not here but his deputy is here—and have clarification on this point.

Sir, another thing is this. The 200 Districts have not yet been identified. It is declared in this particular Bill that this employment programme will be spread over in 200 Districts of the country.

What will be the criteria for selection of these districts? The BPL norm has already been done away with in this Bill and what will be the criteria in that case?

As I have stated earlier, the contiguous districts are Keonjhar and Mayurbhanj in Orissa. These two districts have been included in the National Food for Work Programme. I wish that these two districts might be included in the National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme also. If they are included, how the district of Balasore will not be included in this particular Programme?

Another thing is this. As has been mentioned, the Bill has intended that whenever there are 50 or more labourers or workers, this particular programme will be implemented. Why is there rigidity about this number 50? Why should that not be relaxed, as has been mentioned by many speakers from this side and from that side of the House? Why is this number 50 very much sacrosanct with the Government? This should be relaxed and it should not be definite. It could be less than 50 also. Whenever there will be a commitment for work by the labourers or by the people living in a particular area, this Programme should be implemented.

It has also been stated that the wage will be as per the Minimum Wages Act. It differs from State to State. There may be a situation where in a particular district, this particular Programme may be implemented and it may not be implemented in the contiguous districts. This particular Programme may be implemented in a particular district and in the contiguous districts, this Programme may not be implemented, but still SGRY, Rural Landless Employment Programme and such other Programmes may be still in force or may be still implemented or carried out. Then, you may just imagine the fate of these programmes in the contiguous districts. In the district, where the Rural Employment Guarantee Programme is implemented, the rate of wage will be Rs. 60 per day and in the next contiguous districts, the rate may be Rs. 50. If that were the case, what will be the fate of the Programmes? Wherever there is a higher wage available for the workers, certainly they would like to go to those areas. Then, certainly the other Programmes which are being implemented still in different parts of the country will be the casualty. These are the ambiguities which are very much prevalent in this particular Bill. These ambiguities should be removed; otherwise there will certainly be a lot of confusion. Instead of extending a helping hand to the poor and to the deserving people, there will be confusion and the other Programmes which are still being implemented, will certainly be a casualty.

I would not like to repeat all that has been said earlier but would like to ask as to how much amount will be made available to each district. Sir, the Minister has not yet specified the amount to be made available to each district. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: That provision is never made in the Act.

SHRI ARJUN SETHI: At the State or the District level you have the monitoring Committees but it has not been specified as to within what time they are supposed to give their action plans to the district. These are some of the questions which arise in our mind. I admit that this is a very good measure. There is no doubt about it but at the same time these queries must be replied to so that this programme is really helpful to the people.

I once again would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister—as I have stated earlier also—to the fact that one part of the Balasore district in Orissa State has been declared as Scheduled area and the other part as forward area. How will this particular Scheduled area get support under this programme? You may please clarify this. With these words I thank you.

DR. CHINTA MOHAN (Tirupati): I thank Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh for piloting this Bill. While piloting the Bill, he spoke at length and everybody appreciated him. This Bill, which he has introduced, is a very historic Bill and politically it is a very important Bill. I would like to touch only the political part of this Bill. I do not want to go into the technicalities of this Bill.

The UPA Government is a very historic Government. After 57 years of Independence, two ideologically different Parties—the Left Parties and the Congress Party—who were trying to have the supremacy came together to form the Government with the help of other friends. That is why this Government has become a very historic Government. The UPA Government brought a Common Minimum Programme. The theme of this CMP is to give health, education and livelihood to the people. At that time, while forming the Government this entire Common Minimum Programme was prepared by some Professors in the Jawahar Lal Nehru University in a hurry.

Before speaking about the Bill, I would like to quote a Resolution passed by the Communist Party (M) in February 2002 in Hyderabad. This Government formed today just because of the February 2002 Resolution of the CPM passed in their plenary Congress at Hyderabad. It was a very important Resolution in the Indian political history and I quote:

"CPM will support Congress to defeat BJP."

[Dr. Chinta Mohan]

This is a very important decision. This Resolution was passed in February 2002 in the CPM Congress held at Hyderabad and because of this Resolution today the UPA Government is formed. We all are aware that the Congress and the Left Parties had ideological differences.

Though they fought with each other for more than five decades to have a political supremacy yet for a cause—to have a secular Government at the Centre—this Government was formed. I congratulate the leaders who brought that resolution in February 2002. I bow my head before that resolution and the comrades who passed that resolution. It is because of that resolution we could form the Government and our hon. Minister who is sitting here could pilot this Bill. I also congratulate Shrimati Sonia Gandhi, the Chairperson of UPA who is my Leader. While speaking the other day on this Bill, she said that it is a very historic Bill. Really, it is a historic Bill and politically also it is a very important Bill.

I wanted to tell how this UPA Government was formed. For the benefit of this House, I would like to say that in April 1999, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee got up as the Prime Minister and sat as Ex Prime Minister, after defeat in the House. It was a very important moment. The secular parties tried to form the Government but they failed to form the Government. After that, it took 46 months from April 1999 to February 2002 to bring this resolution. After bringing that resolution, the formation of Third Front had gone haywire. This Government was formed because of that resolution. Every now and then some turbulence is coming for the UPA Government. But I do not want this holy alliance to be disturbed forever. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru tried to bring this alliance. As long as Sardar Patel was the Home Minister, there was a ban on the communists. After his death, the ban was lifted by Pandit Nehru. He was always having a sympathy for the communists. Indira Gandhi also tried to have an alliance. She was partially successful in 1971. She was able to have an alliance with the CPI. Rajiv Gandhi also tried to have an alliance. It was too late. In 1990, after going out of the 7 Race Course Road, he invited two important Left Leaders to 10 Janpath. He was sitting on the dinning table and Shrimati Sonia Gandhi was also sitting there. At that time, he said a very important thing to the Left Leaders. He said that he was misled by the people when he was in the Government. He wanted to have an alliance with the Left and that he wanted to have an understanding with them. He was not able to do it, but only Sonia Gandhi Ji is able to do it.

For the benefit of the House, I would like to say what happened in 1930. When Pandit Nehru was the Congress President in 1930, he want to Jalandhar. A very big meeting was organised there on a four acre plot. The maize crop was cut for this meeting. The District Congress Committee leaders organised this meeting. While he was addressing the meeting, there was a big clash between the workers. Pandit Nehru stopped his speech and asked the local leaders as to why they are fighting with each other. The local Congress leaders said that the communists have come to their meeting with the red flags. Acharya Kriplani had sent a circular saying not to allow red flags to come to the Congress meeting. That is why, our Congress workers are fighting with the Communist workers. Immediately, he asked what if the Communists come with the red flags come to our meeting. He said that the communists will bring poor people with the red flags. He also said that we must always encourage them and that we must allow them to come to our meetings. He also said that he did not want the Congress to become a party of Tatas and Birlas. He wanted the Congress Party to become a party of the poor people. That is what he said in his speech. I wanted to say this today because the Congress Party and the Left have come together to form this alliance. Every now and then some problem is coming up. I do not want this alliance to be disturbed. Many people may think that this Government has been just formed. It is not just formed. After 1999 when Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee became the Prime Minister, a lot of hard work was put in and a lot of persuasion took place. It took 46 months to come out with a resolution in Hyederabad. Therefore, this Government should not be disturbed.

Sir, I would here like to mention about the attitude of certain people towards the poor people and the communists. I would like to quote an instance when Dr. Rajendra Prasad was the Congress President in 1939. Once Dr. Rajendra Prasad accompanied by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru went to a village near Punjab inhabited by people belonging to Scheduled Castes. The people there offered a glass of warm milk to each of them. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru drank that milk immediately. I have great respect for Dr. Rajendra Prasad but on that occasion he said that he was on fast on that day and therefore, he would not drink the milk. The very next day again both of them visited another village and went to a *basti* inhabited by people belonging to Scheduled Castes. There also, the people of the locality offered a glass of milk to both of them. They were poor people and in

those days of 1939, they offered them milk. When milk was offered, Pandit Nehru drank that glass of milk immediately, but Dr. Rajendra Prasad said that he could not take the milk since he was having a stomach-ache. After having come back to the guest house, they were served beautiful lunch and Dr. Rajendra Prasad took lunch in the guest house. Someone informed Pandit Nehru that Dr. Rajendra Prasad, who did not drink the milk in the *basti* on reasons of stomach-ache, was then taking lunch in the guest house. ...*(Interruptions)* Pandit Nehru laughed and said: 'I understand Rajen Babu's problem.' I only wanted to say about the attitude of some of the leaders with regard to poor people and the ones who believed and followed communism. So, these people would have to be kept in mind. The holy alliance of the Left and the Congress should not be allowed to be disturbed at all. By all means, this alliance should be saved. I would say, this is a holy alliance. ...*(Interruptions)*

Sir, I also wanted to say something about the late Rajiv Gandhi. ...*(Interruptions)* Actually I was coming to the issue of disinvestment. There has been a lot of hue and cry about 10 per cent disinvestment of shares of BHEL. Sometimes, both inside the House and outside, I request the comrades to be a little more liberal in their approach and give the Government a little bit of more freedom to function. I can understand their problem.

Sir, coming to the provisions of the present Bill I would like to request the hon. Minister who piloted the Bill to consider increasing the number of days of employment from the proposed 100 days now to 150 days. Also, the Government should consider widening the scope of this Bill from the proposed 200 districts to 300 districts and raising the amount to be paid for employment from the proposed Rs. 60 to Rs. 70. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: If you continue like this, then your speech will not be recorded any more.

DR. CHINTA MOHAN: One may ask me as to wherefrom the money would come. I am not an economist to suggest the ways. But I would like to say that the previous Government made an allocation of Rs. 2,00,000 crore for the Golden Quadrilateral project. The Government is also collecting cess on petrol and diesel. Diesel, after all, is a poor man's oil. The Government is collecting a cess of 50 paise on diesel. I would suggest the Government should utilise this cess earned from diesel to fund this project. It would help in spreading the benefits of this project from the proposed 200 districts to 300 districts and also would help in raising the amount to be paid for employment from Rs. 60 to Rs. 70. I would request the Government to put in efforts to see that the reach of this scheme increases and it is passed.

With these words, I conclude.

DR. C. KRISHNAN (Pollachi): Sir, thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to speak on this Bill. I am speaking on behalf of Marumalarchi Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam headed by my eminent and active Tamil's Leader, Thiru Vaiko of Tamil Nadu. I rise to support and welcome the National Rural Employment Guarantee Bill. This Bill aims at providing 100 days of employment in order to assure at least an assured livelihood for the poor people for 100 days in a year.

19.00 hrs.

Hundred days in a year may not be sufficient for the rural people. I do not know what sort of work or what nature of work will be given to them. In the rural areas, people know farming, pottery, minor electrical works, and shop keeping. What sort of work will be selected for each family in a district to give them 100 days of work remains to be settled. The wage that has been fixed is Rs. 60. Even though it is a small amount, some thing is better than nothing. Let them earn it. Those who have not been given employment in a family are to be given about fifty per cent of the wages as subsidy and with that they have to be in the house.

This scheme will be of much use if small scale industries are involved in it, in the form of cottage industries in the villages. Promotion of cottage industries will be of much help because they will be earning throughout the year, not just 100 days. They should be given some sort of employment so that they earn throughout the year. The persons selected from the family should know the nature of job with which they will be entrusted. Some sort of training is very much needed so that people earn not only for 100 days but also for another 265 days and further more in the coming years also.

By introducing this National Rural Employment Guarantee Bill, the United Progressive Government, the UPA Government, has crossed one more milestone. I should congratulate Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh for formulating the Bill and to be the Minister when the Bill is introduced.

[Dr. C. Krishnan]

I want the Government to take note of certain points. First, 200 districts are to be selected from the country and remaining districts are to be selected in a phased manner. That should be completed during the tenure of 14th Lok Sabha itself, not beyond that so that the programme is completed in a fast manner; people get more opportunities to work for at least 100 days in a year, and each family is guaranteed a small income.

It is said that ten per cent of the amount to be given to the employees is to be borne by the State Governments. But eventually the State Governments are going to ask the Central Government to fund for this ten per cent also. Why not the Central Government think in terms of bearing the full 100 per cent of the wages? The compensation for the non-employed persons shall be Rs. 50. It should reach the poor persons in all cases. That has to be guaranteed.

Then, similar job guarantee should be given for the agricultural workers and the agricultural coolies. With that the income of the rural people will be enhanced and they will get a small benefit at least. Involving small scale industries or cottage industries will be the best and the ideal way to give rural employment. Otherwise, it is going to be a waste. It is because they have to select to job which the person knows. The number of such jobs are minimum. We have to give training in small scale industry or cottage industry so that they earn throughout the year and it will be of use for the family as such.

[Translation]

SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL (Erandol): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Minister has stated that this Bill underlines his commitment to solve two major problems, namely, unemployment and poverty. I would like to ask if unemployment can be delinked from poverty. Both these problems cannot be treated separately because poverty rises from unemployment. Hence, it is one and the same. Hon'ble Minister also belongs to the farming community and comes from a rural background. If we think about the occupation of 70 per cent people of the rural areas in the year 1952, we will find that they are farmers. The GDP of these 70 per cent farmers in 1952 was 69 per cent which has dropped to 20 per cent today. I would like to know what is the reason behind it? Farmers or villagers need employment generation.

[English]

Sir, 57 per cent of the population of the village is totally dependent upon agriculture.

[Translation]

We should consider this background before making schemes regarding unemployment and poverty alleviation. Mahatma Gandhi had said that after attaining independence focus of development should be centered on the farmers and villagers only then country would be prosperous and poverty would be removed. Have we adopted this approach? Rather, we have taken a different approach. Instead of concentrating on development of the rural sector, ambitious schemes were formulated that changed the whole atmosphere. Consequently, by the economy took a different turn. That is why, poverty could not be alleviated over the years, rather is increasing constantly.

[English]

Take, for example, the PDS working in Maharashtra.

[Translation]

Though the employment schemes are being implemented in Maharashtra, if we compare the present scenario with that prevalent thirty years ago we will find that poverty has increased manifold. What I mean to say that there should be a sincere effort to achieve the objective of the Bill.

Soniaji said,

[English]

"We are trying to bring fundamental changes in villages."

[Translation]

This thought has struck after 58 years, what was done earlier?

[English]

What have they done in 51 years? They have not thought of any village.

[Translation]

Now, what fundamental changes do they propose to bring in villages.

[English]

Is it related with the development of village people? Or, is it related with the eradication of the unemployment of the villagers?

[Translation]

I do not understand this. In my view if necessary steps had been taken in this regard, this situation would not have arisen. The reason for the conditions prevalent today is that the proper attention was not paid towards the villagers.

I will mention this Bill in detail. I would like to tell the hon'ble Minister, if this Bill is being implemented through the Panchayats then it is a good thing. As such, devolution of power will definitely take place properly. However, the Panchayat portfolio is not with him, it is with another Minister. The funds to be allocated under the rural development scheme as a result of this Bill would not be utilised for the prescribed purpose. Rather, it would be diverted to other purposes because transaction in this regard would be done by other departments hence the funds would go to some other Minister. Who will be the implementing agency? This contradiction comes to the fore. Of course, he has good intentions, he is connected to this Bill but I have doubt how far he will be succeeded in the implementation of this Bill. I also perceive the problem regarding 29 subjects or functions that are proposed to be devolved to the Panchayats under the Panchayati Raj.

[English]

Out of the 35 States and the Union Territories in the country, hardly 9 to 10 States have adopted 50 per cent of the subjects.

[Translation]

As per my knowledge only two States, that is, Goa and Karnataka have entrusted all 29 subjects and the corresponding powers to the Panchayats. But the other States have not done so. There are many States which have not transferred even ten subjects to the Panchayats. It is also not clear as to how these powers would be transferred from the States to the Panchayats. It should be clarified in the Bill. I expres my thanks that this Bill is being implemented through the Panchayats. Minimum wages has been fixed at Rs. 60 but it is different in each states, for example it is Rs. 134 in Kerala, Rs. 80 in West Bengal. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: No question and answer is permitted now.

[Translation]

SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL: Therefore, provision should be made in this regard also. I had suggested the Committee on Rural Development to fix minimum wage equal to that of prevalent in each State in the Bill. Only then the difference between the suggested rate and the prevalent rates can be removed. This is my suggestion.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Already, there are 20 more speakers. When are we going to finish it?

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have to correct myself. There are 40 speakers to speak. Even after midnight, we would not be able to finish the discussion.

[Translation]

SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL: I would like to conclude my speech while expressing my thanks for bringing this Bill.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE): Sir, with your kind permission, I would like to inform the House that dinner will be served from 8.30 p.m. onwards for the hon. Members, members of the Press and the members of the Staff.

SHRI NIKHILANANDA SAR (Burdwan): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I stand in support of the Bill. Though many hon. Members are hesitant to accept it as a historical one, yet I am sure they are ready to accept it as a radical piece

[Shri Nikhilananda Sar]

of legislation. At least it must be admitted as per their versions.

In this Bill, there is no provision of any permanent employment for the poor rural people nor is it for the whole country as the towns and municipalities are outside the purview of this Bill. We should first realise that it is the beginning of a new era. That much should be realised.

What is the condition of the villages? Two out of three Indians live in villages. The condition of most of the villages is beyond description. Poverty and unemployment are rampant. There is a food scarcity. There is no education, no civic amenities, lack of irrigation is there, rural indebtedness is on the increase. That is the real picture of the Indian villages. On the other hand, the poor people of the villages do not get even two square meals a day. In many parts of the country, people take leaves and roots due to hunger. Hundreds of suicides are taking place in villages. At the same time, poor mothers are selling their kids just for Rs. 10 to Rs. 15 for being unable to feed their kids. This is the grim reality. It has come to our focus through Electronic Media or Print Media. Our friends from the Opposition Benches are criticising the things but they still have not made alternative suggestions that what we should do. Now, the position is that they are not able to do any good thing in their own States. Mr. Swain made a very bad remark regarding State of West Bengal. He has already admitted in his speech that more than 50 per cent people in Orissa are below the poverty line and he is after West Bengal where BPL level is within 20 to 24 per cent and that is the position. Still, he is after West Bengal. He should know that Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, after being the Prime Minister, wanted to know in actual what should be the Panchayat. He had held a two day long meeting in Calcutta with the heads of the Panchayat bodies. Finally, he came to a conclusion that Constitution should be amended and 73rd and 74th Amendment took place afterwards. He got the experience from West Bengal. Now, he is after West Bengal. He said that Telangana is better than Orissa. What logic has he made? It is difficult to understand that. This is the position. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH (Allahabad): He is not listening to you.

SHRI NIKHILANANDA SAR: However, we should know that this is a very long standing problem which we should overcome.

SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL: May I clarify you?

MR. CHAIRMAN: No clarifications please. You need not answer that. If you begin to answer, you will lose your time.

SHRI NIKHILANANDA SAR: The position here is that at least 90 million people in our country are Scheduled Tribe people. This 90 million is more than the total population of many countries. What is their position? They live either in the forests or in the outskirts of the forests.

Their life is forest-oriented. Now, they are driven out of the forest. This is the position. What has been done for them? We should think in that way. So many schemes have been started. The Assurance Scheme was there. Now, there is an Employment Guarantee Bill. One should remind that the problems will not be overcome through this Scheme only. It should be our precept that something is better than nothing. We should take it. We should start in such a way that other things can take place simultaneously.

The other thing is the land development. If you want to improve the conditions of the villagers, the land productivity should be increased. Who will be the owner of excess production? It is the kulaks of the villages and the land sharks. Therefore, the purpose will be foiled? Are they ready to take land reform measures? In West Bengal, it is a prior condition of success in Panchayats in rural areas. It must be done; otherwise, the rural development cannot take place, and it will remain in imagination only. For that reason, the land reform measures should be given priority.

Shri Kalyan Singh calculated for 100 days. he said that only Rs. 6000 per year, that is, Rs. 500 per month. How can a person manage his family? It is a clear case of misconception. It should be realized. Now, what does a poor villager get? It is Rs. 500, which will be his additional income in a lean period. Now, what is the remuneration? It differs from State to State. There are many legal clashes. Now, this is a Central Government Scheme. But, at the same time, it will create problem from one State to another. There is no doubt that legal disputes may take place. For that reason, we thought of 75 per cent of the total national average wage. It will be something around Rs. 50. The Government has come out with a suggestion giving Rs. 60. It is not bad. At the same time, I would like to caution the Government that what are you going to do if you are not serious. The

Government must be serious otherwise the people all over India will censure you whenever they get the opportunity. You have to be very serious in tackling the question of poverty.

With these words, I support the Bill.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on the National Rural Employment Guarantee Bill. I rise to support this Bill. Just now, hon. Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi in his statement said that schemes for labouerers are being formulated keeping in view the increasing population of our country. Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I would like to tell the hon. Minister that we will have to control our increasing population and if needed we should bring a legislation in this regard. Today, the poor people in our society, who earn their livelihood daily are facing many problems. Therefore, we will have to control our population. There is a stiff competition between our colleagues from the Congress party and left parties to take credit of this Bill. But I would say that the credit should go to both the parties. At the same time, I would like to submit that our colleagues from left front should get more credit as they had cautioned the Government on each and every Bill from time to time and put the Government on right track by bringing in amendments. I was just going through this Employment Guarantee Bill. A wage of Rs. 60 has been fixed under it. I want to say that labourers who earn their bread and butter daily are migrating from villages to urban areas. There are numerous problems in urban areas as well. The labourers have no work in villages. In cities these people get work and in lieu of that, they get good wage ranging from Rs. 120 to 135. I want to say that labourers who gets daily wage of Rs. 120 to 135 in cities will not do the job of a labourer in his own village for only Rs. 60. Besides, there is a condition that only one Member from a family living below poverty line will get work for hundred days in a year under this scheme and payment of wage will be made weekly. That is why, through you, I would like to request the hon. Minister that employment should be provided to all those Members of a family who are willing to work under the said scheme. They should be provided with job and this is the intention of our government also.

We have brought in this Bill for the rural areas. Sir, through you, I would like to tell the hon. Minister, the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is also sitting here, that a large number of people from rural areas have migrated to urban areas and are living in slums. Same labourers work in rural as well as urban areas, therefore, we should pay special attention towards cities also. At present, this scheme is being implemented in 150 districts and fifty more districts will be covered under it. I am fortunate enough that being the number of the Rural Development Advisory Committee, I was able to draw his attention twice towards Kaushambi district under my Parliamentary constituency and I have written to the hon. Minister also that this is a very backward area, dominated by scheduled castes and is situated between the Ganga and Yamuna rivers and fulfills all the parameters for inclusion in the said scheme. Therefore, it would be proper to include this district of Uttar Pradesh in the said scheme. Which is why this district should be added to those 50 districts which are to be covered in the said scheme.

Initially, Rs. 120 thousand crore were earmarked for this scheme which were increased further by Rs. 40 thousand crore and thus Rs. 1.5 lakh crores were provided to this scheme. I am grateful to you for this. I would also like to give a suggestion that there is a need of constituting a National Employment Fund. UPA Government is making efforts to provide employment. But at the same time, they should pay attention towards constituting a National Employment Fund so that employment could be provided to such labourers from time to time. It would be better if cent percent expenditure of this scheme is borne by the Union Government itself. Because the financial condition of the State Governments is not good and their income is limited. Therefore, I want that entire expenditure involved in this scheme should be borne by the Union Government. In regard to unemployment allowance, I would like to suggest that the rate of this allowance should be included further a bit little and it should be paid without conditional to the labourers. Only then we can achieve success under this scheme. I would like to tender one more suggestion that in order to have better control over the Panchayati Raj Institutions, Central status should be accorded to them so that we could be able to monitor the implementation of this scheme effectively.

So far implementation of this scheme is concerned, laxity has been shown in this regard. If a officer is found guilty, punitive action should be taken against him so that this scheme could be made successful. If Panchayats

[Shri Shailendra Kumar]

extend their active cooperation in implementation of this scheme, then this scheme can be made successful.

As time allotted to me is over and the hon. Chairman has also rung the bell, with these few suggestions I conclude my speech.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, the time allotted for discussion on this Bill is over. But still we have 40 hon. Members to speak on the Bill. If all the hon. Members cooperate and conclude their speeches within the specified time, we will be able to go on, otherwise, we will go on to the next item of business.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: We should continue.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right.

[Translation]

SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA (Sikar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on this Bill. First of all, I would like to thank the hon. Shri Raghuvansh ji for he has brought in such a Bill which will definitely make happy the poor and workers in the villages who are facing the problem of misery and unemployment. The country has 2 lakh 32 thousand Gram Panchayats under which seven and half lakh villages full, the people of these villages are reeling under the problem of employment.

19.32 hrs.

[SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV *in the Chair*]

Hon. Shri Raghuvansh ji used to say many things while sitting in the opposition benches. When we were mentioning about the recommendations of the Standing Committee constituted under the Chairmanship of Shri Kalyan Singhji were to be presented, all the hon. Members were happy thinking that they have a Chairman who is aware of the problem of the villages and now the poor will be given work as the Chairman is an experienced person. So all were excited about the recommendations. And all these recommendations will be submitted to a person who hails from a village and is quite familiar with the problems of rural people. We were hoping that Shri Raghuvansji would certainly include these recommendations in the Bill, but I regret to say that these recommendations which were discussed could also not find place in the Bill due to some unavoidable reasons.

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): We have accepted 9 recommendations in toto, 7 partially and 6 have been rejected.

SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA: Shri Raghuvansh Babu had also introduced a Private Members Bill on this subject. He said that he would put forth his views in the House on behalf of the poor and labour class in every possible manner. He further said that this country could not become prosperous until each and every person in villages was given employment. If the rural people are economically empowered only then the country can be economically prosperous. Secondly, he used to say that every person in villages should be given employment and urged the NDA Government to take a decision soon in this regard.

Now, he has brought forward this Bill as a Minister of the UPA Government, so I hope, that he would get this Bill implemented properly since he is heading the Ministry. I would like to submit that there is no mention of the amount that would be allocated for this purpose. If 200 districts are covered under this scheme, it means out of 2 lakh 32 thousand Panchayats only one third would be covered thereunder. There are 600 districts and 6 thousand blocks in the country. Coverage of 200 districts mean 80 thousand Gram Panchayats would be covered.

There are 3 to 4 villages in a Gram Panchayat, that means approximately two lakh forty thousand villages would be covered under this scheme. If a group of fifty people is to be given employment for 100 days, then Rs. one lakh fifty thousand crore would be required to meet the expenditure involved turning but the amount allocated for this purpose seems to be only 20 per cent of this amount. Therefore, my this point should be pondered over as to how and how much amount would be allocated to implement this scheme and the districts for which this amount would be allocated alongwith the selection procedure of those living below the poverty line or the poor families in the districts that would be covered under this scheme. At present, the process of selection in Gram Sabhas and Gram Panchayats is gradually tilting towards those who are mighty. Unless and until the people of villages and wards unite together for selecting the eligible persons, this Bill, which is agreed upon by the

entire House, cannot ensure transparency in the selection of the eligible persons. I would like to bring to his notice that joint family system still exists in the villages. We know that people are living in joint families in villages. But the criterion prescribed in this Bill is based on one person from a family. Therefore, to avoid split in the joint family system not one person but. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA: All those people who are interested in doing work, would be provided job. Right to employment should be included as a fundamental right.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, Rajasthan has been reeling under the grip of drought for last one decade. Area-wise it is the largest state of the country but from employment point of view. Rajasthan has the least resources. It was told from that side that Rajasthan was not helped as the Congress Government was ruling there earlier. I would like to thank the then Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee for providing eight crore bags of wheat to Rajasthan during famine. The NDA Government sanctioned maximum funds to the then Congress Government in Rajasthan when it was in the grip of famine. Present Chief Minister of the State Shrimati Vasundhara Raje was Minister of State with independent charge at the Centre during that period. I was also working under her leadership. We were sent to every village of Rajasthan ten times along with the MPs of the concerned area for distribution of the wheat and report from members of Parliament was also called for. The then Congress Chief Minister praised the Hon'ble Prime Minister and Finance Minister before all the members in an all party meeting and expressed his gratefulness for the assistance which they had provided to the State. But it is not correct to say that no assistance has provided to Rajasthan. It needs to be corrected. Ten or twelve groups should be created in all parts of the country. As long as we do not form such group. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: The time allotted to your party is over while many member from your party have to taken part.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA: Chairman, Sir, I may be allotted some more time as I have been listening to you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I can do nothing being on this chair.

SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am requesting you to provide some more time. I shall take two minutes more.

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is a seat of justice, so I cannot act in a partisan manner.

SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA: I shall take one more minute. I want to tell a very important thing about this ministry that there are different categories of work in different states. At some places we have flood whereas at other we have drought. Therefore, while selecting the category of work, the advice on what type of work, be it permanent or temporary can be undertaken be sought from states, as well as districts and village panchayats. Villagers should be consulted and their advice should be taken in regard to the project likely to be executed in the village so that the project could be implemented properly.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the rate of wage, which is presently Rs. 60 per day, is quite insufficient in this 21st Century when we are compeling with other countries. The Government may have received proposals for increasing the rate of wage from different states, so the Government should take a decision in this regard. I request the Government to include skilled youth in this scheme. Besides unskilled men, too should be included thereunder. The provision of water should be made available where employment has been provided. I request him that monitoring committee, comprising women from Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, should also be set up.

[English]

SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO (Purulia): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support this Bill. This Bill is a unique and a historic Bill. This Bill is for the rural people and poor people. This Bill will have a far-reaching consequence for the people in the rural areas. The people in the rural areas are waiting for a long time for this Bill. The entire rural community has appreciated this Bill and it is also appreciated and praised by the United Nations Organisation.

After the passing of this Bill, I hope that there will be no starvation and people will not go to towns in search of work. Also the people in the rural areas will be able to fight poverty and unemployment.

[Shri Bir Singh Mahato]

The Food for Work Programme is going on in 150 districts. After the passing of this Bill, another 50 districts will be added because of the beginning of these novel schemes.

I would like to mention some of the significant features of this Bill. There will be social audit and public scrutiny. The muster rolls, the sanction orders and all these things will be shown to the Gram Sabhas. There is no secret, and everything, budget and other works will be made available to the public.

Sir, we are demanding right to work for a long time and this has been mentioned in our Constitution. This Bill, to some extent, gives recognition to that demand.

Sir, amendment relating to wage rate has been brought and it says that the minimum wage rate will be not less than Rs. 60. It is all right in the States where the minimum wage rate is less than Rs. 60. But there are States where the minimum wage rate is more than Rs. 60. So, what will be the minimum wage rate in those States? I urge upon the Minister to come forward with an amendment so that the minimum wage rate of that particular State where it is more than Rs. 60 can be given to the workers.

[Translation]

SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA (Alipurduar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on the National Rural Employment Gaurantee Bill, 2004. Employment for minimum days to every person in rural areas is much needed. We should feel the need at guaranteed employment for certain minimum days. The UPA Government in its Common Minimum Programme, has declared to enact National Rural Employment Guarantee Bill immediately. I appreciate the spirit behind the idea of this Bill and the scheme envisaged there under. When the idea of this Bill was mooted to translate the said scheme into reality, other alliance partners extended their support and the left parties had an important role in the whole affairs. Therefore, in my opinion, this is a very important Bill. An ambitious scheme has been envisaged thereunder. I do not term this Bill a historical one as it does not have the lasting solution for the problem of employment. However, there is a provision in the Bill to provide employment to every family in rural areas for at least 100 days. But there should be transparency in implementing this provision. Through you, Sir, I appreciate the hon. Minister who envisaged such a scheme under this Bill. Maximum cooperation is expected from the Panchayati Raj to implement this scheme. At the same time, maximum responsibilities have been entrusted to them in this regard. I know, this will not provide a permanent solution to the problem. Some people will certainly get employment under this scheme. But this is not a permanent solution.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, we are witness to the population growth since independence till date. The scheme cannot be made successful without putting control over the increasing population. One member of a family would be selected for providing employment but that may be injustice to other family members. Simultaneously in view of the indefinite closure of tea estates in past by their owners in West Bengal, we can say that the locals are not provided with work throughout the year. In such a situation, the present Bill is very significant. At least those willing to work should be given work under the scheme. It has been provided in this Bill to provide at least hundred days employment to willing unskilled labourers. But in respect of minimum wage of Rs. 60 which has been fixed under this Bill, some hon. Members have stated that there is huge difference between this minimum wage and the minimum wage prevalent in several states.

19.48 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

Therefore, through you, I want to know from the hon. Minister if some states want to pay more wage than that of provided under this Bill, can they do so? With these words, I conclude.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Nikhil Kumarji, now you speak. But before that, I want to say that the time allotted to parties is over now. Therefore, I want that the speakers should try to restrict their speeches to 2 or 3 minutes each.

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR (Aurangabad, Bihar): Sir, I will try to be brief.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The time allotted to parties is over now, otherwise we will have to sit till midnight as I have a list of about 45 members.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR: Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is severe unemployment problem in this country

which is relatively more in rural areas, as a result of which people migrate from rural areas to urban areas in search of job and settle there only.

[English]

This is not a satisfactory situation. This migration has to stop. There has to be some amount of effort made to provide employment to the rural folk so that they are not tempted to go to the urban areas. I speak specially of our State of Bihar from where there has been a regular exodus to urban cities, metropolitan cities, and other States. This Bill is an attempt to provide legal guarantee for employment to the rural folk in the countryside for at least 100 days at a minimum wage of Rs. 60 per day per head. There is a little confusion here as to what should be the minimum wage. If we persue the Financial Memorandum attached to the Bill along with the Amendments for which a notice has been given by hon. Minister for Rural Development, it becomes clear that the minimum wages enshrined in the Act of any State or, in fact, all over the country, vary from Rs. 25 to Rs. 135. It is at an average of Rs. 60 that the Financial Memorandum has calculated the overall financial implication at about Rs. 20,000 crore. It is with this in mind that the matter has been clarified.

I read from the notice of amendments given by hon. Minister for Rural Development regarding wage rate relating to Section 6 which says:

> "Notwithstanding anything contained in the Minimum Wage Act, 1948, the wage rate for the purpose of Clause (a) of sub-section (1) of Section 22 shall be Rs. 60...."

Then it further goes on to say:

> "....provided that the Central Government may by notification specify the wage rate at a rate not less than Rs. 60 from time to time."

It is, therefore, quite clear that the wage rate in a State if it happens to be in excess of Rs. 60, will be the wage rate for that State. And if the wage rate happens to be less than Rs. 60 in any State, the wage rate there will be a minimum of Rs. 60. So, there should be no apprehension about, as our friend Shri Dharamendra Pradhan had, that there is some kind of a fraud being played through this Act; the wage that is being paid to the labour is less than Rs. 60. Nothing of that kind is going to happen. The minimum wage will be Rs. 40, and if it happens to be more than Rs. 60 in any State, as per the Wage Act applicable to that State, it will be that wage which will be applicable.

Sir, there is also a provision in this that where the authorities concerned fail to provide employment to an applicant, there is a provision for paying that applicant a penalty, the kind of a dole. I commend the UPA Government for bringing in the concept of social security here, which so far had been lacking. There have been a number of schemes that have been implemented in the country in the past 15 years. But the concept of social security was lacking there. If this is implemented, it will be a very welcome move, and I support it.

There is, of course, a great fear of corrupt practices being implied in the implementation of this Scheme. This can be done at any level. The proposed Act has a provision, which gives us confidence that the Government is determined to see that corruption is not allowed.

I may be permitted to read that provision, which says:

> "The application from any person wanting employment could be made at three levels. It could be made at the level of the panchayat, at the level of the block, and at the level of the district."

There is, therefore, some kind of a cross-referencing which would ensure that there are no fake applications or there is no attempt by the authorities concerned to keep an application pending for more than the required time. After the required time stipulated in the Act as 15 days is over, it would be a question of passing a dole, which would not be justified. It is in these cases that some corrective action would have to be taken. If it is found that some fraud has been played by authorities concerned, they would have to face criminal action. If it were found that there has been genuine laxity, there would be a fine.

I would appeal to the hon. Minister that if there were to be a criminal prosecution, it would take time and knowing the criminal justice system that obtains in our country, it would not be wise to allow the people concerned to launch a criminal prosecution. Why could we not examine imposing a greater fine? For instance, instead of Rs. 500, which has been prescribed for those who are found guilty of laxity, it could be to Rs. 1,000. For those who are found to have played a kind of fraud,

[Shri Nikhil Kumar]

it could be raised to Rs. 10,000. If these amounts were increased, it would be possible to provide a very great deterrent to people who want to indulge in corrupt practices. In fact, the increase in the amount of fine is something which has also been prescribed and recommended by the 154th Report of the Law Commission. So this principle could be made applicable here also.

Two hundred districts, which are economically backward, have been proposed to be covered by this scheme. It is expected that these 200 districts would enjoy the benefits of this Scheme in the next two or three years. If indeed this Scheme is implemented honestly, it should be possible to reap the benefits of this Scheme in at least two years. So, why is it not possible to extend the benefits of this Scheme to all the districts in India, which would be about 550 to 600, within a period of five years? This is something which I wish to submit before the hon. Minister. He might consider extending this Scheme to all the districts in India within a period of five years.

Unfortunately, my district and constituency, Aurangabad, in Bihar is one of the 170 economically backward districts but it has not been included in the Food-for-work Programme. I appeal to the hon. Minister that this time around, when this Scheme is implemented, Aurangabad should be included in it so that it could give us a great deal of relief.

I had referred to the question of dole earlier. It is not a very happy thing to have a dole of some kind but if at all a dole is being given it is not the intention and any case should be for a basic minimum period. That should be our intention. That is why I suggested that instead of 200 districts being covered in the next two or three years, attempts should be made to cover the entire lot of districts in the country in a period of five years. If that is done, automatically, it would be possible for us to increase the number of people who get employment in the rural sector. The previous Government had announced that it would come up with one crore jobs throughout the period but at least this would provide a big fillip to people who are in our rural countryside and the concept of dole would go. It would be a genuine attempt at providing employment to rural people in the countryside.

20.00 hrs.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Uday Singh. First of all, you will have to go to your seat.

SHRI UDAY SINGH (Purnea): Sir, I may be permitted to speak from there.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You should seek permission prior to speaking.

SHRI UDAY SINGH: Sir, I may be permitted to speak from this seat.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: All right. You can speak from this seat.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, please give some time to me too to speak.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have a pretty long list of speakers, yet I will try to adjust you any how.

[English]

SHRI UDAY SINGH: Sir, thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to speak on this important Bill. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You conclude your speech within five minutes. This is my humble request.

SHRI UDAY SINGH: Sir, I will try and finish it in less time than that. This Bill at least has the potential of becoming a historic Bill. It is being called a historic Bill today. As it is not historic but it has the potential to become a historic Bill. Sir, I am in complete agreement with the need for this Bill, but in equal disagreement with the manner in which it is sought to be implemented.

The Congress Government has governed this country for longer than most parties. But it is not learning from its experience. It is not bracing to face the challenges posed by a wretchedly faulty public delivery system. Therefore, it is lending itself open to being charged with repeated wrong-doings at great public expense which is an extremely serious matter. It is said that the only thing more painful thing than learning from experience is not learning from experience.

The other day I was duly impressed by the very impassioned speech of Shrimati Sonia Gandhi. It was

plain to all of us that she actually believed in this Bill not only as a redemption of her party's electoral promise, but she also saw this as a panacea for rural unemployment. Now, this is what makes me speculate whether the UPA Government is serious about this Bill becoming a success, but I feel not. The hon. Minister who piloted this Bill is none other than Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh. I do not want to excite him for the fear that he will raise his decibels even more, but we know Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh. We know that he is a grass-root politician. I do not know whether he shared with the Cabinet his own experience with the other poverty alleviation schemes that are currently running under his Ministry. If he has not, then he is wronged, and if he has, then this Government has certainly against displayed the ostrich syndrome.

Sir, if I may ask what should our holistic approach of our responsibilities, towards our poor actually be. We must strive to give them a livable house, safe drinking water, primary health and educational facilities and, above, all, an opportunity to make a decent living for self and family. But is it not time that the Government really asks itself as to how many different schemes do we actually require to fulfil there very basic needs? At present, I think, there are more than two dozen such schemes which are running and the reason given for running so many schemes is that each scheme needs a close monitoring to reach the target audience or to reach the target group. But who, may I ask, are we charging with the responsibility to reach this to the target group? This is going back to the same District Magistrate, to the same DRDA official in States. So, while the Government says or pretend that one comprehensive Bill will become too unwidely, it is assuming that these district officials possess some super-natural powers and they will do justice to all the schemes that they are presiding over. I am sorry to say that this Bill will be one more addition to that long list which is already there in the districts.

[Translation]

Sir, I would like to ask Raghuvansh Prasadji whether people living in his and our villages are not leading a life worse than even animals. Have they got any identity? Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to tell that there was an incomplete list of the people living below the poverty line which too has been lying pending in the Supreme Court for years. What action is being taken thereon?

[English]

Sir, I want to say that when a poor villager gets to met an official minion, which by itself is no easy task, the first question asked is: "who are you?" If he says his name is Uday Singh, then he is told: "I do not know you". Sir, then comes along an agent who helps to identify this poor villager to that crony and this is where that long story of that villager's indebtedness to his identifier starts.

This is the start of all the ills. There is no pehchan

[Translation]

Is there any identity of that person? Can I go with him to the Registrar of Census and ask him to provide the names of the people living in a particular Panchayat. But they do not have any identity.

[English]

Sir, if poor countries in Africa—numerous of them—are following the identity card system, it is about time that we did it too. India is the software provider to the world. It is a matter of shame that it cannot do this is its own country and this identity card must be intelligent. It must be a smart card.

[Translation]

Raghuvanshji through this card, the entitlement of a person will be a indicated that is the facility for which he is entitled from the Government and the disbursement made to him would be ascertained thereby. He has seen that all those Members who have spoken in the House, have put before him the same thought in different languages as to how he will check manipulation. This Bill reminds me of an extract from the Ramayana. People would say that there was a Ram and a Ravana, of them one was Kshatriya and other was a Brahmin, one kidnapped other's wife and the latter fought a battle with the former and Tulsi wrote the Ramayana out of such a small story. This Bill only mentions as to who and how one will prevent the manipulation. Does it make any sense?

In today's world when technology and resources are available, then there is no need to do anything in this regard if this identity card is given to our poor people.

Coming back to the Bill, I am trying to conclude my point in a short while. He is aware that our joint family

[Shri Uday Singh]

system is collapsing due to economic hardships. Today, even two brothers do not have cordial relationship between them and can he bring cohesiveness in family if one of the brothers is provided job as per the spirit of the Bill or he will rather create further disruption? Everyone said that the number of districts to be covered under this scheme should be increased but I am saying that it may be decreased and he may stagger it, however, he should make this offer to everyone and engage any able bodied person who comes forward for this work voluntarily. I have this request only.

The second more important thing is regarding the selection of the work.

[English]

Why are you restricting it to local areas? If cheap and free Indian labour was used to build infrastructure in far-off lands, when we are paying our own people, why can we not utilise their services to build our own, much required infrastructure if the national exchequer, if the public exchequer is being used to pay for this? We know that for any mega project the cost of manual labour constitutes almost 40 to 60 per cent of the total cost. Why can we not use this labour so that this does not become a 100 day project or this does not become a 25 day project but this becomes a project of nation-building?

[Translation]

His Government has raised the slogan of Bharat Nirman then why does he not use it for Bharat Nirman. By doing so that Government will not have shortage of funds and our infrastructure will be built very fast.

[English]

We can build better, bigger and quicker infrastructure.

[Translation]

In the end, though Soniaji is not here, I would like to submit her that she is the architect of this Bill and we all are impressed by her and want to thank her but I would like to request her that

[English]

She will have to decide and decide very quickly whether in the medium term she wants to take the credit for this Bill or take the discredit for this Bill. If she wants to take the credit, as we all hope that she wants, then she better listen to some sane, good advice that has been tendered by Members here and very quickly put in another delivery mechanism in place. Otherwise though, I quiver to think that she would want to take the discredit for it, but in any event, we all wish this Bill to be a success because we would like to see our poor a little more contented.

[Translation]

SHRI LALMANI PRASAD (Basti): Hon. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, while expressing my gratitude to you for allowing me to speak on the National Rural Employment Guarantee Bill, I would like to congratulate, through you, the hon. Minister for bringing this Bill.

Undoubtedly, it is a historic step, but at the same time I would like to submit that 58 years have passed since independence but due to indifference attitude of the previous Governments to this issue, the nation today is faced with this serious issue. A grave situation is prevailing in the country today. Millions of people in the country are not getting a square meal. They cannot purchase medicines as they have no money and millions of people are not getting even drinking water. Who is responsible for all this? Why did the Governments not think seriously in this regard even during 58 years since independence? India got independence before Japan but today Japan has become a leading country in the world due to its technology. India has no dearth of minerals. India could have also become a leading country, had we used our minerals properly. But, India's economy is in shambles today. We will have to think over it seriously. Even at the time of the Budget, I had mentioned it that the views of Baba Saheb Ambedkar have not been implemented in this country honestly. Our Constitution speaks of equality, freedom, fraternity and a secular country based on justice. The word 'equality' comes first among all these words but it has not been considered even after 58 years of independence. Untouchability, inhuman treatment, inequality, insecurity and injustice are the five national problems of the country. This problem, which I cam mentioning now, is also among those problems.

I want to say that the situation in our villages today is terrible. All the hon. Members must have read in newspapers that a poor family sold their son for 10 kg. of foodgrain or sold their daugther for 20 kg of foodgrain. People selling their son for 100 rupees and daughter for

200 rupees, is this our country. There is a need to discuss this grim situation seriously. This is quite agonizing for me. I have supported this Bill. But, what is the situation in the villages today? Those having tractor-trolleys at their door step are being given BPL ration cards and those who do not even have a small hut and are not able to get a square meal are being given APL ration cards, meant for rich people. In this way, it is a terrible situation. How to control the dominant people in the villages? I suggest the hon. Minister that he will have to monitor all this closely and consider seriously.

The rural people are not getting the foodgrains under the ongoing 'Food for Work Scheme'. Foodgrain meant for this scheme is being sold in open market by the people who have been assigned the work of distribution of that foodgrain. The poor villagers are not getting the foodgrains. Through you, I request Honourable Minister to give serious consideration on it. Along with it, I also request to make effort to provide employment for the whole year instead of 100 days employment. After working for 100 days, will the person sit idle for rest of the 265 days? Whether the Government has any scheme in this regard? Will only one person from a family earn and rest of the family members will sit idle? I request the Government that a parliamentary team from the country should be sent to Japan to study as to how each and every person is getting job there. That system should be adopted in India too. Other countries have system which provides job to everyone there. It should be given due consideration.

In the end, while supporting the bill, I conclude.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. Members who want to lay their speeches on the Table of the House may kindly do so, and the same would form part of the proceeding.

Now, I would request Shri Rupchand Pal to make his speech on this Bill. I would be able to give you only between four minutes and five minutes to speak.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly): Thank you, Sir. I will be very brief or should I say as brief as possible. The Left Parties expected that this Government should move ahead on the right track and fulfil, as early as possible, the assurances made to the people of this country when the Left Parties decided to support the new UPA Government from outside on the basis of the NCMP Now, we are happy that, at least, one assurance with regard to employment guarantee for the rural people is shortly to be implemented by this Government. But it is only a beginning, and we have miles to go. I am saying this because only 200 districts are being covered, and the rural poor are still to be addressed. Therefore, the hon. Minister while replying to the debate must assure this House that not only within a period of 5 years, but, as early as possible, the case of the rest of millions of our mute, hungry people is also going to be addressed.

In India, there are two Indians. One India is glamorous, billionaire, and a handful spending lots of money in five-star culture. On the other hand, there is an India of 85 per cent or 90 per cent of the population living in hunger, destitution, and who are downtrodden and underprivileged. There have been several schemes to provide them employment and to provide them food, but most of them have gone astray as there have been targets that have been missed. Although, no constitutional guarantee can be given, but legal guarantee is being given here. I think, it would become an irreversible programme irrespective of the complexion of the Government, and whoever might be in the Government would have to pursue it. Therefore, it is historic in this sense. There have been programmes like *garibi hatao,* 20-Point programme, etc., but there have not been any guarantees for it. Now, for the first time it is being done.

There are people who have been raising different issues. Where would the funds come for it? I would say that there is no dearth of funds. In a country where out of 1.1 billion people only 80,000 people are declaring that their income is Rs. 10 lakh, while at the same time luxury cars costing more than Rs. 15 lakh are being sold. Therefore, there is large-scale evasion, black money, etc. If the Government is serious, then it can even take into the account the recommendations made by its own Committees for collection of tax arrears to plug the loopholes for tax evasion, and there would be no dearth of money.

There have been some other issues like minimum wages. A question has been raised that all other schemes like poverty alleviation scheme, etc.—now currently in vogue—may be merged. What will happen by doing it? Is the minimum wage that is already being given in other areas—barring this area—also going to be reduced or not? This was a question raised by no less a person than the former Prime Minister of this country Shri V.P.

[Shri Rupchand Pal]

Singh. Therefore, it must be addressed. But the House should be assured that this is the beginning, and there are miles to go.

It is also very amusing that the NDA and the BJP are trying to ask: "why is it not being done? Why the urban poor is not being addressed in it? Why only 200 districts are being covered in it?" At the time of severe drought we have been repeatedly asking the same people to introduce the Food-for-Work programme. But it all fell on deaf ears.

They did not care for that. Now, we are happy that at least this Government is taking care of them. Although we have serious differences with them, we want to convince them that the Left is not against reforms. The question is, reforms in whose interest or reforms in what direction. Millions of our people are hungry. If the reforms mean that their hunger should be addressed, then I say that you are on the right track of reforms.

Sir, I do not want to take much time. I support this Bill. The merger of the schemes may create certain problems. The quality of the schemes should be such that they create durable assets, like water resources, irrigation, which may increase productivity; it may be part of the 'Bharat Nirman' process; it may add to the purchasing capacity and contribute to the acceleration of the industrial process.

The empowerment issue has emphasised that womenfolk should be given priority as it will stop migration because when the men go out or migrate, all the work is done by the womenfolk. Rightly, the Panchayati Raj system should be involved; the Gram Sabhas should be involved. It is a historic step. We should be cautious, we should be careful, we should be serious about the implementation and extending it to the rest of the districts and to the urban areas.

Due to the time constraint, I wish to conclude my speech. I support this Bill and I believe that the Minister while replying to the debate will give the full assurance to the nation that they are serious about the achieving the goal within a short while.

SHRI AJAY MAKEN (New Delhi): Sir, with your permission, I beg to lay the next of my speech on the Table of the House.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, you can do so. Is there anybody else who wants to lay his or her speech on the Table of the House?

*SHRI AJAY MAKEN: Sir, I thank you for the opportunity to speak on National Rural Employment Guarantee Bill, 2005. I consider myself to be extremely fortunate to speak in support of this Bill and thus in turn be a part of the History. This Bill will prove to be a milestone in the Indian history. Thus, it can be well imagined, why the opposition is getting jittery on this bill. Everyone knows that the people on account of their dismal performance at rural development and employment generation front rejected the NDA Government. Their tenure is marked by jobless growth. Only the share markets went up and the rural folk continued to commit suicide.

However, I observed a very remarkable behavior amongst the BJP members today. But before going on to it, I shall refer to some of the statements made by their leaders in and outside the Parliament. They first complained about just 150 districts being covered in the programme. But we have not only increased it to 200, but also an undertaking that the programme will be implemented in the rest of the country within 5 years. This made NDA jittery. They started asking for universal application. We agreed and said that instead of BPL households, it would be universally applicable to all households. Then instead of being satisfied, they have now started saying that they want it to be universally applicable on all *persons* instead of *households*. It is strange that initially, one of the former BJP President, in a statement alleged that the Government is handing over the bill to a specially formed select committee and not to the standing committee on rural development (which is chaired by Sh. Kalyan Singh, a BJP leader). This allegation was also totally unfounded when the bill was handed over to the standing committee only. Then many suggestions made by the committee, such as social audit by the gram sabha etc. were also incorporated in the Bill. So the BJP is totally dumbfounded and speechless now. So today they have devised a strategy. Instead of fully criticizing the Bill, they have now decided to not criticize the Bill, but to some how try and dilute the credit, which is going to the Congress party, and Smt. Sonia Gandhi. But let me assure them that the country knows it very well, as to who is behind the bill and how this bill is an extension of Maharashtra State Employment Guarantee Act, which was introduced and practiced by the Congress Party in the State.

*Speech was laid on the Table.

It has been argued by some members of the BJP and NDA, that the Bill should also be extended to the urban areas. They are perhaps oblivious to the demands of the urban areas. They perhaps do not know that such type of schemes would be failure in the urban areas. I would just like to tell the house that an NGO, *Aashray Adhikar Abhiyan* AAA, in the year 2000 conducted a survey of homeless persons of Delhi. They found out that, 89% of the homeless and shelterless people are employed in the unorganized sector. Propagationists of such schemes in the urban areas perhaps do not know that any person who offers his services for daily wages in a *Chowk* of the city, gets work every two days out of three days. Thus the problem in urban areas is not that of employment but that of underemployment. The problem is of shelter more than any thing else.

I would like to present before this august house, very startling figures. If we look at the ten year figures of population growth and compare it with that of GDP growth, we will see that when the GDP has grown more in the average of a ten year span, then the population in urban areas has decreased for that particular period.

Years	Urban Population growth	Average growth in GDP for this period
1971-81	46.1%	—
1981-91	36.4%	5.2%
1991-2001	31.2%	6.7%

But the question arises, as to why is there a need for this bill? Because in 1980s, average GDP grew by 5.2% and employment growth by 2.7%. Surprisingly when in the 1990s, the GDP grew by 6.7% (1.5% more than the previous decade), the employment growth slowed down to 1.07% from 2.7%.

10th Plan document also says that by the end of 10th plan, there would be a backlog of 35 million unemployed. In the eighth plan, the amount of money spend on rural development was 13%, but it slid down to 5% now. Sampoorn Gramin Rojgar Yojna (SGRY) was able to generate only at an average 20 man days of employment in BPL households annually for the year 2002-03 and 2003-04.

Thus there was a crying need for such a scheme and I am thankful to UPA chairperson, Smt. Sonia Gandhi and our Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh to have brought such a Bill.

Besides experience of Maharashtra also shows that this bill, when enacted would meet considerable success. In Maharashtra:-

— This bill is successfully working since last 30 yrs.

— It has resulted in generation of 370 crore mandays.

— Rs. 9000 crores have already been spent through this scheme.

— In the 1990s decade, 10 lakh hectare has been made fit for horticulture.

— Agriculture labour now get better wages.

— In many areas, it has been reported that 40 to 50% of women get the work.

Amongst numerous advantages of the Bill, I would like to mention the following:—

— For the first time a poor village-folk will not get a right in the form of guarantee of a Parliamentary Act, to ask for something from the Government.

— Through this Act, the size of the development programme shall be determined by the workers and not by the officials.

— Panchayats, shall be the nodal agency for planning. Thus planning for spending 40,000 crores would be decided at the lowest level. The planning process would be from bottom to top and not from top to bottom.

— The guarantee word shall increase the flexibility of this bill. Thus in times of need more work and otherwise less.

— This will stop migration of workers from rural areas.

— This Bill if enacted, shall not only generate employment, but also develop the rural areas.

— In this Bill, a number of new kind of works have also been added, which can be undertaken. These works will improve the agriculture production and also condition of agriculture land. It will favourably tilt ecological balance.

[Shri Ajay Maken]

— I would like to mention here an experience of Madhya Pradesh. The Digvijay Singh government through land reforms, gave agriculture land to landless SC/ST people. But the productive land were at many places, not handed over to the deserving SC/ST; and only those plots of land not fit for agriculture were only allowed to be taken over by the SC/ST. Now the Bill provides for the irrigation works to be undertaken in the land of SC/ST. This Bill thus would help in land reforms also.

At this juncture, I have some suggestions to make:-

— We should use the Right to Information to oversee the success of this Bill. NGOs should be encouraged to come in and act as watchdogs. But I would also call upon the Political Parties to train their cadre and take the place of NGOs where there are none. I would also congratulate our leader Smt. Sonia Gandhi who has already entrusted upon this task to Seva Dal of Congress Party.

— We should have a solid financial foundation. This could be achieved only through improved Tax-GDP ratio. In 1987-88 the tax-GDP ratio was 10.6%, now it is 9.3%. If are able to achieve the Tax-GDP ratio of pre-reforms period, we may generate more than 35,000 crores. This amount can take care of this scheme.

— There should be proper selection of districts. I would suggest that the names of districts should not be fixed. But after annual review on various important parameters, depending upon various natural factors, new districts should be allowed to replace some old ones.

— Skill training and better planning and sequencing of work should be taken care of.

In the end, I will quote Gandhi Ji:—

"The Blood of the villages is the cement with which the edifices of the cities is built. I want the blood, that is today inflating the arteries of the cities, to run once again in the blood vessels of the villages."

[Translation]

*SHRI M. APPADURAI (Tenkasi): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thank the Chair for giving me this opportunity to speak on the National Rural Employment Guarantee Bill. I welcome this move by the Government to reach the rural poor directly after 58 years of independence during the tenure of 14th Lok Sabha. I welcome and extend support to this Bill on behalf of our party, Communist Party of India. I am happy that this Bill is a consummation of the efforts put in by the left parties in this House.

The Bill seeks to extend this scheme to 200 districts and I would like to point out that this is not adequate and other districts with rural areas must also get a similar scheme. It is a welcome step that Departments concerned will be responsible for implementing various schemes. Another welcome feature of the Bill pertains to the non-inclusion of contract system. I also want to urge upon the Government to ensure proper monitoring to keep away mechanisation and use of machines in schemes to be carried out under this Act. Only 4 districts out of 29 districts in Tamil Nadu have been covered in the ambit of this Act.

I would like to draw your attention to the fact that southern districts in Tamil Nadu have been neglected. Tirunelveli, Tuticorin, Ramanathapuram, Sivaganga and Virudhunagar districts that come under my Thenkasi constituency are drought prone districts and worst hit by caste and communal riots hitting hard the deprived classes in the rural areas. Hence I urge upon the Union Government to include these districts also in the ambit of this Act to benefit especially the downtrodden people of these districts.

In order to accomplish the purpose for which the legislation is made, proper vigil and monitoring mechanism must be in place. This Act lists out the works that are to be carried out in the rural areas. I would like to emphasise that small irrigation projects, building of small tanks and reservoirs, laying of village roads, sanitation and drinking water schemes and housing must get priority in the implementation of this Act.

It is a boom to the rural poor that they get a guaranteed job opportunity directly in developing infrastructure facilities in their local areas. We must also bear in mind that this enactment in itself is not enough to alleviate poverty in the country. The minimum wage fixed is Rs. 60 as per this Act. It may be revised as early as you can. Wherever deviations are noticed such jobs must be taken away from the ambit of this scheme and such works must be stopped.

*Translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

In order to take the entire benefit to the rural poor, Centre must enact Land Reforms Act. "Land to the tiller not to the farmer" is what we want to reiterate when we talk of land reforms. Our former Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru said that State Governments must endeavour to bring about land reforms in their respective States. Distributing lands is different from land reforms. To implement this Act and to cover 200 districts, 63000 crores of rupees would be required. If it is to be extended further 1 lakh 40 thousand crores of rupees would be needed. I would like to impress upon the Union Government that this viable Act must be reenacted to cover urban poor also.

One adult from every household would be eligible to get the guaranteed job. If the household has a joint family then the head count may not be practical giving rise to practical problems. Wiping out poverty in its entirity may not be possible. This Act is but a noble effort. Rural women the poorest of the poor will get priority while the beneficiaries are identified. It has been ensured 33% reservation would be earmarked for them. Considering the fact that 34% of our people are much below in the social strata and far below poverty line, we must increase the minimum wage and the number of days of work. Rs. 6000 per annum is not sufficient and calls for an upward revision.

The Central contribution of 90% and States' contribution of 10% are there for this programme but it needs to be ensured that there are no stoppages due to non-availability of earmarked funds. Proper care, constant vigil, able monitoring can ensure the successful implementation of this programme.

Let me conclude my speech welcoming this Bill.

[Translation]

SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH (Allahabad): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thank you for providing me the opportunity to speak on the Rural Employment Guarantee Bill. There is no doubt that it is an important bill and has been brought for those people who live in villages and are economically very weak. But we will have to ensure as to how the objective of this Bill would be achieved. The Bill has a major lacuna and many hon'ble Members have also pointed out that only one member of a family would be provided with work, which is not fair. Every member of a family above the age of 18 years, be it man or woman, should be provided with the work and this provision should be made compulsory whether funds for this scheme should be increased, whether it should be implemented in 100 districted only instead of 200 districts but guarantee should be given to provide work to each and every person living in villages as the hon'ble members have suggested, just now. This Bill is incomplete. It provides that only one person of a family will get work under this scheme but if a family consists of 6 persons and only one of them get employment then what will happen to rest of the five members? Where will they get work? It also has a provision for providing one third of employment opportunities to women. There are many flaws in this Bill. It does not have clarity. Therefore, I would like that after passing the Bill. ...*(Interruptions)* Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you allowed me to speak for four minutes but you are looking at your watch after one minute only. ...*(Interruptions)* I want to say that honourable Minister wants to get this Bill passed but the flaws in this Bill should be removed because we have observed that in district panchayats and blocks, funds are provided to construct the road in more than three or four times and the same road is constructed time and again.

Sir, if misutilisation of funds continues like this, no permanent asset can be created in the country. Along with it, I would like to submit that the provision made in the Bill for 10 per cent contribution by State Governments is not proper because the financial condition of most of the State Governments is very poor. In addition, the State Governments will have to contribute 40 percent for permanent nature of work, but I would like to know wherefrom the State Governments will mobilize this amount? This provision should be removed from the Bill. Apart from this Bill, I would like to say that even after 58 years of our independence, we have not done anything for educated unemployed. I want the Government to bring a separate Bill for educated unemployed. Out friends from the Left Front are sitting here and probably they are providing unemployment allowance in West Bengal. I want that 'Right to Work' should be included as 'Fundamental Right' and we should provide job to unemployed educated youth. If the Government can not provide them job, then they should be given unemployment allowance on lines of minimum wage of Rs. 60 given to labourers.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Bikram Keshari Deo—only four minutes please.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (Kalahanadi): I will be very brief.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Not only very brief but you also have to complete your speech in four minutes.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: Sir, one minute has already gone. You have taken one minute away. So, I will speak for four minutes.

Sir, the Bill is a good Bill. Its intentions are good as it provides rural employment to the poor people. It is a good Bill. There is no question of opposing it. But we have the past experience in this regard. So also the C&AG reports, various reports and the reports of the Planning Commission which tell us about its implementation. These schemes have been there for 30 years-Swarn Rozgar Yojana, Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana and JRY. The outcome is that there has been no decline in the demand for unskilled wage labour under any of the schemes. Modest impact has been made in the reduction of poverty and reduction in the unemployment sector in the States. These are the results. Let the same thing not happen to this scheme also. Seriousness should be there.

Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh is an able Minister. I have seen him performing as the Opposition Member. I think, he will implement this Bill in its true soul and spirit so that the poorest of the poor are benefited.

But here we are very sad to state that till now the BPL list is a matter of *sub-judice* as it is before the Supreme Court. So, the Government should at least make a prayer before the hon. Court to immediately take a decision on it so that more people can be benefited from this Bill.

I support all the amendments made here by the hon. Minister. But in the amendment No. 49(1) moved by the Minister, in the Schedule, land reforms beneficiaries and the Indira Awas Yojana beneficiaries are inserted. I would request to plead that another category, that is, those people who have been affected by natural calamities like the Supercyclone, be added. People from the category of APL, because of being affected by natural calamities, come under the category of BPL. For them, again to come back to the category of APL, it takes about three to four years. So, this category of people should be included in the Schedule. Therefore, I would request the hon. Minister to kindly take up this matter.

Sir, another matter is that in case of deaths, injuries under this scheme, it has been assured that they would be getting Rs. 10,000.

[Translation]

They should be given insurance cover and it should be made mandatory.

By doing that the future of a poor man and his family will be secured. That is why, we want insurance cover for them. During the 25 years of my political life I have seen that the national family benefit schemes which are being implemented for the poor are still to reach our district. These schemes have also not reached the KBK districts of Orissa. If things go like this, people will not be benefited. If a poor man dies while working, the future of his family becomes bleak. Therefore such people should be provided insurance cover. Now the private sector has also entered the insurance sector. The should be told to go to rural areas. They are still operating in urban areas and when the Government have permitted them to invest upto 26 percent, they can now enter into insurance sector. But private insurance companies are still not going into rural areas. Therefore, they should go to the villages and work there.

We have the information that

[English]

the private sector in the insurance sector will be actively serving the poor. Sir, I come from a very-very backward area, that is, the KBK districts.

[Translation]

Several NGOs are also working in this area. But only those NGOs which enjoy credibility and submit report every year, should be given a chance to work there. Ramkrishna Mission is one such NGO which won the accolade of International Monitory Fund and World Bank.

[English]

They have said that Ramkrishna Mission is one of the best organizations of India and Bengal. Their work has been commended by the International Monitory Fund.

[Translation]

Such organizations should be employed. Chinmaya Mission is another organization which should also be

engaged. Many of the working NGOs have no credibility. Various programmes are being implemented in our state. Schemes like DFID, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan are being run with the help of International funding and various, NGOs are engaged in it. But they are not working properly. When we go through their annual report in the meeting of Vigilance Committee, we find that their yearly performance is not up to the mark. Therefore, only such NGOs should be engaged who command some credibility.

In the beginning of this Bill

[English]

Clause 2(g) in Chapter I says that "implementing agency" includes any department of the Central Government or a State Government, a Zila Parisahd, Panchayat Samiti, Gram Panchayat or any local authority or Government undertaking or non-governmental organisation authorised by the Central Government or the State Government to undertake the implementation of any work taken up under a Scheme.

[Translation]

The Non-Governmental Organizations should prove their credibility and submit annual report in the district. Otherwise various NGOs working in various districts are just looting the public money and are indulging in proselyting. The NGOs engaged in such activities should be controlled. So that they do not engage themselves in such activities.

In the end, I would like to submit that during his statement, Shri Mani Shankar ji stated that decision regarding implementing agencies would be taken in Gram Sabha and there would be a programme officer for this purpose. If a programme officer takes decision for more than 50 percent work, what would be the fate of the 73rd Amendment of the Constitution through which panchayats, a representative body of the people, have been revived, strengthened and empowered. As a result of the appointment of programme officer, there will be confrontation as happens in the case of secretary and Sarpanch. This will adversely affect the development work in the villages. Mani Shankarji was telling in his speech.

[English]

'Panchayat has got all the powers.' The Panchayat has all the powers right from 73rd Amendment. When the Constitution was amended for the 73rd time to empower Panchayats, what were they doing? JRY was there; EGS was there; RLAGP was there. What were they doing? They were doing nothing. If you truly want to give power to the people, Panchayats and Gram Sabhas should be strengthened. Otherwise, the spirit and soul of the 73rd Amendment will be lost and the decentralisation of power right from the Centre to the grass roots will be destroyed. So, that channel has to be kept clean. Like late Shri Rajiv Gandhiji had mentioned, out of every one rupee spent, only 19 paise reach the masses.

With these words, I support this Bill and I am supporting it because it is a progressive Bill. But I would say, do not make this Bill a Utopian dream.

SHRIMATI TEJASWINI SEERAMESH (Kanakpura): I thank you hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me this opportunity. I rise to support this National Rural Employment Guarantee Bill brought forward by this UPA Government in this august House.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You can speak only for four or five minutes.

SHRIMATI TEJASWINI SEERAMESH: Sir, I feel very proud in congratulating my UPA Government, UPA Chairperson, our hon. Prime Minister and, of course, the champion of the poorest of the poor, our Rural Development Minister Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singhji. I would also like to thank our Chairman, Standing Committee on Rural Development, Shri Kalyan Singhji, who, under his leadership, ensured consensus on these recommendations. No doubt, it is a historic Bill. Though my friends in the Opposition will not agree with me, it is a historic and revolutionary Bill. But I am having my own arguments.

Sir, this Bill, which ensures job to the unemployed youths in the largest democracy, that is, India, is the first of its kind in the world. Out Government is candid and honest in accepting that unemployment in the rural sector is a challenging national problem. It is honestly trying to address this problem by bringing a ray of hope among these hopeless millions of unemployed youths in the rural sector, who are suffering from illiteracy, ill-health and other infrastructure problems. Sir, in my view, unemployment is an undeclared death sentence passed on to the millions of youths whereas this country requires their dynamic energy for nation building. It is not only a social crime,

[Shrimati Tejaswini Seeramesh]

but a national crime also. We cannot reject our younger brothers and sisters from participating in nation building. That is why I see a direct link between unemployment and terrorism, naxalism and dowry deaths. I also see a direct link between unemployment and prostitution where our beloved sisters, mothers and daughters are selling their bodies to feed their children and families. It is a social crime. We should, rising above party differences, address this. I hope my brothers on the other side will accept this.

Sir, a hungry mouth or stomach will not understand what is dignity, what is humanity or patriotism. Even though they are patriotic youths, but this nation rejected them. Whether we belong to this side or that side, we must admit that as a nation, we failed to address this unemployment problem. But, at least, this UPA Government has accepted this and admitted that it is a problem; let us honestly try to address this problem in a challenging manner.

Sir, in this Bill, there is one thing which I would like to appreciate. My brother from the Opposition, Shri Swain, has expressed some doubts and said that things like afforestation, watershed, linking of villages, and all that are unproductive. I would like to bring it to the notice of this House that in the rural sector, the women, youths or these boys are not skilled labourers. You do not look at things in a direct manner. Even irrigation can generate lots of job opportunities in agriculture sector. When they get some perks through these activities, it will generate a lot of opportunities in the education sector. It will bring some confidence and that is very important. It will bring some hope and will really bring some patriotism. My country will be steering like that.

I, now, come to my last point. I would like to mention here that Indiraji dreamt to empower the women. We cannot empower women through speeches alone. We must ensure one-third reservation for them in the jobs under this scheme. Then only we can have this empowerment of women where a mother will not face a situation wherein she sells her dear babies. That is why, I would say that this Bill is not everything. This Bill is not going to bring heavens to this nation. We are not in such illusions. It is definitely an honest and a bold attempt to address this problem. I would request that the whole House must stand united to address this problem.

With these words, I support this Bill.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, Shri Sita Ram Singh. You may please take only four minutes.

[Translation]

SHRI SITA RAM SINGH (Sheohar): Sir, I would like to thank you. I shall conclude in just three minutes. Sir, I support this historic Bill and like to thank the hon'ble Minister for Rural Development, UPA Government and the Chairman of Standing Committee. I am happy and it was my privilege that as a Member of this Committee, we could put forward our suggestions. Sir, many of the suggestions have been incorporated in this Bill. As the hon. Minister has stated, some amendments have been made and a few new initiatives have also been taken. Sir, I can see the reaction towards this Bill in the Parliament. None of the hon. Members, whichever party they may belong to, have the guts to oppose this Bill. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You may please address the chair.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please do not disturb him.

[Translation]

SHRI SITA RAM SINGH: Sir, my point is that Bill has been brought for the betterment of the villages where the biggest segment of our population resides. This Bill would be beneficial particularly for the agricultural labourers who might have got job but they were not guaranteed even one day's work during the last 58 years. Government after government came to power and demitted office but these laborers did not have guarantee that they would be able to get even one hour of employment. Sir, this is the first Bill of its kind. This is the first Government, the first Minister who has come forward to guarantee at least 100 days employment for the labourers.

Sir, this is the reason why this Bill is historical as well as commendable. I have praised this Bill but now I would also like to put forth a few words on behalf of the labourers. I agree that it is not possible for any Government to empty its coffers at one go, so a guarantee of 100 days of employment is acceptable for

a start. Even so, the least funds have been earmarked for the largest segment of the population of the country and the maximum funds have been provided for the smallest segment of the population.

Sir, I would not like to make any offensive remarks about the previous government. However, I would also like to give a suggestion alongwith the suggestions given by other Hon. Members in respect of this Bill which seeks to provide hundred days of employment. My suggestion is that the concept of a family has not been defined properly. It should be made clear that each of the adult members in a family, over the age of 18 years, whatever be the number of such persons whether they are male or female, whether they work or not should be provided employment. Sir, this is my first suggestion.

Sir, my second point is regarding the matter of registration. I have doubts about the efficacy of the registration system. There is a scope for manipulation in this system. There is an apprehension that a literate person would hoodwink the illiterate villagers. Such a person might destroy or tamper with their applications causing their names not getting registered and in short cheating them. Sir, we hail from the villages and after finishing our work here, all our free time is spent in the villages. Sir, the question is as to how to empower them? I would like to urge the hon. Minister to give thought to this issue before giving this reply.

Sir, Bihar is the worst hit state as far as unemployment is concerned. People are not able to get a single days' work in that state. The poor labourers there go to Punjab, Haryana and Delhi in the search of work. They keep roaming there for work. In this regard, I would like to request the hon. Minister that Bihar should be given special consideration while identifying the 200 districts to be covered under the said Bill. I express my thanks for the implementation of the Food for Work programme but there are a few of the poorest districts where the people are not able to get space in the trains. The entire male population of the villages in Motihari, Sitamarhi, Betiya districts situated near the Nepal border leave in search of work. Only the women are left behind in such villages. The men go out of the state for work. Hence, consideration should be given to Bihar. These districts should be covered under the Bill so that the men are able to get work within the districts.

This Bill would be passed in its' entirety but it requires further consideration too. The issue of poor labourers is being discussed. Poor labourers should get work but the ceiling of 100 days should also be raised. I have noted the effort put in by Raghuvansh Babu in bringing this Bill. He was perturbed about this Bill since last year. I had held several discussions with him in this regard. He had asked me as to why the recommendations of the Standing Committee were not being finalized expeditiously? I feel that bringing forward this Bill in the House is a historic step. I again commend this step and express my support for this Bill.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Basu Deb Acharia ji, please conclude your speech in five minutes.

[Translation]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to thank UPA Government for introducing a bill for providing employment to the rural unemployed. The discussion on the Bill was held on Thursday. I would also like to thank UPA Government for its Common Minimum Programme, the basis on which the Government was formed and left parties extended their support to this Government from outside. We also demanded for the same. Common Minimum Programme has been formulated to protect the right of poor people of the country, to protect the right of agricultural labourers, poor farmers and the labourers of small industries having no organization of their own. We wanted that the Government should take step in that direction and the Government have done so.

There are 22 crore agricultural labourers in the country. Out of 40 crore labourers, 37.5 crore labourers are engaged in the unorganized sector and 22 crores are agricultural labourer. Keeping in view the increasing unemployment in recent past, especially reduction in the wages of agricultural labourer, this Bill is a step in that direction. Unemployment has increased in rural areas.

[English]

Growth in employment is only 0.58 per cent.

[Translation]

It is a big step. Therefore, I would like to thank for fulfilling our long standing demand of converting the right to employment into a Fundamental Right.

[Shri Basu Deb Acharia]

[English]

Right to work should be included within the Fundamental Rights to our Constitution.

[Translation]

Thus, the demand put forward by us, gets strengthened.

The members from opposition are criticizing it and pointing towards its faults. They argue that employment to one of the members of a family will create dispute. They also demand to increase the number of days of employment from 100 days and to implement this programme in the whole country, presently it is targeted to 200 districts only. The main reason for crisis during the NDA Government especially in agriculture sector was lowest capital mobilization in the agriculture sector at that time. There was decline in the institutional and rural credit. Which has resulted in starvation deaths suicide by farmers.

[English]

Farmers committing suicide. One single problem is the unemployment both in rural areas and urban areas. In rural areas the growth is only 0.58 per cent and in the urban areas, it is 1.17 percent.

[Translation]

We have been talking about economic reforms in the recent past. We have experienced that the gap between the poor and the rich was widened.

[English]

The gap between the rich and the poor has increased during the decade of economic reforms.

[Translation]

Poverty and unemployment has increased in the country. The cottage industries in the country are also facing crisis.

[English]

No steps were taken to revive industries. With the result, lakhs and lakhs of workers who are employed in the small and cottage industries have become jobless during this period.

[Translation]

That is why we had demanded. That the top priority should be given to employment oriented programmes. Lot of programmes has been implemented during the recent past.

[English]

In the past, the problem of unemployment and poverty have not been addressed properly and because of that, unemployment and poverty have increased, particularly among the rural poor. The implementation of this legislation would definitely address this problem to some extent.

21.00 hrs.

That is why we demand that we should not wait for five years. It has been said that within the next five years the entire rural India would be covered by this programme. My point is that we should not wait for five years for this to happen. The Government should try to extend this programme to all parts of the country as soon as possible. Money will not be a problem for a country like India. Our Tax-GDP ratio is the lowest and we can increase that. Moreover, more than a sum of Rs. 1,30,000 crore is locked in NPAs and every year a few thousand crore of rupees is being written off as bad debt. So, money would not be a problem for implementation of this programme. The Government only will have to sincerely implement the programme.

[Translation]

It should be extended in the whole country at the earliest. There is an acute problem of unemployment not only in rural areas but also in urban area. The Government should bring Bill to ensure employment guarantee not only to the rural unemployed but also to urban unemployed people as per common minimum programme. A separate bill be brought forward for urban area as soon as possible. Because, it is the greatest problem before the nation. I demand that employment be provided to the urban unemployed people at the earliest. It is a historical step taken by the UPA Government as it provides guarantee for employment. I conclude my speech and express my thanks to the Government for taking this historical step.

*SHRI PRADEEP GANDHI (Rajnandgaon): Sir, the UPA Government has presented the bill regarding employment guarantee.

I would like to draw his attention through you to some of its provisions. As is evident from the title of the Bill, "National Rural Employment Guarantee Bill", this Bill does not envisages employment guarantee to the urban poor and the urban employed. That means, the UPA Government has not covered a large section of the society under its said decision. This scheme would be implemented in 150 districts only, that means, 450 districts would remain deprived of its benefit.

Under this scheme 20 per cent cost would be borne by the States. Many States are not in a position to bear the said cost because of their poor financial condition. Under that situation, they would be deprived of the benefit of the scheme. I, therefore, suggest that the scheme should be hundred per cent centrally sponsored because the funds given under many centrally sponsored schemes have to be returned since the States fail to contribute their share. We all know this fact.

There is a need for giving special focus on the quality of assets created through this scheme and there is also need for making provisions to ensure that there should be no corruption in the implementation of this scheme. So that this important scheme may not meet the same fate which other rural development schemes that were launched earlier have met.

First of all the Congress gave the slogan of 'Garibi Hatao', but the poverty could not be removed, rather the scheme formulated for the purpose deviated from its objective, cousequently, the poor became poorer and got into debt and this all made a cruel joke at him. This aggravated poverty. Besides, increase in population and mechanization led to unemployment. Therefore, we have to take care that the real needy people should get employment through this Bill and the migration of workers from villages should be arrested by providing employment to them there itself by engaging them in creating productive assets.

At the same time, the Congress Party should not try to get political mileage out of it because the entire House has expressed its positive attitude towards this Bill. Therefore, this Bill, does not belong to any political party, rather this Bill is a beacon light for those who are poor, and for those who are migrating in search of employment from rural areas.

*SHRI GAURISHANKER CHATURBHUJ BISEN (Balaghat): Sir, the Bill moved by hon. Minister Shri Raghuvansh Prasadji will definitely help in removing unemployment in the rural areas. The Government has selected those 150 districts for the implementation of this scheme, where the Food for Work Programme is being implemented. Later another 50 districts have been included thereunder. Thus in total 200 districts would be covered under the scheme in the first phase of the scheme. This is a commendable step. The Government has not revealed the amount to be provided for the purpose. We have doubts that 150 districts that have been selected for the purpose are such districts where the Food for Work Programme is already going on. The food grains and funds provided for that scheme might be merged with the present scheme. This should not happen, rather separate funds should be provided for this scheme.

I suggest that only employment generation programme should be taken up and the provision regarding share to be borne by the State Government should be omitted. The condition of those living below the poverty line should be reviewed and thereafter they should be identified. Besides there is a need to monitor constantly the works to be carried out under the scheme. Therefore, the Monitoring Committee comprising of Members of Parliament should be made more effective.

[English]

SHRI K. RAJAGOPAL (Vijayawada): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support this National Rural Employment Guarantee Bill. At the very outset I would like to recollect the words of Mahatmaji, who said: 'The cost of liberty becomes a mockery if the prices to be paid is wholesale destruction of those who are to enjoy this liberty.'

Sir, today we are witnessing huge unemployment both in rural as well as in urban areas. People need employment so that they can live with dignity, they can live with confidence, they can have a source of income and also they can feed their families and live happily. But unfortunately we have the liberty to speak and express ourselves in this august House in as many words as we want, but in reality what is happening in terms of deeds is that words are not getting translated into deeds.

*Speech was laid on the Table.

*Speech was laid on the Table.

[Shri L. Rajagopal]

That is the reason why this Government, headed by Dr. Manmohan Singh and with the blessings of Shrimati Sonia Gandhi and support of the alliance partners, has brought forward this historic Bill, namely, the National Rural Employment Guarantee Bill.

A lot of people think what is historic or unique about this Bill. Nowhere in the world we have the National Rural Employment Guarantee Bill. This Bill ensures that every member of a family gets work for minimum 100 days. That is the reason this Bill is called historic and unique one. Creation of work is not a new thing. It may be unique in this modern world. But if you go back to 5,000 years, when there were floods or when there was lack of work, the rulers of Egypt created work, by building pyramids. In those days pyramids might have been unproductive assets. But looking back, in today's world, the same pyramids are creating a lot of income to the country by way of tourism. Similarly, in India, we have Taj Mahal. All of us know that Taj Mahal is the symbol of India. In those days it took 20 years to build that and thousands of people were involved in its construction. Creation of work has been there. Today, the same Taj Mahal stands as a symbol of India and a lot of tourism is generated because of such monuments. That is the reason this Government chose to come out with this Act so that we can create useful assets. It could be restoration of water bodies, it could be water harvesting; it could be afforestation; or it could be linking of roads. We can do these things in order to create work for rural poor so that youth, women and other segments of the population get employment. We need to understand the importance of this. It is not that we are giving them Rs. 60 per day. A lot of people say that we are giving them only Rs. 500 per month. It is a misconception. It is not that they are earning only Rs. 500. But we are giving them a source of guarantee so that everybody works with dignity. it is not that they work for only 100 days. Once work is created, the work could be carried on for the whole of the year and work can be created for hundreds of hours which can be given to the rural poor. People ask as to why we cannot extend this universally, that is to the urban areas also. We need to understand that we need to start somewhere. Once you arrest the migration of rural poor to urban areas that can be achieved. That can be achieved only by addressing the issue of unemployment in rural areas. Once employment is created in rural areas and the flight of rural poor to urban areas is arrested, there will not be any unemployment problem in urban areas. That is the reason this Government has started and initiated this Act, covering 200 districts, to start with, in rural areas.

We also need to understand that at what stage this Government came in. This Government came in at a stage when there was a lot of communal hatred, when there was a lot of bloodshed, when the whole country was divided into regions and communities. This Government came at that stage. The earlier Government, the NDA Government did not focus on nation building or *Bharat Nirman*. They were interested in destroying places of worship rather than building nations, rather than creating work. That is the reason the entire country was engulfed in darkness. At that stage, this Government came bearing a torch showing them light. At this juncture, I would like to recall what Mr. John F. Kennedy once said. He said:

> "We are not here to curse the darkness, but we are here to light a candle so that we can guide the future generation to a save and sane Future."

That is the reason this Government has brought in the theme of *Bharat Nirman*.

At this stage I would like to tell the House what the Andhra Pradesh Government is doing in that State. There the Government is investing Rs. 46,000 crore for building projects for irrigation. Today we are witnessing good rainfall and there is flood. But at times it does not rain at all and there is drought. So, we have to ensure that the rain we have received during the best years is used during the learn periods. That is the reason we need to build reservoirs like Nagarjunasagar, Bhakra-Nangal and Hirakud. The Government of Andhra Pradesh is also building 8 lakh houses for rural poor every year. The Government of India is building 15 lakh houses and the Government of Andhra Pradesh is building 8 lakh houses per year so that a lot of employment is created and a lot of storage capacity is created by building these dams so that water can be stored and used.

21.10 hrs.

[Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan *in the Chair*]

Here, I would like to cite the example of the smallest creature in the world, that is ant. See how it plans, how it keeps on working. It is the smallest creature in the world, whereas human beings are the most intelligent creature. We need to understand how ants function.

It keeps on working. You never see ants being stationary. It always carries something not only for today's needs but for future needs. So, it keeps on storing for future needs and builds up capacity for future needs. We need to draw example from that. We need to understand these things. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL: Sir, I would like to say the last point. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is night now.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: We will have to conclude it before midnight.

SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL: Similarly, this Act will definitely empower the people and will ensure that people live with dignity. So, it is a good beginning. Definitely, this Government will ensure that this would spread to all over India and cover both rural and urban areas.

[Translation]

*SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR (Chandrapur): Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on the National Employment Guarantee Bill.

I would like to ask whether we should presume this Bill an Employment Guarantee Bill or a 'no' employment guarantee Bill as this scheme will provide employment for only hundred days in a year and it does not have any provision to provide employment for remaining 265 days in a year. Thus, Employment would not be provided even for 1/3 days. Had the Government provided employment for 2/3 or 1/2 of a year or 183 days in a year, it would have been an Employment Guarantee Bill further more, this scheme will not be implemented at national level. It has been stated that the scheme will be launched only in 200 districts. Only 1/3 districts out of 600 districts have been covered under this scheme. The Government do not have any intention to make it a national scheme. We do not consider it a national employment guarantee scheme. Because all the districts have not been included thereunder. Nevertheless, the Minister of Rural Development is patting his back himself for implementing this scheme through this Bill. He considers it as a historical step. The Congress President Smt. Sonia Gandhi too claims to achieve target and considers it as a historical step. I do not understand how are they achieving target of how is it a historical step? EGS Employment Guarantee Scheme is being implemented in Maharashtra since 1974 Employment Guarantee Scheme. The hon. Minister also accepts that first of all this programme has been initiated in Maharashtra. As such who has created history, Maharashtra Government or the UPA Government? It is neither history nor a way of achieving the target for providing employment to the villagers. Let the Congress and RJD assume it an achievement of target but we do not consider it so.

The scheme for employment to the poor is not a new one. About three decades ago it was the priority of the Government to provide employment under Twenty Point Programme. The Government has been implementing many schemes like Pradhan Mantri Rozgar Yojana, Food for Work Scheme. The new thing in the said Employment Guarantee Scheme is that the Government has integrated the small schemes with one scheme and given it a shape of a Bill. All the schemes meant for employment, were being implemented with the help of Government and the local administration. The schemes were launched in a particular area one day and were scrapped the next day. The people got employment under the Schemes with the favour of the Government *babus* and there work was done according to the wishes of *babus*, Sarpanch and contractors. But now, it is hoped that after formulating a law needy person will get rid of middlemen under Employment Guarantee scheme.

After making an amendment it has been decided by the Government to implement this scheme in selected 200 districts of the country. Whether there is no poverty in remaining 400 districts of the country and whether this employment guarantee scheme is only for rural people? Is there no starvation in cities? If the Government do not have adequate funds for providing full guarantee for employment, it should clearly state that it do not have funds. But the Government want that people should believe that it guarantees employment. If the work would be provided in phased manner, then there is no need to publicize guarantee. The work was being provided through other schemes also.

The Minister of Rural Development has said in his speech that there would be no scope for corruption and bungling. Further, three-point formula of strict vigilance,

*Speech was laid on the Table.

[Shri Hansraj G. Ahir]

people's participation and transparency will be adopted. The UPA Chairperson, Smt. Sonia Gandhi has said that this scheme is inspired by one of the schemes of Maharashtra. But during the last 30 years rampant corruption has been reported under this scheme in Maharashtra. There is a saying in Maharashtra 'Razgar Hami, Kam Kami'. Crores of rupees were misappropriated by showing fake names of the labourers in connivance with the Government machinery. The figures too have not proved its utility. The employment for 370 crore man days at the cost of nine thousand crore rupees were created by the Maharashtra Government under this scheme. It is very quite clear that no concrete result has been achieved either in poverty alleviation or in reducing unemployment. Even after 30 years the demand of the work by unskilled labourer has not declined. Though 11 crore man days during 1975, 11.1 crore man days during 2000-01, and 16.2 crore man days during 2001-02 were created. The state has not achieved any remarkable result either in the matter of poverty alleviation or in reducing unemployment. The performance of Maharsahtra Government in this field is not good as compared to other States. According to the Government figures, the ratio of poverty in Maharashtra during 1999-2000 was 23.72 percent. That is why it got 9th place among 15 important states of India. It stood at 7th place during 1973-74. It proves that the employment guarantee scheme of Maharashtra Government has not achieved any praise worthy result either in the field of poverty alleviation or in reduction of unemployment. Suicide committed by farmers in rural areas of Maharashtra and malnutrition is the proof the failure of this scheme. The people affected by famine are migrating even after the initiation of work under employment guarantee scheme. Therefore, keeping in view the drawbacks of the scheme in Maharashtra the clear rules should be formulated, monitoring and vigilance committees comprising representatives of the people should be constituted to implement this scheme properly.

The National Employment Guarantee Bill provides guarantee for employment for only one person per family. It would be difficult to achieve the objective of empowerment of families by restricting this scheme to just one person per family. In view of the today's price rise it is hard to believe that a family would be able to meet its needs with the maximum income amounting to Rs. 6000 of a person at the rate of Rs. 60 per days. While the per capita expenditure in rural areas in the country is Rs. 6378. Under such situation when all the adults and the children of a family work hard then they get merely two square meals a day. The above restriction would render the scheme meaningless. And this would lead to division of families and land, besides the established social structure would collapse. Hence, the provision of employment guarantee to one person per family may be amended to makes provision for employment to all those who are willing to work.

Schedule 2 of this Bill lays down that a register of all eligible labourers is to be maintained. The condition that written applications have to be submitted in order to get enlisted for employment under the scheme, might be misused by the bureaucrats and they might take undue advantage of illiteracy in the rural areas. Likewise, there is a provision in the Bill that the documents related to the scheme would be made available only on payment of the stipulated fee. As such, common people would not be able to get there documents. Under such circumstance bureaucrats would act arbitrarily. Hence, this should be brought under the purview of the Right to Information Act. It has been mentioned in the midterm appraisal and review of the poverty alleviation and rural employment schemes under the Tenth Five Year Plan 2002-07 that although the employment of contractors and machinery to provide jobs is prohibited under Swarn Jayanti Shahri Rojgar Yojana (SJSRY) yet this practice is being followed in some cases. It has also been observed therein that as against the stipulated 30 percent women beneficiaries only twelve percent women have benefited under this scheme. In view of the said facts, it should be ensured that the role of the bureaucracy and the government machinery should be negligible while implementing such schemes.

As a large portion of the country's population has neither money nor purchasing power that is why there is no substantial increase in the demand for goods and services in the country. Unemployment has increased substantially due to the closure of many factories and small industries. If this scheme succeeds in increasing the purchasing power in the rural areas by providing employment, it would be considered that it has achieved its objectives. The Government has been calling it as a historic scheme. If it is to be made really historical then it is imperative that this scheme be implemented in all the 600 districts in the country at one go. Hon. Prime Minister should make provision to provide employment throughout the year to achieve the target of employment to all.

[English]

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY (Kokrajhar): Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me an opportunity to participate in this discussion on National Rural Employment Guarantee Bill, 2004.

[Translation]

I support the ideology and the basic philosophical approach and concept of this Bill. Yet I have certain reservations regarding this Bill because it has not been clarified as to what steps are proposed to be taken to provide employment to the unemployed poor particularly the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, OBC's and MOBC's in the country. How would the problem of unemployment of the family be solved if only one person from that family is provided employment for only 100 days in a year?

[English]

By giving only 100 days employment, you cannot alleviate poverty. You cannot fully ensure or guarantee the employment of the poorer sections of the society by this Bill.

[Translation]

Hence, I demand that at least 300 days of employment should be provided in a year. All the rural areas of the country particularly the tribal areas such as the Bodoland area should be brought within the ambit of this Bill. Only five districts of Assam namely Kokrajhar, Lakhimpur, Dehmaji, North Kachhar Hill and Karbi Anglang districts have been covered under the National Food for Work Programme so far. However, there are three other districts also in Bodoland Territorial Area Districts namely Baskha, Chiran and Udalguri districts. All the said districts should also be covered under this programme. Amongst all the other tribal and backward areas in the country first priority should be accorded to these tribal zones.

I have another demand that

[English]

employment should be given to all the educated unemployed people of this great country whereas this Bill has envisaged the creation of limited employment opportunities only for the rural poor people.

[Translation]

Therefore, I demand that this Bill should be amended so as to provide for 300 days of employment instead of 100 days of employment. Provision should be made to give at least 300 days of employment to all the educated unemployed, tribals, SCs and STs. Hence, it is imperative to bring a comprehensive Bill to deal with this serious issue.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is getting late. Please be brief.

[Translation]

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY: I would like to tell him that a poor family of seven consisting of five children and parents is needed on an average of Rs. 12000 year for food. How would it be possible for such a family to sustain and provide education to the children with a meagre amount of Rs. 6000 a year from 100 days of employment?

[English]

This is not at all adequate. So, I would like to request the hon. Minister concerned to bring forward some kind of pragmatic amendments to this Bill.

[Translation]

Otherwise it would be of no use. Hence, I demand that all the tribal districts in the country should be covered under this Bill. I would like to point out another fact that only the Gram Sabhas and the Gram Panchayats have been made the implementing agencies under this Bill.

[English]

But, in India, as on date, what kind of development is taking place with regard to the concept of local self-Government? Beyond the periphery of Panchayati Raj System, some more autonomous districts have already been created in this country like the Bodoland Territorial Council; the North Cachar Hills Autonomous Districts Council; Karbi Anglong Hills Autonomous Districts Council; Darjeeling Gorkha Hills Council and the Ladak Hills Autonomous Council. These Councils also should be taken into consideration while formulating policies, preparing schemes and project and, while identifying the

[Shri Sansuma Khunggur Bwiswmuthiary]

implementing agencies. Otherwise, the locas standi of these Councils will remains as that of non-existent administrative set up.

[Translation]

The Assam Government does not release adequate funds for the tribal areas. Hence, I demand that a amendment should be made in the Bill to ensure that tribals, SCs and OBCs get the benefit of the provisions made under the Bill.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: We are sitting at a late hour. Hon. Members may kindly cooperate with the Chair in making any new point. Why should we sit here for making repetition? So, any new point can be made.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is not for you. Your chance is over. I was pointing out that we are sitting here at a late hour. It is 9.20 p.m. now. Why do we sit here? We sit here to hear any new point. Repetition is not an ideal thing. Why should we sit here for listening to repetition? So, hon. Members, please be brief and bring in some new points which are not covered so far. I am an old man. I am sitting here for the simple reason that it is for your convenience. So, please be brief and bring in any new point.

[Translation]

*SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR (Sagar): Sir, National Rural Employment Guarantee Bill stipulates that at least hundred days employment will be provided to the poor in rural areas. I want to submit whether the families will go without food for 265 days after getting hundred days employment. The Government must ponder over it seriously. It is a cruel joke with the poor. There is lack of political will. There is no hope for women folk and urban poor, further lower middle class have been neglected in this Bill. The concept of poverty line itself is shrouded in controversy in our country. Many a poor have not been included in the category of poor in various villages whereas many influential people have got themselves included in this category just grab the facilities. Further, only 150 districts have been selected under this Bill. I want to know whether there is no poverty in the remaining 450 districts of the country?

It is really surprising that large Public Sector industries are being closed down or are being handed over to the private sector. If we intend to increase the employment opportunities and provide employment to more and more people, the industries which provide employment to a number of people, should be encouraged. Technically there are many technicalities involved in this scheme which will make it difficult to implement in the entire country. The features of this scheme are not in accordance with the basic concepts. The Union Government wants State Governments help for the implementation of this scheme but where will the States provide funds from? In my view all the adult unemployed persons of poor families should be provided employment throughout the year.

The Government should follow the recommendations of the Parliamentary committee and the scheme should be implemented universally. All able members of poor families should be provided employment instead of giving guarantee of hundred days employment to one member of each BPL family. There should be provision to implement it within the period of four years. The Government should bear the hundred percent financial burden for this scheme. The rate of unemployment allowance should be increased and it should be paid without any precondition. The Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and Backward classes should be accorded priority in employment guarantee. The Employment Guarantee Scheme can be a very good step if it is implemented properly. Thank you for giving me an opportunity to put forward my views.

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR (Chimur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, all the issues that I am going to raise, are new. In fact, that on going debate on this Bill is focused on just one aspect of this Bill. In my view this Bill will meet the same fate as that of the slogan of '*garibi hatad i.e.* total failure. It will prove to be a castle in the air. The provisions of this Bill are just the opposite of whatever has been the stated about the objective of it.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I hail from Maharashtra. I know that the Bill does not follow the provisions of the Act being implemented in Maharashtra. I think that the Bill was drafted in haste to gain political mileage in view of the elections of Bihar. According to the financial

*Speech was laid on the Table.

memorandum of this Bill an amount of Rs. 10,000 is estimated to be spent on each poor household. It implies that Rs. 10,000 will be spent on providing employment to one person of a family. However, regarding minimum wages it has been stated that only Rs. 60 will be paid per person per day. It means the Government will provide 100 days employment to a person in a year and spend Rs. 6000/- for this purpose. If we compare the financial memorandum and the provisions made regarding minimum wages, the difference is to the tune of Rs. 4000/-. It means that this difference will indirectly go into the pockets of bureaucrats.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, in the financial memorandum, it has stated that Rs. 38,600 crore will be spent on this scheme. Out of that Rs. 34,400 crore will be provided by the Central Government and the scheme will be implemented in 200 districts. The names of the 200 districts, where this scheme is to be implemented, should be published. The food for work programme is being implemented in 150 districts. As many as 50 districts will further be included into it. It appears to me that the nomenclature of food for work scheme will be changed and this scheme will be implemented only in those very districts. This is the way the schemes have been implemented during the last 50 years of Congress rule. The nomenclature of only old schemes is changed. That is why, the names of 200 districts needs to be disclosed.

Sir, 115 districts are included under Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana. There are 35 districts in the country affected by naxalite movement. It appears to me that these very 150 districts will be included under this scheme where it is already being implemented. ...*(Interruptions)*

Sir, I am making some new points. I started at 9.20 and only two minutes have passed. I shall conclude in just two minutes.

Sir, it is stated there that this scheme will be implemented where atleast 50 workers should be available and 5 kms area would be covered under it. This implies that he will provide employment to one person in a family when he would cover the distance of 5 kms, besides it is also not clear if employment will be provided to a man or woman. If a person belongs to a small Panchayat and small area, first of all he would have to tread 5 kms. and would have to arrange 50 persons, only then employment would be provided to him. No clarification has been given in regard to how a person from a small village and panchayat will arrange 50 persons. Besides, there is a provision for providing employment only for 100 days in a year.

Sir, he has stated Rs. 10,000 would be provided to a person, in case, he dies while working.

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): After amendment it has been raised to Rs. 25,000 from Rs. 10,000.

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR: Alright, but in Maharashtra, rupees one lakh are provided to person if he dies in flood. Even in railway accident, more than one lakh rupees are provided to the affected family. Hence, I would like to know as to why a provision for providing Rs. One lakh to a person died while working has not been made under this scheme? It is my suggestion that there should be a provision for giving atleast rupees one lakh to the family of a person who died while working under the scheme. Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Minister had said in his opening address that this scheme will be implemented in the whole country in 5 years. Rs. 16,700 crore would be invested in the first year. Has he made a provision for this money? It has been stated in the financial memorandum that some part of this money will be in the form of Central Government grant. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR: Through you, I would like to bring to the notice of hon. Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude. If you do not conclude within time, I would not be able to complete it before 12 o'clock. There are still 20 more speakers.

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR: Sir, I am going to conclude within one minute.

MR. CHAIRMAN: If you will not cooperate, we will stop it here.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR: This is my last point.

[Prof. Mahadeorao Shiwankar]

[Translation]

I was telling him that he has amended it and has said in its financial memorandum that he will take loan and grant but I do not understand from where he will manage this amount? Whether this amount would be mobilised through other sources except Planning Commission? What will happen to the Bill if loans and grants are taken from external sources barring Planning Commission? It creates doubt. He should have made a provision for Rs. 4,0000 crore for it.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: There is a limit.

[Translation]

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR: Regarding minimum wages, there are different wage rates in different states. Even he had stated that it should be between Rs. 35 to Rs. 150. It is true. I have a chart but I do not want to go into that. But, what will be the minimum wage rate in the states, whether it will be rupees 60 or the same as in Bengal which I will read out. Just listen to the wage rate of Bengal whose people on my left are helping him. Wage rate in West Bengal is rupees 62 and rupees 150 in Kerala. So, is he going to reduce the wage rate in Kerala? I would ask the hon. Minister to provide information regarding this and to amend it after considering all these aspects.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

[Translation]

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR: This Bill is for cheating the people. It will cheat poor people. Hon. Minister of Rural Development, Sir, your Bill will meet the same fate like that of Garibi Hatao. Therefore, he should take steps cautiously to proceed further.

SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE PATIL (Parbhani): Mr. Chairman, Sir, on behalf of Shiv Sena, I welcome and support the National Rural Employment Guarantee Bill 2004.

Due to problems in villages, villagers migrate to cities in search of employment which results in problems in cities. After enactment of this Bill a village labour will work in village and migration from villages will not take place and villages will survive. This Bill is important for villager and for development of rural areas. But the provision made in this Bill that is, the provision for providing hundred days employment to labourers, is insufficient, rather there is a need to provide employment to them at least for two hundred days in a year. Secondly, the main problem of the country is unemployment amongst the educated unemployed youths who are graduates and postgraduates but they do not get employment in the country. A labourer can get job anywhere and can manage two square meal for himself but the educated youths do not get Government jobs. Therefore, it is imperative to add a second chapter to this Bill and I am sure that government would definitely do so to provide employment to educated youths in the country and then this Bill will certainly be welcomed.

Secondly, in rural areas employment can be generated in agriculture sector only other than that there is no other way out. Therefore I want to give some suggestions. The definition of a household given in this Bill and interpreted in the House is not apt. The Government should provide employment to one household in a family. ...*(Interruptions)* I am not making a speech, rather I am giving suggestions. I suggest that a family should be defined. Husband, wife and unmarried children should be included in it and provisions should be made to provide employment to one person from a family. Sir, I will not make a speech rather I will give some suggestions only. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The time is reduced to three minutes to each member. Your time is over now. Please conclude now.

Shri Adhir Chowdhury.

[Translation]

SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE PATIL: An employment central council has been formed Under Section 13. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

*The National Rural Employment Guarantee Bill 2004

Point of Debate

1. This Bill is useful for the Rural People
2. To provide 200 days employments to poor household
3. In this Bill there is no provision to provide employments to Educated unemployed Students
4. 70% peoples are living rural area and they are working in agriculture field
5. Agriculture is main source to generate the Employment in Rural area
6. Provision is necessary to amend this act. Schemes under this act may be implied on Private land
7. I am suggesting some amendments.

Section—2 (f) Definition of Household

Instead of Household there must be use of word family and family may be defined or consist of husband, wife and minor child

Section—4 Sub-Section (2) the State Governments shall publish the summary of the schemes made by atleast local news paper

It is difficult and takes more time so this clause may be removed and schemes may be published on village panchayat board or published by beating drum in villages

Section—10(1) Central Employment Guarantee Council. There is no mention of office bearer period council.

Section—13 (1) Standing Committee at District level. There is no provision who is the Chairman of the standing committee

But in Section—32 (1) Power of State Government to make Rules

(d) The Number of members of Standing Committee at District level and there Terms and condition of their appointment under sub Section (13)

So, I suggest that MP of that District Must be a Chairman of the District level Standing Committee these amendments may be accepted

Section 22(1) Funding Pattern of Central Government 90% State Government Share 10% but till today amendment not circulated

Section—23(6) The program officer shall enter every complaint in the register maintained by him and shall dispose off the disputes and complaints with in 7 days of it receipt. And in case it relates to matter to be resolved by any other authority it shall be forwarded to such authority under intimation to the complainant.

In this clause it is necessary to add one line

"Who files false and bogus complaint is liable to be prosecuted or penalties may be impose on him.

Schedule 1

Section—4(3)

Minimum Features or a Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme

1. The focus of the scheme shall be on the following works in their order of priority

Serial No. 1 o IX

VIII—Rural connectivity to provide all-weather access

It may be added rural road repairing work and two other priority works may be added:

X Horticulture Plantation on any farmer's field who field an application before the concerned authority for plantation.

XI Any farmer deposited State's share with the collector all schemes may be implemented on the private field (land) under this act.

9. The cost of material component of projects including the wages of the skilled and semi skilled workers taken up under the scheme shall not exceed 40% of the total project cost.

To maintain the quality of the work there must be 60% instead of 40% of the mentioned project cost.

Schedule—II

6. One third of the beneficiaries shall be of women. Add "If the one third proportion not available then scheme will be implemented through available labour".

..... This part of the speech was laid on the Table.

[Shri Tukaram Ganpatrao Renge Patil]

12. Employment shall be provided within a radius of 5 Kms need amendment of 3 Kms instead of 5 Kms for convenient mobility of labour.

Hours of work: 7 Hrs.

13. Instead of 50 nos of labour amendment required for 10 nos.

26. persons employed under this scheme if disabled or mortality then compensation amount of Rs. 10000/- needs amendment of Min Rs. 50000/-*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Whatever you speak now will not be on record. Please take your seat.

*...(Interruptions)**

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Adhir Chowdhury, you speak now.

[Translation]

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY (Berhampur-West Bengal): Sir, I will not take much time of the House and will step up after making few points. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Adhir Chowdhury, please speak.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Sir, how can I speak unless he stops? *...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You may speak.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Sir, it is a historic Bill. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record now. Why do you make noise?

*...(Interruptions)**

*Not recorded.

MR. CHAIRMAN: There are 20 speakers more. Mr. Adhir Chowdhury, you speak.

[Translation]

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Sir, it is a historic Bill. In addition to liberalization and commercialization, agriculture growth rate has also been stable. Employment has not increased in the agriculture sector. If we see the figures for the eighties we find that G.D.P. growth rate of the country was 5.2 percent and employment growth rate was 2.78 percent during that period. *...(Interruptions)* During nineties G.D.P. growth rate was 6.78 percent and employment growth rate was 1.07 percent. Growth in G.D.P. does not mean that employment is also increasing. G.D.P. has nothing to do with employment growth. It requires seven billion man days. We should understand the spirit of the Bill as to why unemployment and under employment are increasing. This Bill has been brought in to absorb that surplus labour.

[English]

In addition to this effort is being made to potential labour intensive development programme also.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: The absorption as a result of it will help in streamlining all this. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Adhir Chowdhury, your time is over. Please conclude now.

[Translation]

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: I would like to express my views on two three points. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: More than a dozen members have spoken from your party. Please take your seat.

Shri Tufani Saroj, you speak now.

[Translation]

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh is a able minister. I want to ask two three questions from him. *...(Interruptions)*

It will not be done by any Gram Panchayat. The Scheme in this regard will be formulated by the district council. ...*(Interruptions)*

Liberty has been given to get the 50 percent work done but you are not giving any discretionary power to the district council. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Chowdhury, there are so many speakers who have spoken from your side. Please take your seat now.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record now.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Tufani Saroji, you can speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI TUFANI SAROJ (Saidpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, you have given me the opportunity to speak on the important Bill. Thanks for that. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Chowdhary, please be seated. I am saying this in your own interest.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Minister, if you do not control your Members, it will not be possible to conclude this debate. How can we finish all these speeches today, if they go on like this?

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: We are forced to extend the Session also. Please ask him to resume his seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

*Not recorded.

[Translation]

SHRI TUFANI SAROJ: He is the member of the ruling party yet he is not following the instructions of the Chair. ...*(Interruptions)*

When hon. Minister used to be in the opposition then, I used to listen his speech with full attention. He used to talk about the poor, J.J. clusters and village. When he used to refer to the word 'Dibare' in his speech then it was felt in the House that he has raised the issues concerning the poor in the right earnest. I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister that the poor can not give education to their children by putting oil in the 'Dibare' with the wages of 60 rupees. Therefore, it is my suggestion that the wages of Rs. 60 be increased to Rs. 75/-. It has been stated that employment for 100 days would be provided. If they get employment for 100 days out of total of 365 days then what will they do for 265 days? I would like to ask the minister to deduct money from other heads and increase the funds under this head and employment should be ensured for at least 183 days *i.e.* they should get employment for six months. I would like it to be amended.

I would like to draw the attention of hon. Minister towards Poorvanchal of Uttar Pradesh. Where employment opportunities are not being generated. People go to Kolkata, Mumbai and other cities for eaking out their living. Out of the 150 villages in Uttar Pradesh only 15 villages have been covered under this scheme hence I request to adjust the remaining villages with selected 50 villages to be from Varanasi, Jaunpur and Ghazipur.

SHRIMATI NEETA PATERIYA (Sivani): Mr. Chairman, Sir, a good measure has been taken by the Government. This Bill has kindled hopes among the youths. But it seems that this Bill has been prepared in haste and also appears to be a half hearted measure because so far as women are concerned, they are not educated in rural areas. There is a requirement in the provisions of the Bill that every person, whether male or female, will have to give an application. If the women of rural areas have to give an application then they will have to spend money. The employment guarantee, therefore, is an illusion for rural women. In a sense, it may also be interpreted that villagers will get employment for 100 days and will remain unemployed for the remaining days without any guarantee whatsoever. But the Government terms it a concrete measure in the struggle against unemployment and poverty. We also hope that it would prove to be an

[Shrimati Neeta Pateriya]

effective measures as the Central Schemes formulated so far, have not been implemented at the lower level and have rather failed. We have been hearing a slogan right from the childhood, 'Garibi Hatao' (remove poverty) but contrary to it, it has been spiraling. The simple reason is that unemployment can not be removed if poverty keep rising and unemployment can not be removed till the Government does not create job opportunities for youths.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Government intends to give 100 days employment to one person of a family and those who are not given employment will get unemployment allowance. But Sir, he should himself imagine whether a family can sustain on 100 days employment. Today, teaming millions of youths are prepared to work in India but they do not have any employment. The Government quite unfortunately finds itself unable to provide them any employment.

The renowned economist, Shri Jyoti Ghosh has stated that a sum of Rs. 5700 crore is required for making payment if 35-40 per cent people are selected for 100 days employment. If 200 districts are said to be included in this scheme then why discrimination is being meted out to the rest of the districts. On one hand, hon. Minister is stating that funds will not be a problem in the state. If the Government does not have resource crunch then why 200 districts only have been selected why not all the 600 districts are covered thereunder. With this they will be rendered jobless for remaining 265 days in lieu of 100 days, what is the scheme for these persons and their families? How would he differentiate between the poor and the rich district? What is his criterion for this? He should explain it.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the State Governments will also part with its share. Have they consulted with the State Governments about bringing in this bill. Is the financial condition of the State Governments such that they could contribute their share? This scheme will end in a failure if any state government is not able to contribute its share. Unemployment cannot be removed by giving unemployment allowance only. So long as we do not revive our closed small and cottage industries, we cannot provide employment to the unemployed. The students who need only one mark as a grace mark to be promoted. Similarly, I also want one minute's time as your favour.

He has discriminated between the rural and urban unemployed whereas the feeling and problem of all the unemployed are one and same. My submission is that there should not be any discrimination between the urban and rural unemployed; therefore, both should be provided employment so that our country could march forward and become prosperous. Both the farmers and agriculture have been neglected lot for a long time as a result of which the farmers have diverted their attention from the agriculture. They, instead of doing agriculture, are migrating to cities. If proper attention is paid to both the farmers and agriculture, then both would become prosperous and those who are unemployed in villages will automatically get work. Thus, the farmers would become prosperous and the crops would also be good.

Finally, I would like to say one thing where has he included 200 districts in it, Madhya Pradesh is afflicted with drought, flood and caterpillars, and employment is on the rise due to damage to crops. Therefore, Madhya Pradesh should be fully included.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Member, please cooperate. Now the time is 9.45 p.m. I know, you would not conclude yourself, that is why I am appealing like this.

*SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): Sir, I stand here to discuss about the Rural Employment Guarantee Bill today. At the outset I must say that people in this country have a love-hate relationship with mathematics, a favourite school subject for some, but just a bad memory for many others.

Mathematics is cold and calculative. There is no grays. It is always black and white.

Still a large number of people say mathematics is their favourite.

Raghuvansh Babu is a student of Mathematics.

I don't know whether he is cold but all of us know he is calculative.

The Government is going to offer 100 days of employment a year to one member from 'every' rural household. 'Poor' being amended by the 'advice' of the Left. However, in practice, the programme would automatically screen out the non-poor, since only minimum wages are to be paid. Only the bottom 31 percent of the

*Speech was laid on the Table.

rural population spend less than Rs. 380 per capita per month in 2003, the average annual household expenditure for the group as a whole being Rs. 18375/-.

I hope being a Master in Mathematics the Minister can find out who is having the last laugh?

I come to my second point, now. As all of us are aware that the rural population in 2006 is estimated to be 79.83 crores. This would put the number of "poor" rural household in the country at 4.95 crores.

Providing employment at the rate of Rs. 60 per day for 100 days in a year would entail an expenditure of less than Rs. 30000 crores in the whole country.

So far go good.

For the benefit of the rural folk.

But the question which still remains unanswered are—

(a) As the State Council shall prepare a list of preferred works for different areas, there is no specific time period mentioned to prepare the Project Report; there by making it only open ended but also leave scope for complacency.

(b) The Standing Committee had recommended that Fifth Schedule and Sixth Schedule areas in the country which are the most backward and people residing there are the poorest, should be included in the first phase.

You have added 50 more districts to the 150 most backward districts. These districts were chosen on 3 criterion-specified by the Planning Commission to take up National Food for Work Programme.

Yet, some Districts were left out. Orissa though had 18 districts included, still 10 more qualified districts are yet to be included.

Tell us, have you included the rest 10 districts of Orissa in those 200 districts or not in this first phase?

(c) Thirdly, what mechanism you want to formulate to plug loopholes, which has given rise to corruption? Is CAG competent to verify the disbursement of wages, under this Bill. If not, are you going to make provisions for this? So that stringent action can be taken against the officials, who are in charge of this scheme.

(d) Further, as durable assets are to be created by this scheme, no where did I find in the Bill that the Government is interested to find out the quality of work is to be measured. No attempt is there to fix parameters for various schemes or works nor any central evaluation and monitoring mechanism is envisaged.

If this is the case, why would one not believe that thousands of crores of rupees will go down the drain?

Raghuvansh Babu, as Ph.D. in Mathematics you are aware that there is only one right answer to a question. But you are also a master politicians from Vaishali too and you know, there is never only one right answer to one problem.

I admire you for the deft footwork you have done to bypass the Oxford and Harvard boys. Yet a lot more is necessary to be done to overcome corruption.

One should not forget that the Planning Commission has stated that the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme would not need more than Rs. 13 thousand crores in the first year. You have also said that Food for Work Programme would be covered from the budgetary allocation of Rs. 24 thousand crores to the rural sector. That takes care of the funding aspect. But the question before us is what efforts be made for successful implementation of the programme? Firstly, although the Bill proposes to empower the panchayats to have the final say in implementing and monitoring projects, the vested interests often forge a nexus and siphon off the money intended for development.

The Rs. 9 crore fraud detected recently in employment guarantee scheme in Maharashtra is the latest example. Second is, will the States be able to contribute their share? And lastly, will the fiscal deficit remain within acceptable limits?

It is not a cynic's view point but questions which need to be deliberate upon and answered be given to. With political will and support the Bill will be passed, to doubt, but the question, if remain unanswered, will not augur well for the nation.

With these words, I conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJARAM PAL (Bilhaur): Sir, I stand to support National Rural Employment Guarantee Bill, 2004. I would

[Shri Rajaram Pal]

like to congratulate the UPA Government which has shown a ray of hope to so many unemployed people and the poor by introducing this bill. The history of the 58 years after Independence speaks that not only those whose names are written in the history get the country freed but those poor were also contribute to this work who were imbued with patriotic fervour. For example one person was found dead on a pavement, but when the cloth with which he was covered taken off, it was found that, "sare jahan se accha, Hindostan hamara" was written on his stomach. Such people also contributed to the independence of our country. But the figures of the 58 years show that the Government gave only alluring slogans to the people.

I want to make only one submission. The Ministry of Rural Development is a big Ministry and India is a country of villages. There are about 600 districts in India, there are 8,000 blocks and 2,70,000 panchayats and about 6 lakh villages. I would like to submit through this House that if efforts which were made in the last 58 years to remove unemployment in a country with a population of one hundred crore and thirty four lakh and all the schemes launched by the Government of India for this purpose, had been implemented in letter and spirit, there would not have been any need to have a discussion on poverty in this House. Unfortunately, the benefit of the schemes launched by Government has not reached the villages and the poor and they have remained on papers only. No meaningful efforts have been made so far to remove poverty. Therefore, I want to say, through you, that this bill which has been brought in to remove the poverty is a weak Bill. The Government has a weak will power to remove poverty. Therefore, I want that there should be the provision of employment guarantee throughout the year instead of 100 days as provided in the Bill as my colleague has suggested further more wages should also be raised from Rs. 60 to Rs. 100 per day, only then, this Bill will prove a meaningful one. I want to say, through you that each and every person of the Independent India should get food clothing, housing, medical and educational facilities and safety, this has also been envisaged in the preamble of the Constitution. We have not been able to provide all these facilities to our people even after completing 58 years of Independence. Today, crores of people are dying of hunger and due to lack of medicines. And crores of people do not have any roof on their heads. Our Government has formulated big projects for providing protection to dog and cat besides wild life but when it comes to remove poverty, the poor have been left to fend for themselves. No arrangements have been made for them. I, therefore, again want to advise the Hon. Minister and I told him in the last session also, to add more districts to 150 districts which have been included under Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana and Food for Work Programme. I want to tell that flood occurs every year in my parliamentary constituency and thousands of villages and families get affected by the devastating flood like Bihar. I, therefore, request him to include my parliamentary constituency, Bilhaur also under the Food for Work Programme.

With these words, I conclude.

CHAUDHARY BIJENDRA SINGH (Aligarh): Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on the National Rural Employment Guarantee Bill.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You conclude your speech in one or two sentences because from this side a dozen people have spoken. Why do you take the time? It is because we have to complete.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is the most important Bill. We have extended the Session also.

CHAUDHARY BIJENDRA SINGH: I will take only two minutes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please co-operate. I am telling you this in your interest only. I will not force Members from that side but I will force Members from your side.

[Translation]

CHAUDHARY BIJENDRA SINGH: Sir, thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak. I congratulate the UPA Chairperson Sonia Gandhi ji, hon. Minister of Rural Development Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh ji and the UPA Government for they did such a historical work with limited resources.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: There is no meaning in allowing the speeches from this side.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I will call you. Please be seated.

[Translation]

CHAUDHARY BIJENDRA SINGH: Sir, I want to say only two lines. "Only the bearer knows where the shoe pinches". It means that the trials and tribulations and the needs peculiar to a surroundings can best the understood by only a person born either in that or similar surroundings.

Sir, this was part of our party's agenda, our manifesto and the Common Minimum Programme of the UPA Government. Sonia ji had given a word to the people which she has tried to keep despite having limited resources. I want to say that. *...(Interruptions)* Sir, it is asked in the House as to what the preceding Governments have done during the last 58 years of independence. I want to tell them that. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are speaking from the treasury benches. It is the need of the hour that we complete this discussion. We have no time.

[Tamslation]

CHAUDHARY BIJENDRA SINGH: Sir, you are discouraging the new Members, I could have completed my submission in this much time.

Sir, Shri Kalyan Singh ji, is not present in the House at the moment. He is a senior member. He had said that the Government was very late in introducing the Bill. I want to say that the delay in introducing the Bill was not on the part of the Government, rather, it has brought it forward after weighing all the pros and cons relating thereto. He had asked as to what the Government had done during the 58 years of independence. I want to tell him that the Government had launched numerous schemes during this period viz. Pradhan Mantri Rojgar Yojana, Swarn Jayanti Rojgar Yojana, Panchayati Raj and Food for Work etc. All these schemes have proved helpful in providing food, clothing and shelter to the poor and this historical step of introducing the present Employment Guarantee Bill will prove to be a grand success. Before that such worth while work had never been done even the NDA Government could not dare to take such step while the UPA Government has done this work within one and a half years with limited resources and despite not having a sound economy. I support this Bill and congratulate Soniaji, Pradhan Mantri ji and Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh ji for introducing this Bill.

"This (UPA) government will soon enact the National Employment Guarantee Act providing for statutory guarantee of, to begin with at least 100 days employment at minimum wages to a member of every family in rural areas belonging to poor and lower middle class in the public work programmes creating assets every year."

In India, unemployment means-

1. The situation in which people are willing to work at the prevalent rates of wages but they do not have opportunities to work. This is a very painful situation and is disastrous to the interests of the labourers.

   Various social and economic evils like brain-drain, corruption, terrorism etc. give birth to unemployment. Therefore, the solution to these problems is essential as unemployment has become a major problem of India. In fact, our economy is progressing rapidly. But it is not capable of generating employment to match the increasing population and as a result of which problem of unemployment is increasing.

2. According to a report of Ministry of Labour, the number of people who do not get even one day's employment in one year is 95 lakh and majority of them belong to rural areas.

3. I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the census report of 2001. The report *inter alia* states that the number of unemployed in the country was 13.8 million in 1991 which has reached 44.5 million in 2001 with a threefold increase during the last 10 years. Today, about 40 percent graduates are not employed in productive services. Even at least 32 percent technical graduates are not employed. Taking this report seriously, I request the Government to take steps on war footing for addressing the problem of unemployment in the country.

..... This part of speech was laid on the Table.

[Chaudhary Bijendra Singh]

4. There is great difference in the wages being given for physical labour in various states. It is minimum in Nagaland *i.e.* Rs. 25 and maximum in Kerala *i.e.* Rs. 134. It indicates acute poverty of a person who gives his willingness to work at such a lower wages and for this, other indicators are not required.

5. The minimum wages was fixed at Rs. 35 at National level in the year 1996 and later on it was increased to Rs. 45 and Rs. 50 and at present it is Rs. 60.

6. According to the figures provided by the Department of Rural Development, the number of rural people in the age-group of 18 to 64 is 38.91 crore. According to the figures received, the number of people in the age-group of 18 to 64 living below the poverty line will be 10.4 crore. If Rs. 100/- is given per manday then.

Sl.No.	The percentage of people seeking work	Funds required
1.	100%	Rs. 1,00,464.00 crore
2.	50%	Rs. 50,232.00 crore
3.	30%	Rs. 30,139.20 crcre
4.	20%	Rs. 20,092.80 crore

7. In India, unemployment problem has cropped up due to lack of infrastructural development. The demand of labour is low due to obsolete agriculture system, under development of industries, small size of service sector etc. In a country like India there is not a problem of effective demand rather the country has the problem of inadequate capital *i.e.* new employment opportunities are not generated due to lack of capital, as a result of which unemployment increases and persists for a long time.

8. A large number of people were unemployed at the time of Independence. Even after independence our economic condition was not good enough to generate new employment opportunities at a good pace. On the other hand, the number of people able to work kept on increasing due to high rate of population growth. The number of educated unemployed increased with the spread of education also. Unemployment also increased in urban areas due to industrial recession between the period of 1965 to 1980. Apart from this, landless and poor people are also unemployed directly. Thus all forms of unemployment is generally found in India.

9. Causes of Unemployment in India:-

Several factors are responsible for unemployment in India such as:

(1) Lower growth rate;

(2) Rapid growth in the supply of labour due to excessively high rate of population growth;

(3) Adoption of capital intense technique in place of labour intense technique;

(4) According less importance to vocational education;

(5) Unequal distribution of wealth;

(6) Insufficient development of small scale and cottage industries etc.

The policy of the Government to remove unemployment in India:

1. Though unemployment is a serious problem in India but the Government has so far not formulated any concrete and long term employment policy. Efforts were made to remove unemployment in all Five Year Plans but it was only the Fifth Five Year Plan in which employment was accorded top priority by the Government. Several programmes such as NREP, IRDP were launched to remove unemployment. In the 7th Five Year Plan an ambitious scheme, Jawahar Rojgar Yojana was started in this regard. In contrary to all the earlier schemes, employment generation opportunities was accepted as the main objective in the Eighth Five Year Plan. While Tenth Five Year Plan is being implemented but desired result has not been achieved in this matter.

2. The government has opened several offices to increase the employment opportunities. Some of them are as under:

1. Total number of employment exchanges at the end of August 2005—947.

2. University Bureau of Employment Information and Guidance.
3. Vocational and ad-hoc Employment Office.
4. Special Employment Office for Tea estates.

UPA Government:

1. Taking these circumstances into consideration UPA Government has introduced National Employment Guarantee Bill in the House.
2. At present, 'Food for Work' programme is being implemented along with 'Sampurna Rojgar Yojna' under Demands for Grant 2005-06 in selected 150 districts. The quantity of food has been raised to 50 lakh Metric tonne and the amount of Rs. 4500 crore has been provided under this scheme. Both these programmes will be unified and shall be known as Act when 'National Employment Guarantee' will come into force.
3. Outlay for Swarna Jayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojna for 2003-04 was Rs. 800 crore which has been increased to Rs. 1000 crore for the year 2004-05.
4. Provisions for unemployment allowance has been made for those insured person who quit his job due to closure of the Factory or organization or retrenchment or meets an accident and become permanently invalid while in service.
5. The bill for welfare of workers of unorganised sector is being prepared.
6. 69,000 small enterprises were set up in 2004-05 for self-employment of urban poor under Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar. This programme will be meaningful only when special care of the poor are taken first for increasing the employment. That is why, following steps should be taken:
    1. To launch special programme of employment for poor.
    2. To provide loan to the poor on easy terms and conditions so that they can start some business.
    3. To encourage labour intense technique.
    4. To encourage small and cottage industries in rural areas.
    5. To educate the poor and to provide then employment-oriented training.
    6. To link rural development programme with employment generation for poor.

In the end, I want to thank the UPA Government, Hon'ble Prime Minister, Hon'ble Smt. Sonia Gandhi and Hon'ble Dr. Raghuvanshji for having done a historic work by introducing the bill with limited means. I support this.*

SHRI RAKESH SINGH (Jabalpur): Sir, I lay my speech on the Table of the House.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is very good. Laying written speech on the table is very much appreciated.

[Translation]

*SHRI RAKESH SINGH: Sir, I am grateful to you for providing me an opportunity to speak on National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme.

Sir, unemployment is a major problem in our country. On the one hand, a large number of highly educated youth are wandering in search of employment, on the other, a large number of youth who could not achieve education due to poverty, are also looking for jobs. In such circumstances, this Bill is important despite the fact that it does not make its name meaningful because unemployment exists equally in urban and rural areas. The difference is that there are fewer opportunities of employment in rural areas as compared to urban areas. Therefore, the bill providing opportunities of employment in rural areas is useful. But many things related to it are required to be reformed.

Sir, one adult person of a family residing in rural area will be provided employment for 100 days in a year under this scheme and his wages will be provided within a month. If the applicant does not get employment within 15 days, he will have the right to get unemployment allowance.

Sir, we will have to understand the rural social structure of our country to ensure that this Bill will not be held responsible for disturbing the cordial family relation and social harmony in rural areas as we still have joint

*Speech was laid on the Table.

[Shri Rakesh Singh]

family system in rural areas. Many youth aged more than 18 years of a family are unemployed. But this Bill will provide employment opportunity to only one person among them, as such how we shall be able to save family value and harmony, which is inherent in the culture of our country. Because it will be difficult to select the person who will be provided employment. Therefore, I think that we should try to provide employment to each adult members of the family. We should ponder over one more thing as to how can unemployment be removed by providing employment for only 100 days in a year. How will a member of a family in this era of soaring prices be able to sustain himself as well as his dependents for 365 days in a year getting wages at the rate of only 60 rupees a day for 100 days? Will he and his family not have to face unemployment and starvation for the remaining 265 days in such a situation. When such provision has been made in this Bill are not we creating doubt by naming it employment guarantee?

Sir, if we are not in a position to increase it beyond 100 days, then we should, at least, consider to increase the wages which is presently Rs. 60/- per day.

Sir, it will be better if we think to provide work for 365 days instead of 100 days a year, to provide employment to every adult member of a family instead of only one, only then we will be in a position to give the term 'Employment Guarantee' its true meaning.

Sir, the Government is going to implement it only in 200 districts right now. It would be better if the scheme is implemented simultaneously throughout the country so that the districts in which 'food for work' scheme is yet to be implemented, may also be benefited thereby. I would like to draw the attention of the Government through you, especially towards the point that while implementing the said scheme proper care should be taken to see that it is implemented first in those districts which are really in need of this programme. I want to tell that certain districts including Jabalpur and Katni districts in my constituency have suffered extensive damage due to floods and excessive rains in both rural and urban areas. The crops in Jabalpur and Katani districts have got ruined and there is no work for the farm labourers. Therefore, such natural calamity hit districts including similar other districts in Madhya Pradesh should be included in the list of the districts initially selected for the purpose.

Sir, utmost care should be taken to ensure that corruption does not creep into this important scheme like other illusive schemes of successive Congress Governments. Sir, in the end I would like to submit that unemployment is an equally great problem in urban areas like in rural areas but the UPA Government seems to be least concerned about it. This is not fair. Therefore, this is the duty of the UPA Government to formulate some concrete and fruitful scheme to provide employment opportunities in urban areas as well so that youth in urban areas can be bail out of the situation of despair and despondency.

Thank you, very much for having given me an opportunity to speak.

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA (Ujjain): Sir, a glance at this Bill makes me feel like this:

"Badal gaya kuchh logon ka jeevan
Ansu peene wale parivar vahin hain.
Kya badala jab manavata ki
Peer vahi hai takdeer vahi hai"

I know, there is provision of providing a 100 days employment under this scheme for which one will get Rs. 6000/-. But the point is how a family can make both ends meet with a paltry sum of Rs. 6000/-? But we are thinking that a family consisting of husband-wife, their parents and two children can lead to easy life with this amount. Earlier too a scheme named "Food for Work" was launched under which work was not done in desired quantum rather through that programme money was pocketted in the form of wage payment. However in the present Bill a provision has been made to provide minimum wages at the rate of 60 rupees per day. One will get only Rs. 6000/- in a year, it may be taken either as unemployment allowance or as wages. While Rs. 4000/- will be spent as overheads on it, which means in total Rs. 10,000/- will be spent on a labourer and he will be provided only Rs. 6000/-. In order to monitor the actual disbursement to be made to a labourer, there is a provision for imposing a penalty of Rs. 1000/- on the person found involved in irregularities which means, if a person does not implement the scheme properly, all the charges against him would be dropped merely by paying only Rs. 1000/-. Therefore, all the provisions made under this Bill should be implemented in letter and spirit. Initially, the scheme will be introduced in 200 districts. But the names of such districts have not been specified. The people living in the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes districts and hilly areas are in dire need of jobs. In case they do not get employment they would certainly

be deprieved of the benefit under this scheme. He has said that about Rs. 38600 crore would be spent under the scheme. Out of which the Central Government will bear Rs. 34,740/- crore and remaining amount will be borne by the State Governments. If a State Government is not in a position to bear its share the scheme would not be implemented there. All these things should be incorporated in this Bill. Once the Government is formulating the scheme, it should bear the entire expenditure involved in it on the lines of the Food for Work Programme.

In view of all these things, it seems that the scheme does not carry any such guarantee. We can call it a scheme with minimum warranty as numerous conditions have been imposed thereunder. If provides work for hundred days and no work for the rest of the year. Where will one get work during monsoon season, we have to consider this aspect also. If the Government intend to provide employment they will have to make the provision of funds for that purpose. If the payment of a labourer against his work is made after or 15 days, how will he manage his livelihood and how will he be able to work. Therefore, under this scheme wage to the labourers should be paid the same day as it would be a great relief to the labourers. Therefore, all the legitimate points should be considered.

There is a mistake in the Hindi translation of the Bill. In Hindi version of this Bill it has been said that 'Desh Ke Gramin Kshetra Ki Nirdhan Bastiyon Mei Vaysk Ko Sarkar Dwara Partek Vitiya Varsh Mei Partek Vyakti Ko, Jo Avayasak Hai' The Word 'Avayasak' is a wrong translation of adult. In place of 'Avayasak' it should be 'Vayask' which is the correct translation of the word 'adult'.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: It is a clerical mistake. Thank you very much for pointing out it. It will be corrected.

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: After all mistake is a mistake, it should be corrected. Provisions should be made in the Bill as to how unemployment allowance will be paid, what policy is going to be framed in regard to providing employment. What will be the fate of this scheme if the State Government doesn't have funds because he has said that State Governments will have to bear twenty percent cost of this scheme? This is the major concern. He has assured that in five years this scheme will be implemented in the entire country. He should not be sure about it. Rather this scheme should be implemented in the entire country within the time that they have got to run the Government. Who knows what would happen in five years? Therefore, early steps should be taken to implement this good scheme in all the districts. It is enshrined in the preamble of our constitution that social and economic equality to all will be ensured. Therefore, in order to fulfil this commitment, this scheme should be implemented in the entire country as early as possible so that we all can see this scheme being fructified. How would he remove the shortcomings which have been pointed out in this schemes because this Bill has been brought in, hence he does not have much time to bring improvement in it. However, all these things can be included by issuing guidelines.

The spirit of this Bill is certainly good. It is also true that there are certain shortcomings in it which need to be removed. I believe if this scheme is Implemented properly it will benefit the people. There is a need for close monitoring of the provisions made under this scheme at the time of implementation. He has made a mention of monitoring but attention has not been paid towards that. If attention is not paid towards monitoring, this task cannot be accomplished. Therefore, whatever we do for the poor, it should be done in a proper way because we believe that all human being are equal and our 'Karma' is our 'Dharma' and social equality is the birth right of every human being. If this birth right to employment is linked with the principle of economic justice, we will definitely get he benefit of this scheme.

22.00 hrs.

*SHRI RAVICHANDRAN SIPPIPARAI (Sivakasi): Sir, share market index is soaring high; foreign reserves touch upon 6 lakh crores of rupees mark; annual growth rate of our economy is pegged at 7%; all these indices promise that India will be emerging in the next 25 years a great economic power. Apart from showing concern about providing the basic infrastructural need there is a need to meet the basic needs of about 30 crores of people who live below the poverty line. We now deliberate on a Bill that comes to the aid of about 20 crores of agricultural labour who live in the rural areas of the country. It is a new milestone of UPA's governance that has a human face about it. I heartily welcome the National Rural Employment Guarantee Bill.

Contract system is being abolished and use of machines is shunned. These are but the salient features of this Bill which seeks to involve people and employ people in implementing schemes that are to be taken up

*Translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

[Shri Ravichandran Sippiparai]

under the scheme of things envisaged in this Bill. It is also provided for in this Bill to give compensation in the form of unemployment allowance for the days on which the identified workers are not provided with job. The rural poor can now get a social security somewhat similar to that of the workers of the organised sector. When 20 women are engaged in a particular work, one among them would be entrusted with full pay the job of taking care of any child under 6 years of age who might have been brought to that work spot. This is one of the appreciable aspects of this Bill. An *ex gratia* payment of Rs. 10000 would be paid to any worker who dies while engaged to work under this scheme. Similar features make this Bill a significant Bill and a historical one.

Our Union Minister for Rural Development Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad is a socialist with a humanitarian outlook and takes effort to uplift the lot of the rural poor. At this juncture I would like to bring to your notice the findings of a survey conducted recently in 6 States by the students of Jawaharlal Nehru University about the implementation of integrated rural development projects. It has been found out that the implementation is wrought with several flaws in 5 States that were surveyed. They had found out that proper rosters were not maintained. In the light of this I would like to urge upon the Centre that let this NREG Programme be taken up with a spirit of commitment and vigilance.

This gigantic programme that seeks to provide jobs to 4 crore people at an expense of 40,000 crores of rupees must be handled with care and vigil. Only then the objectives could be achieved.

The doyen and darling of the Tamil masses late lamented Anna Durai said that we must endeavour to bring smile in the saddened faces of the poor to see good Himself there. I find a serious attempt as it is being made by our hon. Rural Development Minister Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh. The is striving to bring happiness in about 5 crore rural families and I welcome and support his move on behalf of Marumalarchi Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam and on behalf of our leader Vaiko.

Let me conclude my speech thanking the Chair.

[English]

SHRI LALIT MOHAN SUKLABAIDYA (Karimganj): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I stand to support the National Employment Guarantee Bill, 2004.

Unemployment has now become a common feature of our social set up, though we have a huge human resource which we cannot employ in productive purpose.

The Bill seeks to provide employment to at least one person from each family who is ready to work. This is the first realistic approach towards solution of the huge unemployment problem of the country which could increase our gross domestic product.

Our previous attempts at upliftment of the rural economy could not deliver the expected results due to the huge population growth and ineffective management. For generation of employment for the rural population, we tried many programmes but the number of people unemployed at present indicates that these programmes could not deliver the things. For this we need to promote efficiency in management and our delivery system needs to be overhauled. The system itself should be made cautious for irregularities. Otherwise, it might jeoparise the good and sincere wishes of the UPA Government to eradicate rural poverty.

For launching an assault on poverty and unemployment, the scheme of 100 days' guaranteed employment for eligible persons, one person per family, is a bold step taken by the UPA Government. In fact, it is a turning point in the Indian economy, especially in the management of unemployment and population. Implementation of this law would be a landmark achievement of the Government towards eradication of rural poverty.

The people who would be employed would have faith in themselves because of 100 days' employment security. This would give them earning and a sense of joining in productive work. But, one household as defined in the Bill, may consist of more than one family. For the purpose of guaranteed employment this should be taken into account.

I wish to read out here the definition of 'household' mentioned in the Bill, which says:

> "...the member of a family related with each other by blood, by marriage or adoption, and normally residing together..."

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Member, it would be better if you lay the remaining part of your speech instead of reading it out.

SHRI LALIT MOHAN SUKLABAIDYA: Yes, Sir. I may please be permitted to lay the remaining part of my speech.

*We became independent in 1947, with slightly more than 33 crores of people, and today our member of unemployed people equals almost that same figure. We are 17 per cent of world population but we share only 1.8 per cent of world GDP. There is no dearth of demand but purchasing power is low. So what we need—we need to generate income by producing more and more goods and services by utilizing our resources both human and natural.

Our Honourable leader, Shrimati Sonia Gandhi pointed out that the remuneration is not dole—but they have to work to earn. We have to make Bharat Nirman within four years time. But we need manpower for building special infrastructure in rural areas, namely six components namely, Irrigation, Roads, Water-supply, Housing, Rural Electrification and rural telecom connectivity.

We can very well engage our people who will get 100 days employment in the work of Bharat Nirman and other projects drawn by competent authorities including post reconstruction works of flood and other natural calamities.

Another point which I want to mention in rural areas is that there is a specific class of people in my state Assam who are working but are not getting salary for years. Many of them have retired but without any benefits.

These people were employed in venture schools and working without remuneration. They are waiting to get remuneration when their services would be provincialised. My request is that these people should also be covered under this scheme. Even for 100 days if they can get 6000 rupees per year, this amount can also benefit them till taking over of their services. These teachers of venture educational institutions deserve to be remunerated.

I thank Hon'ble Minister Raghuvansh Ji for moving this Bill for providing social security in one hand and on the other hand improving the quality of human life by generating income and confidence among rural population.

Lastly, I want to quote John F. Kennedy, "If a free society cannot help the many who are poor, it cannot save the few who are rich".

Thank you sir for giving me a chance to speak.*

22.05 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, an important issue is being discussed in this august House since the last week. Whichever Government it may be, it should think and work for the poor. The Government which does not work for common people is unseated. The UPA Government has considered this aspect. The NDA Government was shown the door because it doesn't gave the employment guarantee and if this Government also don't give the guarantee of employment we will also meet the same fate after five years. Shri Raghuvansh Babu is a revolutionary leader that is why he has brought in a revolutionary Bill in the House.

I have risen to speak in favour of the employment guarantee Bill. There are several districts in the country but the Government has decided to implement this scheme in two hundred districts. Prices are skyrocketing in the country and a wage of Rs. 60 has been fixed in the Bill presented by Shri Raghuvansh Babu. In this regard I would like to say that the person who will get Rs. 6000 as wage for hundred days employment cannot meet his household expenses. I want an amendment in the Bill that 250 days employment should be guaranteed and every district of the country should be covered under this scheme. Sixty rupees per day wage fixed under this scheme should be increased by rupees twenty. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA (Kheri): It should be increased by twenty rupees more.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: It should be increased by twenty rupees. A wage of Rs. 100 or Rs. 150 is good wage but would require fund. The Government of Maharashtra implemented this scheme in 1974. If the people living in rural areas of Maharashtra give an application to Tehsildar seeking employment they get employment within two-three days. Besides, unemployment allowance is also paid in the state. This scheme will help

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[Shri Ramdas Athawale]

in development of rural areas to a good extent. 26 per cent of our population live below the poverty line. As per a survey of the World Bank 43 percent of our population live below the poverty line. After independence a number of Governments came and went. The poor of the country should get justice.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I also come from the same society which you come from. Our society is poor but honest. Proper attention should be given to the people of our society unless the poor are given the guarantee of employment, their development cannot be ensured. When the NDA was in power, I used to say that until the poor are given the guarantee of employment, the NDA Government could not survive. They could not give the employment guarantee, hence NDA Government could not survive for a ling time. Raghuvansh Babu has brought in a good Employment Guarantee Bill.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thanks.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Just listen to my Hindi poem.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: By then it would 12 o'clock. Still 8-10 members have to speak.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Then we should sit here throughout the night. The people of villages should know how serious we are to give them employment guarantee. Raghuvansh Babu has brought in the Employment Guarantee Bill. The Names of Sonia Gandhi and the UPA have become popular in the entire country and all are singing the song of employment guarantee and Dr. Man Mohan Singh's government is run by the poor. Therefore, had they been with us, it would have been good. Therefore. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Haribhau Rathod.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Thus, the UPA Government has brought in a good bill, the UPA Government. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Athawale ji, please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Haribhau Rathod ji, please sit down. Mr. Deputy Speaker, now I have nothing to say as it is already quite late.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Athawale, you should sit down. Nothing else will be recorded expect the speech of Shri Haribhau Rathod.

...*(Interruptions)**

SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD (Yavatmal): Sir, I may be permitted to speak from this seat.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Okay.

[Translation]

SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on the National Rural Employment Guarantee Bill. Shri Basant Rao Naik was the Chief Minister of Maharashtra and Shri V.S. Pagani was the Rural Development Minister. 30-32 years back this scheme was introduced there. I have some experience of this scheme. Therefore, I request you to give me five minutes time.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Not five minutes. You will get three minutes time.

SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD: I have the experience of this scheme. I myself had worked as a labourer under the Rural Employment Scheme in Maharashtra. I have broken stones with my hands; I have dug up land with my hands. I remember that there was a severe drought in 1972 and in that year itself this scheme was launched. I owe to the Congress and I remember very well that I ate red jawar those days and this red jawar was bought from America under PL 480 agreement with the country. I still remember those day I used to relish eating that red jawar. Today our condition is also the same. The slogan of 'Remove Poverty' was given off and on. And today the manner in which the said scheme is being publicized is just to allure the poor. I listened attentively to the speech of Hon. Sonia Gandhi, the leader of the UPA Government. She made a mention of the UPA Government's National Common Minimum Programme but I think that she has not implement it properly. I quote the UPA Government's programme which is as follows:

[English]

"This will provide a legal guarantee for at least 100 days of employment, to begin with on asset-creating

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*Not recorded.

public works programmes every year at minimum wages for at least one able-bodied person in every rural, urban poor and lower middle class household."

[Translation]

They have left out the urban areas and the Common Minimum Programme too is being implemented in half measures. I listened attentively the speech of Hon. Prime Minister Man Mohan Singh on 15th August, he told that they were bringing in a revolutionary bill. I want to ask them whether they are going to give work to those crores of youths who have studied upto SSC, Intermediate or Graduate level. Will they engage them in digging land or breaking stones? What did the Government do for them? They are in large number. On the basis of the memorandum of financial implication, Rs. 60 have been provided for each member on an average. On the one hand, we are talking about providing a minimum wages of Rs. 100 but on the other, minimum wages differ widely. It implies that the financial implication as has been stated in this Bill will prove wrong. Therefore, the Government is not only misleading the House but also the country. The Government must set it correct. The Government has said a little about the financial implications involved in it. It is a good thing that the Government has made a provision of Rs. 25 thousand for those who, unfortunately become permanently disabled in any accident. But my request is that this amount should be increased to rupees one lakh. The Government has stated that there is a guarantee of 365 days work in Maharshtra but here why only guarantee of 100 days work is being given? There is a saying in Marathi 'Arje aami, arje tumi, rojgaraami'. But it should not be like 'half-half arje tumi and rojgar aami'. I have seen that payment is not made even after 2 months. The coupons for foodgrains do not reach to the people even after six months. They are not getting foodgrains. The Government must ensure that such things do not happen.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to tell you an interesting thing. Hon. Minister should take notice of it and answer tomorrow. According to the guarantee bill of Maharashtra the Government unemployment allowance is paid to the unemployed in case it fails in providing employment. But during the last 30 years not a single case has come to light where unemployment allowance has been paid. Besides the employment has not been provided to them. I do not understand as to why the Government have called it as Guarantee Bill Labourers are not organised. If 50 people apply all should be accomodated. A provision should be made that work will be undertaken as per the suggestions of local MP or MLA.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have not taken even a nap during the last three nights. I want to put forward few more suggestions. I request to use that fund for getting wells dug and be used for Indira Awas Yojana. My constituency is Yawatmal, where more than 650 tribal children are suffering from malnutrition. Please do something for them. The intention of hon. Finance Minister in this year's budget was. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No more now, please sit down.

SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, hon. Minister is to give his clarification tomorrow. Hon. Finance Minister said that 'food for work' and Employment Guarantee Scheme' would be merged later on. Will the scheme continue in 150 backward districts or will a new scheme be started by merging it? It should be clarified..."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down, your speech is not being recorded.

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA (Kheri): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak. I shall confine myself only to the points of this bill.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, unemployment is not the cause rather it is the outcome and I think all of us agree on this point. I would like to emphasise two points. One is the guarantee part which I think is very important. For the first time Government realised its responsibility. As the demand was being made that right to work should be accorded the status of constitutional right, it is an important step of the Government in this direction. The Government has given guarantee of providing employment for 100 days to the unemployed in rural areas. When they will demand employment, 100 days employment will be provided to them by the Government. According to the norm of minimum wages if employment is not provided, Government will pay unemployment allowance to them.

It is also proposed that State Governments will prepare plans, perspective plans quickly and get them executed through District Panchayats and Gram Sabhas. It is commendable that Government wants to provide right

[Shri Ravi Prakash Verma]

to work to 15 crore families *i.e.* about 60-70 crore people under this scheme. I do not want to go into the details of anticipated pros and cons of this bill. I just want to say that the panchayats which will originally get involved in planning can certainly not work wonders within 100 days. We know his limitation also. But it is also included in the scheme that with the provision of 100 days employment certain basic infrastructure will be created in villages, creating an environment of sustainable employment.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the most important thing is that Panchayati Raj Institutions like Gram Panchayats are important institutions involved in planning. But today panchayats have been given ample rights in all fields whether it is education, employment or health. But all the law making bodies are not user friendly in respect of Panchayats. The process of formulating rules and regulations is in the hands of bureaucrats and situations change by the time they are interpreted. Several schemes of employment has been implemented earlier, but they failed. The scheme themselves are not bad but the way of their implementation the attitude of the bureaucrats is generally found as non conducive as a result of which schemes fail. They call it a great and historic bill. Of course, they should realise that it is an important bill and it will also be a historic bill. However, as I have repeatedly said that the day one when the compulsory education bill will be introduced in the House, a celebration like that of 15th August, 1947 will be held in this House. I want to make him realise that the panchayat which is the original unit, should be enabled to expand the economy of the village. The unskilled labour of the village should at least be converted into semi-skilled and semi-skilled into skilled. For a comprehensive training scheme should be formulated to impart training to the Pradhans, members winning elections of Panchayats. That has to be provided under this scheme also. It is also one of the suggestions.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the merits and demerits of the scheme being implemented in Maharashtra have been noticed. The one point which has come to notice is that these schemes become very successful only when the cost of labour is high in the market. The basic objective of this scheme is not to eradicate poverty but to save the people from dying of hunger and it was implemented in Maharashtra in special circumstances. The work has been done in Maharashtra under this scheme. The present condition is that even after 30-35 years it has become a pattern. We can realise that Panchayats in Maharashtra might have been succeeded but as a self-sufficient Panchayati system, Panchayats could not succeed there. We have to consider this from this point of view. My view is that if we can develop Panchayats not only as a unit of production but also as a processing unit then we can certainly provide labourers permanent employment there. Providing only 100 days employment will not do the trick.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you.

[English]

Mr. Verma, please conclude your speech.

[Translation]

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Sir, I have to say one more important thing.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Many members have to speak many important things.

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: I have only points, I am concluding quickly. Labour is a very important component of rural economy. Farmers and labourers are mutually cooperative segments. But the question is that we are making a symptomatic treatment to this malaise. We can provide employment to all the labour force only when we can make village as unit of processing taking them as a unit of production and increase the income of villages, which is Rs. 70-80 lakh per year, by at least ten times. It is correct that we have imparted education to the youths in town and it has enabled India to participate in the I.T. boom and at present it accounts for 3 percent of the total global business. Now the condition is such that if we can make the villages outsourcing agencies, a unit of production, and develop a chain of retail outlets throughout Asia only then, we shall be able to achieve our goal.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you.

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Sir, please give me one minute more, I want to say just one more thing. To develop villages as unit of processing we have to work through village growth centres by making a perspective plan of a village so as to get the benefit of professional advice.

National Wage Guarantee Council should not only guarantee wages but also address issues like education,

health, food security, drinking water and comprehensive social security aspects.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ravi Prakash Verma. No, I would not be able to give you more time to speak. Thank you.

Next is Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): I support the Bill. This is only a beginning and not an end in itself. I do not claim it to be a historic attempt. We can make it historic, but claiming it historic is not correct.

Now, the Bill as schemed as many inherent weaknesses. I do not take this opportunity to point out all those inherent weaknesses, but one thing I must make it clear that this Bill has to be implemented through a sincere effort through a committed bureaucracy. The present bureaucracy is quite inefficient, insufficient and unit for implementing this people's Bill, which is to benefit crores of people who are in the rural areas, in the villages.

Now, we have our own experience. We have passed the Right to Information Bill in the previous Session, which is every much connected with this Bill. So far, it was not notified. So far, the rules have not been framed. It may take some more months to do that. Now, bottlenecks have been created in framing the rules. There is a dispute as to whether the correspondence between the Executive and the Rashtrapathi Bhawan should be brought under the purview of Right to Information Act. So, it will take months for the bureaucracy to notify the rules as well as the provisions in the statute. Right to Information is very important for transparency in public administration.

Therefore, the success of this Bill mainly depends upon the success of the Right to Information Act. If it is not properly implemented, this Bill also will fail. At the same time, we have to form a Central Fund as well as a State Fund. Much depends upon the cooperation of the States concerned. There also, the same scheme will have to be implemented. There must be Committees in the States just as in the Centre. We have different political arrangements in different States. How far the States will cooperate is a matter to be decided in future. Without the States' cooperation, this Bill cannot be implemented. These are the bottlenecks, these are the hardships which come to my mind when I think about the implementation of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Bill.

I wish the Government all success. I also give them my wholehearted support, but they would not get support as is expected in the Bill from all the States. So, they have to create a situation through which this Bill can be implemented. For that purpose, we must deal with this implementation, irrespective of political affiliations and irrespective of colour. We should have an independent approach, so far as implementation of this Bill is concerned.

I hope that the UPA Government will take the lead in getting cooperation or eliciting the cooperation of all the States in India. I hope, my learned friend, the Minister, will give emphasis and also will take sufficient precaution in getting or eliciting the support of all the States concerned without which we cannot implement this Bill.

With these words, I support the Bill.

DR. RAMESHWAR ORAON: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, at first, I would like to thank Smt. Sonia Gandhi, UPA Chairperson, the Prime Minister, all the constituents of the UPA and finally, Raghuvansh Babu. Raghuvanshji not only used to talk about socialism in the days of our studentship, by introducing this Bill he has proved his heart goes out for the poor.

Employment guarantee existed even before this Bill, but this Bill has some basic difference. Employment was provided earlier too. But when this Bill will become an Act, the poor will have the right to demand work. Right to income will also be implicit in this right to demand work as one who will get employment will have income too. Double protection is being provided under it—first the protection of employment and second protection of income. For the first time, there is a provision for participation of women in this employment. Power to provide employment is being vested in panchayats under this Bill to strengthen India. I want to inform this House as to what is happening in Jharkhand. Jharkhand is the single state where Panchayat elections have not been held. How will this Bill be implemented in Jharkhand, in case it is passed. The whole House as well as the country should ponder over it. I want your permission to speak on the economic aspect of the Bill and the benefits that are likely to accrue thereby. If the right to employment is made a legal right, the purchasing power of the people will increase. We used to read in newspapers that foodgrains was getting rotten in FCI godowns but people are starving. When employment will be available, their purchasing power too, will increase. People will be saved

[Dr. Rameshwar Oraon]

from starvation. Flexibility is also there in this Bill. The more the people will be employed, the more they will benefitted. Having got his work done the employer will pay the wages to the labourer in time. The provision of making payment in time has also been made in this Bill. It is not like the earlier practice of getting government work done and not making payment even after six months. A circle officer of my parliamentary constituency got some work done, but he has not made payment so far. We have to go there for getting the wages paid. Many other Hon. Members would have also been doing the same. But there is a provision of making the payment in time in this bill. This bill will stop district migration also. Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the people affected by floods in Bihar and from drought in Jharkhand migrate to Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh. This has a bearing on schemes regarding education, health and many other welfare schemes. This bill will stop district migration. This Bill will create infrastructure resulting in economic development of backward areas. The Country is in the grip of vicious circle of poverty and all the members have spoken on it. The only way to come out of the grip is to provide employment. And when the people will get employment, rural India will prosper. With these words, I support this bill.

SHRI SURESH WAGHMARE (Wardha): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want your permission to speak in the House. Hon. Minister, I belong to such a constituency which is mother of his ministry. Great people like Bapuji and Vinobaji presented the vision of rural India before the country, from the places like Vardha, Sewagram etc. Many schemes for rural areas have failed with the slogan of poverty alleviation. Many schemes for removing poverty has been launched but none of them could bear fruitful results. This is the situation in our country even after fifty five years of Independence. I thank him for introducing this new scheme. But there are so many drawbacks in this scheme. I expect to bring those drawbacks into light and remove them. A detailed discussion have been held on Maharashtra.

Mr. Chairman Sir, Hon. Home Minister has said a good thing about D.R.D.A., but Sir, is he aware as to how work is done under DRDA. I am not in a position to discuss it in detail due to lack of time. Sir, the definition of family laid down in it, does not seem to be correct. Even today there are families in villages having 20-30 persons, at some places we have a family comprising as many as 50 persons. If only one member of a family is provided employment, it will be injustice to the poor. We will have to go through so much of legal process for providing employment to a poor and unemployed person for one year and paying him 6000 rupees; this is not proper. We find in cities that all the members of a family are in job, now-a-days. On the one hand, we see that 5-7 members of the same family earn, on the other hand we are talking about putting so much legal restriction on making payment of Rs. 6000/- that too, in a year to a labourer. Therefore, I suggest that there is a need to change the definition of family.

Sir, the definition of urban and rural family as laid in this Bill, is not correct. It should not be like this. Under such situation we shall not be able to see that urban India which we are seeing today. Therefore, I request to bring about some improvement there. I would conclude after making just two points. I do not find any concrete provision in this bill to prevent migration of labourers. Also, it does not provide for fixing the time-limit of the programme. We say that there is no scarcity of foodgrains in our country. Godowns are filled with foodgrains, in spite of this, deaths caused by malnutrition are occurring. We need to go into the reasons thereof.

Certain changes need to be made in the Bill to achieve success in bridging the widening gap between the rich and poor in our country. With these words, I conclude my statement.

*Sir, I would like to tender the following suggestions with regard to the Employment Guarantee Bill to the Hon. Minister:-

(1) Employment for one person from one family—this concept should be amended.

(2) Urban areas should also be included.

(3) A provision for women should be made therein.

(4) Displacement under the guise of providing employment should be stopped.

(5) Time-frame for providing 100 days of employment should be fixed.

(6) The scheme should be implemented in all the districts of the country.

(7) Provision for year-long employment should be made.*

*...*This part of the speech was laid on the Table.

DR. RAJESH MISHRA (Varanasi): Sir, I rise to speak in support of this Bill. I would like to congratulate the Chairperson of UPA, Hon. Prime Minister, Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh ji and all the other allied parties of the UPA Govenrment. This is a Bill which has been supported by the whole of the House. Nevertheless, everyone has also pointed out the shortcomings in the Bill. To oppose this Bill would be akin to opposing the country itself. Hence, none of the MP, from any of the parties, has opposed this Bill. Many of the Hon. Members, while supporting the Bill have picked faults in the Bill. On the other hand, many members have also bestowed praise on the Bill. Some Members pointed out that for the first time Shrimati Sonia Gandhi has spoken on this Bill. Someone said that this is the first time that the Congress has brought in such a Bill. Yet another member deemed it to be a historic Bill. Those who pointed out the shortcomings in the Bill, refused to accept it as a historic Bill.

Sir, I would like to point out that after independence this is the first government, which has proposed to pass a legislation to address the problems of unemployment. This government itself has taken the responsibility of ensuring employment for lakhs of poor people in the country. No previous government has given legal guarantee to the poor and unemployed population in the country. For the first time ever a legal commitment has been made through this Bill that no poor person would have to die of starvation. I would like to congratulate the Government for this. The concept of joint family has been discussed in the Bill. I would like to define the concept of joint family here. In a family of four, the earnings of all the four members are shared alike by the whole family. This is the premise behind the concept of joint family. On the other hand, if each person performs a different job and lives separately then the joint family breaks up. People like us cannot concur with the concept of joint family envisaged thereunder Urban Employment Bill has been discussed. Rural Employment Bill has been brought is at present. Indisputably, Urban Employment Bill would be brought in by some other Ministry. Naturally, it was not the job of the hon. Minister Rural Development of to bring in that Bill, therefore, he did not bring it. The biggest impact of this Bill is likely to have in the country is that it will reduce migration of people from villages to towns. Secondly, when people gain employment, the crimes, the acts of terrorism and the disturbances being committed in the society due to lack of employment, would be checked to a large extent.

Further, I would like to say that all the previous employment generation schemes and programmes were formulated by the government but it is for the first time that the government has enacted a legislation in this respect and taken on the burden of enforcing it upon itself. I would like to say to the hon. Minister that since in this scheme only 200 district are to be covered, he should now immediately formulate a programme to cover further 20, 50, 100 other districts. Time is running out.

Besides this, it is my request to the Government and to the hon. Minister that Members of Parliament should also be inducted in the Monitoring Committee to be constituted for the purpose of monitoring. This would enable them to interact with the Gram Panchayats and Zila Panchayats and to ensure whether proper utilization of funds released by the Union Government is being done or not. My submission is that since the Union Government has passed the Bill and it providing the funds, Members of Parliament from both the Houses should be part of the monitoring mechanism. The representatives of the Central Government in the various districts should keep a watch to ensure that the results envisaged by the government are achieved at the grassroots level, at the village and the district level.

SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR (Vadodara): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister towards two or three points, through you.

It has been stated in the Bill that any person willing to work would be provided with 100 days of work and get a payment of Rs. 600 thereby. The point to be considered is how to assure a family about the work with which it can keep itself engaged during the rest 265 days of the year. The second point is that 200 district are to be covered under the scheme but the names of the districts identified for being covered, have not been disclosed. The names of such districts should be specified.

I would also like to make a request in the form of a suggestion. In our society every family in a village used to run a particular trade like that of carpenter, ironsmith, cobber, oilman, gardener fisherman. Every family had employment. Even if the son of the house was not educated, he would know his traditional vocation and would earn his livelihood by it. Even if, there were 10 houses of carpenters or ironsmiths in the villages, their children would not have lacked employment. This system has come to an end now. Is any consideration going to be given to the issue of reviving these trades?

[Shrimati Jayaben B. Thakkar]

I believe that discontinuation of this system is the major reason for the unemployed village youth migrating to the cities. The same holds true for the urban unemployed youth also. I would like to request him that the plight of the urban youth should also be considered and employment should also be provided to those who wish to work. Measures should be taken to reduce poverty in the whole of the country.

Although it has been said that women would also be provided employment but remains to be seen how much of a chance they are likely to be given while their male counterparts remain unemployed. This is a disadvantage that women face in all walks of life. I would like a specific provision to be made for prevailing employment to abandoned, deserted/divorced women who have no one to look after them. The definition of joint family as elucidated by the government also needs to be reconsidered. With these words I conclude my statement.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have given very good suggestions.

[Translation]

DR. KARAN SINGH YADAV (Alwar): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I support this historic Rural Employment Guarantee Bill and would like to thank the UPA Chairperson Smt. Sonia Gandhiji for including this issue in the manifesto of the Congress party and for giving priority to this issue in the Common Minimum Programme of UPA and introducing this historic Bill in the House. People in the villages are saying that this is the first government which has committed itself towards providing guaranteed employment. Mindful of the people's response all the parties in the House have expressed support for the Bill although the persons on the opposition benches are also expressing certain apprehensions alongwith their statements of support regarding the Bill.

I would like to draw your attention towards Rajasthan. After Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh, the largest state in the country is Rajasthan but drought is a regular occurrence in this state. Desert forms a larger part of the land area of the state. This state has 16 per cent SC, 14 per cent ST and 30 per cent BPL population. Merely five districts have been included under the Food for Work Programme in Rajasthan. This programme is being implemented only in 5 districts out of the 32 districts in the state. I would like to request the hon. Minister that in view of the extremely difficult conditions being faced by the State some districts of Rajasthan may be included in the 50 additional districts proposed to be brought under coverage of the said programme.

Further more, I would like to mention of my constituency Alwar which has two of the biggest, reserved legislative assembly seats namely, Thanagaji and Rajgarh. The water level has fallen drastically in the entire area due to which there are no prospects for employment. My point is that all these areas are facing the problem of drought. Hence, my constituency, Alwar may also be included in the additional districts proposed to be covered under the programme.

I conclude my statement with these words.

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE (Aurangabad, Maharashtra): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to you for allowing me to speak. Besides, I would also like to thank the hon. Minister who has done an important work for the people of rural areas. It is an historic Bill but it is difficult to say how much credit he is likely to get from it and how much successful he will be in achieving its objectives. He has set up a vigilance and monitoring agency comprising of members through which the govt. will have to keep control on this scheme. The govt. will have to give more powers to the monitoring committee as a result of this. I have been a MLA for ten years in Maharashtra. The inspirations for this Bill has been drawn from the example of Maharashtra itself. There is a committee of MLA's related to scheme for providing employment in Maharashtra. The MLA members of that committee visit the sites of the scheme to see whether work is being done or not. This committee formed by him can be made use of in the true sense only by giving right to it. I support the Member who spoke before me. Mention of employment has not been made in this Bill. An employment scheme is being run in our Maharashtra and this Bill has been brought in by taking inspiration from that. The name of this Bill is the National Rural Employment Guarantee Bill—is he under guarantee to provides employment? No, that is not the case here. An amendment will have to be made in the National Rural Employment Guarantee Bill. But he can say that it, will make the heading better, with the word "Employment" forming part of the nomenclature. Although National Rural Employment or even Employment Guarantee Bill will also be acceptable but I would request that the word employment should get reflected therein.

He has mentioned 2-3 points in his speech that it should have top priority for water conservation, drought, flood, forestry, irrigation and canals. The small agricultural ponds in Maharashtra should also be given recognition in it.

We have started a new system of well-recharging in Maharashtra which should also be included in it. At some places, roads should also be recognised.

Just now our sister said that it is better to provide more than 33% employment to women. More than 50% women in Maharashtra go for Hamein employment which solves a major problem afflicting the villages elsewhere. If it happens like this, then all the women in our country will be able to get employment.

Agricultural time in Maharashtra is of more than 150 days but he has limited it to 100 days. All the members have spoken for increasing the number of days. Through you, I would like to ask the hon. Minister to make it 150 days instead of 100 days. This will earn him a good name in the country that he is doing a very good job. I will not speak about 60 rupees. He will have to make little modification in accordance with the circumstances of different states. We are about to implement a new scheme. States should be given rights for, whatever shortcomings it may have. Many a times, Rabi and Kharif farmers in Maharashtra remain idle for 150 days. That is why, they should get wages for upto 150 days. We will have to keep in mind providing work in proportion to demand.

I would like to thank the hon. Minister for bringing forward a good Bill. I have risen to support this Bill. I have just arrived from Maharashtra and you have given me an early opportunity to speak. The minister should not forget to insert the work 'Employment' in the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now the last member will speak.

The hon. member want that there are some states where different works have been mentioned for which people will be given Employment but some of the states do not need those works which have been mentioned by him. It will be better if they can have the right to change the work. For example he has mentioned about constructing thatched roofs, walls and schools. Such work are not needed in many states.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the amendment says "In consultation with the State Government" new works can also be undertaken.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Alright.

We have to take up Special Mention after this. That can also be taken up if the House so desires.

SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you should allow all the members who are sitting here to speak. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Alright. Sandil ji you may feel little uncomfortable but please conclude your speech within 2 minutes.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

*DR. THOKCHOM MEINYA (Inner Manipur): Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I do rise to support this historical bill. The National Rural Employment Guarantee Bill, 2004 as moved by Hon'ble Minister Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh ji.

Sir, It is indeed heartening to see such a milestone piece of work in the history of Independent India. This is exactly the direct outcome of the National Common Minimum Programme of the United Progressive Alliance Government. Kudos! To the Hon'ble Chairperson of UPA the Hon'ble Prime Minister and the Hon'ble Rural Development Minister for this momentous piece of legislation.

Sir, I shall confine myself to the execution part of the Act. The beginning shows the light. In the first place, two hundred districts will be covered and the remaining districts of the country in the coming five years. Sir, I would like to request the Union Government and the Rural Development Ministry in particular is include at least for districts from the State of Manipur-two each from the valley and the hills in the first instant.

Sir, the implementation of the provisions of the Act may be judiciously monitored. The country is marching ahead towards eradication of poverty—Garibi Hatao through Bharat Nirman Jai Hind.

*Speech was laid on the Table.

DR. COL. (RETD.) DHANI RAM SHANDIL (Shimla): Sir, I hope you will make some concessions to me as the last Member to speak on this Bill.

[Translation]

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER: Though I wish to hear you much longer but there is no time.

[English]

DR. COL. (RETD.) DHANI RAM SHANDIL: Sir, I rise in support of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Bill tabled in this august House by Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, the hon. Minister of Rural Development.

Sir, I would like to begin by referring to one old proverb—a thousand mile journey begins with a single step. This single step was taken by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru when he became the architect of this great nation and when he wanted to find ways as to how we could generate employment in his country. For that matter, he led the foundation of a strong and viable economy in this country. Similarly, the late India Gandhi came up with poverty alleviation programmes and gave the slogan *'Garibi Hatao'*. The aim was to create employment and have assets. Successive Prime Ministers, be it the late Rajiv Gandhi or Narasimha Rao, it was always the Congress regime that paid attention to the interests of the poor in this country. The Congress party never deviated from that. Today, under the UPA Chairman Smt. Sonia Gandhi and under Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh this historic Bill has been brought forward by Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, the hon. Minister of Rural Development. Everyone in this House is unanimous about passing this Bill. There is no difference of opinion on this Bill. I personally feel that we should all laud this effort and make all attempts to find ways and means to see how we can make it more effective, how we can generate more funds to finance this programme. The corporate sector could come in a big way to help finance this programme and even the rich peasants in the rural areas can come forward to help serve this noble cause. We should not have any hiccups. There should not be any problem in generating finances worth Rs. 40,000-50,000 crroe for this purpose. That is one suggestion.

Finally I would say that each one of us must remember that

[Translation]

A ray of hope is kindling in the life of the common people, the masses which have sent us here. We should not let that lamp of hope blow out which has been lit in their life. We should make this Bill success by removing all the obstacles in their life. We should also repay the debt we owe to them and make this land prosperous and rich.

*SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE (Bilaspur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, under the said scheme there is a guarantee to provide employment for 100 days with wages at the rate of Rs. 60/- per day to the people living below poverty line. My question in this regard is as to how will the family be maintained if it is comprised of five persons including wife and children? It is a matter of anxiety.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there are 365 days in a year. If employment is provided for 100 days, it is only 1/4th of an year. I want to ask as to what those labourers will do during the remaining 265 days. Poor labourers are mostly engaged in earth-work. Men and women dig the earth and carry the clay on their heads only then they are paid Rs. 100. If there is employment guarantee to one member of a family in Chhattisgarh at the rate of Rs. 60 a day, he will get Rs. 6000 for 100 days at the rate of Rs. 1800 per month. The number of people living below poverty line is from 500 to 1000 in each Panchayat. In case the employment is available, each gram-Panchayat will receive 3 lakh rupees per month for 100 persons. Thus, if there are one thousand-gram panchayats in nine districts how much money will be required for this in a state and the amount required for 200 district of the country. If we exclude four months of rainy season, what will happen to this employment guarantee scheme for the remaining eight months. We should also see as to what kind of work be provided to the poor for the next eight months and what will be their condition during this period of time. The poor labourer would not even be able to get a squire meal with this earning. Their economic condition will become weak.

The wages provided to labourers is very low in Chhattisgarh in comparison to other states. There is a large number of educated students and educated unemployed. Whether the Government will include those trained and skilled persons and their family members in the scheme of providing employment who possess

*Speech was laid on the Table.

engineering diploma, or have done computer course, or those who have got training in agriculture. The labourers who are employed as an agricultural labour during the four months of rainy season should not be included in the said scheme rather they should be included for the remaining eight months. The number of days of employment be increased upto 200 days from 100 days at the rate of Rs. 60 per day for members of each family living below poverty line. The other members of their family should be provided unemployment allowance at the rate of Rs. 100 per day, in case they do not get employment.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Shailendra Kumar.... Absent.

[Translation]

SHRI GAURISHANKER CHATURBHUJ BISEN (Balaghat): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Kanha Tiger National Park Mandala is spread over a large area in Madhya Pradesh. There is a reserve forest spreading over thousands of hectares of land where wild animals live. But all the construction work in core area has been stopped by the officers of forest department in the name of Wild Life Conservation Act by using force. These rural areas have been earmarked to be developed under 'Food for Work', 'Samvikas Yojana' and many other schemes. The progress of tribes like Gond, Baoga has come to a halt because of imposing restriction on carrying out all the works like providing drinking water, tube-well, mining work and construction of open well, primary schools, health sub-centres, and Anganwadi centres. I would like to suggest that protection to tribal people should be given by simplifying the rules and permission may be granted for the said construction work.

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR (Sagar): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Dr. Hari Singh University was established on 18th July 1946. It was one of the fourteenth oldest University of India and the first university in M.P. which provided education to the whole Madhya Pradesh. Other universities of Madhya Pradesh were established 15-20 years after this university was established.

23.00 hrs.

But it did not have all the faculties. Dr. Hari Singh Gaud had established this university in an area of 2000 acres. Dr. Hari Singh Gaud earned money by practising law in foreign country for establishment of this university. He set up a University in Sagar with the money earned by practising law in foreign countries. Sagar was educationally backward at that time. Therefore, he dreamt of establishing a university like Cambridge and Oxford for removing illiteracy from Sagar and to make it a seat of education it was published in Gazette of year 1900 that Sagar is an attractive city in Central India surrounded by hills and lakes. This university was set up on these hills. The campus of the University was so spacious that he imagined that one will have to travel by helicopter for going from one ridge to another ridge. The most important characteristics of this university is that all the educational activities are being conducted within the university campus, whereas in other universities such activities are conducted in the colleges. Thirty-three subjects are taught in this university which included humanities, criminology, geology and there are important research centres also like A.V.R.C. The campus is so spacious that once a student enters he needs not go to the city. All the activities are undertaken within the university campus whether it relates to banks, canteen or health department. The printing work of university is also conducted in the same campus. A micro-level laboratory is also there.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What do you want to say?

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Madhya Pradesh is such a large state even then, it has no Central University while states smaller than it have Central Universities. I, therefore, request the Human Resources Development Ministry to assist in making Dr. Hari Singh Gaur University, Sagar a Central University.

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, before 2001, the present Chhattisgarh State was a part of Madhya Pradesh. Railway Zone was set up in district Raipur of Chhattisgarh and a zonal office was established there after the separation of Madhya Pradesh an Chhattisgarh. Hence there is a need for a Railway Recruitment Board after establishment of zonal office. Recruitment has been made for the posts of Gangman, Foreman, porters etc. and for posts of class II and class IV for other posts like ticket collector except for the post of first class, in Railway Recruitment Board. There are many Central Recruitment Boards in other states except Chhattisgarh state. I demand the Government that in new Chhattisgarh, a state with Raipur as its capital and Bilaspur as a railway zone headquarters, a Railway Recruitment Board should be set up in district Bilaspur

so that the people belonging to SCs. STs. and OBCs. category in Chhattisgarh could get the maximum number of jobs and make progress.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Hawa Mahal is situated in Jaipur city. Hawa Mahal is worth seeing inside and falls under the Survey of India. A fee is also charged to see it. Though it looks very old and dilapidated, it is worth seeing from inside. It is in a very dilapidated condition. It has been built over a single brick layer and there were 13-14 domes above it of which 4 domes have fallen on the street but they are not traceable. I urge that they should be traced and the condition of the Hawa Mahal should be improved which is dilapidating gradually. Hawa Mahal is also a constituency in Jaipur city. Similar kind of domes should be installed in place of the broken domes and the domes which are about to fall, should be repaired. Hawa Mahal is popular not only in Jaipur but in India also. Also, a programme called 'Hawa Mahal' used to telecast on TV earlier. Hawa Mahal is also the name of a constituency. Therefore, I request that the condition of the Hawa Mahal should be improved and it should be repaired.

[English]

SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Sir, I want to raise a very important matter of my State, namely, Gujarat. It is about project proposals for safe stage works and improvement of minor irrigation schemes in the State of Gujarat.

The Government of Gujarat had prepared project proposals for safe stage work and improvement in minor irrigation schemes for the State and submitted the same to the Government of India for Central financial assistance. I urge upon the Government for an early action in this matter.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Santosh Gangwarji, you should speak only on the issue of NCR and not on other issue.

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR (Bareilly): Sir, the Government had decided long ago to develop the cities falling within 200-250 kilometres of the National Capital Region as counter magnet cities. My constituency Bareilly was also included in it. But, even after 15-20 years, works relating to providing such facilities and infrastructure have not been done there so far. Through you, I would urge the hon. Minister of Urban Development to pay attention to it and see as to how facilities and infrastructure development of these counter magnet cities can be provided. It was proposed that the burden of central offices in Delhi should be reduced by properly developing and providing infrastructure facilities to the counter magnet cities. But, it is unfortunate that it has not been implemented fully due to which the important schemes and the pending works have not been completed so far in Bareilly. Through you, I would urge the hon. Minister to pay attention towards it and provide necessary infrastructure there.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Shailendra Kumarji, you may now dwell on your point.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail): Sir, I thank you very much for allowing me to speak.

Sir, the encephalitis disease has spread far and wide not only in Uttar Pradesh but in many states of the country as well. We have already discussed it in the House but I want to raise it here because it started spreading in the eastern Uttar Pradesh and 170 people have died so far due to it in Gorakhpur in Purvanchal. This disease has been spreading in several districts of Uttar Pradesh—Kanpur Varanasi, Gorakhpur, Fatehpur, Basti, Lakhimpur-Kheri etc. The Uttar Pradesh Government has been giving its full attention for its prevention. Teams of doctors are being sent there but I want to draw the attention of the Government of India, through you, the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is sitting here. He should give a serious thought to it since this disease has been spreading constantly and is not being controlled. I, therefore, demand that the Government of India should provide financial assistance for the purpose. Teams of doctors from Delhi along with the teams of the World Health Organisation and the UNICEF should be sent there, only then this disease could be controlled, otherwise it would keep on spreading and people would continue to die. With these words, I conclude.

DR. KARAN SINGH YADAV (Alwar): Sir, two labourers died and one dozen labourers are still battling for life following an explosion occurring in the morning of 17th in Synergy Steel Factory of the Malviya Industrial Area under my parliamentary constituency, Alwar. Iron sheets are being manufactured in the factory after melting iron scrap. It is apprehended that cheap scrap is imported

from abroad, and sometimes live bomb and other explosives also come in the process. Such incidents have occurred earlier also. And this time also the explosion was so powerful that its should was heard to far off areas and splinters of explosives came out of the wall by breaking it. Though the Government of India has framed rules in this regard that such scrap should be brought to factories after through examination but the factory owners played this joke with the workers there, as a result of which so many deaths took place. I want to draw your attention towards one similar incident. Such an explosion took place in the Shashi Faito-Chemical Company about two months back in which two people were killed. I want to draw the attention of the House towards this subject at such late night. Whether the containers in which the scrap is being imported in India from abroad are being examined and whether the precaution and preventive measures which should have been taken in this regard, are being taken in the interests of workers? Besides, I also want to know from the Government of India as to whether or not there is any provision of insurance for the workers working in the factories, whether or not labour laws are being complied with? I want to draw your attention towards all these points.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet tomorrow, the 23rd August, 2005 at 1100 a.m.

23.10 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the clock on Tuesday, August 23, 2005/Bhadrapada 1, 1927 (Saka)

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