FOR REFERENCE ONLY.

Fourteenth Series, Vol. VI, No. 14

Monday, December 20, 2004

Agrahayana 29, 1926 (Saka)

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Third Session
(Fourteenth Lok Sabha)

(Vol. VI contains Nos. 11 to 17)

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

Price : Rs. 50.00

EDITORIAL BOARD

G.C. Malhotra
Secretary-General
Lok Sabha

Anand B. Kulkarni
Joint Secretary

Kiran Sahni
Principal Chief Editor

Harnam Dass Takker
Chief Editor

Parmesh Kumar Sharma
Senior Editor

Sarita Nagpal
Editor

[ORIGINAL ENGLISH PROCEEDINGS INCLUDED IN ENGLISH VERSION AND ORIGINAL HINDI PROCEEDINGS INCLUDED IN HINDI VERSION WILL BE TREATED AS AUTHORITATIVE AND NOT THE TRANSLATION THEREOF.]

CONTENTS

[Fourteenth Series, Vol. VI, Third Session, 2004/1926 (Saka)]

No. 14, Monday, December 20, 2004/Agrahayana 29, 1926 (Saka)

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
WELCOME TO PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION FROM ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF PAKISTAN	1
ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS	
*Starred Question Nos. 263-266	2—32
WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS	
*Starred Question Nos. 267-282	33—89
Unstarred Question Nos. 2964-3193	89—394
PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE	394—403
MESSAGES FROM RAJYA SABHA	403—404
COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS	
First to Fourth Reports	404
STATEMENT BY MINISTER	
Status of Implementation of Recommendations Contained in the First Report of Standing Committee on Water Resources	
Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi	404—407
RE: POSTPONEMENT OF CALLING ATTENTION	407—416
SUBMISSIONS BY MEMBERS	
Re: Need to compensate the people of Jammu & Kashmir Border areas on whose land Defence related installations have been set up by the defence forces	416—417
CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE	
Situation arising out of the move of the Government to Change the Banking Policy	435—445
Shri Gurudas Dasgupta	435—441
Shri P. Chidambaram	441—445
MATTERS UNDER RULE 377	445—454
(i) Need to build a high bank canal in Sabarkantha district of Gujarat for the benefit of farmers	
Shri Madhusudan Mistry	445—446

*The sign +marked above the name of a Member indicates that the Question was actually asked on the floor of the House by that Member.

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
(ii) Need to release funds directly to the Gram Panchayat Presidents in Tamil Nadu for undertaking developmental work in their areas	
Shri S.K. Kharventhan	446
(iii) Need to computerize the rail reservation facility at Khairthal railway station in Jaipur Division of Rajasthan	
Dr. Karan Singh Yadav	446—447
(iv) Need to take steps to check the declining ground water level in Dausa and other districts of Rajasthan	
Shri Sachin Pilot	447—448
(v) Need to expand the Indore Railway Station by acquiring land in the adjoining areas	
Shrimati Sumitra Mahajan	448
(vi) Need for extending Central assistance to the Government of Gujarat for re-surveying the villages of the tribal areas in the State	
Shrimati Jayaben B. Thakkar	448—449
(vii) Need to permit Government of Rajasthan to utilize the balance sanctioned amount for completion of Mewar Complex project in the State	
Shrimati Kiran Maheshwari	449
(viii) Need for four laning of National Highway No. 215 stretching from Panikoili to Rajamunda in Orissa	
Shri Ananta Nayak	450
(ix) Need to review the decision to demote a large number of Principals of Kendriya Vidyalayas	
Shri P. Mohan	450—451
(x) Need to take steps to check the decline in the water level in the country	
Shri Shailendra Kumar	451
(xi) Need to construct a reservoir in the upper reaches of Chandan river in Banka area of Bihar	
Shri Girdhari Yadav	451
(xii) Need to provide funds for building a proper drainage system in Fatehpur city, U.P.	
Shri Mahendra Prasad Nishad	452
(xiii) Need to conduct an enquiry into the work executed under the Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana in Saran and Sewan districts of Bihar	
Shri Prabhunath Singh	452
(xiv) Need to address the problem of pesticide residues in soft drinks	
Shri M.P. Veerendra Kumar	453
(xv) Need to instruct NEEPCO to resume the work on Turial Hydro Power Project in Mizoram	
Shri Vanlal Zawma	453—454

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS (GENERAL)—2004-05	454—514
Shri Adhir Chowdhury	454—457
Shri Samik Lahiri	457—463
Shri Ramji Lal Suman	463—467
Shri Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu	467—472
Shri Milind Deora	472—479
Prof. Mahadeorao Shiwankar	479—485
Shri Tathagata Satpathy	485—489
Shri Survaram Sudhakar Reddy	489—492
Shri Jashubhai Dhanabhai Barad	492—494
Shrimati Kiran Maheshwari	494—497
Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan	497—501
Shri Kinjarapu Yerrannaidu	501—505
Shri P. Chidambaram	505—506
Shri S.K. Kharventhan	507—509
Shri Haribhau Rathod	509—511
Shri Lalit Mohan Suklabaidya	511—514
ANNEXURE-I	
Member-wise Index to Starred List of Questions	515—516
Member-wise Index to Unstarred List of Questions	516—522
ANNEXURE-II	
Ministry-wise Index to Starred List of Questions	523—524
Ministry-wise Index to Unstarred List of Questions	523—524

OFFICERS OF LOK SABHA

THE SPEAKER
Shri Somnath Chatterjee

THE DEPUTY-SPEAKER
Shri Charnjit Singh Atwal

PANEL OF CHAIRMEN
Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal
Shri Giridhar Gamang
Shrimati Sumitra Mahajan
Shri Ajay Maken
Dr. Laxminarayan Pandey
Shri Balasaheb Vikhe Patil
Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan
Shri Arjun Sethi
Lt. Col. (Retd.) Manabendra Shah
Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav

SECRETARY-GENERAL
Shri G.C. Malhotra

LOK SABHA

Monday, December 20, 2004/Agrahayana 29, 1926 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

WELCOME TO PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION FROM ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF PAKISTAN

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, at the outset, I have to make an announcement.

On my own behalf and on behalf of the hon. Members of the House, I have great pleasure in welcoming His Excellency Chaudhary Amir Hussain, Speaker of the National Assembly of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the members of the Parliamentary Delegation who are on a visit to India as our honoured guests.

They arrived in India on Saturday, 18 December, 2004. They are now seated in the Special Box. We wish them a happy and fruitful stay in our country. Through them, we convey our greetings and best wishes to the President, the Parliament, the Government and the friendly people of Pakistan.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): Sir, you should have spoken in Bangla.

MR. SPEAKER: They are from Pakistan, not from Bangladesh.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have given you a notice for suspending Question Hour. This is the first time in the history of India that a Cabinet Minister has been shown distributing 100 rupee notes by all TV Channels. In the jhuggi jhoupri in Bihar, Lalu Prasad ji has ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Malhotra, can I request you to raise it after the Question Hour?

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Yes, I will raise it after the Question Hour. I wanted suspension of the Question Hour because he has said that he was not taking bribe as if giving bribe is no offence. This is a very serious incident. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You, please speak later. You will get full opportunity after the Question Hour.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: After the Question Hour, I will give you full opportunity.

11.03 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Direct Payment System

*263. SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received complaints that FCI has failed to pay the Minimum Support Price to the farmers at the time of procurement;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has decided to implement the Direct Payment System in Food Corporation of India in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to ensure the payment of MSP to the farmers at the time of procurement?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (f) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) All stocks of foodgrains offered by farmers at the purchase centres of the FCI, and conforming to the quality specifications fixed, are purchased at the Minimum Support Price (MSP) in a transparent manner. Occasional complaints received in this behalf are referred to the State Governments and the FCI for appropriate action.

(c) and (d) No, Sir.

(e) The Direct Payment System of labour is in force in 216 FCI depots in the country. In the remaining FCI depots, other labour systems, including departmental labour and contract labour, are in place.

(f) Before the start of each marketing season, State Governments/UTs are advised to ensure that Fair Average Quality (FAQ) foodgrains are procured from farmers at Minimum Support Price (MSP) announced by the Government. The FCI and State Governments have taken action to open sufficient number of purchase centres for procurement of foodgrains. In order to closely monitor the price support operations, a Control Room has been set up on a permanent basis in Department of Food and Public Distribution. Special Control Rooms are also set up in the FCI Headquarters and its Regional Office. The State Governments are also advised to set up Control Rooms, which should function round the clock during the procurement season. They have also been advised to give wide publicity through print and audio visual media, village fairs, panchayats, Agriculture Extension Service/ Krishi Vigyan Kendras etc. to inform the farmers about the minimum support prices, locations and facilities provided at the purchase centres etc.

SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Sir, it is reported that the foodgrains are rotting in many of FCI godowns because of inadequate storage facilities and also because of unscientific methods of storage. And so much of food grains are dumped and wasted. Has any foodgrain been wasted between 2003 and 2004? I also want to know whether the Government is addressing the problem as to how to make the entire system more scientific and foolproof.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Sir, I have no objection in replying, but this Question is restricted to Minimum Support Price. If more information is required regarding the damage of the foodgrains, I will be happy to reply to it on receiving a separate notice.

MR. SPEAKER: You ask second supplementary related to the Question.

SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Hon. Minister, it seems that a study is being conducted by Mckenzie and Company. I think, it is still in the process. I want to know whether the Government has any plan to privatise the FCI. The other question is related to the payment system. I want to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government is planning to enhance the present rate of wages of Rs. 124 a day which is given. It is very meagre.

In Kerala, out of 22 depots, in three depots—West Hill, Kozhikode which is one of the oldest; Chalakkudi; and Mavelikara—all the formalities are complete, but DPS is not yet introduced. That payment system is not there. Several courts, including the High Court of Kerala, have ordered that workers on contract basis should be treated as regular workers and all benefits should be given to them. In the light of this, will the Government introduce that payment system in FCI depots in West Hill, Kozhikode; Chalakkudi and Mavelikara and also other depots in the country?

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Sir, as regards the Mckinzie & Co., there is no proposal for privatisation, but Mckinzie & Co. has been given the job to give us suggestions to improve the overall efficiency of the Food Corporation of India (FCI).

As regards the second question about Direct Payment System, there are 22 depots owned by the FCI in Kerala State, out of which 16 depots are functioning under the Direct Payment System.

There is an issue with regard to the West Hill, Kozhikode; Chalakudy and Mavelikara depots. It is true that there are certain court decisions, but we have not yet taken the final view about it because more than 22,000 workers are already practically idle as they are surplus. Hence, it is very difficult to have additional responsibility for the time being. But we would like to resolve that issue, and we would like to respect the court's decision.

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH: Sir, according to the latest World Bank Report, the Minimum Support Price (MSP) should be done away with in order to allow the farmers to diversify into other crops, and thereby increase the food basket of India so as to compete in the WTO. Does the hon. Minister agree with the World Bank Report? Are you going to abolish the MSP or are you going to continue with the MSP? Thank you.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Sir, the MSP is the most important thing from the point of view of farmers' interest, and it is very difficult for any developing country to accept this type of suggestion as it will definitely jeopardise the farmers' interest. We will not accept it.

[Translation]

SHRI ANIL BASU: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Indian agriculture and public distribution system will be given a new direction under the able and dynamic leadership of the hon. Minister. Hon. Minister has called a meeting at 3.00 p.m. today in this regard but the minimum support price is still a dream for farmers of this country. In West Bengal the procurement by FCI has not been started. I also tried a lot in this regard, held talks also, but the price of paddy continued to crash down. Today the price of paddy has fallen below Rs. 400/-per quintal. Even then the procurement by the FCI has not been started. In my State, under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes like SGRY, Mid-day-meal and Antyodaya Anna Yojana etc. all taken together, there is a requirement of about 14 lakh tonne of rice. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: What is you question?

SHRI ANIL BASU: 14 lakh tonnne rice is transported to that area from Punjab and Haryana. As a result of which the consumers have to pay a considerable amount of money. I would like to ask as to whether the State Government would get the procurement done through the FCI. What steps are being taken by the Central Government with regard to procurement by the State Government?

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is a very important question. Most of the procurement done so far was from Haryana and Punjab. Procurement through a de-centralised system has been started for the last two or three years. More attention has been paid to this during the current year. We have made an arrangement for procurement in nine States including West Bengal. As regards West Bengal, the price of common variety of paddy is Rs. 560/-per quintal and the price of the other variety of paddy is Rs. 590/-per quintal. If their prices go down below this we take the responsibility of procuring it and this procurement will be made with the help of the State Government concerned. We will also provide for the funds which may be required by the State Government concerned. This will be borne out of the general provision for possible accidental expenditure we have expected for the whole country. We will extend all these benefits to the West Bengal Government also.

[English]

SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU: Thank you, Sir. It is a fact that farmers are not getting the MSP for their products. In Orissa, FCI, mill owners, and some Government personnel are having their own relations in it, and as a result of that the farmers are not getting the MSP, and are being harassed for getting the MSP.

My specific question to the hon. Minister, through you, Sir, is (a) whether the Minister has received any such complaints from Orissa; (b) if so, what steps the Minister is taking to ensure that farmers get Minimum Support Price for their products?

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: During the year 2004, the Government has received a total of 20 complaints and these complaints were essentially from Rajasthan, U.P., a few districts of Bihar, Punjab and West Bengal. There was not a single complaint from Orissa. All these complaints were sent to the respective State Governments and local FCI offices. Ultimately, we got information that these complaints were from particular areas and the foodgrains quality was somewhat nearer to non-FAQ (Fair Average Quality) variety.

SHRI ARJUN SETHI: Sir getting the Minimum Support Price is a problem all over the country, especially in the rural areas. I would like to know from the hon. Minister how many depots have been opened by the FCI in the State of Orissa. Is it also a fact that a demand has come from the State Government of Orissa to open more MSP centres by the FCI so that Minimum Support Price is guaranteed to the farmers in the rural areas of the State of Orissa?

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Sir, one of the States where we are going to concentrate on procurement of paddy crop is Orissa. There is a tremendous potential there. Secondly, unless and until FCI takes the initiative to open more centres, we will not able to do justice to the farmers,

the paddy growers of that area. That is why, a number of procurement centres have already been opened. I myself am going to Orissa on the 26th just to see as to what exactly the ground situation is. I will also be holding a meeting with the State Civil Supplies Minister and the Hon. Chief Minister of Orissa to assess the situation and resolve it there only.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to ask the hon. Minister as to what action has been taken by him regarding the 20 complaints received from various States like Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar so as to check the recurrence of such things and to ensure that the farmers get their full remuneration. The information I have received is that the lobby active behind this is very powerful and has high connections in the Government. They have interaction with the officers and also have a very good connection in the Government. I would like to know action taken by you in regard to the complaints.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: You have asked two questions. The more important question is that which of these lobbies has high connections in the Government. I would like to make it clear that no lobby has any proximity to the Government. The Government will never tolerate such forces. Whenever you get a complaint in this regard, you just let me know. We will take strong action. As regards the 20 complaints, these complaints have made it clear that the material supplied was not as per the norms for quality.

SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to convey to the hon. Minister that Punjab has one-and-a-half percent cultivable land which produces more than 60 per cent foodgrains for the centre. But the storage capacity for the foodgrains is quite inadequate as a result of which the foodgrains remain uncovered and get spoiled. This gives a bad name to Punjab. Please state whether the Government propose to build godowns so that the foodgrains procured could not get spoiled.

MR. SPEAKER: This is a different thing.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: The Government do have such plans. Particularly, in view of the situation in Punjab, the proposal for constructing silos with latest technologies has come to the Government for final decision.

[English]

SHRI A.K.S. VIJAYAN: Sir, from the reply given by the Minister, I understand that the Government of India has directed the State Governments to set up control rooms for procurement assistance. However, the State Government of Tamil Nadu is closing the existing procurement centres, thereby causing difficulties to farmers, contrary to the declaration of procurement of ten lakh tonnes of foodgrains by the Jayalalitha Government. May I know from the Minister whether the Government of India is going to intervene in this matter and take remedial measures?

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: I do not think there is any problem from there. If the local Government would like to procure, the price has been fixed and monetary arrangement has been made. If any problem is there we are ready to resolve it.

[Translation]

SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in Uttar Pradesh farmers have to stand in queues for hours to unload their foodgrains. Pseudo queues are formed to charge convenience fees from them. Are the Government contemplating to put an end to this?

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: We have not yet received any such complaint. If the hon. Member likes to throw more light on how to deal with the long queues and making arrangements for unloading the foodgrains, please go ahead, we will pay attention to that.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Q.No. 264. Shri Sukdeo Paswan—not present.

Shri Mahboob Zahedi.

Introduction of New Crop Insurance Scheme

*264. SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI:
SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to introduce new crop insurance scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith its main features; and

(c) by when a final decision is likely to be taken 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 KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) A Joint Group consisting members from the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Finance and Agriculture Insurance Company of India Ltd. has been constituted to study the improvements required in the existing Crop Insurance Schemes. The terms of reference of the Group are:

(i) To review the status position of existing Crop Insurance Schemes i.e. National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS), Pilot Project on Farm Income Insurance Scheme (FIIS), Varsha Bima Yojana and other agriculture related schemes floated by Private General Insurance Companies.

(ii) Improvements required in NAIS.

(iii) To develop broad parameters/concept paper of an appropriate and farmers' friendly crop insurance scheme after taking into account the professional inputs obtained from experts and private sector general insurance companies.

(iv) The make an assessment of up-front subsidy, if any, to be paid by the Government.

(c) The Group is yet to submit its report.

[Translation]

SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI: The question of crop insurance is very important. Farmers in our country are commiting suicide in a large number. This also, is one of the reasons as to why the incidents of suicide are on the rise. We have seen the first part of the reply by the Minister which mentions that he is constituting committees like NAIS, FIIS. But what the committees will do has not been indicated. The second part of the reply by the Minister has hurt us the most. As regards the crop cutting system, which is used to make calculations, we have continuously been saying that the zone or the area should not be large, rather it should be in the shape of small villages or area. Whenever crops get ruined, it happens in these small areas only and the farmers of these areas get no financial assistance etc. from the insurance companies. You can also include Gram Panchayats and Municipal areas into it.

MR. SPEAKER: You please ask the question.

SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI: The payment system in crop insurance is also not fool-proof. It is not decided as to when the farmer should get it. I would like to ask the Minister as to what he thinks about lowering the premium in the interest of the poor farmers.

[English]

SHRI ANIL BASU: Sir, the Minister has written a letter to each and every Member inviting suggestions.

MR. SPEAKER: No, not now please. Thank you for your information.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): There are a lot of complaints regarding the present scheme.

[Translation]

The complaints we used to receive also include the complaints about premium. The second thing is about the area of operation which should be limited to village. In the case of a whole block or a big area the farmers could not get relief and they did not get back their money in time. There was a need to attend to these complaints. That is why, the Prime Minister had given a statement to this effect. Keeping it in view, we have constituted a Committee under the Chairmanship of the Joint Secretary, Department of Credit and Cooperation to conduct an inquiry. I will receive the report of the Committee in a day or two. This Committee will also give new suggestions about the problem as this issue has been raised here. We will take steps after receiving the report.

SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to ask the hon. Minister through you as to whether he had paid attention to the suggestions we gave in this regard during the discussions of the Standing Committee on Agriculture on how to solve the problems of the farmers.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, before finalizing it, I have myself written to the Chief Minister and the Agriculture Minister of all the States to send their suggestion. Members of Parliament have also been

asked for their suggestions. What the Standing Committee has recommended is also before us. The final decision will be taken keeping in view the suggestions received from all these three.

SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, 70 per cent population of the country lives in rural areas. The farmer cannot attain prosperity if he is exposed to face the fury of drought, flood and other calamities. Therefore, this scheme is very important. The hon. Minister has replied that the report of the Committee constituted in this regard is likely to be received in a day or two. This scheme is very important, therefore, it should come at the earliest. Cooperative sector is facing a problem. The insurance premia paid to the rural cooperative societies goes to cooperative banks which in turn deposit with themselves by way of cooperative bank loans resulting in no relief to the farmers. I would like to ask as to what scheme is in vogue to give direct relief to the farmers by the cooperative sector.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: It is difficult to say anything about it today because the report is likely to be received in a day or two. We will see their suggestions after receiving the report. But it is true that 40 percent credit in the country comes from the cooperative sector. Therefore, the interests of the beneficiary farmers of the cooperative sector cannot be ignored. We will see to it.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I have got requests from 25 hon. Members. Since the Report is coming soon, as per the hon. Minister, shall we wait for the Report so that you can fruitfully ask questions? I think that is better.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: No, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: Very well, it seems that my suggestion is not acceptable.

Shri Lal Singh.

[Translation]

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I had readily agreed to your suggestion. Through you, I would like to ask the hon'ble Minister whether the Government propose to introduce any Group Insurance Scheme for these drought prone areas? Whether any special preference would be given to these areas in the scheme which is being introduced?

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: The proposed scheme of group insurance is being introduced keeping in mind the entire country and this scheme would provide risk cover to the farmers affected by drought and flood.

[English]

SHRIMATI ARCHANA NAYAK: Sir, whether the Government proposes to take Panchayat as a unit, instead of block, under the new crop insurance policy?

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: I have already replied to that question.

MR. SPEAKER: I compliment you.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Sir, this is the most important question. Lakhs of farmers are there but the present schemes are extending support only to a few hundreds of farmers. The block is the unit at present. That is why many of the farmers are not getting advantage under the present existing National Insurance Scheme or other privately launched Insurance Schemes.

Since inception, we have been doing everything in so many areas. The successive Governments have not given the thrust in this area. State Governments have made repeated requests to the Government of India saying that panchayat revenue village should be taken as a unit. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: It is the same point and the Minister has already replied.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether it is a fact that the Andhra Pradesh Government has sent a proposal in this regard. They are ready to pay premium to a certain extent by which village should be taken as a unit. Otherwise, the scheme will not be extended to the farmers. So many farmers are commiting suicide. This scheme should be extended to the village level. If so, what steps has the Government taken?

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: I do entirely agree with the hon. Member that unless and until we accept village as a unit, we will not be able to do justice to the farming community. That is why, whenever a final decision is taken, we will see to it that the village will be accepted as a unit.

MR. SPEAKER: Shrimati Neeta Pateriya—not present.

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY: I am thankful to you for having given me an opportunity to ask a supplementary question.

[Translation]

In our Assam, especially in Bodoland area, there are a large number of betel-nut plantations but a substantial number of betel-nut plantations got destroyed about 15-20 years ago due to some disease. As a result thereof the entire family economy was destroyed in our rural areas especially in Bodo tribal area. Introducing a special insurance policy for betel-nut is the responsibility of the Government. Whether the Government have made any special provision for this and whether it is proposed to formulate a special policy for this?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You have already put a question. You may reply only to the first part of the question.

[Translation]

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY: Bodoland area is among the severest hit flood affected area. At present, about 200-300 villages in my constituency are still lying submerged. What the hon. Minister intends to do to help the farmers of those villages.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, horticulture items are covered under the present insurance scheme and since these have also been included in the scheme, so it is applicable in case of horticulture crop also. He has asked whether the crop of betel-nut has been insured or not, I am not able to tell anything in this regard. If this has been insured, the farmers would definitely have the right.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: All are suggestions for action, which do not come under this. But I have to accept your decision.

[Translation]

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to tell hon'ble Minister that money is given to the farmers under the crop insurance scheme but the State Government does not pay its share. Due to this, money is not given to the farmers in time. Whether the hon'ble Minister will make any such provision under the new scheme so that the State Government pays its share in time and farmers get the money in time as a result thereof.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The answer will be the same.

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this problem is there. Several such complaints have been received from many States that the State Governments do not pay their instalments in time, as a result of which the farmers do not get the benefits. What will be the new scheme, I am unable to say anything in this regard today but we will keep this problem in mind.

SHRIMATI KARUNA SHUKLA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from hon'ble Minister whether revenue village will be made a unit keeping in view the provision of compensation to be given under the crop insurance scheme?

MR. SPEAKER: This question has already been asked.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have already replied that the farmers will not get the justice unless and until revenue village and panchayat is taken as a unit. Therefore, we have to do this task.

[English]

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE: Sir, income loss to farmers who cultivate speciality crops like tea, coffee, cardamom, pepper, etc., is very high. It is because once these crops are lost due to natural calamities or due to pest diseases, the gestation period is very high. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government will cover these crops also under the National Crop Insurance Scheme and the Farm Insurance Income Scheme. Also, would there be a modification?

MR. SPEAKER: No 'also'.

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE: These two things—actual loss and also disease and pest incidence—have to be considered under the Insurance Scheme.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: We are definitely expecting some suggestions on these crops also.

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA: Sir, please allow me also to ask a Supplementary. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have already given chance to four Members from your party.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister that whether preference will be given to the areas affected by flood, drought, natural calamity in the new crop insurance scheme taking into account to the per hectare yield because the farmers are not getting the remunerative price for their yields as compared to the cost. ...*(Interruptions)* Mr. Speaker, Sir, since this question is related to flood, drought, natural calamity, will hon'ble Minister will give priority in this regard?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Let us not repeat the question. Mr. Shailendra Kumar, you are repeating the question?

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have to accept the suggestion given by the hon'ble Member. If we do not accept that, the crop insurance scheme will not be implemented.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Q. No. 265—Shri Suravaram Sudhakar Reddy.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Why are you standing?

[English]

Nothing will go on record except what Mr. Sudhakar Reddy says.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I would request Prof. Malhotra to take the Chair during Question Hour!

Norms for Soft Drinks

*265. +SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY:
SHRI KHIREN RIJIJU:

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

(a) whether the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has released a draft recommendation on soft drinks safety norms;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken for the enforcement of these recommendations including those on the quality of water used in manufacture of soft drinks;

(c) whether the Consumer Coordination Council and Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) have requested the Government for giving legal force to the recommendations for its strict adherence; and

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

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) had notified an Indian Standard for carbonated beverages No. IS: 2346 in 1963 which has been revised twice in 1973 and 1992. This was re-affirmed in 1997. The concerned BIS Technical Committee has initiated the review of this standard in July, 2003 and a draft revision entitled "Ready to serve Non-alcoholic Beverages" has been put into wide circulation from 15th July to 30th August, 2004 inviting comments from the public as proposed by the Technical Committee. The draft covers both quality and safety parameters. An expert group has been assigned the task of evaluating the comments which have been received by the Technical Committee. As this is a voluntary standard, the question of its enforcement does not arise.

(c) and (d) Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) has requested for expeditious finalization of the standard and its mandatory certification. The representation received from CSE has been passed on to BIS for consideration of the Technical Committee engaged in the review of the said Standard. As per the normal policy of BIS, all

stakeholders, including consumer groups like Consumer Coordination Council (CCC) and Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) are represented in the said Technical Committee.

SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY: Sir, the statement in the reply is very vague. Firstly, instead of the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, the hon. Minister of Agriculture has replied to it.

He himself was the Chairman of the Joint Parliamentary Committee on Pesticides, and he has given the Report regarding the norms of the soft drinks. But here, I feel that the home work has not been done properly by the Government side. The reply is very evasive.

Millions of children and youth are taking these soft drinks. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: No cross-talk, no whispering, please.

SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY: Sir millions of children and youth are taking these soft drinks regularly. In Andhra Pradesh and in Madhya Pradesh, these soft drinks are being used by peasants as pesticide as it is containing more than the prescribed norms of pesticides.

MR. SPEAKER: What is your question?

SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY: Sir, one boy has already died because of these soft drinks, particularly Coca Cola.

So, my question is, what are the decisions of the Government to strictly implement the norms of the pesticides? What about the implementation of the decision of the Supreme Court wherein it asked to give on the label, the percentage of content of pesticides?

MR. SPEAKER: How it is being implemented, that is why you have asked.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Sir, the reply has given all the detailed information. This is regarding soft drinks safety norms. The decisions which the Government was supposed to take, have already been taken. There are certain limitations. But the decisions are already taken, and the details have been given in this reply.

Secondly, he has asked, instead of the Minister of Consumer Affairs, why the Minister of Agriculture has replied to it. Sir, I am also the Minister of Consumer Affairs.

MR. SPEAKER: He wants you to have lesser troubles.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY: Sir, in the reply, they have said that they have put up a Technical Committee. In the reply, they have also said that, 'as it is a voluntary standard, the question of its enforcement, does not arise.' What is the meaning of it? Is it because the MNCs are involved in it? If the Government does not take immediate steps in this regard, how would the health of the people be safe?

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: In the Technical Committee, there are Members who are all experts, who are associated with it. They themselves are going to take a final view, and that will be obligatory.

Sir, the hon. Member raised a point regarding Coca Cola and Pepsi. That issue is different. About the fertiliser and pesticide residues which were found, detailed investigation has been done. The Committee was under my chairmanship only, and the Report has been submitted to the Parliament. These issues are handled by the Health Ministry separately.

SHRI KHIREN RIJIJU: Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister the details of the Report on the problems in soft drinks, given by the Joint Parliamentary Committee. How much is it being followed by the private soft drink manufacturers? What are the various orders of the hon. Court in this regard?

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Sir, a detailed report has been given. The particular subject has been handled by the Health Ministry. The Ministry has taken some decisions and some guidelines have already been issued. There is a Court decision, especially by the High Court of Rajasthan, and we are trying to execute this decision.

SHRI SAMIK LAHIRI: In the reply, the Minister has stated that the recommendations of Bureau of Indian Standards, are voluntary in nature. My question is, whether the Government is considering to bring any legislation so that the law can be enforced strictly and the MNCs cannot make any health hazard to the Indian population.

MR. SPEAKER: Is there any statutory provision in this regard?

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: In fact, a number of issues like this have been pending. Certain issues are being handled by 'a' Ministry while others by 'b', 'c' and other Ministries. A Group of Ministers has been appointed, again under my Chairmanship, to bring a unified common law in order to bring all these subjects together.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a very serious issue and perhaps the hon'ble Minister would be aware of this fact that the farmers of Andhra Pradesh used to spray pesticides on their crops, but now-a-days instead of pesticides, they are using coca-cola. The farmers are of the view that the coca-cola, which is being sprayed on the crop, is more effective than pesticides. Through you, I would like to tell the hon'ble Minister that whether he would initiate effective action in this regard after having a discussion with the Minister of Health?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: He has already said that a Group of Ministers is looking into this.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: He is also one of the Members and he will definitely raise this issue. I have not got any authentic information that Coca Cola has been used as a pesticide.

MR. SPEAKER: It is a very costly pesticide!

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: Sir, it has been reported in different quarters that the soft drink manufacturing companies like Coca Cola and Pepsi Cola are making soft drinks which are injurious to the health of the public, particularly children. In view of that position, may I know from the hon. Minister whether the Government of India has set up an investigation committee to investigate this matter, and if it is found true after investigation, whether the Government of India is prepared to take legal action against those soft drink manufacturing companies...?

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Steps have been taken. Taking cognizance of the problem, a Joint Parliamentary Committee was appointed. It had gone in detail into all these aspects and had submitted a Report. Proper action is in process.

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Sir, the Supreme Court has ordered labelling of each bottle with a pesticide notification. Has it begun; if not, when will it begin? Secondly, is there heavy metal content in both Coke and Pepsi or other soft drinks; what is the heavy metal content and what is being done about it?

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: There is a decision of the Rajasthan High Court on labelling. I will check whether there is any Supreme Court decision in this regard. As per my information, the decision has been given by the Rajasthan High Court. Taking cognizance of this decision, we are in the process of taking action.

MR. SPEAKER: Have you got any information about the heavy metal?

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: I will be happy to give you all these details if a separate notice is given to me on this.

[Translation]

MOHD. SALIM: Mr. Speaker, Sir, a large number of people in our country know the technique of making 'sharbat' due to the hot climate of the country. In every district, people prepare it using their own method. The soft drink manufacturers have been given exemption in this regard. I am mentioning it knowingly because this issue is being discussed for the last 20-30 years. In 1992, I had asked the Government a question in this regard and since then it has been coming to our notice that the Government constituted a technical committee, later on a Committee of Group of Ministers was constituted and now it has constituted a Review Committee to review the standards. The hon'ble Minister is replying and I can understand his difficulty.

Sir, this matter is not related to only one Ministry. Other Ministries are involved in it. First of all, Ministry of Health is related to it, then Ministry of Agriculture is related to it and Ministry of Food Processing is also associated with it. That is why I say that the Government have constituted a Group of Ministers but this subject is related to the concern of the entire country because we are consuming pesticides and allowing our children to consume it. We have Prevention of Food Adulteration Act and if any adulteration in the food or drinking items is found, provision is there in the Act to check the same. It was never imagined that water would be sold in this country but now-a-days we seek that water is being sold by packing it into the bottles. This also includes soft drinks. These items are adulterated and carry hazardous substances. By when the hon'ble Minister propose to bring a law to check the adulteration and hazardous materials present in the packaged water and soft drinks?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Do you mean to say soft drinks?

MD. SALIM: Sir, I mean to say all drinks, particularly soft drinks.

MR. SPEAKER: Let there be some humour here.

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to mention that this problem is more associated with the source of ground water. In many places, crops are exposed to excessive use of pesticides and fertilizers. Those pesticides and fertilizers seep into the ground water. This problem has arisen from the place from where water is taken for soft drinks or for selling packaged water. We have decided to take stern steps by giving special attention in this regard. We have also prepared the guidelines and also initiated steps fro taking such other decisions.

Sir, so far as the issue of Prevention of Food Adulteration Act is concerned, I have mentioned that action by Group of Ministers is in the process of preparing an Act in this regard.

[English]

SHRIMATI TEJASWANI SEERAMESH: Recently, we read in many journals that Pepsi and Coca Cola are causing a lot of damage to bone marrow and bones, particularly of children. The farmers, particularly who are growing grapes, coconut and mango are in deep trouble. Is there any idea with the Ministry of Agriculture to produce coconut water, grapes juice and also mango juice to supplement Coca Cola and Pepsi? If it is done, it will be of great help to farmers because rates of grapes are reduced to Rs. 3 per kilogram instead of Rs. 12 or Rs. 14. At the same time, we the consumers, are not getting grapes at Rs. 14 per kilogram. Is there any idea with the Ministry to take care of coconut water, mango juice and grape juice?

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: I would like to brief the House that when I was heading the JPC, we had studied the coconut water. We had collected information from different States. We had also collected coconut and removed water and we had tasted it too. Unfortunately, we found some fertiliser and pesticide residue in coconut also. So ultimately, it was reflected there also. Therefore, it is not that simple issue but we are taking enough precautions. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Bwiswmuthiary, thank you for your kind cooperation.

Decline in Kharif Production

*266. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:
DR. M. JAGANNATH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the area under Kharif crop has recorded a decline due to poor monsoon;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the shortfall in Kharif production, crop-wise;

(c) whether the Government has fixed a production target of 135 million tonnes of foodgrains for the Rabi crop;

(d) if so, the extent of increase as compared to the previous year;

(e) whether the Government proposes to provide incentives to farmers in order to meet the Rabi target;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the other steps being taken to increase production to meet the target?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (g) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) According to the first advance estimates for 2004-05, the total area under Kharif crops, namely, foodgrains, oilseeds, sugarcane, cotton, jute and mesta was 97 million hectares compared to 102 million hectares during Kharif season of 2003-04. The decline in area under kharif crops this year has been caused by the deficiency in rainfall, particularly in the month of July, from the South-West monsoon. As a result, production of Kharif foodgrains and other commercial crops, except cotton, has also declined in 2004-05. Crop-wise figures are given in the enclosed Annexure.

(c) and (d) The Government has set a target of 225.10 million tonnes of foodgrains for the year 2004-05,

which consists of 113.80 million tonnes of kharif foodgrains and 111.30 million tonnes of rabi foodgrains. The kharif and rabi targets of foodgrains production for 2004-05 are higher by 1.90% and 2.75% respectively over the corresponding targets of the previous year.

(e) and (f) An Incentive Scheme to give reward to States showing best performance in Rabi production in this season has been prepared by the Government. Under this scheme, the States are divided into 5 groups, and the best performing State in each of the five groups would be rewarded with an amount of Rs. 1 crore to encourage various offices and functionaries in achieving better Rabi production.

(g) The other steps aimed at boosting production are the following:

- Organizing Rabi Campaign, 2004-05
- A toll free calling facility on telephone no. 1551 has been created all over the country
- Scheme for Mass Media Support for Agriculture Extension
- Organization of Exhibitions and Krishi Melas
- Special Schemes to motivate the women farmers in adopting latest technology and forming Self-Help groups to avail micro-credit facility etc. This is expected to further boost Rabi production in the country.

Annexure

Area In Million Hectares
Production: In Million Tonnes

	Crops	Area		Production	
		2003-04	2004-05	2003-04$	2004-05$$
	1	2	3	4	5
1.	Rice	37.89	34.61	73.92	71.10
2.	Jowar	4.46	3.90	5.01	3.58
3.	Bajra	10.39	8.71	11.79	5.76
4.	Maize	6.61	6.78	12.44	12.07
5.	Ragi	1.65	1.60	2.01	2.52
6.	Small Millets	1.14	0.91	0.55	0.57
7.	Coarse Cereals (2+3+4+5+6)	24.26	21.90	31.80	24.50
8.	Tur	3.53	3.17	2.43	2.32
9.	Other Kharif Pulses	8.29	6.66	3.90	2.37
10.	Total Kharif Foodgrains (1+7+8+9)	73.96	66.33	112.05	100.29
11.	Groundnut	5.22	5.79	7.12	6.30
12.	Castorseed	0.73	0.75	0.80	0.66
13.	Sesamum	1.86	1.67	0.82	0.50
14.	Nigerseed	0.44	0.36	0.11	0.09

	1	2	3	4	5
15.	Sunflower	0.60	0.68	0.31	0.35
16.	Soyabean	6.50	7.82	7.85	7.56
17.	Kharif Oilseeds (11+12+13+14+15+16)	15.35	17.07	17.01	15.45
	Cotton*	7.64	8.61	13.79	13.85
	Sugarcane	4.00	3.91	236.18	235.45
	Jute & Mesta**	1.05	0.97	11.20	10.76

*Million Bales of 170 kgs. each.

**8 Million Bales of 180 kgs. each.

$-Fourth Advance Estimates for 2003-04.

$$-First Advance Estimates for 2004-05.

[English]

SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: As per the reply of the hon. Minister, the total shortfall area of kharif is nearly 11 lakh hectares. In the light of this shortfall in the production of kharif, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government is able to provide foodgrains to meet the demands of State Governments under drought, to meet the requirement of Mid-Day Meal Scheme, and to provide foodgrains for the Schemes in operation, namely, Food for Work, in various States, especially in Karnataka.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: We were expecting about 111.5 million tonnes of rice and paddy in kharif season. Actually, because of erratic monsoon in certain States, the total crop which we got in kharif is somewhat near 100 million tonnes. So, there is a shortfall of nine million tonnes. That is why, we have taken special programme to compensate the shortfall in rabi. A lot of actions have been taken for rabi. Till today, our first information report shows that we will be able to make up this shortfall.

SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Sir, it has been mentioned in the two-day Conference on *rabi* Crop that the area sown under *kharif* crop was 59 lakh hectares lesser as compared to last year. The *kharif* crop production is likely to suffer and there is need to increase production of *rabi* crop. The Government has assured to cover 252 districts of the country under the National Agriculture Technology Programme which would require an investment of approximately Rs. 11,000 crore.

Sir, through you, I would like to know from the hon. Minister, whether the Government has already identified these 252 districts to be covered under the National Agriculture Technology Programme and has already allocated a sum of Rs. 11,000 crore for this purpose or not. Also, I would like to know whether the Government has achieved the target set by it.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Sir, here the question is restricted to only *rabi* crop and *kharif* crop. Enough precaution has been taken to fulfil whatever gap is there. According to reports available as on date, there would not be any shortage in this country. The total foodgrain production, inclusive of the *rabi, kharif* and summer crops, would be somewhat near to the production of last year. There is no question of any shortage.

Sir, for the other question that the hon. Member has raised, I would require a separate notice.

DR. M. JAGANNATH: Sir, as per the statement of the hon. Minister, "the decline in area under *kharif* crops this year has been caused by the deficiency in rainfall, particularly in the month of July, from the South-West monsoon".

Sir, in the State of Andhra Pradesh, as per reports of a survey conducted by a private TV channel, through

the process of micro-irrigation, involving drip irrigation, even with deficient rainfall there has been a good yield of crops like paddy and cotton.

Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government of India has any proposal to promote drip irrigation throughout the country in a big way or not. I would also like to know whether the Government has any proposal to give incentives to those farmers who are adopting micro-irrigation. Under the present incentive scheme, only a sum of Rs. one crore has been offered to the State Governments. I would like to know the kind of incentives the Government proposes to give to the farmers who would adopt micro-irrigation.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Sir, there was a Committee under the Chairmanship of the former Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh. The Report of that Committee has already been submitted and it is known as the Naidu Committee Report. The Committee has given a lot of recommendations. The Government has taken certain decisions. We are thinking of introducing a new Micro Irrigation Policy, probably from February, 2005. The proposal has been cleared by the Planning Commission and I think, the Central Government would be able to provide 50 per cent of subsidy in this. We are expecting 25 per cent subsidy to be provided by the State Governments and a burden of the rest 25 per cent would have to be borne by the farmers.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Honourable Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to submit to the hon'ble Minister that in reply it has been mentioned that the Government have approved incentive scheme to reward the States showing best performance in crop production. Is this incentive scheme meant only for the States because he has mentioned in his reply that the States are divided into five groups? I would like to know about the criteria followed while dividing these States into five groups. Whether the Government are taking any steps to familiarise the crop producing farmers with the incentive schemes in this regard. These schemes are formulated sitting in Air-conditioned rooms and targets are fixed but the actual position is different. Whether the attention of the Government has been drawn towards the constant fall in Rabi crops due to lack of adequate supply of electricity and water for irrigation in many States. I would like to know as to how the target can be achieved in such a situation?

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a fact that there is a shortage of electricity in hon'ble Member's constituency. However, the State Government should take decision in this regard. We had launched some schemes to galvanise particularly the machinery of the agriculture department of State Government. We divided it into five zones and for all these five zones we have announced a prize of rupees one crore and a silver trophy for the zone where agriculture Ministry would perform well. Prior to this, we held meeting on national level, division level and State level.

They were briefed about all this. This was publicized through All India Radio, Doordarshan and Krishi Vigyan Kendra and I am sure that the State Governments are extending their cooperation properly.

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this question is related to Kharif production. However, if we go into the details we will be able to know that today the farmers are facing the problem of electricity and water crisis. This crisis is likely to become more serious in future. There is extreme shortage of water and electricity in a State like Madhya Pradesh. The Party which came to power on the issue of electricity, water and roads, has failed to solve the same. I would like to ask the hon'ble Minister through you as to what measures are likely to be taken alongwith the Ministry of Water Resources to ensure proper supply of water and electricity to the poor farmers in view of this fact that in a number of countries like Israel and America, optimum supply of water is ensured despite the shortage of water. in part 'b', it is mentioned that the former Government had allocated only 1.4 per cent amount for infrastructure in agriculture sector. Our Government is committed to the welfare of the farmers. In this regard, I would like to know about the policy of the Government for upgrading the infrastructure.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: It is a fact that only 40 percent of the cultivable area in the country has irrigation facilities. That is why we would like to pay more attention to 60 percent of land which is not irrigated. This Government has paid much attention giving priority to dry land farming. The other thing is that more attention has been paid towards micro irrigation also. Prior to it, as I said that we want to introduce a new scheme for micro irrigation in next February. Under this scheme the farmers will be given more relief. Likewise, in respect of dry land farming and watershed, more funds will be provided to the State Governments especially in respect of these two programmes, more attention will be paid.

Another thing is that we have to take up those measures which had not been implemented so far. This is true that a number of steps were taken. Here, I would like to cite only one example. As far as the agriculture credit is concerned, there is a rise of 55 percent in it this year with the coming of this Government to power. Such a rise in agriculture credit has never been noticed earlier. The policy of this Government is to give more relief to the farming sector as well as the farmers and the Government will continue to do so.

[English]

SHRI ALKESH DAS: Sir, in reply to the Question, the hon. Minister has stated some steps aimed for boosting up of production. One of them is organisation of exhibitions and *krishi melas*.

I just want to know from the hon. Minister the kind of help that can be initiated in this respect from the end of the Government.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: We give a little bit of financial support to organise these types of *melas*, but these *melas* are supposed to be organised essentially by agricultural rural universities. The last major *mela* was organised in Pant Nagar. We have written to the State Governments that they should organise these types of *melas* practically in every area of operation of agricultural universities.

[Translation]

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is a sharp decline in Kharif crop. At the same time, the production has also decreased. In such a situation, there is drought in many States. I would like to ask specifically about Maharashtra which is represented by the hon'ble Minister. There was loss of Kharif crop in Maharashtra. I would like to know whether this Government propose to provide any assistance to the Government of Maharashtra. I would also like to know how much demand has been made by the Maharashtra Government, what type of assistance was provided by him and what proposal is going to be finalised by him in this regard.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: I do not have any intimation so far with regard to the loss but I am frequently getting information from the Government of Maharashtra that there has been substantial production of cotton and some other crops. More centres are required to be set up for their procurement and better arrangements should be made for this purpose. There is so much decline in production of crops. It depends on rainfall. So the situation of drought is prevalent in the entire State except some blocks. This has not been brought to my notice so far.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. K.S. Rao. Please ask a very pointed and brief question.

SHRI K.S. RAO: Sir, Andhra Pradesh is one of the foremost States contributing to the targets fixed by the hon. Minister of Agriculture. But because of the failure of crops in the last four years, we are in a great danger. The Government of India had come to our rescue by re-scheduling the loans and then arranging fresh finance through the nationalised banks as well as the NABARD.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: This question is related to paddy and you are asking about Rabi crops.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI K.S. RAO: Now, I wish to know from the hon. Minister whether for the *rabi* crop also, he would arrange the loans through NABARD to nine district cooperative central banks whose net worth has gone down than the stipulation laid down by the NABARD.

MR. SPEAKER: I do not think that the Minister can answer that.

SHRI K.S. RAO: This is in the interest of the nation.

MR. SPEAKER: It cannot be anything under the sun. It cannot come as a supplementary. The hon. Minister is all-knowing. He can give you the answer. The hon. Minister is all-knowing. He can give you the answer.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Regarding the supply of credit, I will not be able to tell about a particular State. But I can tell you about the *rabi*. Last year, in this season the total money which was provided as agricultural credit to the country was Rs. 36,792 crore. Then, this year, up to October, 2004, the total money which was provided was Rs. 62,000 crore. It is practically double the credit which had been provided last year. That will definitely resolve the problem of *rabi* crop.

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon'ble Minister has just replied that with a view to enhance production of cotton in Maharashtra, the State Government has sought assistance from the Government of India. I would like to know about all this from the hon'ble Minister. For the last two years, some parts of Marathwada in Maharashtra, some parts of Western Maharashtra and some parts of Vidarbha have been frequently struck by drought. The farmers have suffered huge losses due to this drought. Consequently a number of farmers particularly in Vidarbha committed suicide. In order to check this trend, the Government of Maharashtra have sought assistance of around Rs. 1700 crore from the Government of India. The Government of India have certainly provided some assistance in this regard. I would like to know whether the hon'ble Minister of Agriculture has any information about it.

Another thing is that Maharashtra Government has started load shedding for six hours in entire Maharashtra. Is the hon'ble Minister aware about it?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, give answer only to the first part.

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, so far as the question of providing assistance to drought-hit areas in concerned, the State Government has been provided assistance to the tune of Rs. 500 crore as both grain and cash support by this Government.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Another Maharashtrian is very angry with me.

Shri Balasaheb Vikhe Patil.

[Translation]

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to convey to the hon'ble Minister that he has formed five zones for enhancing the production which he will try to achieve through agro climatic condition. At the same time, if the research is done through agro climatic condition, then there will be an increase in production. I would like to ask him as to what progress is being made regarding the drought resistance variety seed?

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as far as the question of total resistance seed is concerned, we are required to enhance the drought resistance quality in seed as our country has 60 percent rainfed area. We have passed this information to all the scientists and we have asked them to pay more attention to this aspect.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Mahtab. Half a minute for question and half a minute for answer.

SHRI B. MAHTAB: Sir, I would like to know whether the Government is aware that the crop area cultivation is declining in the past so many years. This has happened not only last year and this year, this is happening for the past many years because the farmers are not able to get even the minimum cost of production. What steps is the Government taking to provide incentives to the farmers not to leave the land fallow?

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Generally, whenever there is a national calamity, then it gets reflected in the field. It is not the habit of the farming community to keep the land fallow. We have to support and we have to solve their problems. I think the time when they were given four or five varieties is over.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in our country there is more than 60 per cent non-irrigated land. I would like to know from the Government as to when we will be able to achieve the target as our Government has come to power. In how many years, will we be able to achive the target?

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: There is no proposal before the Government with regard to irrigating the whole land of the country. However, we had to pay attention towards proper use of water and propagating the technique of dry land farming.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Question Hour is over. I am grateful to you for your kind cooperation.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Law to Check the Sale of Spurious Seeds

*267. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the existing laws to deal with the companies manufacturing and selling spurious and poor quality seeds;

(b) whether these laws are adequate to check the sale of spurious seeds;

(c) if so, the details of such manufacturing companies brought to book in the country during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise;

(d) the steps taken by the Government to make the law more effective;

(e) whether the Government proposes to introduce a new legislation to check the sale of spurious seeds; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the said legislation is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) The Seeds Act, 1966 and Seeds Rules 1968 regulate the quality of seeds of notified kinds and varieties. The Seeds (Control) Order, 1983 regulates the production, supply and distribution of all types of seeds.

(b) to (e) Powers for implementation of the above Laws are vested with State Governments. These Laws give State Governments powers to deal with spurious and low quality seed manufacturing companies. However, Government has introduced *inter-alia* new Seeds Bill, 2004 in Rajya Sabha to replace the existing Seeds Act so as to strengthen the seed regulation. Status of implementation of Seeds Law Enforcement and Seeds (Control) Order for the last three years and current year, State-wise in placed at Statement enclosed.

(f) The salient feature of the new Seeds Bill, 2004 are:

- Compulsory registration of varieties based on performance data;
- Accreditation of ICAR centres, State Agricultural Universities and Private Organisations to conduct trials.
- Accreditation of Organisations for certification.
- Maintenance of National Register of varieties.
- To regulate the export and import of seeds.
- Exemption for farmers to save, use, exchange, share or sell their seeds without registration.
- Accreditation of private seed testing laboratories.
- Enhancement of penalty for major and minor infringement.
- Inclusion of provisions to regulate GM crops and ban on terminator seed.
- Provision for compensation to the farmers by seed producing companies.

The Seeds Bill in question has already been introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 9th Dec., 2004.

Statement

Progress Report of Seed Law Enforcement during 2001-02

Sl.No.	State	No. of notified Inspector	Total No. of samples drawn	No. of samples found sub-standard	No. of seed dealers sold sub-standard seed	No. of cases in which warning issued	No. of cases stop sale order issued	No. of cases filed in the Court of Law	No. of cases decided by Court of Law fine/ imprisonment awarded	No. of cases pending Court of Law	No. of cases where seed forfeited
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1160	10601	577	352	—	35	73	7	66	—
2.	Assam	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
3.	Andaman	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	1403	485	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5.	Bihar	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
6.	Chandigarh	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
7.	Chhattisgarh	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
8.	Delhi	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
9.	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10.	Daman & Diu	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
11.	Gujarat	74	3089	84	84	63	—	30	7	21	—
12.	Goa	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
13.	Haryana	81	4834	286	114	102	12	1	1	23	—
14.	Himachal Pradesh	8	150	2	2	2	—	—	—	—	—
15.	Jammu & Kashmir	6	725	26	80	1	43	6	16	8	—
16.	Jharkhand	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
17.	Karnataka	489	6624	118	66	86	45	32	—	—	—
18.	Kerala	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
19.	Lakshadweep	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20.	Madhya Pradesh	4980	4876	594	102	102	102	4	2	2	—
21.	Meghalaya	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
22.	Maharashtra	874	10946	265	110	169	481	257	45	486	—
23.	Manipur	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
24.	Mizoram	13	130	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25.	Nagaland	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
26.	Orissa	8	2075	541	—	—	_	—	—	—	—
27.	Punjab	1190	3752	481	461	446	—	—	—	—	—
28.	Pondicherry	14	371	25	10	25	—	—	—	—	—
29.	Rajasthan	352	3834	67	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
30.	Sikkim	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
31.	Tamil Nadu	59	20767	1608	1105	876	1098	138	90	48	—
32.	Tripura	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
33.	Uttar Pradesh	690	2905	133	133	64	69	4	4	—	—
34.	Uttaranchal	20	53	21	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35.	West Bengal	258	8086	1328	664	625	664	—	—	—	—
	Total	10276	85221	6641	3283	2561	2549	545	172	654	—

Progress Report of Seed Law Enforcement during 2002-03

Sl.No.	State	No. of notified Inspector	Total No. of samples drawn	No. of samples found sub-standard	No. of seed dealers sold sub-standard seed	No. of cases in which warning issued	No. of cases stop sale order issued	No. of cases filed in the Court of Law	No. of cases decided by Court of Law fine/ imprisonment awarded	No. of cases pending Court of Law	No. of cases where seed forfeited
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1,160	9,413	672	142	4	28	51	18	135	3
2.	Assam	474	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	—	—	—	—
3.	Andaman	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
4.	Arunachal Pradesh	Nil	1,533	501	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
5.	*Bihar	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
6.	Chandigarh	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
7.	*Chhattisgarh	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
8.	Delhi	10	298	7	8	1	8	7	—	—	—
9.	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
10.	Daman & Diu	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
11.	Gujarat	76	3,103	67	67	26	3	31	—	—	1
12.	Goa	10	91	18	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
13.	Haryana	81	2,900	102	82	87	8	2	—	5	—
14.	Himachal Pradesh	8	227	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
15.	Jammu & Kashmir	6	973	55	33	—	106	33	23	10	—
16.	Jharkhand	22	721	95	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
17.	Karnataka	1,232	6,777	96	46	75	56	21	—	—	—
18.	*Kerala	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
19.	Lakshadweep	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
20.	Madhya Pradesh	4,980	3,058	377	102	102	102	4	2	2	—
21.	*Meghalaya	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
22.	Maharashtra	874	11,323	384	184	309	369	753	45	496	—
23.	Manipur	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
24.	Mizoram	8	22	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25.	Nagaland	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
26.	*Orissa	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
27.	Punjab	1,190	4,125	313	313	313	—	—	—	—	—
28.	Pondicherry	14	153	9	4	4	—	—	—	—	—
29.	Rajasthan	352	4,254	62	62	19	23	27	1	26	—
30.	Sikkim	8	5,005	56	—	—	—	—	—	—	
31.	Tamil Nadu	59	20,775	1,085	875	706	985	84	76	8	2
32.	Tripura	54	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
33.	Uttar Pradesh	487	1,803	78	64	48	16	4	4	—	—
34.	Uttaranchal	20	56	13	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35.	*West Bengal	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Total	10,643	76,588	3,999	1,982	1,695	1,704	1,017	169	682	6

.. *You not furnished information.

Progress Report of Seed Law Enforcement during 2003-04

Sl.No.	State	No. of notified Inspector	Total No. of samples drawn	No. of samples found sub-standard	No. of seed dealers sold sub-standard seed	No. of cases in which warning issued	No. of cases stop sale order issued	No. of cases filed in the Court of Law	No. of cases decided by Court of Law fine/ imprisonment awarded	No. of cases pending Court of Law	No. of cases where seed forfeited
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1.	*Andhra Pradesh	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2.	Assam	474	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
3.	Andaman	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	1029	147	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
5.	*Bihar	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
6.	Chandigarh UT	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
7.	*Chhattisgarh	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
8.	*Delhi	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
9.	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10.	Daman & Diu	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
11.	Gujarat	—	3332	98	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
12.	Goa	10	1170	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
13.	Haryana	81	3281	65	65	59	4	2	—	5	—
14.	Himachal Pradesh	225	675	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15.	*Jammu & Kashmir	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
16.	*Jharkhand	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
17.	Karnataka	1232	6107	61	44	50	36	10	—	—	—
18.	*Kerala	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
19.	Lakshadweep	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20.	Madhya Pradesh	4980	3360	271	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
21.	*Meghalaya	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
22.	Maharashtra	884	10902	408	409	365	400	753	52	469	—
23.	*Manipur	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
24.	Mizoram	8	1000	245	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25.	*Nagaland	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
26.	*Orissa	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
27.	*Punjab	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
28.	*Pondicherry	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
29.	*Rajasthan	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
30.	Sikkim	—	1304	18	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
31.	*Tamil Nadu	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
32.	*Tripura	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
33.	*Uttar Pradesh	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
34.	Uttaranchal	—	56	13	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35.	*West Bengal	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Total	7894	29216	1326	518	474	440	765	52	469	—

Note: *Information yet to be received.

-Information is Nil.

For the current year i.e. 2004-05 information is yet to be received. (It will available in the month of June 2005).

Progress Report of Seeds (Control) Order, 1983 during 2001-02

Sl.No.	State	No. of Inspectors appointed	No. of Seed dealers to whom licence issued	No. of cases to whom licence refused	No. of samples drawn	No. of cases where documents seized	No. of cases prosecution launched under Essential Commodities Act	No. of cases where seed seized	Detail of appeals by seed dealers during the period	No. of cases filed in the Court of Law for appeal	No. of cases pending before appellate authority
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1160	9479	—	3080	—	—	35	—	3	—
2.	Assam	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
3.	Andaman & Nicobar	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5.	Bihar	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
6.	Chandigarh	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
7.	Chhattisgarh	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
8.	Delhi	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
9.	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10.	Daman & Diu	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
11.	Gujarat	78	1281	—	3089	—	—	—	—	30	—
12.	Goa	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
13.	Haryana	81	6025	3	2417	—	3	—	1	3	—
14.	Himachal Pradesh	225	378	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15.	Jammu & Kashmir	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
16.	Jharkhand	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
17.	Karnataka	489	4644	6	6624	14	—	4	—	—	—
18.	Kerala	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
19.	Lakshadweep	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20.	Madhya Pradesh	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
21.	Meghalaya	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
22.	Maharashtra	—	511	—	10946	—	—	4	2	—	—
23.	Manipur	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
24.	Mizoram	8	—	11	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25.	Nagaland	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
26.	Orissa	730	14	—	2075	—	—	—	—	—	—
27.	Punjab	150	3283	—	3752	—	—	—	16	16	—
28.	Pondicherry	14	42	—	371	—	—	—	—	—	—
29.	Rajasthan	352	156	—	3834	—	—	—	—	—	—
30.	Sikkim	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
31.	Tamil Nadu	55	5076	2	20767	11	1	—	—	—	—
32.	Tripura	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
33.	Uttar Pradesh	690	5314	—	2905	—	—	—	4	—	—
34.	Uttaranchal	20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35.	West Bengal	258	7437	—	1216	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Total	4310	43640	22	61076	25	4	43	23	52	—

Progress Report of Seeds (Control) Order, during 2002-03

Sl.No.	State	No. of Inspectors appointed	No. of seed dealers to whom licence issued	No. of cases to whom licence refused	No. of samples drawn	No. of cases where documents seized	No. of cases prosecution launched under Essential Commodities Act	No. of cases where seed seized	Detail of appeals by seed dealers during the period	No. of cases filed in the Court of Law for appeal	No. of cases pending before appellate authority
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1,160	8,080	—	3,860	—	51	28	2	—	—
2.	Assam	474	137	—	3,300	—	—	—	—	—	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
3.	Andaman & Nicobar	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
4.	Arunachal Pradesh	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
5.	*Bihar	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
6.	Chandigarh	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
7.	*Chhattisgarh	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
8.	Delhi	10	48	—	3	—	—	_	—	—	—
9.	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
10.	Daman & Diu	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
11.	Gujarat	76	1,506	—	3,103	—	—	3	1	—	—
12.	Goa	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
13.	Haryana	81	6,059	—	2,852	—	2	—	1	5	—
14.	Himachal Pradesh	225	419	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15.	Jammu & Kashmir	6	161	—	973	—	33	—	—	—	—
16.	Jharkhand	22	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
17.	*Karnataka	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
18.	*Kerala	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
19.	Lakshadweep	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
20.	Madhya Pradesh	4,980	176	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
21.	*Meghalaya	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
22.	Maharashtra	874	2,764	71	11,323	—	—	11	—	—	—
23.	Manipur	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
24.	Mizoram	—	—	—	22	—	—	—	—	—	—
25.	Nagaland	1,190	3,798	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
26.	*Orissa	14	47	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
27.	Punjab	352	—	—	4,125	—	—	1	15	—	—
28.	Pondicherry	—	—	—	153	—	—	—	—	—	—
29.	Rajasthan	352	—	—	4,176	35	27	5	—	—	—
30.	Sikkim	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
31.	Tamil Nadu	59	5,166	—	20,775	5	—	2	—	—	—
32.	Tripura	54	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
33.	Uttar Pradesh	690	7,711	—	1,803	—	—	—	4	4	—
34.	*Uttaranchal	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35.	*West Bengal	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Total	10,275	36,072	71	58,847	40	113	50	23	9	Nil

Progress Report of Seeds (Control) Order, during 2003-04

Sl.No.	State	No. of Inspectors appointed	No. of seed dealers to whom licence issued	No. of cases to whom licence refused	No. of samples drawn	No. of cases where documents seized	No. of cases prosecution launched under Essential Commodities Act	No. of cases where seed seized	Detail of appeals by seed dealers during the period	No. of cases filed in the Court of Law for appeal	No. of cases pending before appellate authority
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1.	*Andhra Pradesh	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2.	*Assam	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
3.	Andaman & Nicobar	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5.	*Bihar	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
6.	Chandigarh	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
7.	*Chhattisgarh	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
8.	*Delhi	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
9.	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10.	Daman & Diu	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
11.	*Gujarat	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
12.	Goa	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
13.	Haryana	81	5722	—	3281	—	2	—	—	—	—
14.	Himachal Pradesh	225	571	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15.	*Jammu & Kashmir	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
16.	*Jharkhand	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
17.	Karnataka	1232	4931	10	—	21	—	8	—	—	—
18.	*Kerala	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
19.	Lakshadweep	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20.	*Madhya Pradesh	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
21.	*Meghalaya	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
22.	Maharashtra	884	28527	—	10902	—	—	13	—	—	—
23.	*Manipur	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
24.	*Mizoram	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25.	*Nagaland	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
26.	*Orissa	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
27.	*Punjab	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
28.	*Pondicherry	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
29.	*Rajasthan	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
30.	Sikkim	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
31.	*Tamil Nadu	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
32.	*Tripura	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
33.	*Uttar Pradesh	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
34.	*Uttaranchal	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35.	*West Bengal	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Total	2430	39758	10	14183	21	2	21	—	—	—

Note: *Information yet to be received.
—Information is Nil.
For the current year i.e. 2004-05 information is yet to be received. (It will available in the month of June 2005).

Population of Tigers

*268. SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the tiger population as per latest assessment alongwith the rate of increase registered therein over the last three years;

(b) the details of projects launched to protect and check the declining number of tigers through comprehensive conservation measures and the achievements reported thereunder during the said period, State-wise;

(c) the details and total number of cases of violation of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 registered/reported during the said period and number of cases pending as on November 2004, State-wise; and

(d) the details of fresh initiatives taken/to be taken for drawing a comprehensive action plan for conservation of tiger population?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) The All India tiger estimation is done once in four years and the State-wise details of last such estimation done during 2001-02 along with figures

pertaining to estimation done in 1993 and 1997 are at Statement-I enclosed. The next All India estimation of tigers is due to 2005.

(b) The details of funding support provided to 28 Tiger Reserves falling in 17 States under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Project Tiger during the last 3 years are given in the Statement-II enclosed. The Central Assistance under Project Tiger, *inter alia*, is provided for protection, habitat development, management and eco-development of Tiger Reserves to improve their conservation status.

(c) The details of cases for violation of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 are not maintained at the level of the Central Government.

(d) The initiatives taken within the ambit of the National Wildlife Action Plan for tiger conservation are given in the Statement-III enclosed.

Statement I

Population of Tigers in the Country as Reported by the States

Sl.No.	Name of the State	1993	1997	2001-02**
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	197	171	192
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	180	*	61***
3.	Assam	325	458	354
4.	Bihar	137	103	76
5.	Chhattisgarh	****	****	227
6.	Delhi	Nil	Nil	Nil
7.	Goa	3	6	5
8.	Gujarat	5	1	Nil
9.	Haryana	Nil	Nil	Nil
10.	Himachal Pradesh	Nil	Nil	Nil
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	Nil	Nil	Nil
12.	Jharkhand	****	****	34
13.	Karnataka	305	350	401
14.	Kerala	57	73	71
15.	Madhya Pradesh	912	927	710
16.	Maharashtra	276	257	238
17.	Manipur	*	*	Nil
18.	Meghalaya	53	*	47
19.	Mizoram	28	12	28
20.	Nagaland	83	*	23^

1	2	3	4	5
21.	Orissa	226	194	173
22.	Punjab	Nil	Nil	Nil
23.	Rajasthan	64	58	58
24.	Sikkim	2	*	NR
25.	Tamil Nadu	97	62	60
26.	Tripura	NR	*	NR
27.	Uttaranchal	****	****	251
28.	Uttar Pradesh	465	475	284
29.	West Bengal	335	361	349
	Total	3750	3508	3642

N.R. Not reported by State.

* Tiger census was not carried out.

** Under compilation/vetting.

*** Only for Namdapha Tiger Reserve.

**** Figures included in undivided State.

^ Entire State not covered.

Statement II

State-wise Release

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Sl.No.	Name of Tiger Reserve State	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	21.00	21.10	22.89
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	82.76	35.875	68.75
3.	Assam	46.00	65.70	75.00
4.	Bihar	50.00	25.00	50.00
5.	Chhattisgarh	35.00	32.48	80.25
6.	Karnataka	181.434	289.56	269.32
7.	Kerala	50.00	63.75	120.68
8.	Jharkhand	75.65	18.00	35.9915
9.	Madhya Pradesh	472.18	786.44	1103.414

1	2	3	4	5
10.	Maharashtra	209.231	621.79	228.45
11.	Mizoram	20.495	98.32	67.56
12.	Orissa	126.81	32.88	151.91
13.	Rajasthan	170.319	294.92	158.330
14.	Tamil Nadu	16.00	125.00	35.00
15.	Uttaranchal	181.825	168.00	200.91
16.	Uttar Pradesh	67.40	32.75	173.585
17.	West Bengal	142.176	168.33	225.17
	Total	1948.255	2879.895	3067.2105

Statement III

1. Ongoing Funding Schemes:

Funding and technical help are provided to States under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes of "Project Tiger", "Assistance to National Parks & Sanctuaries" and "Project Elephant" for enhancing the capacity and infrastructure of States to provide effective protection to wild animals including tiger.

2. Legal Measures Taken:

(i) Legal protection has been provided to wild animals under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, which has been amended and made more stringent.

(ii) The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has been empowered under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 to apprehend and prosecute wildlife offenders.

3. Administrative and other Measures:

(i) A National Wildlife Action Plan (2002-16) has been adopted by the Indian Board for Wildlife under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister in January 2002, which outlines the strategy for conservation and protection of wildlife in the country.

(ii) Government of India has set-up regional and sub-regional offices for wildlife preservation in major export and trade centres of the country to prevent smuggling of wild animals and their products.

4. International Conventions:

India is signatory to many international conventions relating to biodiversity conservation and control of illegal trade in wild flora and fauna.

5. Bilateral Agreements:

India has bilateral agreements with Nepal and China for controlling trans-boundary illegal trade in wildlife.

6. Global Tiger Forum:

A Global Tiger Forum of tiger range countries has been created for addressing international issues relating to tiger conservation.

7. Initiatives Taken for eliciting public support:

- Complementary inputs for Ecodevelopment and voluntary village relocation provided earlier in separate projects have now been merged with Project Tiger as an "Umbrella Scheme".

- Under the ongoing, externally aided "India Eco-development Project", as many as 572 eco-development committees have been formed in seven Protected Areas (which includes six Tiger Reserves) covering 75,600 families, to reduce the dependency of local people on Protected Area resources, with reciprocal commitments. An amount of Rs. 15,692.30 lakhs has been provided to States for 6 Tiger Reserves till now under this Project.

8. New Initiatives Taken:

- Eight more potential sites have been identified for Project Tiger coverage.
- "Project Allowance" has been provided under the scheme to field staff working in tiger reserves.
- Regional Monitoring of Tiger Reserves has been undertaken by a group of experts as per the normative standards of the Ministry.
- 100% Central Assistance is provided for deploying anti-poaching strike squads in Tiger Reserves, apart from expenditure relating to research, veterinary, monitoring and evaluation, compensation to the legal heir of staff/person killed while performing duty, and for monitoring of tiger population.
- Information and communication technology is under use for linking important tiger reserves in the GIS Domain for evolving a management support system and crime detection, dissemination of information through web and evolving a 'National Tiger Monitoring and Habitat Evaluation System' with regional protocols.
- The allocation under Project Tiger has been enhanced from Rs. 7500 lakhs in the IX Plan to Rs. 15,000 lakhs in the X Plan.

[Translation]

Setting up of Fodder Bank

*269. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the assistance provided to set up fodder bank, improve the quality of cattle feed and enhance the fodder production under centrally sponsored schemes to the States during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the criteria laid down for assistance under the schemes;

(c) the amount spent by each State for the purpose during the said period;

(d) whether the Government is aware of the financial irregularities committed by some of the States; and

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

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) Details of assistance provided to States for establishment of fodder banks, enrichment of straw/cellulosic waste for use as cattle feed and enhancement of fodder production during the last three years under Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Assistance to States for Feed and Fodder Development" are given in Statement-I enclosed.

(b) In respect of fodder banks, assistance is provided on 75:25 (Central:State) basis and for enrichment of straw/ cellulosic waste, 100% central assistance is provided to States. Viability of the proposals in accordance with the guidelines of the scheme and utilization of the previous releases of the funds to the State are taken into consideration while sanctioning the funds under the scheme.

(c) Details of amount spent by various States under Centrally Sponsored Scheme 'Assistance to States for Feed and Fodder Development' during the last three years are given in Statement-I enclosed.

(d) No report on the financial irregularities committed by the States in respect of the above mentioned Centrally Sponsored Scheme has been received by this Ministry.

(e) Does not arise.

Statement

Details of Assistance Provided to States for Establishment of Fodder Banks, Enrichment of Straw/Cellulosic Waste and Enhancement of Fodder Production and Amount Utilised During the Last Three Years under Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Assistance to States for Feed and Fodder Development"

(Rupees in lakhs)

State	Funds released under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Assistance to States for Feed and Fodder Development' during the year			Funds utilized during the last three years (2001-2004)
	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	
1	2	3	4	5
Chhattisgarh	17.75	100.00	—	67.50
Himachal Pradesh	—	1.00	2.00	3.00

1	2	3	4	5
Jammu and Kashmir	47.60	55.50	—	64.49
Karnataka	—	38.55	25.00	59.92
Maharashtra	—	—	8.44	8.44
Mizoram	19.60	30.00	39.525	89.125
Nagaland	30.00	20.00	27.575	77.575
Punjab	—	20.00	—	5.00
Rajasthan	—	—	40.00	36.32
Sikkim	30.00	—	—	30.00
Tripura	12.80	—	57.46	49.27
Uttaranchal	—	76.75	—	76.75
Total	157.75	341.80	200.00	567.390

[English]

New Tourism Schemes

*270. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE:
SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether only a few States have been able to tap the immense tourism potential in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has announced new tourism schemes to attract domestic/foreign tourists;

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

(e) the steps taken by the Government to raise the standard of tourism to World class?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) State-wise Domestic and Foreign Tourist visits for the last three years are given in the statement enclosed.

(c) and (d) Various steps taken by the Ministry of Tourism to attract more foreign tourists to the country include:

1. Direct approach to the consumers through Electronic and print media through the Incredible India Campaign.
2. Creation of World Class Collaterals.
3. Centralized Electronic Media Campaign.
4. Direct co-operative marketing with tour operators and wholesalers overseas.
5. Greater focus in the emerging markets particularly in the region of China, North East Asia and South East Asia.
6. Participation in Trade Fairs & Exhibitions.
7. Optimizing Editorial PR and Publicity.
8. Generating Tourist Publications.
9. Reinforcing hospitality programmes including grant of air passages to invite media personnel and tour operators on familiarization tours to India to get first hand knowledge on various tourism products.
10. Organising of Road Shows in key source markets.
11. Focusing on growth of hotel infrastructure particularly budget hotels.
12. Enhancing connectivity through augmentation of air capacity and improving road infrastructure to major tourist attractions.

13. Use of internet and web marketing.

14. F romoting and Marketing India as a year—round destination.

(e) The double pronged strategy pursued by the Ministry of Tourism for upgrading tourism infrastructure in the country through the Central Financial Assistance to the States/UT Administrations and other schemes along with strategic marketing initiatives are aimed at positioning India as a desirable tourism destination in the world.

Statement

State-wise Domestic and Foreign Tourist Visits
2001-2003

Sl.No.	State/U.T.	2001		2002		2003		Prop to the total (%) 2003	
		Domestic	Foreign	Domestic	Foreign	Domestic	Foreign	Domestic	Foreign
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Andhra Pradesh	52533647	67147	60487370	210310	74138729	479318	24.0	7.1
2.	Arunachal Pradesh*	6349	323	4372	187	2195	123	0.0	0.0
3.	Assam	1010651	6171	1953915	6409	2156675	6610	0.7	0.1
4.	Bihar	6061168	85673	6860207	112873	6044710	60820	2.0	0.9
5.	Goa	1047342	260071	1325296	271645	1725140	314357	0.6	4.7
6.	Gujarat	8272969	30930	5735286	34187	7640479	37534	2.5	0.6
7.	Haryana	276287	898	6426763	85281	5903196	84981	1.9	1.3
8.	Himachal Pradesh	5211772	135760	4958917	144383	5543414	167902	1.8	2.5
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	5246948	21298	4570583	7821	5748846	24330	1.9	0.4
10.	Karnataka	14117464	140703	8678670	59545	11175292	249908	3.6	3.7
11.	Kerala	5240009	208830	5568256	232564	5871228	294621	1.9	4.4
12.	Madhya Pradesh	5048851	107824	4903242	67319	5968719	92278	1.9	1.4
13.	Maharashtra*	8479695	915399	9802527	768935	11272906	986544	3.6	14.7
14.	Manipur	76527	183	89633	221	92923	257	0.0	0.0
15.	Meghalaya	178697	2390	268609	3146	371953	6304	0.1	0.1
16.	Mizoram	28771	152	29417	259	35129	279	0.0	0.0
17.	Nagaland*	9948	920	14263	657	5605	743	0.0	0.0
18.	Orissa	3109976	22854	3289205	23279	3701245	25020	1.2	0.4
19.	Punjab	474305	3258	317904	7558	1150015	4589	0.4	0.1

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
20.	Rajasthan	7757217	608283	8300190	428437	12545135	628560	4.1	9.4
21.	Sikkim	203306	31028	159342	8566	179661	11966	0.1	0.2
22.	Tamil Nadu	23812043	773073	39873160	804041	40213060	901504	13.0	13.4
23.	Tripura	254912	1512	260586	2602	257331	3196	0.1	0.0
24.	Uttaranchal	9551669	44429	10606504	45070	10835241	55228	3.5	0.8
25.	Uttar Pradesh	68790000	795000	71490000	710000	80020000	825000	25.9	12.3
26.	Chhattisgarh	969342	792	1058565	993	1256407	1150	0.4	0.0
27.	Jharkhand	353177	2979	313134	2244	398346	3223	0.1	0.0
28.	West Bengal	4943097	284092	8844232	529366	11300763	705457	3.7	10.5
29.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	84064	5539	90629	5101	85826	4142	0.0	0.1
30.	Chandigarh	482133	15203	554948	13706	567259	17057	0.2	0.3
31.	Daman & Diu	580322	10290	595449	6569	447825	3274	0.1	0.0
32.	Delhi*	1324636	830092	1228059	543036	1430546	693827	0.5	10.3
33.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	452000	400	452100	202	447825	136	0.1	0.0
34.	Lakshadweep	3501	650	9173	912	4604	682	0.0	0.0
35.	Pondicherry	476804	22115	480522	20094	500111	25559	0.2	0.4
	Total	236469599	5436261	269598028	5157518	309038335	6716479	100.0	100.0

*Figures are estimated.

Source: State/U.T. Tourism Departments.

Manure and Seed at Lower Prices

*271. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the farmers of various States are not getting manure and seeds at lower prices;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government proposes to give special package to ensure that the manure and seeds become available to farmers at concessional prices in the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (c) Most of the organic manures like farm yard manure, compost and green manures are prepared by the farmers on their own farm. The Government is providing financial assistance for augmenting production, promotion and use of different types of organic manures like city compost, vermicompost and bio-fertilizer under different schemes. As regards the chemical fertilizers, the Government is providing subsidy/concession on chemical fertilizers to ensure its availability at reasonable prices to farmers. There has been no increase in prices of fertilizers since 28.2.2002.

Regarding seeds, the Government is also providing subsidy for production and distribution of seeds of different crops under various schemes.

Lack of Storage Capacity for Foodgrains in Rural Areas

*272. SHRI NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a lack of storage capacity for the foodgrains in the rural areas of the country;

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

(c) the steps being taken to create more storage capacity in the rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) Construction of rural godowns has been taken up by Government since 2001-2002 under the Gramin Bhandaran Yojana. Under this scheme, 3731 godowns with a total capacity of 91.91 lakh tonnes has been created upto 31.3.2004. The State-wise position is given in the statement-I enclosed.

In addition, storage capacity is available with the Food Corporation of India (FCI), the Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) and the State Warehousing Corporations (SWCs). The State-wise details are given in the Statement-II to IV enclosed.

(c) To further augment the storage capacity, the Ministry of Agriculture has set a target of creation of 140 lakh tonnes of storage capacity in the rural areas under the "Gramin Bhandaran Yojana" scheme during the X Five Year Plan. Besides, FCI & CWC propose to construct godowns of 4.35 lakh tonnes and 9.37 lakh tonnes respectively in the X Five Year Plan.

Statement I

State-wise position of construction under Rural godown Scheme (New Construction)

(From 2001-02 to 2003-04)
Capacity in Tonnes

State	Number of Godowns	Capacity
1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh	502	2139810
Arunachal Pradesh	0	0
Assam	22	45179
Bihar	158	17150
Chhattisgarh	116	541448
Gujarat	189	132033
Haryana	165	1081506
Himachal Pradesh	30	3000
Jammu & Kashmir	02	2050
Jharkhand	0	0
Karnataka	598	478530
Kerala	28	11237
Madhya Pradesh	427	525725
Maharashtra	375	560821
Manipur	0	0
Meghalaya	28	10683
Mizoram	0	0
Nagaland	01	1000
Orissa	65	241893
Punjab	226	2533064
Rajasthan	32	17856
Sikkim	0	0
Tripura	0	0
Tamil Nadu	32	31647
Uttar Pradesh	122	657874
Uttaranchal	20	12950
West Bengal	592	144658
Lakshadweep	0	0
NAFED	0	0
CCF	0	0
UTs	1	1000
Total	3731	9191114

Statement II

Details of Covered Storage Capacity Owned by FCI and Hired from Private Parties

As on 1.10.2004
Figures in lakh tonnes

Name of the State	Covered Godowns	
	Owned	Hired from private parties
1	2	3
Bihar	3.66	0.53
Jharkhand	0.68	0.23
Orissa	2.93	0.15
West Bengal	8.64	1.05
Sikkim	0.10	—
Assam	1.99	0.46
Arunachal Pradesh	0.18	—
Meghalaya	0.14	—
Mizoram	0.17	—
Tripura	0.19	—
Manipur	0.18	—
Nagaland	0.17	—
Delhi	3.36	—
Haryana	7.63	2.23
Himachal Pradesh	0.13	—
Jammu & Kashmir	0.83	0.02
Punjab	21.84	8.14
Chandigarh	0.40	—
Rajasthan	7.07	0.21
Uttar Pradesh	14.83	0.33
Uttaranchal	0.66	0.07
Andhra Pradesh	12.58	0.30
Kerala	5.25	—
Karnataka	3.53	—
Tamil Nadu	5.84	—
Pondicherry	0.42	—
Gujarat	4.90	—
Maharashtra	11.77	0.63
Goa	0.15	—
Madhya Pradesh	3.37	0.68
Chhattisgarh	4.99	0.10
Grand Total (All India)	128.58	15.13

Statement III

Storage Capacity of Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC)

As on 1-10-2004
Figures in lakh MT

State/UT	Covered Capacity	
	Owned	Hired
1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh	11.71	0.63
Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00
Assam	0.64	0.02
Bihar	0.85	0.07
Chandigarh	0.10	0.01
Chhattisgarh	1.88	0.14
Delhi	1.08	0.23
Goa	0.27	0.00
Gujarat	2.73	0.86
Haryana	3.67	0.92
Himachal Pradesh	0.07	0.00
Jammu & Kashmir	0.00	0.00
Jharkhand	0.34	0.00
Karnataka	2.39	0.99

1	2	3
Kerala	1.19	0.00
Madhya Pradesh	4.60	1.49
Maharashtra	5.13	1.52
Manipur	0.00	0.00
Meghalaya	0.00	0.00
Mizoram	0.00	0.00
Nagaland	0.13	0.00
Orissa	1.79	0.02
Pondicherry	0.07	0.04
Punjab	5.66	1.34
Rajasthan	2.25	0.76
Sikkim	0.00	0.00
Tamilnadu	5.43	0.29
Tripura	0.24	0.00
Uttar Pradesh	9.81	0.48
Uttaranchal	0.64	0.11
West Bengal	3.56	1.25
Total	66.23	11.17

Statement IV

Storage Capacity of State Warehousing Corporations (SWCs)

As on 1-10-2004
Figures in lakh MT

State/UT	Covered Capacity	
	Owned	Hired
1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh	4.84	17.85
Assam	2.00	0.61
Bihar	1.06	1.17
Chhattisgarh	29.11	9.00
Gujarat	1.29	0.52
Haryana	8.79	4.70
Karnataka	4.08	2.28
Kerala	1.74	0.16
Madhya Pradesh	9.39	2.22
Maharashtra	10.90	0.64
Meghalaya	0.11	0.00
Orissa	3.96	0.11
Punjab	24.20	28.37
Rajasthan	6.66	0.34
Tamilnadu	6.00	0.27
Uttar Pradesh	24.25	3.91
West Bengal	1.37	1.13
Total	139.75	73.28

Preservation of Eco-System in Himalayas

*273. SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI:
SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK:

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

(a) whether a Conference of the Forest Ministers of Himalayan region was held in Dehradun in October, 2004;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the suggestions and recommendations made therein; and

(d) the action being taken or proposed to be taken by the Union Government on the basis of the suggestions and recommendations made in the Conference?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Conference of Forests Ministers of Himalayan States was held in Dehradun on 11th and 12th of October, 2004 which was attended by the Forest Ministers of Uttaranchal and Sikkim and officers from various States of Himalayan region and few others.

The inaugural session was addressed, among others, by His Excellency the Vice-President of India, His Excellency the Governor of Uttaranchal, the Chief Minister of Uttaranchal and the Minister of State for Environment and Forests, Government of India. In the Technical session, which followed the inaugural session, presentations were made on overview of common interest of Himalayan States, Biodiversity across alpine region of Western Himalayas, Carbon sequestration—proposals and future conservation of lakes, wetlands and glaciers etc. In addition, there were deliberations on various issues related to ecology and environment of Himalayan region. Views were also expressed by the representatives of various States.

(c) The recommendations are given in the enclosed Statement.

(d) The Central Government has received only the recommendations which need to be expanded into detailed proposals. Central Government will need these detailed proposals from the group of States for further consideration and action.

Statement

The recommendations of the Conference of Forest Ministers of Himalayan region, held in Dehradun on 11th and 12th October, 2004, are as under:

1. The ecosystem services provided by Himalayan States should be amply appreciated and taken into consideration while deciding upon devolution of funds.
2. That national policies and legislation should address the special needs and aspirations of the Himalaya and its people.
3. That the Government of India set up a Himalayan Development Authority to consider the issues and concerns of the Himalayan region and its people.
4. That the Government of India also set up a Fund for Himalayan Forest and Environment Protection to mobilize additional resources for this region.
5. In order to reduce pressure on existing natural resources, subsidy towards cost of L.P.G. and for development of alternate construction technologies should be increased.
6. The scope of the Natural Calamity Fund should be expanded to address special phenomenon like forest fires, land slides, loss of agriculture land by flash floods and cloudbursts etc.
7. Institutions engaged in study of aspects of Himalayan environment and ecology be strengthened and their priorities be clearly realigned to meet the needs of the Himalayan region, New institutions may also be established to meet emerging needs.
8. A special programme for conservation of Himalayan Glaciers and wetlands should be initiated.
9. That all the villages in the Himalayas should be considered as forest fringe villages and adequate additional resources should be mobilized for their development.
10. The concerns of the Trans Himalayan region should be addressed expeditiously.

Fishermen Benefited Under Centrally Sponsored Schemes

*274. SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:
SHRI S.D. MANDLIK:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any centrally sponsored schemes in operation for the benefit of fishermen in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the impact of such schemes;

(d) the number of foreign fishing vessels permitted to operate in various coasts at present; and

(e) the impact of the operations of these foreign vessels on the livelihood of fishermen?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. There are three Centrally Sponsored Schemes in operation that are meant to benefit the fishermen directly. Details of the schemes are placed in the statement enclosed.

(c) The impact of the schemes are:

(i) Modernisation of traditional fishing sector by popularizing out board motors thereby reducing the drudgery of labour and enhancing safety of fishermen at sea. This has also increased productivity of traditional fishing operations.

(ii) Housing, insurance and saving-cum-relief programmes have enhanced social security of traditional fishermen.

(iii) Training and extension scheme has helped in imparting new technologies among fishermen.

(iv) Development of fishing harbours and fish landing centres have helped fishermen by providing safe berthing for their boats and to land their catch in prime condition thereby fetching a better price.

(d) No foreign fishing vessels are permitted to operate in various coasts at present.

(e) Does not arise.

Statement

Details of Centrally Sponsored Schemes of Fisheries Sector meant for benefit of fishermen

Sl.No.	Name of Scheme	Major Components of the scheme	Objectives of the scheme
1.	Development of Marine Fisheries, Infrastructure and Post Harvest operations	A. Development of Marine Fisheries (a) introduction of Intermediate crafts of improved design (b) Resources specific deep sea fishing vessels (c) Motorisation of traditional craft (modified) (d) Fishermen development rebate on HSD (e) Safety of Fishermen at sea B. Development of infrastructure & Post Harvest Operations (a) Development of Fishing Harbour & Fish Landing Centres (b) Maintenance of Dredger TSD Sindhuraj (ongoing) (c) Strengthening of post harvest Infrastructure	To empower the traditional fishermen through motorisation of their craft, assist the small scale mechanised fisheries sector by subsidising the excise duty on fuel thereby improving the socio economic conditions of the traditional fishermen etc. To establish Fishing Harbours and Fish Landing Centres and to renovate old Fishing Harbours and Fish Landing Centres.
2.	National Scheme of Welfare of Fishermen	(a) Development of Model Fishermen Villages (i) Housing (ii) Drinking Water (iii) Community Halls/Work Shed (b) Group Accident Insurance for Active Fishermen (c) Saving-cum-Relief	To provide basic amenities like house, common working place and drinking water to fishers and to provide Assistance during lean period and accidental insurance
3.	Fisheries Training & Extension	(i) Human Resource Development (ii) Establishment of Fish Farmers Training Centre—3 Nos. in each State; (iii) Publication of handbooks; (iv) Publication of extension/training manuals; (v) Organisation of Workshop/Seminar (a) National Level (b) State Level; (vi) Production of documentary film on fisheries and aquaculture; (vii) Establishment of Awareness Centre in each State.	To provide training to fishing persons to improve their skills

Hike in Rates of Hotels and Luxury Tax

*275. SHRI S.P.Y. REDDY:
SHRI P.S. GADHAVI:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether with the hike in hotel rates and levy of luxury tax, the foreign tourists inflow in the country has declined and outwards bound domestic tourists traffic has increased;

(b) if so, the details of assessment, if any, made by the Government during the last one year;

(c) whether the Government proposes to attract tourists in the country by lowering the rate of luxury tax; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) An increase of about 14 per cent in foreign tourist arrivals to India was witnessed in the year 2003 over the year 2002. Further, during the year 2004 (January-November) also, a growth of about 24 per cent has been estimated over the same period of last year.

About 5.35 million tourists travelled abroad during the year 2003 against 4.94 million during the year 2002.

(c) and (d) Expenditure tax on hotels levied by the Central Government has since been withdrawn. Other taxes on hotels are levied by the States who have been requested to rationalize these taxes including the luxury tax.

Arrears of P.F. Remittance

*276. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE:
SHRI A.K. MOORTHY:

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

(a) whether arrears of Provident Fund remittance run over to several hundred crores;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to recover such arrears?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO): (a) As on 31.03.2004, the amount of outstanding arrears was Rs. 1862.80 crores.

(b) and (c) Recovery of the dues from defaulting establishments is made in accordance with the provisions of the Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952. This includes prosecution under Section 14 of the Act, filing complaints under Section 406/409 of IPC, attachment of properties/bank accounts and arrest of defaulters. The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation has launched a special drive for recovering the outstanding dues by formulating special squads of recovery in each of the region and stepping up the coercive actions.

Inter-Linking of Rivers

*277. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY:
SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has assured the Supreme Court regarding continuance of the process of inter-linking of rivers in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has received any report from the technical committee set up for the purpose;

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

(e) the estimated cost of rivers-linking project and the allocation made during 2004-05; and

(f) the target fixed for completion of the project?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) and (b) Ministry of Water Resources, (MOWR) has filed an affidavit on 26th October, 2004 submitting progress report on (i) preparation of Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) in respect of Ken-Betwa & Parbati-Kalisindh-Chambal links (ii) placing Feasibility Reports (FR) on Website and (iii) follow up on the National Common Minimum Programme (NCMP) of the Government regarding inter-linking river programme.

(c) and (d) The report of the Consensus Group headed by Chairman, Central Water Commission (CWC) constituted in June, 2002 to discuss with the States, the issues of arriving at a consensus regarding sharing of surplus waters and the preparation of DPR has been received in respect of Ken-Betwa and Parbati-Kalisindh-Chambal links. Consensus Group has held a number of meetings in respect of Ken-Betwa link and Parbati-Kalisindh-Chambal link and the outstanding technical issues/reservations were discussed with the States and were clarified. As the outstanding technical issue/ reservations were discussed with the States and clarified, the consensus group in its report has recommended for requesting the concerned State Governments for conveying their consent for taking up preparation of DPRs for these links.

(e) and (f) The tentative estimated cost of the inter-linking of rivers (ILR) Programme is approximately Rs. 5,60,000 crore. Necessary budget is allocated for inter-linking of rivers under grants-in-aid to National Water Development Agency (NWDA) as per the requirement. Grants in Aid to NWDA for 2004-2005 is Rs. 35 crore. Time required to complete construction of links depends upon how fast consensus and cooperation from States is available for the links.

Setting up of National Forest Commission

*278. SHRI BHUVANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA:
SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD:

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

(a) whether the Government has decided to set up a National Forest Commission to reform the entire forest administration;

(b) if so, the details indicating the terms and reference of the said commission alongwith the other works assigned to it;

(c) by when it is likely to be submit its report;

(d) whether the Government targets to bring 33 percent of the country's geographical area under forest cover; and

(e) if so, the steps taken in this direction so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government has constituted the National Forest Commission on 7.02.2003 to review the working of the Forest and Wildlife Sector with following Terms of Reference:

(i) Review and assess the existing policy and legal framework and their impact in a holistic manner from the ecological, economic, social and cultural viewpoint.

(ii) Examine the current status of forest administration and the forestry institutions both at all India and State level to meet the emerging needs of the civil society.

(iii) Make recommendations indicating specific policy options for achieving sustainable forest and wildlife management and ecological security.

(iv) Suggest ways and means to make forest administration more effective with a view to help to achieve the above policy options.

(v) Establish meaningful partnership and interface between forestry management and local communities including tribal.

(c) The tenure of the National Forest Commission is two years from the date of its constitution. The Commission's term has further been extended by another six months.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Consultations have been held with various stakeholders to devise suitable interventions and State/ UT Governments have been requested to achieve higher targets.

[Translation]

Special Ration Cards for BPL Families

*279. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD RAWAT:
SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN:

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

(a) whether the Government has decided to issue special 'Pink Ration Cards' to the poorest among the BPL families;

(b) if so, whether the Government has directed the State Governments to identify families for issue of such 'Pink Cards';

(c) if so, the details thereof and the number of cards issued so far, State-wise;

(d) whether some State Governments have failed to initiate any action for identification of the said families;

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

(f) whether the Government proposes to extend this facility to all the BPL families; and

(g) if so, the steps taken by the Union Government to ensure timely issue of 'Pink Cards'?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (c) In order to provide foodgrains to the poorest of the poor in the country, the Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) was launched by the Government w.e.f. 25.12.2000 for one crore households living Below Poverty Line (BPL). The Yojana provides for 35 kgs of foodgrains to the identified beneficiaries at a highly subsidized rate of Rs. 2/-per kg. for wheat and Rs. 3/-per kg. for rice. The Yojana has been expanded first in June, 2003 by 50 lakh BPL families and second in August, 2004 by another 50 lakh BPL families particularly those households who are at the risk of hunger.

Under the Targetted Public Distribution System (TPDS), identification of BPL and AAY families is done by the States/UTs. Necessary guidelines for identification of the AAY families and issue of ration cards have already been issued by the Government. The States/UTs issue distinctive ration cards to the beneficiaries covered under AAY and BPL. The distinctive mark or colour of ration cards to be provided to the AAY beneficiaries is decided by each State/UT. The number of families identified and ration cards issued under AAY by different States/UTs as on 16.12.2004 is enclosed as statement.

(d) and (e) The identification of the AAY and BPL families has been done by all the States/UTs and is indicated in the Statement enclosed.

(f) and (g) No, Sir. Does not arise.

Statement

(figures in lakh)

Sl.No.	State/UT	AAY families identified & Ration Cards issued
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	12.336
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.228
3.	Assam	4.115
4.	Bihar	10.000
5.	Chhattisgarh	4.619
6.	Delhi	0.445
7.	Goa	0.110
8.	Gujarat	4.654
9.	Haryana	1.815
10.	Himachal Pradesh	1.182
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	1.693
12.	Jharkhand	7.268
13.	Karnataka	7.197
14.	Kerala	3.574
15.	Madhya Pradesh	9.488
16.	Maharashtra	15.028
17.	Manipur	0.255
18.	Meghalaya	0.421
19.	Mizoram	0.206
20.	Nagaland	0.285
21.	Orissa	5.055
22.	Punjab	0.717
23.	Rajasthan	5.733
24.	Sikkim	0.099
25.	Tamil Nadu	11.185
26.	Tripura	0.679
27.	Uttar Pradesh	32.423

1	2	3
28.	Uttaranchal	0.763
29.	West Bengal	10.989
30.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	0.043
31.	Chandigarh	0.035
32.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0.028
33.	Daman & Diu	0.006
34.	Lakshadweep	0.004
35.	Pondicherry	0.193
	Total	152.871

Milk Production

*280. SHRI SHRINIWAS DADASAHEB PATIL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the production of milk in the country annually and its World ranking;

(b) the percentage share in exports of milk and milk products in World market;

(c) the names of deficient milk producing States in the country;

(d) the steps taken by the Union Government to enhance production of milk in these States;

(e) whether the Government is planning to start high quality breeding centres which would enhance yield of milk per animal; and

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

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) The milk production in the country has been assessed at 88.1 million tonnes during 2003-04. India ranks 1st in milk production in the world.

(b) India's share in total World export of milk and milk products is about 0.24%.

(c) The States of Bihar, Goa, Chhattisgarah and Jharkhand apart from North-Eastern States are particularly deficient in milk production at present as in these States the per capita production of milk is less than half the national average.

(d) Though this is a State subject, the Union Government is supplementing the efforts of State Governments by implementing schemes for increasing milk production. The major schemes are:

(a) National Project on Cattle and Buffalo Breeding

(b) Integrated Dairy Development Project

(c) Assistance to Cooperatives

(d) Assistance to States for Control of Animal Diseases etc.

(e) and (f) Under National Project for Cattle and Buffalo Breeding funds are released to the States for strengthening frozen semen stations and field Artificial Insemination network, production of quality straws etc. Department is also implementing Central Sector Schemes of cattle breeding farms for supply of high quality breeding bulls and frozen semen straws and Central Herd Registration scheme for identification of superior germplasm to meet the breeding requirements of other States.

Lift Irrigation Scheme

*281. SHRI SURESH KALMADI:
SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the farmers of drought hit areas of the country particularly, Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh are facing great hardships;

(b) if so, whether they are being motivated to adopt Lift Irrigation Scheme (LIS);

(c) if so, the salient features thereof;

(d) whether LIS is not getting momentum due to erratic supply of power; and

(e) the efforts made by the Government to make LIS a success?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC

DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (e) Yes Sir. Farmers are motivated to adopt lift irrigation scheme under the Swaranjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana of the Ministry of Rural Development. Among others, assistance is given for the creation of irrigation facilities through minor irrigation sector like open dug wells, bore/tube wells, lift irrigation and check dams in various States including Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh.

Besides, to accelerate minor irrigation development in North-Eastern States, KBK district of Orissa, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir and Uttaranchal, central loan assistance under the "Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme" of the Ministry of Water Resources is provided for motivating farmers for utilizing water resources through minor irrigation scheme including surface lift irrigation.

In addition, the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation is also implementing a scheme of "On-Farm Water Management for Increasing Crop Production in Eastern India" in 10 Eastern States, namely Uttar Pradesh (eastern part), Bihar, Jharkhand, Orissa, Chhattisgarh, West Bengal, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur and Mizoram since 2002-03. The funding pattern of the scheme is 20:30:50 basis i.e. 20% contribution by the beneficiaries, 30% Government of India subsidy and remaining 50% is bank loan. The scheme is being implemented as a credit-linked back-ended subsidy basis through NABARD in coordination with the State Governments. The scheme has four components viz. shallow tube wells, low lift irrigation points, pumping sets and dug wells.

For increasing the supply and distribution of electricity, the Government of India have taken initiatives to provide more electricity to farmers through village electrification and pumpset energisation programmes as well as rural electrification included in Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana. Various measures have been taken to improve the power supply such as export of power from surplus region to deficit region, establishment of inter regional links, load management, promoting energy efficiency, modernisation of generating units, and capacity addition of 41110 MW during 10th Plan.

Agricultural Employees

*282. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether agricultural sector employs more persons than any other sector, both as farmers and agricultural workers;

(b) if so, the total number of agricultural workers in the country, State-wise; and

(c) the details of various central welfare schemes for agricultural workers?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) According to Census of India 2001, the number of agricultural workers comprising cultivators and agricultural labourers stood at 234.09 million whereas the number of workers in other sectors stood at 168.15 million. The State-wise break-up of agricultural workers is given in the Statement enclosed.

(c) Agricultural workers belong to the unorganized sector. The welfare schemes implemented through the Directorate General of Labour Welfare apply to specific groups of workers like beedi workers. However, the benefits of welfare schemes like Targeted Public Distribution System, Antyodaya Anna Yojana, and employment generation schemes lie Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana accrue to the workers in the unorganized sector, including agricultural workers.

Statement

State-wise number of agricultural workers

Census of India 2001

India/State/UT	Cultivators Number	Agricultural labourers Number	Total Number
1	2	3	4
India@	127312851	106775330	234088181
Jammu & Kashmir	1591514	246421	1837935

1	2	3	4
Himachal Pradesh	1954870	94171	2049041
Punjab	2065067	1489861	3554928
Chandigarh	2141	563	2704
Uttaranchal	1570116	259683	1829799
Haryana	3018014	1278821	4296835
Delhi	37431	15773	53204
Rajasthan	13140066	2523719	15663785
Uttar Pradesh	22167562	13400911	35568473
Bihar	8193621	13417744	21611365
Sikkim	131258	17000	148258
Arunachal Pradesh	279300	18840	298140
Nagaland	548845	30907	579752
Manipur@	379705	113630	493335
Mizoram	256332	26783	283115
Tripura	313300	276132	589432
Meghalaya	467010	171694	638704
Assam	3730773	1263532	4994305
West Bengal	5653922	7362957	13016879
Jharkhand	3889506	2851297	6740803
Orissa	4247661	4999104	9246765
Chhattisgarh	4311131	3091358	7402489
Madhya Pradesh	11037906	7400670	18438576
Gujarat	5802681	5161658	10964339
Daman & Diu	4034	1323	5357
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	39470	14715	54185
Maharashtra	11813275	10815262	22628537
Andhra Pradesh	7859534	13832152	21691686
Karnataka	6883856	6226942	13110798
Goa	50395	35306	86201
Lakshadweep	0	0	0

1	2	3	4
Kerala	724155	1620851	2345006
Tamil Nadu	5116039	8637630	13753669
Pondicherry	10900	72251	83151
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	21461	5169	26630

@Excludes Mao-Maram, Paomata and Purul sub-divisions of Senapati district of Manipur.

[Translation]

Conversion of Foodgrain to Alcohol

2964. SHRI MAGUNTA SREENIVASULU REDDY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether authorities in Council of Scientific and Industrial Research have proposed conversion of damaged and low value foodgrain into alcohol;

(b) if so, whether the Government has conducted any study on the economic feasibility of conversion of foodgrain into alcohol; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and benefits likely to accrue from it?

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 information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Desilting of Water Bodies

2965. SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has prepared a pilot project on desilting of water bodies;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount likely to be spent during 2004-2005?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) A pilot scheme on Repair, Renovation and Restoration of Water Bodies directly linked to Agriculture is proposed by Ministry of Water Resources in line with announcement made by Union Finance Minister in his Budget Speech of 2004-05 to augment the storage capacity of the water bodies.

(c) The funds likely to be spent depend upon the project proposals getting approved and taken up for execution.

[English]

Construction of Canal

2966. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any agreement was made at the time of construction of Pong Dam in Kangra district in Himachal Pradesh to construct Shah Canal in Punjab for irrigation in Himachal Pradesh; and

(b) if so, by when the canal is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) An agreement to construct Shahnehar Canal in Himachal Pradesh was signed between the Governments of Punjab and Himachal Pradesh on 4th August, 1983 for irrigating an area of 15,287 hectare in Himachal Pradesh, at the time of construction of Shahnehar Barrage and Mukerian Hydel Channel by Punjab and not at the time of construction of Pong Dam.

(b) Irrigation being a State subject the irrigation projects are planned, formulated, executed and funded by the State Governments out of their own resources and as per their priorities. As reported by the State Government of Himachal Pradesh, the scheduled completion of the project is Eleventh Five Year Plan.

Development of Chilka Lake

2967. SHRI JUAL ORAM: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is vast scope to promote Chilka Lake and its adjoining areas in Orissa as International Tourist spots;

(b) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard; and

(c) the assistance released/likely to be released for the purpose during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) Development of tourist places is primarily undertaken by the State Governments/UT Administrations. However, Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, also sanctions tourism projects at tourist sites of national/international importance in various States/UTs in consultation with them.

(c) No such proposal for development of tourism infrastructure at Chilka Lake and its adjoining area, has been received from the Orissa Government so far.

Bharat-Bhutan River Commission

2968. SHRI HITEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bharat-Bhutan River Commission still exists;

(b) if so, the work and area of jurisdiction of this Commission;

(c) whether the Government is aware that mass mining is taking place in the rivers which are entering West Bengal from Bhutan side which is very dangerous at the time of flood and other natural calamity; and

(d) if so, the corrective measures the Government proposes to take in this regard and take up the matter with the Government of Bhutan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (d) There is no India-Bhutan Joint River Commission in existence. However with a view to discuss and assess the probable causes and effects of the recurring floods and erosion in the southern foothills of Bhutan and adjoining plains in India and recommend to both Government appropriate and mutually acceptable remedial measures, a Joint Group of Experts (JGE) on Flood Management has been constituted between India and Bhutan in August, 2004. The first meeting of the JGE was held in Bhutan in November, 2004. The JGE has series of discussions and also made several field visits to some of the affected areas which include the sites prone to landslides and dolomite mining areas. Based on their discussions and site visits, the JGE felt that a more detailed technical examination is required and accordingly agreed to form a Joint Technical Team (JTT) which has been asked to submit its report to JGE by March, 2005.

Minor Forest Produce Trade

2969. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government is aware that extreme exploitation of tribals is taking place in Madhya Pradesh with regard to the trade in minor forest produce and all the profits earned from minor forest produce are pocketed by a few middlemen;

(b) if so, the steps the Union Government proposes to take to check the same;

(c) whether the Union Government proposes to provide financial support to the State Governments for administrative set-up and also for building up alternative co-operative structure for removing exploitation in minor forest produce trade; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) According to the information available with this Ministry, the trading of minor forest produce in Madhya Pradesh, is controlled by the State through the State Forest Department, Forest Development Corporation, Minor Forest Produce Federation, Co-operative Societies, etc., and the major share of net revenue goes back to the people, who are involved in collection of minor forest produce. However, with the aim of strengthening the tribal economy and in conformity with the National Common Minimum Programme, the Union Government has urged all the States/Union Territories (UTs) including Madhya Pradesh during State Forest Ministers' conference on 05-08-2004, to bring out legislation for conferring

ownership rights on tribals and other forest dwellers in respect of minor forest produce. Subsequently, the Ministry has also requested all the States/UTs vide its letter dated 11-8-2004 and 01-09-2004 to expedite action for said legislation.

(c) No Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Single Window System for FPI

2970. SHRI MAHESH KANODIA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to start a single window system for the Food Processing Industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (c) With a view to create a single window system under food laws and regulations, the government has constituted a Group of Ministers for the purpose of Integrated Food Law.

[English]

Compensatory Afforestation for Cutting Down Trees

2971. SHRI BALESHWAR YADAV: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of trees in Delhi for which permission for cutting down has been granted during each of the last three years, project-wise and location-wise;

(b) the terms and conditions laid down for their felling;

(c) whether this permission has been granted on the term that ten trees will be planted on felling of each one tree;

(d) if so, the places where such type of forestation has taken place; and

(e) the details of the present provision for conditional plantation, their maintenance and monitoring etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (c) The permission for cutting down 17,514 trees in 2001-02, 12278 trees in 2002-03 and 12112 trees in 2003-04 were granted under Delhi Tree Preservation Act, 1994 and rules made under the Act with a condition to plant ten trees in place of one tree felled.

(d) The compensatory plantation has been contemplated/taken place on around 132 sites by various agencies at various places in Delhi. Approximately 3,39,186 trees have been planted during last three years by National Highway Authority of India, Delhi Metro Rail Corporation, Delhi Development Authority, Public Works Department and Municipal Corporation of Delhi.

(e) The provisions of the Act provide for plantation of trees in place of tree felled or disposed. The maintenance of the tree plantation is regularly monitored by the Government of National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi.

[Translation]

Cultivable Land Around Baruna River

2972. SHRI ATIQ AHAMAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that lakhs of hectares of cultivable land around river Baruna remains submerged in Phulpur district of Uttar Pradesh thereby causing losses to the farmers of these areas;

(b) if so, whether the Government has formulated any scheme for the reclamation of the aforesaid land by conducting survey of the area; 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) to (c) As per report of Working Group (1991) of Ministry of Water Resources, an area of 4.30 lakh ha. is affected by water logging in Uttar Pradesh. The Baruna river originates from Malham lake in Phulpur Block of Allahabad district, falls in river Ganga in Varanasi district, and causes

water logging/submergence in about 0.20 lakh ha. area in Allahabad district of Uttar Pradesh.

No proposal for reclamation of waterlogged areas of Phulpur Block of Allahabad district of Uttar Pradesh has been received from the Government of Uttar Pradesh for consideration and approval under Centrally Sponsored Command Area Development and Water Management Programme.

Employees of Reserved Category

2973. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of personnel of all categories working in the Bureau of Indian Standards including its headquarters and the branches all over the country;

(b) the number of SCs/STs and OBCs personnel in 'A', 'B', 'C' and 'D' groups separately in all the branches;

(c) whether reservation quota of SCs/STs and OBCs has been filled in the said organization;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) The total number of personnel of all categories working in Bureau of Indian Standards including its headquarters and the branches all over the country are as under:

Group A	462
Group B	559
Group C	505
Group D	376
Total	1902

(b) The number of SC/ST and OBC personnels in A, B, C and D groups separately in all the branches is as under:

Group	SC	ST	OBC
A	59	11	13
B	94	06	02
C	86	15	06
D	134	18	03
Total	373	50	24

(c) to (e) The reservation policy of Central Government is being followed by BIS.

Import of Genetically Modified Soya Oil

2974. SHRI RAMSWAROOP KOLI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether 'genetically modified' soya oil being imported is injurious to health;

(b) if so, the Government proposes to impose ban on the import of the said commodity; and

(c) by when the said commodity is likely to be banned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) Information is being collected from the Ministry of Environment & Forests and will be laid on the Table of the House.

International Year of Rice

2975. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the year 2004 has been designated by the United Nations as the "International Year of Rice" with an aim to focus attention on improved production and access to this vital crop;

(b) if so, whether any special campaign or scheme has been launched for improved production of rice this year in Assam and the North-East region which is considered the Rice bowl of India; and

(c) the special assistance sought and given to North-Eastern States under the special drive indicating the likely

yield of rice this year, State-wise compared to that during last two 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 KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A number of activities have been taken up for observing 2004 as International Year of Rice to improve production of rice in the country including North-Western region. These include holding of National and International symposia/seminars/conferences and trainings, publicity for awareness about International Year of Rice and meetings etc. in different States.

(c) The Central assistance has been provided to States including North-Eastern States under the Centrally Sponsored scheme of Integrated Cereals Development Programme in Rice Based Cropping Systems Areas (ICDP-Rice), subsumed under Macro Management of Agriculture since October, 2000 alongwith 26 other schemes, to take up different activities at their level for celebration of International Year of Rice. Under the scheme funds are released to the States/UTs in lump sum on the basis of their Work Plan proposal for all the 27 Schemes subsumed under Macro Management of Agriculture. In addition, certain activities of National and Zonal level have been directly supported by the Government of India. The State-wise rice yields are as follows:

(Kg/ha)

Sl.No.	State	2002-03	2003-04*	2004-05*
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	1224	1196	1250
2.	Assam	1471	1512	1642
3.	Manipur	2379	2264	2305
4.	Meghalaya	1716	1667	1650
5.	Mizoram	1912	1936	1964
6.	Nagaland	1490	1603	1698
7.	Sikkim	1436	1467	1500
8.	Tripura	2265	2396	2714

*Figures are provisional/likely yield.

Subsidizing For Diversification

2976. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated any incentive scheme which rewards States for increasing and diversifying production; and

(b) if so, the total amount given, till date, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) In addition to on-going programmes, it has been announced by the Government to give incentives in the form of rewards to encourage the States in achieving the Rabi production targets. There will be a grant of Rs. 1 crore and one silver plaque to the best performing State in each of the identified 5 groups of the States. The State could utilize the grant for purchase of equipment to enhance efficiency and also give honorarium to the deserving officers/teams/farmers who have helped in achieving the targets.

(b) It is a new scheme.

Forest Encroachers in A&N Islands

2977. SHRIMATI KARUNA SHUKLA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of funds sanctioned to the Andaman and Nicobar Administration by the Union Government as a package to the Post-1978 forest encroachers indicating the date and year of its sanction;

(b) whether the said amount has been disbursed by the administration to the encroachers;

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

(d) the present status of those 4000 encroachers families and their means of livelihood?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) In order to rehabilitate the families identified to be evicted from the forest lands in Andaman and Nicobar Islands in pursuance of the order of the Hon'ble

Supreme Court of India, the Union Government decided to extend to them, in addition to allotment of alternative land subject to its availability, the following facilities:

(i) one time financial assistance of Rs. 75,000 per family to enable the encroachers to shift to the new sites,

(ii) supply of ration at the rate of 12 kg. per head per month over a period of six months,

(iii) employment of one person from each family consisting of a maximum of five members and of two persons from each family consisting of more than five members for a maximum period of two years at the rate admissible to a Daily Rated Mazdoor (DRM), and

(iv) payment of hostel fee at the rate of Rs. 400 per month per head for two school going children per family.

Formal sanction of expenditure for supply of ration for an amount of Rs. 0.94 crore was issued vide letter dated 07.03.2003 of the Ministry of Home Affairs. This was subsequently augmented to Rs. 2.02 crore on 10.10.2003. Besides this, financial sanction of Rs. 48.84 crore for incurring expenditure on other items of the rehabilitation package was issued on 13.05.2003.

(b) and (c) While steps were being taken by the Andaman and Nicobar Administration to implement the rehabilitation package, the Local Borns' Association and Others filed a Special Leave Petition before the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India challenging the said rehabilitation package. The Hon'ble Court has stayed the implementation of the rehabilitation package, and therefore, the package has not been implemented so far.

(d) The encroacher families are still staying in the forest area in absence of any alternate arrangement for their stay in the revenue area. They are surviving by alternate livelihood measures, such as, fishing, agriculture and agriculture labour.

Externally Aided Irrigation Projects

2978. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state the present status of Gujarat Salinity Prevention Project and by when the project is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): The Gujarat Salinity Prevention Project is not an externally aided project. As per the information furnished by the Government of Gujarat, so far 655 works worth Rs. 218.00 crores under this project have been completed and 7 works worth Rs. 85.00 crores are in progress. As informed by Government of Gujarat, the construction of various works are required to be taken up on a large scale continuously keeping in view the budgetary allocation for the subject works and have to complete the entire Salinity Project the target is not fixed.

P.F. Dues of Bengal Paper Mill Ltd.

2979. SHRI BIKASH CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that hundreds of ex-workmen of Bengal Paper Mill Co. Ltd., Raniganj, District Burdwan, West Bengal did not get the Provident Fund amount after the closure of Mill in the year 1983;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action taken by the Government for the early payment of their Provident Fund due?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Out of 1083 claims received recently, 911 were settled while 172 claims were returned for want of required information/details.

In order to secure relevant information, a squad of enforcement officers has been formed.

Scheme for Diversification in Agriculture Sector

2980. SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to chackout any scheme for diversification in the agriculture sector in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the said scheme; and

(c) the efforts being made by the Government to implement the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND

PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) Though there is no specific scheme, the crop diversification is being encouraged through the developmental programmes of oilseeds, pulses and horticulture crops in different States.

Production of Jowar, Rice and Sugarcane

2981. SHRI K.C. PALANISAMY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated production of jowar, rice and sugarcane in Tamil Nadu during this season;

(b) the support price fixed by the Government for these items in Tamil Nadu;

(c) whether the Government of Tamil Nadu has sought higher support price per quintal for jowar, rice and sugarcane;

(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 AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) As per the first advance estimates for 2004-05, in kharif season the estimated production of rice, jowar and sugarcane in Tamil Nadu is 34.07 lakh tonnes, 2.43 lakh tonnes and 160 lakh tonnes respectively.

(b) The Minimum Support Price (MSP) of jowar has been fixed by the Government at Rs. 515 per quintal while that of paddy (common) at Rs. 560 per quintal and of paddy (Grade A) at Rs. 590 per quintal for 2004-05. In case of sugarcane the MSP has been fixed at Rs. 74.50 per quintal.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Oilseed Production in Orissa

2982. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is promoting oilseeds production in the country;

(b) if so, whether any oilseeds technology mission has been implemented;

(c) if so, the specific steps taken to increase the production of oilseeds during the last three years;

(d) whether there is a vast scope to promote oilseeds cultivation in the hilly districts in Orissa; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A Technology Mission on Oilseed was set up in 1986 by Government of India in order to make the country self reliant in the production of oilseeds/edible oil.

(c) Under the Centrally Sponsored Oilseeds Production Programme (OPP) which was in implementation in 28 States upto the year 2003-04, assistance has been provided to the implementing States for various components like production and distribution of seeds, distribution of seed minikits, distribution of plant protection chemicals, plant protection equipments, weedicides, control of root grub, seed treatment, supply of improved farm implements, micro nutrients, demonstrations, supply of rhizobium/phosphate solublising bacteria culture, distribution of sprinkler sets, gypsum/ pyrite/liming/dolomite and farmers training in order to motivate the farmers to take up cultivation of oilseeds on a large scale and to increase the production and productivity of oilseeds in the country.

(d) and (e) There is scope for promoting cultivation of oilseeds like niger, mustard and groundnut crops in the hilly districts of Orissa. Government of India is implementing a Centrally sponsored "Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize" (ISOPOM) during X Plan with effect from 1.4.2004 in all the districts of Orissa including the hilly districts. Under the scheme, financial assistance is being provided for various inputs *viz.* production and distribution of certified seeds, distribution of gypsum, rhizobium culture, sprinkler sets, plant protection equipments etc. to encourage the farmers to undertake oilseeds cultivation on a large scale.

Safal Project by NDDB

2983. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) has planned to set up Safal Project in Gujarat in five centres;

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

(c) by when it is likely to be set up; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) No, sir.

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

Production of Organic Manure

2984. DR. R. SENTHIL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the measures taken to promote organic farming and increase its production;

(b) whether private sector will be involved in its production; 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 KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) To promote organic farming in the country, Government has recently approved a Central Sector Plan Scheme, National Project on Organic Farming with an outlay of Rs. 57.05 crores for production, promotion, certification and market development of organic farming during the remaining period of 10th plan with the following main components:

- Putting in place a system of certification of organic produce including prescribing national standards for organic farming.
- Capacity building of organic farming through service providers.
- Financial assistance to the commercial production units or organic inputs like (a) fruits and vegetable waste compost units (b) bio-fertilizers; and (c) hatcheries for vermi-culture.
- Training, field demonstrations, promotion and market development.

In addition, Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority is encouraging the production and export of organic produce.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Private sector is being involved in the production and promotion of organic farming both for domestic market and export. Financial assistance @ 25% of the project cost with maximum limit of Rs. 40.00 lakhs, 20 lakhs and 1.5 lakhs in the form of credit linked back ended subsidy is being provided to the compost, bio-fertilizers and vermiculture hatcheries production units respectively set up by NGOs/Private Entrepreneurs/ Cooperatives.

Smuggling of Bamboo

2985. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the large scale smuggling of Bamboo in some States;

(b) if so, the details of such smugglings during the last three years and current year, State-wise; and

(c) the steps taken to curb the smuggling of Bamboo and to promote the plantation of Bamboo?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) No, Sir. No cases of large scale smuggling of Bamboo have been reported from the States.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Financial assistance is being provided to the State/ UT Governments under Integrated Forest Protection Scheme for strengthening the protection machinery. Under the National Afforestation Programme, Bamboo plantations are being undertaken on degraded forest areas through peoples' participation.

Social Forestry Programme

2986. SHRI MADAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is running a Social Forestry Programme in Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the targets fixed by the Government in this regard are being achieved; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Ministry of Environment and Forests is not implementing Social Forestry Programme in Jammu and Kashmir. However, the Ministry is implementing National Afforestation Programme (NAP) in the country. 31 Forest Development Agency projects have been approved under NAP in the State of Jammu and Kashmir at a total cost of Rs. 74.61 crores to treat an area of 47,839 ha. through 1070 Joint Forest Management Committees.

(c) Progress of implementation of NAP has been satisfactory in the State.

(d) Does not arise.

Single Social Security Legislation

2987. PROF. M. RAMADASS: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government realises the imperative need to make Indian labour internationally competitive;

(b) if so, the steps proposed to improve the competitiveness of Indian labour;

(c) whether the Government proposes to enact a single social security legislation with single contribution for providing security to workers;

(d) if so, whether the Government will consider creating an industrial dispute resolution authority to replace the present labour authority; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Various measures are already in place for skill development and training to improve employability of labour.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise in view of (c) above.

Tuteja Committee Report on Sugar Sale

2988. SHRI RAJESH KUMAR MANJHI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to adopt the recommendations of Tuteja Committee for free sale of sugar;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (c) The Tuteja Committee's recommendation that "The Central Government may dispense with the release mechanism for free sale sugar with effect from 1st October, 2005" is under examination.

Water Harvesting by Madhya Pradesh

2989. SHRI RAGHUVEER SINGH KOSHAL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the total water harvesting area in Madhya Pradesh under the agreement reached between Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh in respect of irrigation projects constructed on river Chambal flowing through Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan and number of anicuts, small and medium dams constructed illegally by Madhya Pradesh under the projects;

(b) the amount of water stored through illegal water harvesting;

(c) whether any request has been received from the Government of Rajasthan to dismantle the said water harvesting structures;

(d) if so, whether the quantum of water taken illegally by Madhya Pradesh through the said harvesting is proposed to be deducted from the share of Madhya Pradesh; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) The Government of Rajasthan has reported that the Government of Madhya Pradesh has constructed more than 152 check Dams, Anicuts and Barrages in the catchment area of Gandhi Sagar Dam to impound more than 1.00 Million Acre Feet of water.

(c) The Government of Rajasthan has requested the Government of Madhya Pradesh for dismantling the water harvesting structures lying in the upstream of Gandhi Sagar Dam. However, the Central Government has not received any such request from the Government of Rajasthan.

(d) and (e) The Government of Rajasthan proposes to deduct the amount of water diverted by Madhya Pradesh from its share. It has been decided during the meeting of Standing Committee of Madhya Pradesh-Rajasthan Inter-State Control Board that if water in Rana Pratap Sagar and Gandhi Sagar dams is not sufficient, then 50 per cent of water impounded in structures in catchment area of Gandhi Sagar Dam will be deducted from the share of Madhya Pradesh at Parwati Aquaduct.

National Afforestation Plan

2990. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the norms fixed by the Union Government to be followed by Forest Development Agency etc. for undertaking works relating to forest development under the "National Afforestation Plan";

(b) whether the diverse geographical conditions in different States are taken into consideration while formulating such norms;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether any request has been received from the Government of Rajasthan for the revision of sanctioned cost norms for fencing of the afforestation area during the last three years and thereafter;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps being taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Guidelines of National Afforestation Programme (NAP) provide cost norms for different activities to be undertaken by the Forest Development Agency. The cost norms are based on the prevailing wage rates approved by the State Government.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) to (f) There have been frequent demand from States to increase provision for fencing. However, the NAP embodies the concept of people's participation, and therefore lays stress on protection of project area through social fencing by the community.

[English]

Acts for Agricultural Workers

2991. SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Central and State Acts made for safeguarding the interest of agricultural workers;

(b) whether the Government is taking any steps to monitor the implementation of these Acts; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO): (a) to (c) There is no separate central legislation to safeguard the interest of agricultural workers. However, the interest of agricultural workers are protected under various labour laws such as the Workmen Compensation Act, 1923; the Minimum Wages Act, 1948; the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976; the Maternity Benefit Act, 1961; the Inter-State Migrant Workmen Act, 1979; etc. The Government of Kerala has enacted and is implementing the Kerala Agricultural Workers Act, 1974. The implementation of these Acts is monitored through the enforcement machinery of Central/State Governments from time to time.

[Translation]

National project for Cattle and Buffalo Breeding

2992. SHRI SURESH ANGADI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of States who have requested for central grant under the National Project for Cattle and Buffalo Breeding (NPCBB);

(b) the details of proposals pending with the Union Government;

(c) the reasons therefor and by when these proposals are likely to be cleared; and

(d) the action taken to release the grant to these 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 KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) 26 States have so far requested for Central Grants under National Project for Cattle and Buffalo Breeding (NPCBB).

(b) to (d) At present all the proposals received have been dealt with. State-wise information of releases made is enclosed as statement.

Statement

State-wise Funds released under National Project for Cattle and Buffalo Breeding up to Nov. 2004

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl.No.	State/UT	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-04	2004-05	Total released
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	339	741.75	934.57	718.18	241.38	2974.88
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	140	—	—	—	—	140
3.	Assam	—	—	—	—	129.5	129.5
4.	Chhattisgarh	—	274	—	98	100	472
5.	Gujarat	—	—	—	40	279.7	319.7
6.	Goa	—	—	—	58.71	50	108.71
7.	Haryana	523	323	—	—	277	1123
8.	Himachal Pradesh	—	—	220	100	270.2	590.2
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	—	—	—	—	135.91	135.91
10.	Karnataka	—	—	—	465	394.29	859.29
11.	Kerala	—	209.75	230	220	401	1060.75
12.	Madhya Pradesh	—	829.47	300	360	661.54	2151.01
13.	Maharashtra	—	—	—	860	—	860
14.	Manipur	67.75	—	—	17.36	—	85.11
15.	Meghalaya	—	—	—	65.64	—	65.64
16.	Mizoram	—	18.93	17.97	40	—	76.9
17.	Nagaland	—	97.3	96	182	139.67	514.97

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
18.	Orissa	—	40	551.6	—	—	591.6
19.	Punjab	501	—	120.83	—	111.27	733.1
20.	Rajasthan	—	559.3	—	—	—	559.3
21.	Sikkim	—	168.93	—	—	—	168.93
22.	Tamilnadu	—	—	570	—	204.82	774.82
23.	Tripura	—	—	—	95	—	95
24.	Uttar Pradesh	—	—	1063	—	524.11	1587.11
25.	Uttaranchal	—	248	—	275	84.8	607.8
26.	West Bengal	—	677.02	—	—	133.54	810.56
	Total	1570.75	4187.45	4103.97	3594.89	4138.73	17595.79

Reduction in Rice Yields

2993. SHRI K.S. RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the recent findings of International Rice Research Institute indicating that an increase in global warming can lead to reduction in rice yields;

(b) if so, the facts thereof with the reaction of the Government on the findings of the study;

(c) the impact of this phenomenon on Indian rice yields; and

(d) the corrective measures taken or likely 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 KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) This is a study done with limited data in Philippines, which indicates that night temperature has slightly gone up in last 15 years and this may have caused possibly some reduction in rice yields.

(c) There are no such clear indications on the impact of this phenomenon on Indian rice yields.

(d) A close watch is being kept on all these developments. The ICAR has initiated a network programme involving 15 research institutes and State agricultural universities to study the impact of climate change on agriculture and to devise strategies to mitigate such adverse impact.

Development of Environment Protection Infrastructure

2994. SHRI KIRIP CHALIHA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the environment protection in India is suffering largely due to poor infrastructure;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to develop environment protection infrastructure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) The country has the legislation and policy framework required for environmental protection. The essential institutional infrastructure for regulatory and administrative functions is provided by the Ministry of Environment and Forests, State Departments for environment and forests and the Central and State

Pollution Control Boards. However, considering the vastness of the country, there is need for further strengthening of the available infrastructure.

(c) Government's efforts to protect the environment are through strengthening the existing infrastructure on the one hand, by way of capacity building and training, provision of physical infrastructure, reform of existing laws, policies and systems, use of e-governance, etc. and on the other hand through other measures such as awareness building and public participation, promotion of scientific research, use of scientific principles for conservation of resources, application of economic instruments, etc.

[English]

Dredging of Durgapur Barrage

2995. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to provide assistance for drainage and desilting of Durgapur Barrage Area;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Flood management, erosion control being a State subject, the schemes for flood management and erosion control are planned, funded and executed by the State Governments themselves as per their own priorities out of their State plan funds which are made available to them through Planning Commission. The assistance rendered by Central Government is technical, catalytical and promotional in nature. However, no proposal of drainage & desilting of Durgapur Barrage area has been received from the State Government.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Reservation Projects

2996. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:
SHRI MUNSHI RAM:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government has received proposals from State Governments for reservoir projects during the last three years;

(b) if so, the number of projects sanctioned during 2003-04, district-wise and State-wise; and

(c) the total amount spent on these projects so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The details of irrigation projects which have been accorded investment clearance during 2003-04 are given in the Statement enclosed. An amount of Rs. 557.06 crore has been spent on these projects.

Statement

Sl.No.	Name of the Project	Name of State	District Benefited
1.	Purna Irrigation Project	Maharashtra	Amravati
2.	Mahanadi Reservoir Project	Chhattisgarh	Raipur and Durg
3.	Mahan (Gulab Sagar) Irrigation Project	Madhya Pradesh	Sidhi
4.	Ret Irrigation Project	Orissa	Kalahandi
5.	Chheligada Dam Project	Orissa	Gajapati

Loan to Private Firms

2997. SHRI RAMSWAROOP KOLI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to refer to reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2767 on August 4, 2003 and state:

(a) the amount of loans given to Private Firms during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether any firm has defaulted to repay the instalments of loan to Finance Corporation of India; and

(c) the total amount of loan repaid by the firms of the Corporation as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) During the last 3 years, Tourism Finance Corporation of India (TFCI) has granted loans to private firms as under:

Year	Loan sanctioned (Rs. In crores)
2001-02	95.38
2002-03	77.86
2003-04	59.96

(b) and (c) The repayment against the loans given by TFCI during the last three years has not yet commenced since most of the cases are either under implementation or under moratorium. Generally all tourism projects have an implementation period of around two years and it requires at least one and a half years to commence repayment thereafter.

TFCI has informed that as on 31.3.04, 59 concerns in the private sector had defaulted in payment of dues. These concerns have been classified as Non-Performing Assets.

[English]

Boycott of Anniversary of Taj Mahal by Government

2998. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government did not participate in the 355th anniversary celebrations of Taj Mahal; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) The celebrations of Taj Mahal are an ongoing process and the Union Government and U.P. Government are involved in organising events.

International Standard Convention Centre

2999. SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN:
SHRI P.K. VASUDEVAN NAIR:

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

(a) whether the Government of Kerala has sent a proposal to the Union Government for setting up the proposed international standard convention centre at Thiruvananthapuram;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Programme for Employment Opportunities

3000. SHRI GIRIDHARI YADAV:
SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:

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

(a) whether the Government has formulated any programme for creation of new employment opportunities in accordance with the new economic policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the target set and the achievements made during the last year under this programme; and

(d) the target set for creation of employment opportunities during the current and the coming year separately?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SEKHAR RAO): (a) and (b) Creation of new employment opportunities is an on-going process under the Five Year Plans. The strategy adopted by the Government for employment generation during the 10th Plan period includes the following:

- 8% growth with business as usual will contribute around 3 crore employment opportunities.
- Special employment generation programmes will yield 2 crore employment opportunities.
- Special emphasis on agriculture, irrigation, agro-forestry, small and medium enterprises, information communication technology, tourism and other services.

(c) and (d) Against the target of creation of one crore employment opportunities on an average per year the achievement as per the estimates obtained from thin sample survey by National Sample Survey Organisation was of the order of 84 lakh per year. This estimate has usual limitation of thin sample.

[English]

Pesticides Testing Laboratories

3001. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of pesticides testing laboratories set up by the Union Government in the country, State-wise and location-wise;

(b) the number of various categories of officials working, laboratory-wise;

(c) whether all the States have such laboratories;

(d) if not, the reasons for the same; and

(e) the steps being taken to set up such laboratories in 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 KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) A Central Insecticides Laboratory at Faridabad, Haryana and two Regional Pesticides Testing Laboratories at Chandigarh and Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh have been established by the Central Government.

(b) Statement-I indicating the category-wise number of officials working in Regional Pesticides Testing Laboratories and Central Insecticides Laboratory is enclosed.

(c) to (e) There is a network of 46 State Pesticides Testing Laboratories (SPTLs) in 18 States and 1 Union Territory. Statement-II containing the State-wise list of SPTLs is enclosed. The Ministry of Agriculture has requested all remaining States/UTs to submit proposals for grant of assistance for setting up SPTLs. Grants-in-aid of Rs. 40.00 lakhs and Rs. 30 lakhs respectively were released to the State Governments of Meghalaya and Tripura during IX Five Year Plan for setting up of SPTLs. Grants-in-aid of Rs. 45.00 lakhs each have also been released to the State Governments of Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Uttaranchal during 2004-05 for setting up of SPTLs.

Statement I

No. of Various Categories of Officials in the Laboratories set up by the Union Government

Sl.No.	Designation	Scale of pay	Total No. of Posts		
			Chemistry Division, CIL, Faridabad	RPTL, Chandigarh	RPTL, Kanpur
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Joint Director (Chemistry)	12500-16400	1	1	1
2.	Deputy Director (Chemistry)	10000-15200	2	1	1

1	2	3	4	5	6
3.	Assistant Director (Chemistry)	8000-13500	5	—	—
4.	Administrative Officer	6500-10500	—	1	1
5.	Plant Protection Officer (Chemistry)	6500-10500	1	2	2
6.	Instrument Technician	5500-9000	1	—	—
7.	Sr. Scientific Assistant-II (Chem)	5500-9000	14	6	6
8.	Sr. Scientific Assistant-III (Chem)	5000-8000	6	2	2
9.	Upper Division Clerk	4000-6000	1	2	2
10.	Stenographer	5000-8000	1	1	1
11.	Lower Division Clerk	3050-4590	1	1	1
12.	Laboratory Technician	3050-4590	2	—	—
13.	Laboratory Attendant	3050-4590	7	2	2
14.	Driver	3050-4590	—	1	1
15.	Daftry	2610-4000	1	—	—
16.	Peon	2550-3200	—	1	1
17.	Chowkidar	2550-3200	—	1	1
			43	22	22

Statement II

Pesticides Testing Laboratories in State/UTs

Sl.No.	States/UTs	Number of Laboratories	Location
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	5	Rajendra Nagar, Guntur, Anantapur, Tadepalligudem & Warangal
2.	Assam	1	Guwahati

1	2	3	4
3.	Bihar	1	Patna
4.	Gujarat	2	Junagarh & Gandhinagar
5.	Haryana	2	Karnal & Sirsa
6.	Himachal Pradesh	1	Shimla
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	2	Srinagar & Jammu
8.	Karnataka	5	Bangalore, Bellary, Dharwad, Shimoga & Kotnoor
9.	Kerala	1	Trivendrum
10.	Madhya Pradesh	1	Jabalpur
11.	Maharashtra	4	Pune, Amravathi, Thane & Aurangabad
12.	Manipur	1	Mantripukhri
13.	Orissa	1	Bhubaneshwar
14.	Punjab	3	Amritsar, Ludhiana & Bhatinda
15.	Rajasthan	2	Jaipur, Bikaner
16.	Tamil Nadu	9	Coimbatore, Kovilpatti, Erode, Madurai, Trichy, Aduthurai, Salem, Cuddalore & Kanchipuram
17.	Uttar Pradesh	3	Meerut, Lucknow & Varanasi
18.	West Bengal	1	Midnapore
19.	Pondicherry	1	Pondicherry
	Total	46	

States/UTs where SPTL do not exist

1.	Meghalaya*
2.	Tripura*
3.	Arunachal Pradesh
4.	Chhattisgarh**
5.	Goa
6.	Jharkhand**
7.	Mizoram
8.	Nagaland
9.	Sikkim
10.	Uttaranchal**

1	2	3	4
11.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands		
12.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli		
13.	Chandigarh		
14.	Delhi		
15.	Daman & Diu		
16.	Lakshadweep		

*Grants-in-Aid to the tune of 40.00 lakhs and 30 lakhs were released to the State of Meghalaya and Tripura during IX Five Year Plan for setting up of State Pesticides Testing Laboratories.

**Grants-in-Aid to the tune of 45.00 lakhs have already been released to the each State of Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Uttaranchal during the current financial year 2004-05 for setting up of new State Pesticides Testing Laboratories in these States.

[Translation]

Insurance Security on Purchase of Fertilizers

3002. SHRI SITA RAM SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has started a scheme wherein the farmers can get insurance security on the purchase of fertilizers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the States wherein the said scheme is implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Closure of FCI Depots

3003. SHRI RAM CHANDRA PASWAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of the impracticability to run economically the three FCI Depots at Begusarai Town, Begusarai Road and State Warehousing Corporation Tilrath, the work was concentrated to the Begusarai Town Depot, closing the other two depots;

(b) if so, whether the local management has hired two depots from the State Warehousing Corporation *viz.* Tengra and Bishampur at a higher handling and rent charges;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any inquiry has been conducted in this regard; 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 (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Two godowns from Bihar State Warehousing Corporation (BSWC) at Teghra and Bishanpur (Begusarai) have been hired on the rates of storage charges as are payable to other godowns of BSWCs.

(c) Handling charges with regard to Begusarai Town depot have remained the same as those prior to closure of the two depots, *i.e.* Rs. 145.25 per 10 Mt.

Previously the godown rent for Begusarai Town was Rs. 0.50 paise per sq.ft. per month, which was negotiated and raised to Rs. 0.80 paise per sq. ft. per month on

request from the godown owner. Hiring charges for the BSWC godowns are Rs. 1.79 per bag per month as per Government of India and Food Corporation of India (FCI) Headquarters instructions.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Welfare Scheme for Child Labour

3004. SHRI DEVIDAS PINGLE:
PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:
SHRI MUNSHI RAM:
SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KUSHAWAHA:

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

(a) whether the Government has formulated any scheme for education/professional training of child labourers and potential child labourers and for bringing them into the mainstream of the country;

(b) if so, whether any welfare scheme had been launched in the year 2002-03 for the children needing care and patronage;

(c) if so, the total amount allocated for this scheme, during the last two years and the current year, year-wise;

(d) whether the Supreme Court had put a restriction on spending this amount; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO): (a) The National Child Labour Project Scheme has been formulated by the Government to rehabilitate children working in hazardous occupations & processes as specified under the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986. Under this Scheme, special schools are opened for the working children withdrawn from hazardous occupations & processes with the objective of preparing them to join the formal education system. Educational instructions, vocational training, mid-day-meal, stipend and health-checks are the essential components of the scheme.

(b) The National Child Labour Project Scheme has been revised in the year 2003 to provide for enhanced amount of nutrition per child per day from Rs. 2.50 to Rs. 5.00; a provision for regular and effective health care of the children by a doctor; and a budgetary provision has been made to hire the services of Master Trainer for each Project for imparting vocational training to the children/teachers in the NCLP schools.

(c) The Budgetary allocation for all the Child Labour Schemes for 2002-2003, 2003-2004 and 2004-2005 are Rs. 8010 Lakhs, Rs. 7243 Lakhs and Rs. 9905 lakhs respectively.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

[English]

Effect of Reduction in Import Duty on Agriculture Sector

3005. SHRI P. MOHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the reduction in import duty from 30 percent to 20 percent on starch and sago product and the total abolition of 4 percent additional duty are helpful for agriculture sector in our country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the quantum of import of these items and the names of the countries from where imported during the last two years and till date; and

(d) the details of area under tapioca cultivation and the total production recorded in the country during the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) The peak rate of customs duty on these products was reduced to 30% and 20% in 2002 and 2004 respectively. This was part of the exercise in general reduction of peak rate of customs duties by the D/o. Revenue. The issue of import duty on maize (corn) starch, manioc (cassava) starch, sago, tapioca and its substitutes prepared from starches and modified starches was examined by the D/o. Revenue as part of this year's

budget exercise. The effective rate of customs duty on these products (except modified starches) is 30%. Modified starch has an effective rate of 20% customs duty. However, the tariff rate of customs duty on these products was raised from 30%/20% to 50%. This was done to provide a cushion to raise the import duty on these products appropriately in case there are instances of increased imports hurting the interests of domestic producers and industry. The Directorate General of Safeguard (Ministry of Finance) has already initiated a *suo moto* investigation under the safeguard duty Rules to determine if whether there are increased imports of these products. The abolition of special additional duty of customs of 4% was a policy decision and is applicable to all items under customs tariff.

(c) The details of the import of starches during 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 (April 2004 to July 2004) is given in the Statement-I enclosed.

(d) The details of area and production of tapioca cultivation during 2000-01, 2001-02 and 2002-03 is given in the Statement-II enclosed.

Statement I

Import of Starches (Quantity in MT)

Country	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05 (April 2004-July 2004)
1	2	3	4
	Starch of Wheat		
Belgium	—	15.00	—
China PRP	—	2.25	—
France	2.00	13.50	4.00
German FREP	1.49	0.50	0.70
Korea RP	10.00	—	—
Netherland	0.25	0.05	0.30
Poland	—	0.61	—
Slovenia	0.10	—	—
South Africa	1.60	—	—
Thailand	12.00	—	—
USA	—	—	20.41
Total	27.44	31.91	25.41
	Starch of Maize (Corn)		
Belgium	—	5.00	—
France	25.88	79.34	50.00
German FREP	20.10	10.00	—
Italy	18.85	—	—

1	2	3	4
Netherland	5.00	—	7.40
Thailand	16.00	16.23	885.24
UK	0.15	6.96	0.06
USA	22.70	47.07	4.74
Total	108.68	164.59	947.43
	Starch of Potato		
Denmark	42.00	213.02	63.00
Finland	3.00	—	—
France	13.00	37.03	24.25
German FREP	132.50	219.00	7.93
Malaysia	—	21.59	—
Netherland	85.03	344.74	79.52
Thailand	—	228.00	—
Turkey	—	0.25	—
UK	0.03	—	—
UAE	—	—	0.50
Total	275.56	1063.63	175.20
	Starch of Manioc (Cassava)		
Philippines	—	504.00	—
Thailand	—	1,011.40	—
Vietnam SOC REP	—	285.00	195.00
Total	—	1800.40	195.00
	Other Starches		
Australia	2.11	1.17	—
Austria	0.00	—	—
Belgium	21.97	29.80	9.90
France	11.20	—	—
German FREP	577.04	170.00	0.35

1	2	3	4
Italy	16.44	—	—
Japan	16.00	14.45	4.30
Korea RP	1.42	1.02	—
Netherland	56.50	—	0.10
Singapore	—	0.27	—
Sweden	0.12	—	—
Switzerland	21.58	—	—
Thailand	346.22	4795.40	2020.00
USA	175	0.23	0.29
Vietnam SOC REP	—	945.50	—
Total	1072.35	5957.85	2034.94

Statement II

State-wise Area and Production of Tapico

State/UT	Area ('000 Hectares)			Production ('000 Tonnes)		
	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Andhra Pradesh	21.5	17.7	13.1	166.1	146.4	79.5
Assam	3.0	3.0	2.8	14.0	14.0	13.5
Karnataka	1.0	0.9	0.9	8.0	7.2	6.9
Kerala	114.6	111.2	110.3	2586.9	2455.9	2504.4
Manipur	Neg.	0.0	0.0	Neg.	0.0	0.2
Meghalaya	4.1	4.0	4.0	21.9	20.6	20.6
Mizoram	0.4	0.1	0.2	2.0	1.2	1.3
Nagaland	1.3	1.3	1.3	16.0	16.1	16.1
Rajasthan	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.2	0.5	0.0
Sikkim	0.5	0.5	0.5	1.2	1.2	1.2
Tamil Nadu	104.8	108.0	73.0	4295.5	4153.0	2772.5
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	0.2	0.2	0.5	2.3	2.4	0.5
Pondicherry	0.3	0.5	0.4	9.7	15.5	9.5
All India	251.8	247.6	207.0	7123.8	6834.0	5426.2

[Translation]

Kits of Pulses, Oilseeds and Wheat

3006. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken any decision with regard to providing kits of pulses, oilseeds and wheat for flood and drought affected Bihar;

(b) the number of kits supplied to Bihar so far;

(c) whether the Government of Bihar has demanded 10 lakh mini kits; and

(d) if so, the time by when the remaining quota is likely to be supplied?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Government of India is providing seed minikits of pulses and oilseeds to popularize newly released varieties/ hybrids of less than 10 year old in 14 major pulses and oilseeds growing States including Bihar regularly for every season depending upon the availability of recommended eligible varieties/hybrids available with the nodal agencies *i.e.* National Seeds Corporation and Seed Farms Corporation of India under a Centrally Sponsored "Integrated Scheme of oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize" (ISOPOM). However, in case of wheat there is no Centrally sponsored scheme at present to provide seed minikits to States. Government of India has supplied 59071 and 101165 number of seed minikits of pulses and oilseeds respectively so far to the State of Bihar during the current rabi season through National Seeds Corporation and Seed Farms Corporation of India.

(c) and (d) Government of Bihar has demanded a total of 1480000 seed minikits of various crops including pulses, oilseeds and wheat for flood and drought affected areas of Bihar. Since the guidelines of ISOPOM provides for supplying seed minikits of oilseeds and pulses of less than 10 year old varieties to replace older varieties, such large sudden demand could not be met under the scheme due to shortage of seeds of newly released varieties with the nodal agencies. However, the State of Bihar has been allocated sufficiently higher funds under ISOPOM to supply required quantity of certified seeds of oilseeds, pulses and maize to the farmers at subsidized prices during the current rabi season.

[English]

National Drought Policy

3007. SHRI DINSHA PATEL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to formulate National Drought Policy for the benefit of those States which are facing persistent droughts;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) Government has decided to entrust the task of preparing a "Drought Manual" to the National Institute of Disaster Management which shall provide suggestive guidelines to States to prepare for and deal with droughts, including successive droughts.

Jatropha and Kanuga Plants

3008. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a target for growing Jatropha and Kanuga plants in large scale for yielding oil to be used in lieu of diesel in vehicles;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the expected yield of bio diesel oil from the plants after one year's plantation?

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

(b) Jatropha nursery has been raised for undertaking plantation in 1563 ha. and plantation has been organized in 1147 ha. Accordingly, Karanja nursery has been raised for undertaking plantation in 1047 ha. and plantation has been completed in 676 ha. by the Ministry of Agriculture. The nursery raising and plantation in an area of

6020 ha. for Jatropha and 865 ha. of Karanja is being organized during 2004-05 in the State of Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Kerala, M.P., Maharashtra, Mizoram, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, U.P., Uttaranchal and West Bengal.

(c) No yield would be obtained after one year of plantation, however, the economic yield from Jatropha will start from 3rd year of plantation and 6th year in the case of Karanja.

[Translation]

Maximum Yield Rate in Ganga-Yamuna Basin

3009. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN":
DR. CHINTA MOHAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Agriculture Researchers have discovered that maximum yield can be achieved in Ganga-Yamuna basin;

(b) if so, the estimated yield achievable by sowing wheat, paddy, oilseeds and pulses in this basin;

(c) the extent to which it exceeds from actual average projections; and

(d) whether any scheme has been implemented by the Government to provide assistance to farmers to enable them to increase the yielding rate?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) The maximum yield achieved in experimental plots/on-farm trials in Ganga-Yamuna basin varied from 5.7 to 6.6 t/ha of wheat, 8.3 to 10.4 t/ha of rice, 2.0 to 2.8 t/ha mustard (main oilseeds crop) and 2.6 t/ha of pigeonpea; 1.8 t/ha of gram (main pulse crops).

(c) Yields of above crops obtained in the experimental plots/on-farm demonstrations are about 100 to 300% higher than the average yields of the area.

(d) The yield maximization technology is being popularized through on-farm research and frontline demonstrations programme of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research. Assistance to farmers is also being provided under the centrally sponsored schemes of Department of Agriculture & Cooperation like "Macro Management, Technology Mission on Oilseeds and Pulses (TMOP) and On Farm Water Management for Increasing Crop Production in Eastern India" for adoption of yield maximization practices.

Payment of Wages

3010. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Food Corporation of India (FCI) continues to pay its workers through cheques even for petty amounts despite a number of directives;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

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

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the remedial measures taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) Salary of the workers in the Orissa Region of the Food Corporation of India is being paid as per the judgement dated 14th June, 2004 of the Hon'ble Supreme Court passed in SLP Nos. 10953 and 10954.

The Hon'ble Supreme Court had directed the FCI to pay the wages of workers in Orissa Region for the months of March, April and May, 2004 in the following manner:

Rs. 10,000/-be paid by cash and rest by cheque.

Hence, any amount exceeding Rs. 10,000/-was paid by cheque to the workers, strictly in compliance of the Hon'ble Supreme Court Judgement mentioned in Para (a) above.

(c) to (e) Does not arise in view of replies to parts (a) and (b) above.

Impact of Urbanisation on Health and Environment

3011. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:
SHRI ILYAS AZMI:

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

(a) whether the Government is aware of the unabated urbanization in the country resulting into a number of problems relating to public health and environment;

(b) if so, the action plan taken up to control this situation specifically in the mega cities of the country; and

(c) the extent to which the plan has been successful?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (c) As per the Registrar of India (Statistical Outline of India 2002-03), levels of urbanization have increased from 17% in 1951 to 28% in 2001. The urbanization has posed several problems to environment, including air and water pollution, disposal of Municipal Solid Waste and Sewage. The water quality of rivers and lakes have been adversely affected due to disposal of Municipal sewage. Urban air quality has been stressed by increasing vehicular emissions, burning of bio-mass and bio-fuels within the urban areas. Various steps have been taken by the Government to check pollution, which include introduction of unleaded petrol, usage of cleaner fuel for motor vehicles, use of beneficiated coal in thermal power plants and restrict ion on the use of bio-fuels. Due to the interventions of the Government, the levels of air pollutants have been contained, except the levels of Respirable Suspended Particulate Matter (RSPM). Similarly, action has also been taken to set up sewage treatment plants and create facilities for handling of Municipal Solid Waste. City-specific Action Plans have been evolved for the various mega cities and are at the different stages of implementation. Action Plans have also been evolved for containing the air pollutants and for the management of Municipal Solid Waste in respect of metro cities and State capitals. No conclusive evidence of cause-effect relationship of the pollutants to the health manifestation is available in the country.

Violation of Pollution Norms by Industries

3012. SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:
SHRI TUKARAM GANPATRAO RENGE PATIL:

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

(a) the number of industries found guilty for violating pollution norms in various States by Pollution Control Boards and Pollution Control Committees while conducting a review during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether the Union Government is not apprised by States in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and remedial measures adopted by the Union Government in this matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) As per the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), 139 industries have been identified as defaulters in the identified 17 categories of polluting industries. The State-wise details of such industries are given in the enclosed statement.

(b) and (c) State Pollution Control Boards and Pollution Control Committees are empowered to take necessary actions, as deemed necessary, against the defaulting units under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

Statement

State-wise Status of Pollution Control in 17 Categories of Polluting Industries (Status as on June 2004)

Sl.No.	State/UT	No. of Defaulting Units
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0
2.	Assam	1
3.	Bihar	0
4.	Chhattisgarh	2
5.	Goa	0
6.	Gujarat	0
7.	Haryana	14
8.	Himachal Pradesh	0
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	0
10.	Jharkhand	2
11.	Karnataka	0
12.	Kerala	0
13.	Madhya Pradesh	2
14.	Maharashtra	10

1	2	3
15.	Meghalaya	0
16.	Orissa	7
17.	Punjab	27
18.	Rajasthan	4
19.	Sikkim	0
20.	Tamilnadu	27
21.	Tripura	0
22.	UT-Chandigarh	0
23.	UT-Delhi	0
24.	UT-Lakshadweep	0
25.	UT-Pondicherry	0
26.	Uttaranchal	16
27.	Uttar Pradesh	4
28.	West Bengal	23
	Total	139

[English]

Private Sector Investment in Social and Agro Forestry

3013. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to allow private sector to invest in social and agro forestry;

(b) if so, whether any guidelines have been formulated in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (c) Public Private Partnership (PPP) in forestry is one of the proposed interventions to mobilise resources for forestry sector in the country to increase forest and tree cover to achieve 25% and 33% forest and tree cover by 2007 and 2012 respectively. Indian Institute of Forest Management, Bhopal has been assigned the task of formulating model guidelines for the purpose.

Implementation of Municipal Solid Waste Rules, 2000

3014. SHRI SURENDRA PRAKASH GOYAL:
SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:
SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY:
DR. RAJESH MISHRA:

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

(a) whether the Union Government has any scheme to extend financial assistance to various States for implementation of the Municipal Solid Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 2000;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the amount allocated during each of the last three years and current year, State-wise;

(c) the name of the States which are attempting to develop zero waste/zero garbage towns along with those States which are not implementing Municipal Solid Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 2000; and

(d) the details of the measures taken by the Union Government to develop Zero Waste Residential Colonies in various States, particularly in Karnataka for environmental friendly atmosphere?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) There is no specific scheme to extend financial assistance to various States for implementation of the Municipal Solid Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 2000 (MSW Rules). The Ministry of Environment and Forests and other Central Ministries under the Government of India have undertaken implementation of centrally sponsored schemes, under which activities related to management of municipal solid waste have been supported, as given in the statement enclosed.

(c) and (d) As per the Central Pollution Control Board, efforts have been undertaken by some local bodies in different States to develop 'Zero Garbage' towns. The term 'Zero Garbage' refers to encouraging citizens to undertake segregation of waste and utilizing bio-degradable waste for biological process like composting. As regards the implementation of the MSW Rules, the same is required to be undertaken by the concerned municipalities in the States including in the State of

Karnataka. The Central Government has notified the MSW Rules vide S.O. 908 (E) dated 25th September 2000 for effective management of the municipal solid waste, and State Governments/U.T. Administrations and their agencies have the overall responsibility for the enforcement of the provisions of these Rules. Local municipal authorities are responsible with respect to the collection, storage, segregation, transportation, processing and disposal of municipal solid wastes and for any infrastructure development for the management of the municipal solid waste under these Rules.

Statement

Financial assistance has been provided by the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India to the State Pollution Control Boards for strengthening of infrastructure for implementation of various Rules including the MSW Rules. An amount of Rs. 126 Lakhs, Rs. 91 Lakhs, Rs. 126 Lakhs and Rs. 73 Lakhs has been released for the purpose during 2001-02, 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 respectively for thirty-three Pollution Control Boards/Committees. Further, this Ministry along with the Central Pollution Control Board have facilitated the setting up of demonstration projects on the management of Municipal Solid Wastes on 50% cost sharing basis. These have been initiated in North Dum Dum and New Barrackpore (West Bengal), Chandigarh (U.T.), Kozhikode (Kerala), Udmalpet (Tamil Nadu). An amount Rs. 283.9 Lakhs has been released for these projects so far.

Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Balanced and Integrated Use of Fertilizers", the Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, Government of India has provided financial assistance for the setting up of mechanical compost plants for conversion of bio-degradable city solid waste into compost. An amount of Rs. 789.72 Lakhs has been released to the State Governments for setting up of 30 compost plants during the 8th and 9th Plans. Under the recently approved "National Project on Organic Farming", a provision also has been made for financial assistance for setting up of 35 numbers of fruits and vegetables waste compost production units.

For the recovery of energy from urban and industrial wastes the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources, Government of India has provided financial support to the promoters in the form of interest/capital subsidy through financial institutions for setting up of waste to energy projects. This assistance has been provided to Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi and Jharkhand. An amount of Rs. 934.93 Lakhs, Rs. 999.76 Lakhs & Rs. 180.69 Lakhs has been sanctioned for the purpose during 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04 respectively.

A centrally sponsored scheme for providing solid waste management and drainage facilities in 10 selected towns having airfields of Indian Air force, has also been taken up for implementation by the Ministry of Urban Development, Government of India.

Participation in International Sports Events

3015. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of sportspersons and non-sportspersons participated in various international sport events abroad during the current financial year;

(b) the criteria laid down for non-sportspersons to attend such events;

(c) the number of foreign visits made by Ministry and Sports Authority of India (SAI) officials during the said period; and

(d) the reasons for facilitating such foreign visits by non-sportsperson by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI SUNIL DUTT): (a) and (b) During the current financial year, the Government has approved the visit of 1878 players, 458 supporting personnel such as coaches, referee/judges/umpires, masseurs, doctors, sports scientists/experts and 26 non-sportspersons such as federation's office bearers, technical/project directors, delegates, head of delegation, etc. and 95 managers for various international sports events abroad under the scheme of Assistance to National Sports Federations. Non-sportspersons have been selected by the NSFs concerned and the Government does not have any laid down criteria for non-sportspersons.

(c) During the current financial year, 7 official delegations comprising of 6 Ministers/Public representatives, 7 Ministry's officials and 4 senior officials of Sports Authority of India were deputed.

(d) The visit of non-sportspersons has been approved at no cost to the Government. National Sports Federations (NSFs) had proposed their visit as observers on for attending meetings coinciding with the sports events etc.

[Translation]

Schemes for Production, Marketing and Storage of Vegetables, Fruits and Flowers

3016. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:
SHRI TUKARAM GANPATRAO RENGE PATIL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the schemes for production, marketing and storage of vegetables, fruits and flowers in the country; and

(b) the funds allocated for the purpose during the last three years and the current year, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) The Government is implementing the following schemes for the development of horticulture including production, marketing and storage of vegetables, fruits and flowers in the country.

A. Schemes of Ministry of Agriculture

1. Macro Management in Agriculture- Supplementation/Complementation of State efforts through Work Plan. Under this scheme the State Governments have the flexibility to take up programmes as per their felt needs and priority, including programmes on horticulture.
2. Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture in North Eastern States (TMNE) including Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir and Uttaranchal.
3. National Horticulture Board Programmes *viz.* (i) Development of Commercial Horticulture through Production and Post Harvest Management, (ii) Capital Investment Subsidy Scheme for Construction/Expansion/Modernization of Cold Storages and Storages for Horticulture Produce, (iii) Technology Development and Transfer for Promotion of Horticulture.
4. Integrated Development of Horticulture in Tribal and Hilly Areas.
5. Gramin Bhandar Yojana.
6. Development/Strengthening of Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure, Grading and Standardization.

B. Schemes of Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), Ministry of Commerce

1. Scheme for Infrastructure Development.
2. Scheme of Market Development.

(b) The State-wise details of allocation under the Macro Management Scheme and TMNE for the last three years and current year is given in Statement-I & II enclosed respectively. State-wise allocation are not made for the other schemes.

Statement I

State-wise allocation of funds under the Macro Management Scheme in Agriculture for the last three years and current year

Sl.No.	States	Allocation (Rs. in lakhs)			
		2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	4500.00	3800.00	3400.00	3600.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	439.00	440.00	400.00	500.00

1	2	3	4	5	6
3.	Assam	1047.00	700.00	700.00	800.00
4.	Bihar	3600.00	2500.00	1800.00	1800.00
5.	Jharkhand	1400.00	1200.00	1200.00	1800.00
6.	Goa	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00
7.	Gujarat	3800.00	3200.00	2300.00	2300.00
8.	Haryana	1800.00	1600.00	1600.00	1600.00
9.	Himachal Pradesh	1800.00	1600.00	1600.00	1600.00
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	1800.00	1600.00	1600.00	1600.00
11.	Karnataka	6500.00	5800.00	5500.00	1400.00
12.	Kerala	3600.00	3000.00	2900.00	5700.00
13.	Madhya Pradesh	5000.00	4500.00	4400.00	2900.00
14.	Chhattisgarh	1700.00	1400.00	1400.00	4500.00
15.	Maharashtra	9000.00	8200.00	8000.00	8200.00
16.	Manipur	690.00	600.00	600.00	700.00
17.	Mizoram	720.00	800.00	800.00	900.00
18.	Meghalaya	405.00	600.00	600.00	700.00
19.	Nagaland	1002.00	1000.00	800.00	900.00
20.	Orissa	3000.00	2500.00	2300.00	2300.00
21.	Punjab	2100.00	1700.00	1500.00	1500.00
22.	Rajasthan	7500.00	6700.00	6700.00	6800.00
23.	Sikkim	422.00	513.00	500.00	600.00
24.	Tamilnadu	4500.00	4200.00	4200.00	4300.00
25.	Tripura	700.00	800.00	800.00	800.00
26.	Uttar Pradesh	7500.00	6885.00	6800.00	7000.00
27.	Uttaranchal	1400.00	1400.00	1400.00	1600.00
28.	West Bengal	2500.00	2400.00	2400.00	2400.00
29.	Delhi	200.00	160.00	100.00	100.00
30.	Pondicherry	300.00	200.00	100.00	100.00
31.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	200.00	200.00	100.00	100.00
32.	Chandigarh	100.00	100.00	50.00	25.00

1	2	3	4	5	6
33.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	300.00	200.00	100.00	50.00
34.	Daman & Diu	100.00	100.00	50.00	25.00
35.	Lakshadweep	200.00	200.00	100.00	100.00
	Total	80025.00	70985.00	67000.00	69500.00

Statement II

Funds allocated under Centrally Sponsored Scheme on "Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture in North Eastern States including Sikkim, J&K, Himachal Pradesh and Uttaranchal"

Allocation (Rs. in Lakh)

Sl.No.	State	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	728.85	1099.00	1220.00	1500.00
2.	Assam	611.12	1092.15	1400.00	1425.00
3.	Manipur	487.03	685.00	638.00	1100.00
4.	Meghalaya	625.71	775.60	850.00	1211.00
5.	Mizoram	508.95	1099.73	1089.00	1632.20
6.	Nagaland	551.70	979.00	1256.00	1875.00
7.	Sikkim	616.77	855.00	1000.00	1150.00
8.	Tripura	512.40	785.00	900.00	1012.80
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	—	—	650.00	1450.00
10.	Himachal Pradesh	—	—	650.00	1300.00
11.	Uttaranchal	—	—	564.72	1300.00

[English]

Poaching of Elephants

3017. DR. PRASANNA KUMAR PATASANI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of areas in Orissa which are prone to wild elephant poaching;

(b) the specific reasons for the same;

(c) the action, the Government has taken to counter such problems; and

(d) to what extent such measures have been successful?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) All the forest areas in Orissa inhabited by elephants are prone to poaching. However, the recent reports of patching of tuskers have come from Athamallik, Athgarh and Dhenkanal Forest Divisions. The tuskers are being targeted by the poachers for obtaining ivory.

(c) As reported by the State Government, each case of elephant death is promptly inspected by a Gazetted Officer of the Division and in all cases of illegal killing of elephants, suitable action is taken after detailed investigation. A Wildlife Crime Cell has been set up in the office of the Chief Wildlife Warden of Orissa for monitoring the progress of investigations and prosecutions. The State Forest Department has established anti-poaching camps, intensified patrol by the field staff and also engaged trackers for monitoring the movement of elephant herds to protect them from poachers.

Government of India has provided an amount of Rs. 121 lakh to the State Government under Project Elephant during the current financial year for protection of elephants and their habitats and also for mitigating human-elephant conflict.

(d) As informed by the State Government, three cases of poaching of tuskers have taken place during the current financial year. Tusks have been recovered in one case. Five of the offenders responsible for two cases of poaching have been arrested while two other persons involved in the third case are absconding. No more case of poaching of tuskers has been reported since 8.7.2004.

World Bank and ABD Funded Projects

3018. SHRI LONAPPAN NAMBADAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state the details of World Bank and Asian Development Bank funded water projects in the country, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): State-wise details of water resources projects funded by World Bank is as under:

Sl.No.	State	Number of Projects
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	6*
2.	Bihar	3
3.	Chhattisgarh	1*
4.	Gujarat	8*
5.	Haryana	3
6.	Karnataka	3*
7.	Kerala	2*
8.	Madhya Pradesh	4**
9.	Maharashtra	7*
10.	Orissa	7**
11.	Punjab	2
12.	Rajasthan	2$
13.	Tamil Nadu	4**
14.	Uttar Pradesh	3
15.	West Bengal	1

*This includes works related to Hydrology Project.

**This includes works related to Hydrology Project & Dam Safety Assurance & Rehabilitation Project.

$This includes works related to Dam Safety Assurance & Rehabilitation Project.

At present, five Irrigation projects namely Andhra Pradesh Economic Restructuring Project (Irrigation component), Karnataka Community Based Tank Management Project, Madhya Pradesh Water Sector Restructuring Project, Rajasthan Water Sector Restructuring Project and UP Water Sector Restructuring Project are being implemented with the World Bank assistance.

No Project has been funded by the Asian Development Bank in water sector so far.

Religious Tourism

3019. SHRIMATI MANORAMA MADHAVRAJ: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Japan proposes to make substantial investment in the Buddhist Pilgrim Circuits in Bihar; and

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

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

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Purchase of Foodgrains After Cut Off Date

3020. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:
SHRI ILYAS AZMI:

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

(a) whether rice was procured by Food Corporation of India (FCI) in Varanasi and Kanpur even after the expiry of cut-off date;

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

(c) whether the Government has conducted any enquiry in this matter;

(d) if so, the results of the enquiry; and

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

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) No rice was purchased by FCI in Varanasi and Kanpur after expiry of cut-off date during 2001-02 and 2002-03. In 2003-04 some rice stock under levy was delivered by State Government before 30.6.2004 and the same could not be accepted since the concerned Assistant Manager (Quality Control) at Farrukhabad (Kanpur) proceeded on unauthorized leave, though the quality of the same was checked by technical official, who was posted to assist the Assistant Manager (Quality Control). On the representation of Millers, the acknowledgements were got issued by depot Incharge and the stock was taken in the books of account after 30.6.2004.

(c) to (e) A complaint regarding purchase of 88 lots of BRL rice stocks at FSD, Farrukhabad during the period 13.7.2004 to 19.7.2004 has been received. Executive Director (Vigilance), Food Corporation of India (Hqrs) has been asked to enquire into the allegation.

[English]

Guides at Tourist Spots

3021. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that there are no trained guides at historical tourist spots in Delhi;

(b) if so, whether there is not functional tourist camp in Delhi and Government run tourist centres to save them from exploitation by fake guides and touts; and

(c) if so, the measures contemplated by the Government to set up well organised tourists centres at the city's airport, railway stations and in Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) There are 353 Regional Level Tourist Guides in Delhi who were inducted through intensive training programmes. These guides also attend Refresher Courses to upgrade their knowledge of tourist spots.

(b) and (c) The Department of Tourism has tourist counters at the international and domestic airports and in the city for dissemination of information to tourists. The Delhi Government has also deployed Tourist Police for safety of the tourists.

Encouragement of Apiculture

3022. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the steps undertaken by the Government to encourage apiculture industry in the country;

(b) the number of projects regarding apiculture received from various States including West Bengal during the last three years, State-wise;

(c) the number of proposals cleared and pending for clearance as on date; and

(d) by when the remaining 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 KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) The Khadi & Village Industries Commission (KVIC) is implementing various programmes for encouraging apiculture in the country. The programmes include:

1. Training on skill upgradation for Apis Mellifera and Cerana.

2. Skill upgradation for Apis Dorssata.

3. Quality upgradation by processing Honey, through Scientific Honey Processing Units.

Besides, the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Macro Management in Agriculture—Supplementation/ Complementation of State. Effort through Work Plan under which Development of Beekeeping for Improving Crop Productivity is one of the programmes. The programme is implemented by the identified State Designated Agencies based on the Annual Work Plan. The NHB is also providing assistance for the promotion of beekeeping through their scheme on Development of Horticulture through Production and Post Harvest Management.

(b) and (c) The State-wise details regarding number of projects sanctioned by the KVIC and NHB during the last three years is given in Statement enclosed. No projects were received from West Bengal.

(d) No projects are pending clearance.

Statement

Details of Projects sanctioned for Apiculture

Sl.No.	Name of the State	No. of Project	
		KVIC	NHB
1.	Nagaland	39	—
2.	Meghalaya	3	—
3.	Assam	4	—
4.	Arunachal Pradesh	4	—
5.	Manipur	3	—
6.	Orissa	4	—
7.	Andhra Pradesh	3	—
8.	Kerala	49	—
9.	Uttaranchal	37	1
10.	Tamil Nadu (Madurai)	23	—
11.	Haryana	10	—
12.	Tamil Nadu (Chennai)	17	—
13.	Rajasthan	—	8
14.	Uttar Pradesh	—	3
	Total	239	12

[Translation]

FPI by Multinational Companies

3023. SHRI TUKARAM GANPATRAO RENGE PATIL:
SHRI GIRIDHARI YADAV:
SHRI D. VITTAL RAO:

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

(a) whether some multinational companies have launched food processing industries in the country;

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

(c) the number of such units set up by multinational companies during the last three years and current year; and

(d) the extent to which they are working for growth of fruits and vegetable processing industries in all the States and Union Territories?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (d) The information regarding launching/setting up of food processing industries in the country by multinational companies is not centrally monitored in the Ministry.

Food Bazars and Sanskritik Manch to Promote Tourism

3024. SHRI SAJJAN KUMAR: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up "Food Bazar and Sanskritik Manch" in cooperation with district administration in the forest areas to promote tourism; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) No such proposal is under consideration of the Ministry of Tourism.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Bumper Cotton Crop

3025. SHRI TEK LAL MAHTO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a bumper cotton crop is expected this year;

(b) if so, whether the Government is contemplating to raise the issue with Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) to procure the commodity at Minimum Support Price (MSP) to check distress sale by the farmers;

(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 KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) As per the first advance estimates of foodgrains and commercial crops for the year 2004-05, the production of cotton is estimated at 13.85 million bales of 170 Kgs. each.

(b) to (d) In order to avoid distress sale due to fall in cotton prices below the Minimum Support Price (MSP), the Cotton Corporation of India (CCI), the nodal agency of the Government of India, enters the market to buy kapas at MSP fixed by the Government of India. In view of the fall in kapas prices below the MSP level, the Cotton Corporation of India has commenced its MSP operations in all the major cotton growing States (except Maharashtra) viz. Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka. As on 15th December, 2004, the CCI has purchased 28.25 lakh quintals of kapas at MSP. In Maharashtra, the Maharashtra State Cooperative Cotton Growers Marketing Federation has commenced its procurement operations in the State under monopoly procurement scheme at guaranteed prices.

[Translation]

Advance Announcement of Minimum Support Price

3026. SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULASTE:
SHRI CHANDRABHAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Madhya Pradesh has requested that the announcement of support price of agricultural commodities should be made in advance before one crop season;

(b) if so, the action taken by the Union Government on this demand;

(c) whether the Government would announce the support price this year in advance before one crop season as demanded by Madhya Pradesh;

(d) if so, by when;

(e) whether any proposal is pending to make the insurance units to implement crop insurance scheme; and

(f) if so, the time by which the same would be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Though no such proposal has been received, every effort is being made to minimize the time lag between commencement of sowing season and announcement of Minimum Support Prices (MSPs).

(c) and (d) The Government decides on the Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for various agricultural commodities taking into account the recommendations of Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP), the views of State Governments and concerned Central Ministries as well as such other relevant factors, which in the opinion of the Government, are important for fixation of MSPs. As the purpose of MSPs is to give price signal to farmers with regard to choice of crops, every effort is made to expedite announcement of MSPs. The MSPs of Kharif Crops of 2004-05 season were announced on 10th August, 2004 while the MSPs of Rabi crops of 2004-05 to be marketed in 2005-06 were announced on 3rd November, 2004.

(e) and (f) The National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) operates on 'Area approach' basis which may be Gram Panchayat, Mandal, Hubli, Circle, Phirka, Block, Tehsil etc. The assessment of crop loss is made on the basis of unit area of insurance, which is decided by the implementing State/UT. As per the provision of the scheme each participating State/UT is allowed to notify any unit area of insurance including Patwari Circle, if the implementing State has the capacity to undertake requisite

number of Crop Cutting Experiments. The Implementing Agency has already apprised the States.

[English]

Procurement of Foodgrains

3027. SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP:
SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK:

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

(a) the quantum of wheat, rice, sugarcane and other Kharif crops procured during the last three years, State-wise alongwith the price thereof;

(b) the number of farmers benefited from this procurement, State-wise;

(c) whether the production and procurement during the current season is adequate; and

(d) if not, the steps being taken to ensure food security in the country during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) The quantum of wheat, rice & coarse grains procured and sugarcane crushed by the sugar mills during the last three years, State-wise, alongwith the Minimum Support Prices are indicated in the Statement-I, II and III enclosed.

(b) All the farmers who had brought their produce of Fair Average Quality at the purchase centres opened by the Government agencies were benefited under the Minimum Support Prices announced by the Government.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Statement

State-wise Cane Crushed During the Last Three Sugar Seasons

(Figures In Lakh Tonnes)

State	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003* (P)
1	2	3	4
Punjab	51.13	62.81	60.35
Haryana	59.76	62.68	62.77
Rajasthan	0.66	0.54	0.24
Uttar Pradesh	489.61	552.09	592.40
Uttaranchal	—	47.17	45.36
Madhya Pradesh	10.12	7.18	7.17
Chhattisgarh	—	—	0.39
Gujarat	102.94	97.83	118.27
Maharashtra	576.48	481.66	527.87
Bihar	31.61	38.42	44.22
Assam	0.35	—	—
Andhra Pradesh	98.67	104.67	119.23

1	2	3	4
Karnataka	149.18	144.50	173.17
Tamil Nadu	184.79	191.41	166.31
Kerala	0.84	0.61	0.21
Orissa	3.55	2.78	4.26
West Bengal	0.49	0.62	0.91
Nagaland	—	—	—
Pondicherry	4.65	4.62	3.54
Goa	1.65	0.85	1.39
All India	1766.48	1800.44	1928.06

*Data has been compiled from the 444 sugar mills.
(P)-Provisional.

Statement II

State-wise and Marketing season-wise procurement of rice, wheat, coarse grains and total*

(In '000 tonnes)

State/U.T.	2001-02				2002-03				2003-04			
	Rice	Wheat	C. Grains	Total	Rice	Wheat	C. Grains	Total	Rice	Wheat	C. Grains	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Neg.	—	—	0
Andhra Pradesh	6425	—	15	6440	2635	—	4	2639	4230	—	277	4507
Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0
Assam	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	17	—	—	17
Bihar	89	43	—	132	158	41	—	199	363	1	1	365
Chandigarh	—	12	—	12	—	16	—	16	—	Neg.	—	0
Chhattisgarh	1921	—	Neg.	1921	1291	—	—	1291	2374	Neg.	3	2377
Delhi	—	50	—	50	—	34	—	34	—	12	—	12
Gujarat	—	—	54	54	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Haryana	1484	6407	—	7891	1325	5888	—	7213	1334	5122	199	6655
Himachal Pradesh	12	2	—	14	7	2	—	9	3	1	—	4
Jammu and Kashmir	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0
Jharkhand	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	2

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Karnataka	137	—	95	232	—	—	1	1	—	—	16	16
Madhya Pradesh	274	294	56	624	159	438	3	600	112	188	21	321
Maharashtra	130	—	58	188	152	—	52	204	308	—	60	368
Orissa	1253	—	—	1253	890	—	—	890	1373	—	—	1373
Pondicherry	11	—	—	11	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0
Punjab	7282	10560	—	17842	7939	9880	—	17819	8662	8938	—	17600
Rajasthan	39	676	36	751	41	461	—	502	41	259	73	373
Tamil Nadu	852	—	—	852	107	—	—	107	207	—	—	207
Uttar Pradesh	1936	2446	—	4382	1360	2110	—	3470	2554	1213	—	3767
Uttaranchal	235	140	—	375	232	184	—	416	323	67	—	390
West Bengal	48	—	—	48	126	—	—	126	925	—	—	925
Total	22128	20630	314	43072	16422	19054	60	35536	22828	15801	651	39280

Neg.—Below 500 tonnes.

Statement-III

Procurement Prices (MSP) of Wheat, Paddy, Coarse grains and Sugarcane

(figure in Rs/quintal)

Year	Wheat	Paddy		Coarse grains	Sugarcane
		Common	Grade A		
2001-2002	610	530	560	485	62.05
2002-2003	620	530	560	#485	69.50
		20@	20@		
2003-2004	620@	550	580	505	73.00

@Special drought relief.
#Plus Rs. 10.00 for Bajra and Rs. 5 for Jowar/Maize/Ragi for KMS 2002-03.

[Translation]

Irrigation Projects of Madhya Pradesh

3028. SHRI CHANDRABHAN SINGH:
SHRI GANESH SINGH:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the irrigation projects proposed in Madhya Pradesh for utilization of 1825 M.A.F. water of Narmada allocated to the State by Narmada Authority; and

(b) the hectares of land proposed to be irrigated and the power generation through these projects?

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 Acres 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 water are as under:

Project	No. of Projects	Water use (MAF)
Major	30	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 (hectare)	Installed capacity (Mega Watt)
Major	14,17,670	2178.5
Medium	5,23,268	—
Minor	3,96,170	—
Small & Minor Hydel	—	286

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.

[English]

Re-organisation of Agriculture Sector

3029. SHRI ARJUN SETHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering to re-organise the agriculture sector by including exports; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when the re-organisation is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) As may be seem from the table given below, the share of agricultural exports in the Gross Domestic Product from agriculture sector at current prices, has not seen any perceptible change during the last decade. To stimulate the growth of export of agricultural products, new initiatives have been announced in the Foreign Trade Policy 2004-09.

Year	GDP Agriculture at Current Prices (Rs. in Crores)	Agriculture Exports (Rs. in Crores)	Percentage of Exports to Agriculture GDP
1	2	3	4
1993-94	221834	12586.55	5.67
1994-95	255193	13222.76	5.18
1995-96	277846	20397.74	7.34
1996-97	334030	24161.29	7.21
1997-98	353490	24832.45	7.02
1998-99	406498	25510.64	6.27
1999-2000	422392	25313.66	5.99

1	2	3	4
2000-01	423522	28657.37	6.76
2001-02	473004	29728.61	6.28
2002-03	456044	34653.94	7.59

Source: Central Statistical Organisation, New Delhi, Agricultural Statistics at a glance 2004

No changes in the existing arrangements of Agricultural exports etc. are, however, contemplated.

[English]

Distribution Policy

3030. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR:
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:

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

(a) whether the absence of uniform National Distribution Policy has led to the dichotomy of starving people along side the huge surplus stocks of foodgrains in FCI godowns;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether several experts have urged the Government to formulate a uniform National Foodgrains Distribution Policy; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) The Government of India allocates foograins under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) to the States/ UTs on a uniform basis @ 35 kgs. per household per month. The Government of India introduced the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) with focus on the poor to provide the foodgrains to the Below Poverty Line (BPL) families at highly subsidized rates. The BPL households are determined on the basis of the population projects of the Registrar General of India as on 1.3.2000 and the State-wise poverty estimates of the Planning Commission for 1993-94. To ensure food security for all and to reform and improve the Public Distribution System for the benefit of the poorest of the poor from amongst the BPL families, the Antyodaya Anna Yojana was commenced in December, 2000 to provide food grains at highly subsidized rates of Rs. 2/- per kg. for wheat and 3/- per kg. for rice. The Scheme which initially covered one crore poorest of the poor families has been expanded to cover 2.00 crore BPL families by including, *inter-alia*, all households at the risk of hunger.

The increasing trend of offtake of foodgrains under BPL in the last three years from 117.31 lakh tonnes in 2001-02 to 199.69 lakh tonnes in 2003-04 and the fact that Central Issue Price (CIP) of foodgrains for BPL has been constant since July, 2002 indicate the TPDS is effective.

(c) and (d) At present, there is no proposal under consideration of the Government to formulate a uniform National Foodgrains Distribution Policy. Public Distribution System as it stood earlier, had been widely criticized for its failure to serve the population below the poverty line, its urban bias, limited coverage in the States with high concentration of the rural poor and lack of transparent and accountable arrangements for delivery. The Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) was introduced in June 1997 with a view to target the under priviledged sections of the society *i.e.* families Below the Poverty Line who are being provided foodgrains at highly subsidized rates.

[Translation]

Assistance for Sugar Mills

3031. SHRIMATI KALPNA RAMESH NARHIRE:
SHRI JASHUBHAI DANABHAI BARAD:
SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA:

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

(a) whether the Union Government has constituted National Co-operative Development Corporation (NCDC) and Sugar Development Fund to help the sugarcane growers and sick sugar mills in the country;

(b) if so, the nature of assistance being provided by this Corporation and Fund;

(c) the annual budget provided for this purpose; and

(d) the details of the sugar mills that benefited from this Corporation and Fund, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) The constitution of the National Co-operative Development Corporation (NCDC) and Sugar Development Fund (SDF) as also the nature of assistance being provided by them are enclosed as Statement-I and II respectively.

(c) For the year 2004-05, an amount of Rs. 150.00 crores has been proposed for assisting sugar cooperatives by the National Co-operative Development Corporation under various schemes. Similarly during the same period an amount of Rs. 952.5 crores has been provided for assisting sugar units under various schemes in Sugar Development Fund.

(d) Statement III and IV respectively indicating the details of the sugar mills last benefited from the Corporation and the SDF are enclosed.

Statement-I

National Cooperative Development Corporation

The National Cooperative Development Corporation, a Statutory Organization, has been set up under an Act of Parliament and is basically a promotional organization engaged in development of agricultural production, supply of agricultural inputs, marketing, storage and processing in the cooperative sector and thus, supports the country's efforts in augmenting farm production, to the ultimate benefit of farmers and other rural population.

Among others, NCDC has been promoting the setting up of cooperative sugar mills and provides investment loan to the State Government towards equity participation in these mills as also term loan for modernization-cum-expansion and diversification projects of existing cooperative sugar mills with a view to provide the benefit of value addition through creation of above facilities to sugarcane growers.

With regard to assisting sick sugar mills, the Corporation has posed a scheme for extending financial assistance towards rehabilitation of sick cooperative sugar mills in the country which is yet to be approved by Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs.

Among others, NCDC has been promoting establishment and development of sugar factories in the cooperative sector. The details of various schemes are indicated below:-

(i) Investment loan assistance to the State Governments to supplement their resources for equity participation in new cooperative sugar mills.

(ii) Term loan assistance to the existing cooperative sugar mills for modernization/expansion.

(iii) Term loan assistance for establishment of sugar by-product units.

(iv) Margin Money assistance to the existing cooperative sugar mills.

(v) Short/Medium term loan towards working capital requirements of cooperative sugar mills.

Statement-II

Sugar Development Fund

Under the Sugar Cess Act, 1982, a cess of Rs. 14.00 per quintal is being collected on all sugar produced by any sugar factory in India.

The Sugar Development Fund Act, 1982, provides that an amount equivalent to the proceeds of the duty of excise levied and collected under the Sugar Cess Act, 1982 reduced by the cost of collection as determined by the Central Government, together with any money received by the Central Government for the purpose of this Act, shall after due appropriation made by Parliament by law, be credited to the Sugar Development Fund.

Under the Sugar Development Fund Act, the Fund has to be utilized by the Government of India for the following:-

1. Making loans for facilitating the rehabilitation and modernization of any sugar factory or any unit thereof including potentially viable sugar undertaking.

2. Making loans for the undertaking of any scheme for development of sugarcane in the area in which any sugar factory is situated, including to a potentially viable sugar undertaking.

3. Making grants for the purpose of carrying out any research project aimed at the promotion and development of any aspect of Sugar Industry.
4. Defraying expenditure on internal transport and freight charges on export shipment of sugar.
5. Making loans to any Sugar Factory having an installed capacity of 2500 Tonnes Crushed Per Day or higher and is approved for financial assistance from a Financial Institution or Scheduled Bank for it to implement a project of bagasse-based co-generation of power.
6. Making loans for production of anhydrous alcohol or ethanol from alcohol or molasses.
7. Defraying expenditure for the purpose of building up and maintenance of Buffer Stock with a view to stabilizing price of sugar.
8. Defraying any other expenditure for the purpose of the Act.

Statement-III

State-wise and Activity-wise No. of Cooperative Sugar Mills benefited with NCDC's Assistance

S. No.	Name of State	Investment loan for equity Participation	Modernisation Expansion	By Product Units	Rehabilitation	Bridge loan against SD	Working Capital loan	Total
1.	Andhra Pradesh	11	2	—	—	1	—	14
2.	Assam	1	—	—	1	—	—	2
3.	Chhattisgarh	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
4.	Goa	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
5.	Gujarat	11	4	1	4	—	2	22
6.	Haryana	8	2	1	2	—	—	13
7.	Kerala	—	1	1	—	—	—	2
8.	Karnataka	23	7	—	—	—	—	30
9.	Madhya Pradesh	4	—	—	1	—	—	5
10.	Maharashtra	113	16	16	1	2	1	149
11.	Orissa	2	1	1	1	—	—	5
12.	Punjab	11	5	2	—	—	—	18
13.	Rajasthan	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
14.	Tamil Nadu	8	5	7	1	—	13	34
15.	Uttar Pradesh	25	14	5	4	—	—	48
16.	Uttaranchal	3	3	—	—	—	—	6
17.	DNH	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
	Total	222	60	34	17	3	16	352

Statement-IV

Position of Sanction & Disbursement of Loan from Sugar Development Fund for Modernisation/Rehabilitation, Sugarcane Development, Co-Generation and Ethanol

(As on 15.12.2004)

		Loan for Modernisation Rehabilitation	Loan for Cane Development	Loan for bagasse based Co-generation	Loan for Ethanol from Alcohol or Molasses	Total
		No. of loan cases	No. of loan cases	No. of loan cases	No. of loan cases	No. of loan cases
	STATES					
1.	Andhra Pradesh	15	65	1	—	81
2.	Assam	—	3	—	—	3
3.	Bihar	17	20	—	—	37
4.	Gujarat	10	15	—	—	25
5.	Karnataka	15	45	3	—	63
6.	Kerala	—	1	—	—	1
7.	Madhya Pradesh	4	14	—	—	18
8.	Maharashtra	66	230	—	—	296
9.	Punjab	6	23	—	—	29
10.	Tamil Nadu	13	68	3	—	84
11.	Uttar Pradesh	95	171	3	1	270
12.	Orissa	1	9	—	—	10
13.	Goa	—	1	—	—	1
14.	Haryana	4	30	—	—	34
15.	West Bengal	—	1	—	—	1
16.	Pondicherry	—	2	—	—	2
17.	Rajasthan	—	2	—	—	2
18.	Uttaranchal	1	4	—	—	5
	Total	247	704	10	1	962

[English]

Construction of Indoor and Outdoor Stadiums in J&K

3032. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of proposals received from the Government of Jammu & Kashmir for the construction of indoor and outdoor stadiums during the last three years;

(b) whether all the proposals have been cleared and funds released for the purpose; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and by when it is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI SUNIL DUTT): (a) to (c) The details and status of proposals received from the Jammu & Kashmir Government for construction of Indoor/Outdoor Stadium during the last 3 years (2001-02 to 2003-04) under the Scheme of "Grants for Creation of Sports Infrastructure", are given below:

Sl.No.	Project	Present status
1.	Indoor stadium (cat. II) at Gandhinagar, Jammu	Central assistance of Rs. 67.50 lakhs approved.
2.	Outdoor stadium cat. I at Smailpur, Jammu	Central assistance of Rs. 27.00 lakhs approved and out of which Rs. 14.00 lakh released towards first instalment.
3.	Indoor Stadium cat. III and Kanji House, Jammu	Central assistance of Rs. 30.00 lakhs approved.
4.	Indoor Stadium cat. II at Budgaon	Central assistance of Rs. 67.50 lakh approved.
5.	Outdoor Stadium at Ramnagar, Udhampur	Deficiencies conveyed on 1.4.2004. State Government has to submit the revised proposal.
6.	Outdoor stadium at Bali Bagh, Anantnag	State Government was requested on 11.11.2002 to reformulate the proposal.
7.	Outdoor stadium at Budgaon	Not approved in view of non-completion of previously sanctioned project at Sl.No. 4 above and the State Government was informed on 23.4.2003.
8.	Indoor stadium at Devachan, Leh-Ladakh	Rejected on 22.1.2003 since the NGO was not eligible in terms of its constitution.

The release of first instalment funds after approval is contingent on satisfactory progress on the project documented by the State Government. The release of second instalment takes place after receipt of utilization certificate of first instalment.

Closure of FCI Office in Jalpaiguri

3033. SHRIMATI MINATI SEN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to close down the office of the DM FCI Jalpaiguri and shift the base depot;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government has not constructed any new Godowns in West Bengal as proposed in the Tenth Plan; and

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

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Under the Built-Own-Operate (BOO) Scheme, there is a proposal for construction of 25,000 MT capacity godown at Hoogly in West Bengal.

Social Security Scheme for Unorganized Sector

3034. SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has reviewed the social security scheme for workers in the unorganised sector launched in January, 2004;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the statutory backing provided or proposed to be provided to the said scheme; and

(c) the details of number of workers benefited and amount spent under the scheme as on date?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO): (a) and (b) The Government launched the Unorganised Sector Workers' Social Security Scheme, 2004. The benefits included health insurance, personal accident insurance cover and old age pension. The scheme was not found viable and therefore it is being re-worked. One of the reasons was that it lacked statutory backing. The Government is working to enact 'Unorganised Sector Workers Bill, 2004' to provide for, among other things, social security measures having statutory backing for the unorganised sector workers in the country.

(c) About 3500 unorganised workers have been covered under the scheme. The Government of India contribution towards the scheme was Rs. one lakh for the year 2003-04.

Use of Wildlife in Advertisements

3035. SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether many companies are using wild animals in the advertisements in order to sell their products, which include elephants, parakeets etc.; and

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government against these companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) No such permissions are required to be sought from this Ministry.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Permission to Multinational Companies to Sell Food Items

3036. SHRI GANESH SINGH: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the names of Multinational Companies who have been permitted to sell food items in plastic pouches and cans;

(b) the details of the contracts signed with them; and

(c) the amount of investment made by these Multinational Companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (c) The Information regarding Multinational Companies which have been permitted to sell food items in plastic pouches and cans, the contract signed with them and the amount of investment made for this activity is not centrally maintained by this Ministry.

[English]

Tourism Development in Assam

3037. SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether a rope bridge for Kamakhya Temple in Assam has been sanctioned; and

(b) if so, by when it will be implemented alongwith the cost involved therein?

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

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Japan Aided Projects

3038. SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN:
SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA:

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

(a) whether Japan has provided funds for some projects in the country during the last five years and current year;

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

(c) by when these projects are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A statement is enclosed.

Statement

Loan extended by JBIC of Japan for Environmental related projects during the last five years

S.No.	Name of Project	State/States	Loan Amount (in Yen Mill)	Date of Signing and Closing
1.	Punjab Afforestation Project-II	Punjab	5054	31.3.2003 31.7.2009
2.	Rajasthan Forestry and Biodiversity Project	Rajasthan	9054	31.3.2003
3.	Yamuna Action Plan (II)	Delhi, U.P. & Haryana	13333	31.3.2003 31.7.2010
4.	Integrated Natural Resource Management and Poverty Reduction Project	Haryana	6280	31.3.2004 18.6.2014

Use of Chemical Fertilizer and Insecticides

3039. SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA:
SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR CHOUDHARY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the chemical fertilizer and insecticides have ill affects on agriculture;

(b) if so, whether the Government considers bio-agriculture as its substitute; and

(c) if so, the merits and demerits of bio-agriculture?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) The average per hectare consumption of chemical fertilizer nutrients and insecticides (technical grade) are 89.8 kg/ha and 0.22 kg/ha respectively. This level of consumption is not considered to have ill-effect on agriculture. However, if the chemical pesticides are not used judiciously, they may have ill effects such as development of pest resistance to pesticides, pest resurgence, outbreak of secondary pests, pesticide residues in agriculture products, environmental pollution and ecological imbalances.

(b) Organic Farming (also known as bio-agriculture) advocates the use of organic inputs for plant nutrients and biological control of pests and diseases. The Government is promoting 'Integrated Nutrient Management' (INM) which advocates soil test based balanced and judicious use of chemical fertilizers in conjunction with organic manures and bio-fertilizers to overcome the ill-effects and for sustaining soil health and its productivity and also Integrated Pest Management providing mechanical, biological and need based use of pesticides.

(c) Bio-agriculture is the holistic approach for ecofriendly and sustainable agriculture based on natural organic inputs. However, it may have limitations of lower productivity but has potential for export market and niche domestic market. The bio-control agents/biopesticides have demerits of high cost of product, species specific action and weather dependant efficacy.

[English]

Treatment, Storage and Disposal Facility in Kerala

3040. SHRI T.K. HAMZA:
SHRI ABDULLAKUTTY:
SHRIMATI P. SATHEEDEVI:

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

(a) whether the Supreme Court's appointed Committee observed recently that Kerala had no Treatment, Storage and Disposal Facility (TSDF) in its industrial areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the trade unions and industrial management has sought for more time to instal facilities for TSDF; and

(d) if so, the steps to be taken to settle the issue without closure of the industries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) to (d) The Supreme Court Monitoring Committee on hazardous wastes management has issued directions to the State Government for development of the Treatment, Storage and Disposal Facility (TSDF) for hazardous wastes. Kerala State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) has taken up the matter with Industries Department, Government of Kerala for identifying land for developing the common TSDF preferably at Kochi and Palakkad. Also KSPCB has constituted a Local Area Environment Committee for Eloor-Edayar area, *inter alia*, to undertake Environmental audit of all industrial units in the area.

Industrial use of Reserved Forests

3041. SHRI V.K. THUMMAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether M/s. Ultra Tech Cement Company Limited formerly known as M/s. L&T Cement has been using reserved forest land in Gujarat for industrial purpose; and

(b) if so, the action taken/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) and (b) Yes Sir. M/s. Ultratech Cement Company Ltd. has taken prior permission from the Central Government on 24.07.1998, for non-forestry use of 3.10 hectare of forest land in Kovaya Village, Rajula Taluk, District Amreli (Gujarat), as required under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. In another case, according to information received from the State Government, the User Agency has also submitted to proposal for renewal of lease under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, over an area of 112.04 hectare of forest land in Babarkot, Amreli district, use of which was permitted earlier by the State Government. The User Agency is making use of infrastructure erected during the earlier lease on the strength of the Supreme Court order in Writ Petition (c) No. 202 of 1995.

Information Hubs for Domestic Service Providers

3042. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the share of services sector, skilled and unskilled workers, in the country's G.D.P.;

(b) whether any steps have been taken to open information hubs for domestic service providers to receive information/knowledge on market access opportunities in other countries;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO): (a) The share of services sector in the country's GDP for the year 2001-2002 (at current prices) was of the order of 49.3%.

(b) to (d) At present, there is no proposal under consideration of the Ministry of Labour & Employment to open information hubs for domestic service providers to receive information/knowledge in market access opportunities in other countries.

Funds to West Bengal under AIBP

3043. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that West Bengal is laying emphasis on minor irrigation works to augment the availability of water for irrigation; and

(b) if so, the funds requested by the Government of West Bengal under Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programmes (AIBP) and the funds provided by the Union Government to the State Government during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There is no scheme under Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (IABP) for minor irrigation in West Bengal and the Government of West Bengal have not requested for any fund under AIBP. Central loan assistance for Surface Minor Irrigation schemes is given

under AIBP to special category States and undivided Koraput, Bolangir and Kalahandi (KBK) districts of Orissa only.

Amendments to Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960

3044. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH:
SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KUSHAWAHA:

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

(a) whether medical tests are conducted on animals for saving the life of the human being and these tests are to be conducted only when the success rate is expected to be 95 percent;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to amend the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960 for saving the lives of the animals on whom these tests are conducted resulting in their death; and

(d) if so, the details of the amendments proposed to be made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) While the medical tests are conducted on animals for saving the life of human beings, success rate is determined as per the guidelines of Committee for the Purpose of Control and Supervision of Experiments on Animals (CPCSEA) on case to case basis.

(c) No proposal for amendment of Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (PCA) Act, 1960 has been formulated.

(d) Question does not arise.

[Translation]

Use of Hindi

3045. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether most of the farmers in the country are semi-literate whose knowledge of Hindi, their national language, is better than English;

(b) if so, whether the Ministry of Agriculture, Universities and research institutions related to agricultural work, is done in English rather than Hindi;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government propose to introduce our national language in the Ministry of Agriculture, Universities and research institutions; and

(e) if so, by when and 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 KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) Knowledge of Hindi of the farmers of Hindi speaking States of India like Uttar Pardesh, Haryana, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Bihar etc. is better than English but in other parts of the country, regional languages are prevalent.

(b) and (c) The medium of instruction in State agricultural universities is English. However, bilingual instructions (in English as well as in Hindi) are imparted in universities of Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh etc. Students are permitted to write answers of the question papers in Hindi as well.

The medium of instruction and scientific writing in ICAR system is often in English owing to the fact that the maximum literature and communication mode is globally accepted. However, scientists are writing books, literature and scientific papers in Hindi as well. Extension practices including preparation of instructional/training material is in Hindi and other regional languages also.

(d) and (e) Hindi is being used as an Official Language in the ICAR and its Institutes in day to day official works e.g. letters received in Hindi are replied to in Hindi, original correspondence is also done in Hindi to the extent possible, documents under Section 3(3) of the Official Language Act, 1963, are issued in bilingual form and extension literature is brought out in Hindi as well as in other regional languages.

[English]

Construction of One-Star Hotels

3046. SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to lay emphasis to construct One-Star Hotels and dormitories for pilgrims to boost tourism in States; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) In order to boost Tourism in the States, the Department of Tourism has introduced a Scheme 'Incentive to Accommodation Infrastructure' during the 10th Five Year Plan for augmentation of accommodation in budget category hotels *i.e.* 1 star to 3 star and heritage basic category for tourists including pilgrims.

Under this Scheme, Capital Subsidy is granted to new hotel projects in 1 to 3 star and Heritage Basic category in the country except the four metropolitan cities, Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai. The incentive is granted in the form of Capital Grant of 10% of the total principal loan taken from designated Financial Institutions/ Scheduled Banks or upto Rs. 25 lakh to 1 star hotels, Rs. 50 lakh to 2 star hotels, Rs. 75 lakh to 3 star hotels and the Heritage Basic category project, whichever is less.

[Translation]

Modernisation of ESI Hospitals

3047. SHRI SURAJ SINGH: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether many employees have died in ESI hospitals due to lack of modern facilities;

(b) if so, the deaths occurred during the last three years and current year, State-wise;

(c) the measures taken/proposed to be taken to modernise ESI hospitals and amount spent during the last three years and current year, State-wise;

(d) whether any scheme has been formulated by the Government to provide better health services to employees by constructing ESI hospitals in each district; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) The ESI Corporation formulated Action Plans in 1998-99, 1999-2000, 2001-2002 & 2002-2003 to upgrade all ESI Hospitals/Dispensaries by equipping them with modern equipments. Equipments worth about Rs. 50 crores have been sanctioned to different State Governments on the basis of proposals received from them.

Out of Rs. 50 crores, the amount sanctioned during the last three years and current year upto 30.11.2004 are in Statement enclosed.

(d) and (e) ESI has not formulated any such Scheme to open an ESI hospital in each district. However, efforts are continuously made to expand the ESI medical infrastructure and improve its quality.

Statement

Details of Expenditure incurred on ESI Hospitals/Dispensaries

(Amount in Lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of the State/U.T.	Sanction of equipments to various States in last three years & current year upto 30.11.2004			
		2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	—	23.04	32.15	—
2.	Assam	—	—	—	50.25

1	2	3	4	5	6
3.	Bihar	—	—	28.30	—
4.	Chandigarh Admn.	—	—	—	—
5.	Chhattisgarh	—	—	—	—
6.	Delhi/Noida	34.67	128.21	52.33	120.17
7.	Goa	—	11.35	—	—
8.	Gujarat	32.51	13.77	28.36	1.30
9.	Haryana	—	—	—	—
10.	Himachal Pradesh	7.68	—	—	—
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	5.70	—	5.00	—
12.	Jharkhand	—	—	22.00	—
13.	Karnataka	—	69.75	132.70	67.50
14.	Kerala	—	—	45.28	58.39
15.	Madhya Pradesh	10.87	46.26	—	—
16.	Maharashtra	14.52	—	—	—
17.	Meghalaya	—	—	—	—
18.	Orissa	—	9.00	3.87	53.20
19.	Pondicherry	—	—	—	—
20.	Punjab	—	144.60	—	—
21.	Rajasthan	4.49	91.05	—	—
22.	Tamil Nadu	—	64.84	16.14	12.61
23.	Uttar Pradesh	307.44	58.51	—	—
24.	Uttaranchal	—	—	—	—
25.	West Bengal	15.00	19.21	5.35	3.39
	Total	432.88	679.59	371.48	366.81

[English]

Agreement of Sharing of Water with Bangladesh

3048. SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA:
SHRI DEVIDAS PINGLE:
SHRI PARAS NATH YADAV:
SHRI SURENDRA PRAKASH GOYAL:
DR. RAJESH MISHRA:
SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY:
SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA:
SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHI:
SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN:
SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Indian delegation has recently visited Bangladesh to hold talks for division of water resources between the two countries;

(b) if so, the outcome of talks particularly for division of water of Ganga, Teesta, Monu, Khowai, Awadhkumari, Dharala, Muhari and Gomati rivers; and

(c) the details of the dams proposed to be built on those rivers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The 7th meeting of Joint Committee of Experts (JCE) at Secretary level on sharing of waters of Teesta and other common rivers was held at Dhaka on 14th and 15th September, 2004. Discussions were mainly held on sharing of Teesta waters. During the meeting, it was decided that the Joint Technical Group (JTG) which had been constituted earlier during the 6th meeting of JCE, may hold meetings again and make efforts to further narrow the gaps on the pending issues. Accordingly the 3rd meeting of JTG was held at New Delhi on 9th and 10th November, 2004 wherein it was decided to continue the discussions further.

No discussions took place on other common rivers namely Manu, Khowai, Dudhkumar, Dharla, Muhuri and Gumti. River Ganga is not covered under the talks by JCE as there already exists a Treaty on Sharing of Ganga/Ganges Waters which was entered between India and Bangladesh in December, 1996.

(c) Does not arise.

Ill Effects of Bauxite Ore-Mining

3049. SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposed bauxite ore-mining site in the Niyamgiri Hills on the Rayagada-Kalahandi border in Orissa adversely affect lives of the Dongria Kondhs, a primitive tribe residing in these parts and also the water system of this belt;

(b) if so, the steps taken to rectify the situation; and

(c) the names of the various jungle streams, rivulets and rivers, which originate from the Niyamgiri and Devagiri Hills in Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) No such proposal for bauxite ore mining in the Niyamgiri Hills on Rayagada-Kalahandi Boarder has been granted clearance by the Ministry of Environment and Forests.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Pending Claims of Farmers under FIIS

3050. SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI:
PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of claims of farmers under Farm Income Insurance Scheme (FIIS) pending at present, State-wise;

(b) the reasons for the delay; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to remove the anomalies in the said scheme and withdraw impracticable conditions 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) All the admissible claims have been settled by the Implementing Agency (IA).

(b) Does not arise.

(c) A Joint Group set up to study the improvements required in the existing Crop Insurance Scheme is examining all the related issues including the relevance of Farm Income Insurance Scheme.

[English]

National Youth Policy

3051. SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps being taken to build infrastructure and suitable priorities to implement the National Youth Policy, 2003 in order to maximise it's contribution to National Development; and

(b) the details of achievements of said Policy, till date?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI SUNIL DUTT): (a) and (b) The following steps have been taken under the National Youth Policy, 2003:

A National Inter-departmental Committee under the Chairpersonship of Secretary has been constituted to prepare draft National Action Plan for the implementation of the Policy.

The Ministry has taken a large number of initiatives to strengthen Youth Clubs under Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS). These include expanding their membership to cover adolescents, launching of Gandhi Gramodya Sankalp Abhiyan, introduction of the concept of Rural Connectivity through Information Technology, emphasis on Vocational Training etc. In this regard, the Ministry has sought convergence with other Ministries/ Departments like Human Resource Development, Rural Development, Health & Family Welfare, Women and Child Development and Culture to promote youth development and their involvement in national development.

Adolescents have been recognized as a major segments under the National Youth Policy. The Ministry has formulated and launched a Scheme for Development and Empowerment of Adolescents, in the group of 10-19 years. Under this scheme, non-governmental organizations, educational institutions etc., are being assisted to undertake projects and programmes relating to issues concerning adolescents.

Assistance for Cold Storages

3052. SHRI M. SHIVANNA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka has sought an assistance of Rs. 200 crores from the Union Government to set up warehouses and cold storages to reduce wastage of agricultural produce so as to ensure farmers to get remunerative prices; and

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

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

Benefits to Nurses

3053. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Staff Nurses working in hospitals are entitled to benefits under labour laws including Industrial Disputes Act;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is aware of complaints that many hospital managements are terminating services of nurses without giving any benefits; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO): (a) and (b) Besides Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, the provisions of Equal Remuneration Act, 1976, Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972, Employees' Provident Funds & Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952, Payment of Bonus Act, 1965, Maternity Benefit Act, 1961 and Shops and Establishment Act enacted by the State Government concerned are also applicable to the hospitals subject to conditions for coverage indicated in the respective Acts. The benefits provided under the aforementioned Labour Laws are available to the nursing staff.

(c) For most of the hospitals, State Governments are "appropriate Governments". No complaints has been received in respect of hospitals in the Central sphere.

(d) In view of (c) above, question does not arise.

[Translation]

Funds to States

3054. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA:
SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR:

Will the Minister of STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES be pleased to the details of funds sanctioned and released to States for augmentation of water resources during the last three years, State-wise and project-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): The details of funds released to States under different schemes of Ministry of Water Resources for augmentation of water resources during the last three years are given in the Statement enclosed.

Statement

Details of funds sanctioned and released to States during 2001-2002, 2002-03 and 2003-04

(Rs. In Crore)

Sl.No.	Name of the State/UTs	Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme	Pilot project for Rain water harvesting and Artificial recharge to Ground Water	Command Area Development & Water Management Programme
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	520.38	0.10	0.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	36.50	0.20	1.60
3.	Assam	50.00	0.34	0.36
4.	Bihar	92.55	0.04	3.00
5.	Chhattisgarh	226.83	0.52	3.69
6.	Goa	60.00	0.00	
7.	Gujarat	2,232.38	0.09	0.00
8.	Haryana	25.74	0.39	29.43
9.	Himachal Pradesh	26.09	0.17	4.56
10.	Jharkhand	22.32	0.25	0.00
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	67.61	0.29	9.32
12.	Karnataka	1,379.83	0.36	87.30
13.	Kerala	47.94	0.48	6.16
14.	Madhya Pradesh	1,004.05	0.04	8.34
15.	Maharashtra	336.63	0.07	12.91
16.	Manipur	44.36	0.00	3.35

1	2	3	4	5
17.	Meghalaya	7.06	0.10	0.27
18.	Mizoram	12.05	0.14	0.25
19.	Nagaland	15.66	0.91	1.33
20.	Orissa	502.73	13.39	10.69
21.	Punjab	150.35	2.01	26.25
22.	Rajasthan	770.54	0.62	76.32
23.	Sikkim	3.90	0.00	0.07
24.	Tamil Nadu	0.00	0.85	56.68
25.	Tripura	47.84	0.00	0.00
26.	Uttar Pradesh	988.48	1.28	92.98
27.	Uttaranchal	50.72	0.00	0.75
28.	West Bengal	69.89	0.50	2.84
	Total States	8,792.39	23.16	438.46
1.	Delhi	0.00	0.66	0.00
2.	A & N Islands	0.00	0.13	0.00
3.	Lakshadweep	0.00	0.20	0.00
	Total UTs	0.00	0.98	0.00
	Total (States + UTs)	8,792.39	24.15	436.46

Production and Import of Cotton

3055. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN:
SHRI KRISHNA MURARI MOGHE:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total production of cotton in the country during the year 2004;

(b) the total quantity of cotton imported in the current financial year;

(c) the total quantity of cotton permitted to be imported during the year 2004-05;

(d) the present price of cotton; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government regarding the falling prices of cotton keeping in view the production of cotton in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) As per the first advance estimates for the year 2004-05, the total production of cotton is estimated at 13.85 million bales of 170 Kgs. each.

(b) and (c) The Cotton Advisory Board (CAB) has estimated cotton imports into the country during 2003-04 cotton season at 6.5 lakh bales of 170 Kgs. each. At present, cotton imports into the country are free and are placed under Open General License (OGL) with effect from 19th April, 1994. However, CAB has estimated

imports during 2004-05 at 5.00 lakh bales as against 6.50 lakh bales during 2003-04.

(d) The price of cotton varies from month to month and from state to state depending on the variety. In 2003-04 while for medium staple/superior medium staple variety, the average price varied from Rs. 2292 per quintal in Andhra Pradesh to Rs. 2667 per quintal in Punjab, the average price for long staple/superior long staple varied from Rs. 2408 per quintal in Andhra Pradesh to Rs. 2604 per quintal in Tamil Nadu.

(e) In order to avoid distress sale due to fall in cotton prices below the Minimum Support Price (MSP), the Cotton Corporation of India (CCI), the nodal agency of the Government of India, enters the market to buy kapas at MSP fixed by the Government of India. In view of the fall in kapas prices below the MSP level, the Cotton Corporation of India has commenced its MSP operations in all the major cotton growing states (except Maharashtra) *viz.* Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka. As on 15th December, 2004, the CCI has purchased 28.25 lakh quintals of kapas at MPS. In Maharashtra, the Maharashtra State Cooperative Cotton under monopoly procurement scheme at guaranteed prices.

[English]

Seed to Hilly Regions

3056. SHRI D. NARBULA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the farmers in the hill areas of West Bengal have not been receiving seeds well in time;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether central schemes on Transport Subsidy for the movement of seeds to the hilly regions of the country, including Darjeeling district of West Bengal, have not been working successfully;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the remedial 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) During the current financial year the State Agriculture Department has distributed seeds under Government programmes. No report about non-receipt of seeds in hill areas has been received in this Department or in the State Government.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) No such feedback is received.

(d) and (e) Question does not arise.

Modification in Pattern of Financing Sports Schemes

3057. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal for modification of the pattern of financing sports schemes in the North Eastern Region (NER) with 10 per cent contribution from State Government or from implementing Non-Government organizations (NGOs) is under consideration of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) by when it is likely to be implemented;

(d) the details of sports infrastructure being created in various parts of Assam to facilitate sports; and

(e) the details of various stadiums constructed for the forthcoming national games to be held at Guwahati?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI SUNIL DUTT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) The details of sports infrastructure projects of Assam approved and their status under the scheme of Grants for Creation of Sports Infrastructure have been placed in the enclosed Statement.

(e) 'Sports' being a state subject, it is for the State Government to construct stadia for the forthcoming national games to be held at Guwahati. Central Government, however, supplements the efforts of the State Government in this direction by providing admissible Central assistance subject to the receipt of specific viable proposals from the State Government. The Ministry has approved Central assistance of Rs. 391.23 lakhs on 29.9.2003 for a state level sports complex at Guwahati under the scheme of "Grants for Creation of Sports

Infrastructure" which is likely to be during the national games. The specific proposals received from the Government of Assam for installation of Synthetic Athletic Track/Hockey Surface at Guwahati for use during the National games have also been technically found in order. This will be placed before the Grant in Aid Committee for considering approval of admissible Central assistance under the scheme of "Grants for Installation of Synthetic Surfaces".

The Government has conveyed its approval to the estimates amounting to Rs. 55.10 crores for being released from Non-lapsable Central Pool of Resources for construction of various sports infrastructure projects for the National Games. Out of this, a sum of Rs. 22.00 crores has been released to the State Government of Assam.

Statement

Status as on 1.12.2004

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of the project/location with implementing agency	Amount approved in principle with date	Amount released with date	Balance payable	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Indoor Sports Hall Don Bosco School, Distt. Kamrup, Guwahati by Principal, Don Bosco School, Guwahati No. F. 6-3/90-SP.I)	5.00 (7.10.91)	4.5 (20.4.93)	0.50	Utilisation/ Completion Certificate awaited
2.	Construction of gymnasium/Swimming Pool, Distt. Level Sports Complex, Silchar by State Government No. F. 6-3/94-SP.I	46.75 (15.11.94)	20.00 (9.8.95) 22.00 (29.5.97)	4.75	-do-
3.	Outdoor Stadium Sarbnanda Singh Nagar, Tinsukhia by President, Sarbanda Singh Stadium Committee (NGO) No. F. 6-2/94-SP.I	18.00 (28.11.94)	16.20 (19.5.95)	1.80	-do-
4.	Development of playfield at Silchar by Shishu Mandir Silchar (NGO) No. F. 6-3/93-SP.I	2.61 (30.11.94)	1,30,875 (24.5.99)	1,30875	-do-
5.	Swimming Pool at Jorhat by Jorhat Swimming Society (NGO) No. F. 6-2/95-SP.I	43.00 (15.2.96)	Nil	43.00	-do-
6.	Outdoor Stadium at Sibsagar by Sibsgar Sporting Association (NGO) (F. 6-145/86-SP.I)	5.00 (31.3.97)	2.5 (19.12.96)	2.50	Progress Report/ Completion Certificate awaited

1	2	3	4	5	6
7.	Outdoor Stadium at Gohpur by Gohpur Kreeda Sanshta, Gohpur (NGO) No. F.-6/3/97-SP.I	31.41 (18.2.99)	23.55 (25.9.2000)	7.86	Progress Report/ Completion Certificate awaited
8.	Playfield at Rangia by Dakshin Pashchim Ranga Krishik Vikas Samity (NGO) No. F. 6-3/98-SP.I	1.95 (7.7.99)	1.7555 (20.6.2000)	0.195	-do-
9.	Ganesh Mandir Indoor Stadium Khanpara by Khanapara Sports & Cultural Organisation Guwahati (NGO) No. F. 6-5/97-SP.I	67.50 (1.1.2000)	30.00 lakh 14.12.2001 30.00 (18.9.2002)	7.50	-do-
10.	Indoor Stadium Tezpur by Tezpur District Sports Association (NGO) No. F.6-2/98-SP.I	30.00 (28.3.2000)	20.00 (31.3.2002) 7.00 6.6.2003	3.00	-do-
11.	Indoor Stadium cat. III-North Lakhimpur by Lakhimpur District Sports Association (NGO) No. F.6-4/97-SP.I	67.50 (8.9.2000)	30.00 (18.7.2002)	37.50	-do-
12.	Outdoor Stadium category-I at Biswanath Chariuali, Madhupur Distt. Sonitpur by Biswanath District Sports Association (NGO) No. F.6-4/2000-SP.I	27.00 (5.2.2001)	13.50 (18.9.2002)	13.50	-do-
13.	Indoor Stadium category III at Hailkandi by District Sports Association, Hailkandi F. 6-3/2001-SP.I (NGO)	30.00 (31.3.2002)	15.00 (6.9.2004)	15.00	Utilisation/ Completion Certificate awaited
14.	Outdoor Stadium Category-I at Lalit Chandra Rajkhowa Stadium, Jagduar, Teok Distt. Jorhat, Assam (Govt.) by State Government No. F. 6-3/2000-SP.I	18.63 (30.10.2001)	—	18.63	Progress Report awaited
15.	Mini Stadium & Auditorium at Puranigndam, Distt. Nagon by Bapuji Hall & Library at Puranigudam (NGO) No. F.6-4/98-SP.I	90.00 26.11.2002	—	90.00	-do-

1	2	3	4	5	6
16.	Construction of Indoor Stadium Category-III at Kolongpar, Distt. Nagaon, Assam by Educational Foundation. (NGO) No. F. 6-3/2002-SP.I	30.00 (27.11.2002)	10.00 (20.10.03) 13.00 (24.9.2004)	7.00	Progress Report awaited
17.	Indoor Stadium category-II at Chhayagaon by Chhayagon Sports Association at Chhayagaon Distt. Kamrup (NGO) No. F. 6-5/2002-SP.I	67.50 (14.5.2003)	30.00 (30.9.2004)	37.50	-do-
18.	District Sports Complex at Sonari, Distt. Sibsagar by State Government No. F. 6-5/2003-SP.I	144.43 (29.9.2003)	30.00 (1.7.2004)	114.43	-do-
19.	Indoor Stadium category-II at Golaghat (GOVT) Distt. Golaghat by State Government No. F. 6-2/2003-SP.I	67.50 (29.9.2003)	—	67.50	-do-
20.	State Level Sports Complex at Guwahati by State Government No. F. 6-10/99-SP.I	391.23 (29.9.2003)	—	391.23	-do-
21.	District Sports Complex at Haflong, Distt. NC Hills by State Government. (No. F. 6-11/2002-SP.I)	109.58 (9.10.2003)	42.08 (19.7.2004)	67.50	-do-
22.	Indoor Stadium cat. II at Nazira, Distt. Sibsagar by Sangkalpa (NGO) No. F. 6-3/2003-SP.I	67.50 (29.7.2004)	—	67.50	-do-
23.	DLSC at Golaghat, Distt. Golaghat by State Government No. F. 6-12/2003-SP.I	150.00 (29.7.2004)	—	150.00	-do-
24.	Outdoor Stadium cat. I at Umrangshu, Distt. N.C. Hills by S.P. Memorial Shiksha Niketan Samiti (NGO) No. F. 6-2/2004-SP. I	27.00 (29.7.2004)	—	27.00	-do-
	Total			1176.70375	

Green Signal for Cultivation of BT Cotton

3058. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Council for Agriculture Research has given green signal for cultivation of BT Cotton in various States;

(b) if so, the details of the trial made and their results received by the Council from various States; and

(c) the names of the States to which ICAR has given its signal for cultivation 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) The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) had recommended four Bt. Cotton hybrids viz. MECH 184 Bt. MECH 162 Bt. MECH 12 Bt and RCH 2 Bt to Genetic Engineering Approval Committee of the Union Ministry of Environment and Forests for allowing cultivation in Central and South Zone States of India.

(b) Trials were conducted in different years at Khandwa (Madhya Pradesh), Surat and Junagarh (Gujarat), Nagpur and Nanded (Maharashtra), Guntur and Nandyal (Andhra Pradesh), Dharwad (Karntaka) and Coimbatore (Tamil Nadu). Results of trials indicated superiority of these materials in the following aspects:-

i. Reduction in infestation by bollworms, and

ii. Reduction of upto 2-6 in number of pesticide sprays. In general, seed cotton yields of these Bt hybrids were found better than their non-Bt versions.

(c) After consideration of trial results, the Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) in the Ministry of Environment & Forests, Government of India approved these Bt. Cotton hybrids for commercial release.

[Translation]

Ayurvedic Parks In Hotels

3059. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up ayurvedic parks in hotels in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) The Department of Tourism, Government of India has no scheme to set up ayurvedic parts in hotels in the country. However, setting up of Spas with Ayurvedic treatment facilities is an on-going activity in the hotel industry. A number of hotels in the country are reported to be setting up of such facilities as a part of their package of services to their customers.

[English]

EPF Scheme for Beedi Workers

3060. SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA:
SHRI MOHAN RAWALE:

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

(a) whether the Employees Provident Fund (EPF) Scheme was extended to beedi workers all over the country in 1977;

(b) if so, the total number of beedi workers in the country and the number out of them covered by the EPF Scheme as on date, State-wise; and

(c) the reasons for poor coverage and the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure EPF coverage to all beedi workers on a time-bound programme?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) There are a total number of 40,55,893 beedi worker who have been issued identity cards. The Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 is applicable to all establishment engaged in manufacture of beedi employing 20 or more persons. As on 31.03.2004, 4158 beedi establishments are covered and 17,96,358 workers have been enrolled as subscribers, under the Act. The region-wise details are enclosed as Statement.

The problems in covering the beedi workers are:

i. Beedi manufacturing is basically in unorganized sector.

ii. Home workers in outlaying areas.

iii. While entire family is engaged in beedi manufacturing, only head of family is registered as EPF member.

However, all efforts are made by the EPFO to extend the coverage to beedi workers.

Statement

Membership in bidi establishments—Position as on 31.3.2004

S. No.	Region	Establishments			Members		
		Exempted	Unexempted	Total	Exempted	Unexempted	Total
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0	393	393	0	423474	423474
2.	West Bengal	0	216	216	0	366946	366946
3.	Tamil Nadu	0	2083	2083	0	298975	298975
4.	Karntaka	0	276	276	0	252661	252661
5.	Madhya Pradesh	0	256	256	0	150807	150807
6.	Maharashtra	2	150	152	4592	87313	91905
7.	Kerala	0	126	126	0	61030	61030
8.	Orissa	0	181	181	0	58845	58845
9.	Jharkhand	0	38	38	0	29780	29780
10.	Bihar	0	27	27	0	28246	28246
11.	Rajasthan	0	133	133	0	13668	13668
12.	Uttar Pradesh	0	153	153	0	9415	9415
13.	Chhattisgarh	0	43	43	0	8250	8250
14.	North East Region	0	21	21	0	1254	1254
15.	Gujarat	0	60	60	0	1102	1102
16.	Delhi	0	0	0	0	0	0
17.	Goa	0	0	0	0	0	0
18.	Himachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0
19.	Haryana	0	0	0	0	0	0
20.	Punjab	0	0	0	0	0	0
21.	Uttaranchal	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Total	2	4,156	4,158	4,592	1,791,766	1,796,358

National Horticulture Mission

3061. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal to provide 50 percent subsidy for the contemplated National Horticulture Mission to encourage the farmers to diversify and upgrade technology for post harvest management is under consideration of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) The Government is proposing to launch a new scheme on National Horticulture Mission for encouraging the farmers for taking up cultivation of horticultural crops duly ensuring backward and forward linkages covering research, production, post harvest management, processing and marketing.

(c) The Mission is proposed to be launched during the current Five Year Plan.

Construction of Canal

3062. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has approved any scheme to construct canal in Chandoli, Ramnagar, Mugal Sarai in Uttar Pradesh with Central assistance;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the work on the canal is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) Under the Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana (RSVY), Rs. 45 crore is approved for the execution of District Plan of Chandauli District at the rate of Rs. 15 crore per year for three years from 2004-05 to 2006-07. The following works are included under RSVY District Plan in Agriculture and Allied Sector.

		(Rs. in lakh)
1.	Minor irrigation-construction of 3 check dams	25.30
2.	Tube well-Installation of 16 tube wells	169.60
3.	Soil and Water conservation (2700 ha)	94.98
4.	Forest Department-Construction of check dam	16.00
5.	Construction of regulator	77.07
6.	Minor Lift Irrigation-Capacity enhancement of Rerua, Chari and Newalganj pump canals	119.87
7.	Upgradation of left Karmanasha canal system and Sidhana Rajwaha	106.98
	Total	609.80

All the above works are scheduled to be completed within the project period of three years.

Plantation of Red Oil Palm

3063. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated any specific policy for dereserving the reserved forest area for Red Oil Palm Plantation in Andaman and Nicobar Islands;

(b) if so, the details with respect of each Islands; and

(c) the details of amount sanctioned and released by the Union Government during the last three years and current year and the amount actually utilised by the Andaman and Nicobar Administration for plantation of Red Oil Palm?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) The Union Government has not formulated any specific policy for dereserving reserved forest area for Red Oil Palm Plantation in Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

(c) The Union Government has not sanctioned and released any amount for plantation of Red Oil Plan during the last three years and current year in Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

[Translation]

Uttar Koel and Batane Projects of Jharkhand

3064. SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR DUBEY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has issued a notification and handed over the management and control of Uttar Koel and Batane Projects to the Government of Bihar;

(b) if so, whether the Government of Jharkhand has requested the Union Government to cancel the earlier notification and give the management and control of "head works" of Uttar Koel and Batane projects to the Government of Jharkhand; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) Bihar Reorganisation Act, 2000 provide for constitution of Ganga & Sone Management Board for administration, construction, maintenance and operation of water resources projects in relation to Ganga and its tributaries & Sone and its tribuatries. Further Section 63 of the Act provides that the arrangement in regard to supply of water for any area shall not be modified to the disadvantage of any area by reason of the fact that it is, by virtue of the provision of Part II of the Act, outside the State in which the catchment area, reservoirs and other works for supply of water, as the case may be, are located. Therefore, on November, 14, 2000 a Notification under Section 63 of the Act was issued in the interest of continuance of existing arrangement in regard to supply of water to the successor States of Bihar and Jharkhand in relation to 7 water resources projects including North Koel & Batane Reservoir Project. The continuance of existing arrangement was till the Ganga & Sone Management Board becomes functional or any other suitable arrangement is made.

State Government of Jharkhand, has requested for transferring the responsibility of North Koel and Batane Reservoir Project to Government of Jharkhand by modifying existing notification of November, 2000. The Ministry of Water Resources convened an Inter-State meeting on 22nd September, 2004 with the representatives of the States of Jharkhand and Bihar to discuss *inter alia* the construction and management of North-Koel and Batane Reservoir Projects in Jharkhand. In the meeting, representatives of both States have agreed for sharing the cost and benefit from these projects as per the guidelines prepared by Central Water Commission, as also construction of headworks by the State of Jharkhand on behalf of Bihar as a deposit work. The cancellation of the earlier notification is dependent upon receipt of concurrence of Bihar and Jharkhand.

[English]

Nehru Yuvak Kendras in A.P.

3065. SHRI MADHUSUDAN REDDY: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Nehru Yuvak Kendras (NYKs) operating in Andhra Pradesh particularly in Telengana region at present;

(b) whether their activities have been evaluated;

(c) if so, whether the objectives were met;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the amount spent on these NYKs during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI SUNIL DUTT): (a) There are 23 Nehru Yuvak Kendras (NYKs) operating in Andhra Pradesh. Out of these 12 Kendras are operating in Telenganga region.

(b) Yes, Sir. Regular monitoring & periodical evaluation of the programmes in the country in undertaken.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Amount spent on these 23 NYKs during the last three years is indicated in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Details of Amount Spent on NYKs in Andhra Pradesh during the last three years

(Amount in rupees)

Kendra Name	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004
1	2	3	4
Ananthapur	1015861	1840463	959896
Vijayawada	476371	564881	544527
Chittoor	783046	837358	1021240
Cuddapah	405147	467210	906396
Guntur	482675	569824	503124
Kakinada	1620484	1871998	775185
Karimnagar	1511151	1866272	516454
Khammam	526356	821214	614022
Kurnool	676374	693111	705307
Mahabubnagar	689341	2010463	913850
Nizamabad	426374	1112418	671036
Siddipet	569493	777978	531783
Srikakulam	902213	736501	731930
Vishakapatnam	1751178	1934365	1402598
Adilabad	431940	417509	458942
Vizianangaram	516319	1242676	469851
Nellore	608490	450228	616591
Warangal	442924	495719	1285812
Hyderabad	1709976	1984461	624618
Nalgonda	500747	770576	716942
Eluru	588916	1045119	710994
Ongole	465983	217488	598523
Rangareddy	535627	3737217	2367985

Abolition of Child Labour

3066. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH:
SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI:

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

(a) whether the abolition of child labour laws are not effectively implemented in the country;

(b) if so, the details of efforts being made by the Government to monitor the implementation of Child Labour Acts;

(c) whether the Government has prepared any action plan under which the children forced into child labour are rescued and rehabilitated; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO): (a) and (b) The Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, of 1986 is being implemented by the respective State Governments and the Union Government oversees the implementation and obtains required reports from the State Governments regarding the implementation of provisions of the Act.

(c) and (d) The problem of child labour requires to be dealt through sustained efforts and the Government is committed to the goal of elimination of child labour in all its forms. Considering the nature and magnitude of the problem, a gradual and sequential approach has been adopted to withdraw and rehabilitate child labour beginning with the children working in the hazardous occupations & processes. The action plan adopted by the Government to eliminate child labour comprises of legislative measures, general development programmes for benefiting children and a project based action plan in areas of high concentration of child labour. Under the NCLP Scheme,

the children are withdrawn from work and put into special schools. They are provided basic education, vocational training, mid-day meal and health check up in order to prepare them to be mainstreamed into formal schooling system. During the 9th Plan, the NCLP Scheme was implemented in 100 districts of 13 child labour endemic states. The number of districts have been expanded to 250 districts in 20 States during the 10th Plan.

Use of Hydrogen Peroxide to Preserve Milk

3067. MOHD. MUKEEM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the use of hydrogen peroxide as a preservative in foods like milk is prohibited as it destroys vitamins and other essential ingredients;

(b) whether many large and small milk producers and dairies co-operative in public and private sectors continue to use hydrogen peroxide to preserve milk specially for transport over long distances in tankers;

(c) if so, whether the Government is aware that even the large milk co-operatives like Amul have been using this dangerous illegal preservative in their operations; and

(d) if so, 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 (d) The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has informed that under rule 44(1) of Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules, 1955 sale of milk or a milk product containing a substance not found in milk except as provided in the rules is prohibited. Use of hydrogen peroxide to preserve milk is not permitted under the provisions of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules, 1955. No incidence of use of hydrogen peroxide to preserve milk has been brought to the notice of Government of India.

Institute of Hotel Management Courses

3068. SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the number of institutes running hotel management courses in the country;

(b) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to attract more students to these institutes; and

(c) the manner in which these institutes are going to contribute in employment generation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) The number of Institutes running hotel management courses and affiliated with National Council for Hotel Management and Catering Technology are as under:-

— Twenty one Institutes of Hotel Management under the administrative control of Ministry of Tourism, Government of India.

— Three Institutes of Hotel Management and six Food Craft Institutes under the administrative control of State Govts.

(b) The Council notifies admissions to Degree programme centrally by holding All India Joint Entrance Examination. The response to the courses has grown in past two years from 15653 candidates to 17417 candidates. Wide publicity to Admission notices through advertisement in leading newspapers and on the web site of the Council has enhanced the visibility of hospitality courses to discerning youth.

(c) Manpower trained by these Institutes find ready absorption in the industry thereby contributing to employment opportunities generated by the country's growing hospitality industry.

[Translation]

ILL Effects of Fly Ash

3069. SHRI KISHAN SINGH SANGWAN:
SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL:

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

(a) whether the use of fly ash in construction of houses affects the environment adversely;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has conducted any survey in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Delhi High Court has issued any notice to the Government in this regard; and

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

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Studies undertaken by Bhabha Atomic Research Centre have shown that the concentration of Radon in rooms bilt with fly ash bricks was between 74 to 159 bequerels per cubic metre. This is far less than the limits of 1000 bequerels per cubic metre set by Atomic Energy Regulatory Board.

(e) The Hon'ble High Court of Delhi issued a notice to Government of India in response to an intervening application in an ongoing Public Interest Litigation.

(f) The Government has filed an affidavit in reply to the above, stating that even the recent study conducted by National Institute of Technology, Kurukshetra has established that the concentration of Radon are far below the limits permitted by the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board. In addition, it was also stated that Atomic Energy Regulatory Board has permitted the use of fly ash as construction material.

Cultivation in Chambal Basin

3070. SHRI KRISHNA MURARI MOGHE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any proposal worth Rs. 400 crores from the Government of Madhya Pradesh for making the ravines cultivable in the Chambal basin;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by when the proposal is likely to be approved?

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) A Project proposal on "A Gender Aware Watershed Approach for Ravine Reclamation in Chambal Basin" for reclamation of 2 lakh ha. at a cost of Rs. 400 crores was received from the Government of Madhya Pradesh. The proposal was examined and forwarded to the Planning Commission. The Government of Madhya Pradesh has been requested to revise the proposal based on the observations of the Planning Commission and the same has not been received.

Construction of Matheran Rope-way Project in Raigarh, Maharashtra

3071. SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any proposal from the Government of Maharashtra seeking approval for the Matheran Rope-way to be constructed at Raigarh district of Maharashtra; 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.

[English]

Setting up of Agri-Export Zones

3072. SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Maharashtra Government has sought approval of setting up of Agri-Export Zones; and

(b) the total quantity of grapes and grapewine exported from Maharashtra during the last three years and total revenue earned therefrom?

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 list of Agri-Export Zones in the State of Maharashtra is enclosed as Statement-I. Export of grapes and grape wine is free. The Union Government is directly not undertaking exports of these items. State-wise export figures are not maintained by Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics (DGCI&S). India's export of grape and grapewine in the last 3 years is enclosed as Statement-II.

Statement I

Sl.No.	Product	State	District/Area
1.	Grape & Grapevine	Maharashtra	Nasik, Sangli, Sholapur, Satara, Ahmednagar.
2.	Mangoes	Maharashtra	Ratnagiri, Sindhudurg, Raigarh and Thane
3.	Kesar Mango	Maharashtra	Aurangabad, Beed, Jalna, Ahmednagar and Latur
4.	Flowers	Maharashtra	Pune, Nasik, Kolhapur and Sangli
5.	Onion	Maharashtra	Nasik, Ahmednagar, Pune, Satara, Jalgaon, Solapur
6.	Pomegranate	Maharashtra	Districts of Solapur, Sangli, Ahmednagar, Pune, Nasik, Osmanabad and Latur
7.	Banana	Maharashtra	Jalgaon, Dhule, Nandurbar, Buldhana, Parbhani, Hindoli, Nanded and Wardha
8.	Oranges	Maharashtra	Nagpur and Amraoti

Statement II

Quantity-MT and Value in Rs. crores

Item	2001-02		2002-03		2003-04	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
Grapes	14606	60.21	25681	110.15	26784	105.89
Grapes Wines	—	2.43	—	2.92	—	2.22

Source : APEDA

Centres of SAI

3073. SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the places where the centres of the Sports Authority of India (SAI) are functioning in the country;

(b) the sports facilities available at these centres; and

(c) the steps being taken to make them useful?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI SUNIL DUTT): (a) to (c) The Sports Authority of India (SAI) has 6 Regional Centres at Bangalore, Gandhinagar, Kolkata, Chandigarh, Bhopal and Imphal & 4 sub-centres at Guwahati, Hazaribagh, Nagercoil and Lucknow.

The Sports Authority of India (SAI), at present, is implementing the following Sports Promotional Schemes in the entire country to identify talent in various sports disciplines in the age group of 8-25 years so as to train them to excel at National and International level:-

(1) 83 Schools plus 16 adopted Akharas under National Sports Talent Contest (NSTC) Scheme	—	(8-14 Years)
(2) 08 Army Boys Sports Company (ABSC)	—	(8-14 Years)
(3) 17 Special Area Games (SAG)	—	(14-21 Years)
(4) 58 SAI Training Centre (STC)	—	(14-21 Years)
(5) 08 Centre of Excellence (COX)	—	(17-25 Years)

Under the above SAI Schemes, talented sportspersons in the age group ranging from 8-25 years in 28 sports disciplines are selected by adopting scheme specific selection criteria and admitted in the SAI Centres for imparting regular sports training. During the year 2003-04 total 10,046 talented sportspersons (7292 males and 2754 females) were trained in the 190 SAI Centres with the help of sports infrastructure available in each centre. During the current year 10 ABSCs have been sanctioned.

In these centres, training facilities like playgrounds, gymnasiums, swimming pools, fitness centres, medical facilities, coaching and scientific back up facilities relevant to sports disciplines allotted to them, are provided.

SAI, as a part of on-going process is also upgrading its training infrastructure facilities in its centres.

Rivers under AIBP

3074. SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the names of rivers covered under Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme in the State;

(b) whether the funds provided by the Union Government are fully utilized by the State Governments; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) The Central Loan Assistance (CLA) under the Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) is provided to the approved ongoing major, medium and minor irrigation projects located on various rivers of all the States.

(b) and (c) No State Government has reported that it has not utilized the funds released by Union Government as CLA. However, the Comptroller and Auditor General of India in its report number 15 of 2004 covering the period 1996-2003 has brought out that certain States have short released their share to the projects under AIBP. The Central Loan Assistance (CLA) under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) is released in 2 equal instalments. As per existing AIBP norms the second instalment is released only when the State Government has incurred 70 per cent expenditure of the first instalment including State share and utilization certificate is submitted. The revised guidelines effective from 1st April, 2004 provide that the State Government should ensure that the CLA released is provided to the Project Authority within fifteen days of its release by the Ministry of Finance.

Revitalisation of Sugar Sector

3075. SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA:
SHRI SITA RAM YADAV:
SHRI MOHAN RAWALE:
SHRIMATI KALPANA RAMESH NARHIRE:
SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:
SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL:
SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:

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

(a) whether the Government has announced or formulated any policy/package for sugar industry, and sugarcane sector;

(b) if so, the details of the proposed policy/package;

(c) the benefits likely to accrue as a result thereof alongwith the efforts made for its implementation so far; and

(d) the amount proposed to be spent by the Government on this scheme?

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

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

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

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

These measures are applicable to debts as on 31.3.2004.

All sugar producing States have been offered assistance by way of Open Market Borrowings to help sugar factories to clear cane price arrears of 2002-03 sugar season subject to terms and conditions thereof.

This assistance would be available to the mills in the cooperative and public sectors in the States where the practice of State Advised Prices (SAP) of sugarcane is prevalent and to all sugar mills in the States where no such practice exists. The States of Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra availed of the assistance to the tune of Rs. 229.97 crores and Rs. 300 crores respectively. Besides, the concerned financial institutions like NABARD, RBI, NCDC etc. address the credit related problems of sugar industry on an ongoing basis.

Coconut Development Board

3076. DR. P.P. KOYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the activities of the Coconut Development Board carried out in Lakshadweep Islands during the last three years;

(b) the details of beneficiaries who were assisted by the Board during the said period;

(c) the plans of the Coconut Development Board for expanding its activities to Lakshadweep Islands where coconut is the main agricultural products;

(d) whether the Government proposes to open an Office of Coconut Development Board in Lakshadweep Islands; 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) to (c) The Coconut Development Board under the Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India is implementing a scheme Integrated Development of Coconut Industry in India including Technology Mission on Coconut in Lakshadweep Islands. The details of the funds allocated and released for implementation of the activities of Coconut Development Board in Lakshadweep during last three years are as below:

(Rs. in lakh)

Year	Allocation	Released
2001-02	21.00	8.50
2002-03	16.40	*
2003-04	8.38	*

*The allocated amount could not released for want of administrative approval from the Lakshadweep administration.

During the current year 2004-05, Government of India has sanctioned Rs. 106.805 lakh for implementation of the programme "High Value Agriculture" which includes programmes for integrated development of coconut in Lakshadweep Island.

(d) and (e) Presently there is no proposal for opening of an office of Coconut Development Board office in Lakshadweep Island.

Regulatory Structure in Farm Sector

3077. SHRI G.V. HARSHA KUMAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is reviewing the regulatory structure in the farm sector; 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) Yes, Sir.

(b) The initiatives taken by this Ministry to review the regulatory structure in the farm sector are as under:-

The Seeds Act, 1966 regulates the quality of seeds sold/distributed to the farmers through voluntary certification and compulsory labeling of seeds of notified kind/varieties. Based on the changes that have taken place in the seed sector since 1966, the existing Seeds Act, 1966 is proposed to be replaced by a suitable legislation. The Seeds Bills, 2004 has been introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 10.12.2004.

The highlights of the proposed Seeds Act *inter-alia* include:-

(i) Compulsory registration varieties based on agronomic performance data.

(ii) Accreditation of ICAR centres, State Agricultural Universities and Private Organisation to conduct agronomic trials.

(iii) Accreditation of Organisation for certification.

(iv) Maintenance of National Register of varieties.

(v) To regulate the export and import seeds.

(vi) Exemption for farmers to save, use, exchange share or sell their seed without registration.

(vii) Accreditation of private seed testing laboratories.

(viii) Enhancement of penalty for major and minor infringement.

(ix) Inclusion of provisions to regulate GM crops and ban on terminator seed.

The import of plants/plant materials is regulated through the Plant Quarantine (Regulation of import into India) Order, 2003 issued under the Destructive Insects and Pests Act, 1914. The basic objective of the order is to eliminate the risk of introduction of exotic pests and diseases associated with the imported plants/plant materials so as to ensure safety of country's agricultural resources. The PQ Order 2003 has been recently implemented with effect from 1st January, 2004 replacing the Plants, Fruits and Seeds (Regulation of Import into India) Order, 1989. The regulatory provisions have been revised keeping in view the enhanced movement of agricultural commodities in view of WTO and also keeping in line with the provisions of Sanitary and Phytosanitory (SPS) Agreement.

Under the existing APMC Act, State Government alone is empowered to initiate the process of setting up of markets for agricultural commodities in notified areas. Processing industry can not buy directly from the farmers. The farmer is restricted from entering into direct contract with manufacturers as the produce is required to be canalized through regulated markets. These restrictions are acting as a disincentive to farmers, trade and industries. The State Governments have, therefore, been advised to amend the APMC Act to allow direct marketing and contract farming and to permit setting up of competitive markets in private and cooperative sectors. A Model APMC Act has also been circulated by this Ministry to all the States to guide them in implementation of the suggested reforms. The Model Act enable any person, grower and local authority to establish new market in any area, removes compulsion on growers and local authority to establish new market in any area, removes compulsion on growers to sell their produce through existing regulated markets, allows establishment of direct purchase centres and farmers markets for direct sale, promote public private partnership in management and development of markets, establish special markets for commodities like onion, fruits, vegetables, flowers etc. This matter was further discussed at the national conference of State Ministers on 19.11.2004. The State Governments have been requested to complete the process of amending their APMC Act within a period of three months in overall national/state interest and more so in the interest of farmers.

Promotion of Marine Fishing in Orissa

3078. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a vast scope to promote marine fishing in Orissa;

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

(c) whether the traditional fishermen are involved in the centrally sponsored scheme;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the projection made for marine fishing during the current financial 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) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Inclusion of Navagraha Temples in Tourism Circuit

3079. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to include Navagraha Temples and adjacent important temples in Thanjavur district of Tamil Nadu in tourism circuits in order to facilitate their development; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, the Tourism Department, Government of Tamil Nadu has taken up development of Navagraha Temple Tourism Circuit in the year 2003-04 as a cost of Rs. 50.00 lakhs.

Death of Pachyderms

3080. SHRI SUBRATA BOSE:
SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA:
SHRI RANEN BARMAN:

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

(a) whether the Government is aware that between April and October, 2004 seventy seven Pachyderms have been found dead in the Nagarhole area of Karnataka;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government has formed any enquiry commission to look into the matter;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the findings of the commission;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the steps the Government has taken/proposes to take to stop recurrence of such incidence in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) As informed by the State Government, death of only 13 elephants has been reported in Nagarhole National Park during the period from April to October, 2004.

(b) One of the elephant is reported to have been killed by poachers. The remaining 12 elephants have died due to natural reason, such as old age, accidents diseases etc.,

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Out of 13 elephants 12 have died due to natural reasons. Therefore enquiry by officers instead of enquiry commission is enough.

(f) Karnataka Forest Department has set up anti poaching camps in Nagarhole National Park and intensified patrolling by field staff. Immunization of cattle on the fringe areas is being carried out to prevent spread of diseases among wild elephants. Government of India has provided an amount of Rs. 150.00 lakhs under Project Tiger during the current financial year for Nagarhole National Park for protection and management of tigers and other wild animals and their habitat.

Funds for Sugar Co-operative Sector

3081. SHRI RAJESH VERMA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether sugar co-operative sector of Uttar Pradesh has approached the Union Government for funds;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the funds are likely to be provided?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHARI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (c) All sugar producing States including Uttar Pradesh have been offered financial assistance by way of Open Market Borrowings to help sugar factories clear cane price arrears of 2002-2003 sugar season. This assistance is available to the mills in the co-operative and public sectors in the States where the practice of State Advised Price (SAP) of sugarcane is prevalent and to all sugar mills in the States where no such practice exists subject to their compliance with the terms and conditions of this scheme. Government of U.P. has not so far made any request for availing assistance under this scheme.

[Translation]

Adoption of Chinese Model in Agriculture

3082. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KUSHAWAHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering to adopt the Chinese model for the development of agriculture;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

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

(d) whether the Government has consulted State Governments in this regard; and

(e) if so, the views of the State Governments?

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) In the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, there is

no proposal to adopt the Chinese model for development of agriculture.

(b) to (e) Does not arise.

[English]

Impact on Employment due to Disinvestment

3083. SHRI AJIT JOGI: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the unemployment has increased due to disinvestment and closure of small scale industries; and

(b) if so, the action taken to generate more employment opportunities for the welfare of employees?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO): (a) National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) survey results for the year 1993-94 and 1999-2000 show a marginal increase in unemployment as per usual status approach. The increase is primarily due to the fact that the growth of employment in the economy was not in tune with the growth of labour force.

(b) Government is targeting creation of around 5 crore employment opportunities during the 10th Plan period. Out of these, nearly 3 crore employment opportunities will be created in the normal growth process and remaining 2 crore through special employment generation programmes in the labour intensive sectors with special emphasis on agriculture, irrigation, agro-forestry, small and medium enterprises, information communication technology, tourism and other services.

Protection of Migratory Birds

3084. SHRI MANI CHARENAMEI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that lakhs of migratory birds known as the Red Legged Falcon use to visit the Barak valley near Tamenglong between November and December every year;

(b) if so, whether a large number of this migratory bird are killed by the local villagers and sold in the market of Tamenglong town;

(c) if so, the measures taken to protect the bird and its habitat alongwith the funds earmarked its protection;

(d) whether the Government has proposed to declare Barak river bank near Tamenglong as a Bird Sanctuary; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) As informed by the State Government, the migratory birds used to visit Barak Valley near Tamenglong every year. However, no record of their number and species has been maintained by them. Also, the State Government has not received reports of killing of birds for sale in the market.

(c) The birds and their habitat are provided protection under the provisions of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972. Financial assistance is provided to the State Government under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries" on demand driven basis and on the basis of Annual Plan of Operation submitted by the State Government every year.

(d) and (e) An area of 21 sq. kms. near the Barak river has been notified as Bird Sanctuary Under Section 18 of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.

Scheme/Programme for Agricultural and Technological Universities

3085. SHRI ANANT GUDHE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the schemes/programmes of Agricultural and Technological Universities funded by Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and the Union Government in the country particularly in Maharashtra;

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

(c) whether there is any mechanism for evaluating the achievements; and

(d) if so, the outcome 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) All 38 State Agricultural Universities (SAUs) in the country are under the direct financial and administrative control

of the respective States. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) is extending financial support to these universities under various projects for research, extension and education. Other central scientific organizations also fund specific projects to SAUs. The information on various schemes/programmes funded by ICAR and Union Government to the universities in Maharashtra is given in enclosed Statement-I.

(b) The information is given in the enclosed Statement-II.

(c) and (d) The schemes are regularly evaluated by various systems like Annual Workshops, Scientific Panels, Quinquennial Review Teams and special committees constituted for the purpose. The outcome and recommendations are regularly passed on to the executing institutions for appropriate implementation.

Statement I

Information on the Schemes/Programme funded by Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and the Union Government in the State Agricultural Universities in Maharashtra

(Rs. in Lakhs)

State Agricultural University	Scheme/Programme	Allocation for 3 years		
		2002-03	2003-04	2004-05*
1	2	3	4	5
Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidyapeeth, Rahuri	ICAR All India Coordinated Research Projects	640.49	771.66	740.85
	ICAR Adhoc Research Project	36.90	57.00	70.84
	ICAR National Agricultural Technology Project (NATP)	238.48	245.29	70.00
	Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK)	43.36	28.45	38.90
	ICAR Development Grant for Education and other Government of India Schemes	110.43	184.25	210.37
	Total	1069.66	1286.65	1130.96
Dr. Balasaheb Sawant Konkan Krishi Vidyapeeth, Dapoli Distt., Ratnagiri	ICAR All India Coordinated Research Projects	155.00	193.83	203.52
	ICAR Adhoc Research Project	9.40	19.69	20.67
	ICAR national Agricultural Technology Project (NATP)	61.68	168.89	50.96
	Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK)	26.20	29.59	74.80
	ICAR Development Grant for Education	155.10	103.00	70.00
	Other Government of India Schemes	31.06	24.11	29.22
	Total	438.44	539.11	449.17

1	2	3	4	5
Marathwada Agricultural University, Parbhani	ICAR All India Coordinated Research Projects	319.23	326.59	345.85
	ICAR Adhoc Research Project	214.40	158.71	118.03
	ICAR National Agricultural Technology Project (NATP)	193.20	178.13	150.71
	Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK)	70.39	25.67	73.80
	ICAR Development Grant for Education Other Government of India Schemes	47.23	57.20	43.65
	Total	844.45	746.30	732.04
Maharashtra Animal Science & Fishery Sciences University, Nagpur	ICAR All India Coordinated Research Projects	15.00	19.52	8.18
	ICAR Adhoc Research Project	16.27	39.77	90.56
	ICAR National Agricultural Technology Project (NATP)	257.37	180.47	57.61
	ICAR Development Grant for Education	—	—	74.00
	Total	306.64	239.76	230.35
Dr. Panjabrao Deshmukh Krishi Vishwavidyalaya, Akola	ICAR All India Coordinated Research Project	313.12	340.69	180.39
	ICAR Adhoc Research Project	12.15	6.18	1.84
	ICAR National Agricultural Technology Project (NATP)	132.97	160.35	79.06
	Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK)	7.26	44.14	144.60
	Other Government of India Schemes including ICAR Development Grant for Education	34.64	224.05	110.72
	Total	500.14	775.41	516.61
Grand Total		3159.33	3587.23	3059.13

*The information is upto November, 2004

Statement II

*Information on the ICAR funds provided to State Agricultural Universities in remaining states of the country**

(Rs. in millions)

Sl.No.	State	Funds allocation		
		2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
1.	Andhra Pradesh	175.04	187.00	199.15
2.	Assam	202.44	123.80	90.61
3.	Bihar	91.09	**	**
4.	Chhattisgarh	42.18	55.44	55.84
5.	Gujarat	282.57	160.89	163.26
6.	Haryana	239.93	185.89	128.12
7.	Himachal Pradesh	103.01	116.39	116.73
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	36.25	20.46	**
9.	Jharkhand	45.71	47.88	52.75
10.	Karnataka	253.55	181.97	240.01
11.	Kerala	237.20	108.00	100.48
12.	Madhya Pradesh	126.55	141.97	164.01
13.	Orissa	101.08	176.86	129.59
14.	Punjab	195.00	254.50	238.20
15.	Rajasthan	396.87	247.90	261.12
16.	Tamil Nadu	186.15	169.88	181.96
17.	Uttar Pradesh	137.71	110.85	104.40
18.	Uttaranchal	214.25	123.12	115.55
19.	West Bengal	55.61	58.47	**
	North Eastern State other than Assam	180.00	194.50	179.20

*Source Agricultural Research Data Book, 2004, Published by Indian Agricultural Statistical Research Institute, Library Avenue, New Delhi-110012

**Data not provided by the source.

Macro Management of Agriculture

3086. SHRI SHRINIWAS DADASAHEB PATIL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Centrally Sponsored Programme of Soil Conservation in Catchments of River Valley Projects and Flood Prone Rivers is being implemented in the State of Maharashtra under Macro Management of Agriculture (MMA);

(b) if so, the allocation of fund for this programme under MMA to the State of Maharashtra during last three years, year-wise;

(c) whether the allocation for this purpose is declining;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government of Maharashtra demanded additional fund for this programme under MMA during current year; and

(f) if so, the steps taken by the Union Government of Maharashtra to meet the additional demand of fund under MMA for this programme?

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) Centrally Sponsored Programme of Soil Conservation for Enhancing the Productivity of Degraded Lands in the Catchments of River Valley Project & Flood Prone River (RVP & FPR) is being implemented through Marco Management of Agriculture (MMA) from November 2000 onwards in the country, including Maharashtra. After introduction of MMA, the State Governments allocate funds for different programmes/schemes covered under MMA, including RVP & FPR, within the total allocation under MMA.

During last 4 years (2000-01 to 2003-04), the State Agriculture Department of Maharashtra has allocated an amount of Rs. 34.00 crore to RVP & FPR programme as per details given below:

(Amount Rs. in crore)

Year	Allocation Under MMA*	Allocation for RVP & FPR Programme
2000-01	100.00	9.70
2001-02	90.00	8.30
2002-03	82.00	9.00
2003-04	80.00	7.00
Total	352.00	34.00

*MMA was introduced in November, 2000.

An amount of Rs. 82.00 crore has been allocated to the Maharashtra State under MMA during 2004-05, out of which, the amount allocated by State Agriculture Department to RVP & FPR programme is Rs. 7.00 crore.

(e) and (f) During the current year, the State Government of Maharashtra has sought additional funds for RVP & FPR programme under MMA. Due to budgetary constraint, it has not been possible to meet this additional demand of funds.

[Translation]

Polavaram Project as National Project

3087. SHRI S.P.Y. REDDY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any proposal from the Government of Andhra Pradesh to declare Polavaram as a National Project; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Recently, no proposal has been received by the Central Government from Government of Andhra Pradesh to declare Polavaram Project as a National Project. However, the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh in January, 2001 had requested the Central Government for declaring Polavaram Project as National Project. After examining the request, the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh was informed in February, 2001 that there was no proposal to treat Polavaram Project as a National Project.

Irrigation Capacity

3088. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Rajasthan has sent a proposal for approval to the Union Government pertaining to utilization of irrigation capacity created from Bisalpur Irrigation Project in Tonk district of the State; and

(b) if so, by when the proposal is likely to be accorded approval?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per the decision of the Planning Commission, only limited number of Projects have been included after consultation with the State Governments under the Centrally Sponsored Command Area Development & 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.

[English]

World Bank Assistance to States

3089. SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of financial assistance provided/ proposed by the World Bank to each State Government with special reference to Andhra Pradesh for the development of agriculture during 2004-05;

(b) the major profit likely to accrue from it;

(c) whether the World Bank has put any condition in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

Production of Fish

3090. SHRI JUAL ORAM:
SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the target set and actual production of fish during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether there is decline in the production of fish in the country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken/ proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) State-wise annual targets of fish production are not prepared. State-wise actual fish production during 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04 is enclosed as Statement.

(b) No Sir.

(c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

Statement

State/UT-wise Fish Production for the year 2001-02, 2002-03, 2003-04

(In '000 tonnes)

S.No.	State/Union Territory	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004 (P)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	676.11	827.90	944.64
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	2.60	2.60	2.65

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Assam	161.45	165.52	181.00
4.	Bihar	240.40	261.00	266.49
5.	Goa	69.92	76.53	87.36
6.	Gujarat	701.60	777.91	654.62
7.	Haryana	34.57	35.18	39.13
8.	Himachal Pradesh	7.22	7.24	6.53
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	18.85	19.75	19.75
10.	Karnataka	249.61	266.42	257.00
11.	Kerala	671.82	678.32	684.70
12.	Madhya Pradesh	47.46	42.17	50.82
13.	Maharashtra	537.05	514.10	545.13
14.	Manipur	16.45	16.60	17.60
15.	Meghalaya	4.97	5.37	5.15
16.	Mizoram	3.15	3.25	3.38
17.	Nagaland	5.20	5.50	5.56
18.	Orissa	281.95	287.53	306.9
19.	Punjab	58.00	66.00	83.65
20.	Rajasthan	14.27	25.60	14.30
21.	Sikkim	0.14	0.14	0.14
22.	Tamil Nadu	485.00	473.50	474.14
23.	Tripura	29.45	29.52	17.98
24.	Uttar Pradesh	225.37	249.84	267.00
25.	West Bengal	1100.10	1120.00	1169.60
26.	A and N Islands	27.08	28.30	31.15
27.	Chandigarh	0.04	0.08	0.08
28.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.05	0.05	0.05
29.	Daman and Diu	21.52	11.26	13.77
30.	Delhi	3.20	2.25	2.10
31.	Lakshadweep	13.65	7.50	10.03
32.	Pondicherry	44.50	45.02	48.00

1	2	3	4	5
33.	Chhattisgarh	95.76	99.80	111.05
34.	Uttaranchal	6.42	2.55	2.56
35.	Jharkhand	101.00	45.38	75.38
	India	5955.93	6199.68	6399.39

Note: Data for 2003-04 are provisional.

Water Audit and Water Conservation

3091. SHRI HITEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

. (a) whether the Government is preparing a draft Guidelines for Water Audit and Water Conservation in three areas of water use *i.e.* domestic, irrigation and industrial; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Ministry of Water Resources organized a National Workshop on Water Audit and Water Conservation on 30th January, 2004 at New Delhi. Based on the recommendations of this Workshop, a General Guidelines for Water Audit and Water Conservation covering domestic, irrigation and industrial uses have been drafted. The draft General Guidelines on Water Audit and Water Conservation has been circulated to various State Governments and concerned departments of the Central Government for their comments/suggestions.

Cloning of Asiatic Cheetahs

3092. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Asiatic Cheetahs facing extinction are all set to be cloned;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Scientists from Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology are awaiting clearance for a visit to Iran to finalise modalities for fetching a pair of Asiatic Cheetahs;

(d) if so, by when permission is to be granted to them; and

(e) the further plan of the Government for cloning of the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) The Asiatic Cheetah (*Acinonyx jubatus*) which once occurred in the plains of India has now become extinct from our country. The programme for resurrection of the species also includes in cloning as a possibility.

(c) The Ministry has constituted a team of experts comprising of Member-Secretary, Central Zoo Authority (CZA), a scientist from the Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB), a scientist from Wildlife Institute of India and the zoo superintendent of Ahmedabad Zoo to visit Iran and initiate a dialogue with their Iranian counterparts as well as study the present habitats of the Asiatic Cheetah in that country. There is no plan to fetch a pair of Asiatic Cheetah at this stage.

(d) and (e) Does not arise.

Indoor Air Pollution

3093. SHRI A.K. MOORTHY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether USA has given grant of 230000 dollars for community based programmes to reduce indoor air pollution from household energy use in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the manner in which the proposed grant is to be used and the details of locations where it will be used?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (c) According to the United States Asia Environmental Partnership (USAEP), two project costing about US$ 2,32,351 have been approved recently in respect of indoor air pollution in India. These projects will be implemented in rural/semi-urban areas of Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra by Development Alternatives and Appropriate Rural Technology Institute. The project proposals envisaged include study of improved wood burning stoves, involve multi-disciplinary stake holders in implementing a social marketing campaign to raise awareness, field testing of compact bio-gas system including designing and standardization.

[Translation]

Vacant Posts

3094. SHRI BALESHWAR YADAV: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether posts of Chairman and Members of Consumer Forums are lying vacant and district forums are lacking basic facilities in some States;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) to (c) The State-wise information made available by the National Commission in respect of vacant posts of Presidents/ Members in the State Commissions and District Fora is given as Statement.

The responsibility for proper functioning including providing infrastructure and basic facilities to the District Fora lies with the State Governments/U.T. Administrations.

Some of the steps taken for the monitoring of the vacant posts and strengthening the infrastructure of these agencies are as under:-

(i) One time grant of Rs. 61.80 crores sanctioned to the States/UTs by the Central Government to supplement their efforts to strengthen the infrastructure of the consumer disputes redressal agencies. Central Government is impressing upon the State Governments to utilize it optimally to augment the infrastructure as per scheme;

(ii) Monitoring of the working of consumer disputes redressal agencies including filling of vacant posts of the Presidents/Members through the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission;

(iii) States and Union Territories are requested from time to time to take prompt steps to fill up vacant posts of President/Member in the consumer disputes redressal agencies and maintain a panel of suitable candidates for appointment as Presidents/Members against future vacancies.

Statement

Sl.No.	States	State Commission		District Forum		As on
		President	Member	President	Member	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0	0	2	20	30.6.2004
2.	A & N Islands	0	0	0	0	30.6.2004
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	6	30.6.2004
4.	Assam	0	1	0	20	30.6.2004
5.	Bihar	0	1	7	20	30.6.2004
6.	Chandigarh	0	0	0	0	30.6.2004

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
7.	Chhattisgarh	0	0	0	4	30.6.2004
8.	D & N Haveli/Daman & Diu	0	1	0	0	30.6.2004
9.	Delhi	0	0	1	4	30.6.2004
10.	Goa	0	0	0	0	30.6.2004
11.	Gujarat	0	0	2	7	30.6.2004
12.	Haryana	1	0	1	1	30.9.2004
13.	Himachal Pradesh	0	0	0	1	30.9.2004
14.	Jammu & Kashmir	0	0	0	0	31.12.2003
15.	Jharkhand	0	0	3	11	30.6.2004
16.	Karnataka	0	0	4	1	30.6.2004
17.	Kerala	0	1	3	3	30.6.2004
18.	Lakshadweep	0	0	1	0	30.9.2004
19.	Madhya Pradesh	0	0	1	28	30.9.2004
20.	Maharashtra	0	0	0	0	30.9.2004
21.	Manipur	1	2	0	0	31.1.2003
22.	Meghalaya	0	0	0	0	—
23.	Mizoram	1	0	0	2	30.6.2004
24.	Nagaland	0	0	0	0	30.6.2004
25.	Orissa	0	0	4	18	30.6.2004
26.	Pondicherry	0	1	0	1	30.9.2004
27.	Punjab	0	0	0	0	30.9.2004
28.	Rajasthan	0	0	2	2	30.6.2004
29.	Sikkim	0	0	0	0	30.6.2004
30.	Tamil Nadu	0	1	9	9	30.6.2004
31.	Tripura	0	0	0	0	30.6.2004
32.	Uttar Pradesh	0	0	37	80	30.6.2004
33.	Uttaranchal	0	0	1	6	30.6.2004
34.	West Bengal	0	0	1	1	30.6.2004
		3	8	79	245	

[English]

Purchase of Copra through NAFED

3095. SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government through National Agriculture Marketing Federation of India Limited (NAFED) proposes to purchase Copra in collaboration with Kerala Government by investing 50 per cent respectively;

(b) if so, whether any proposal of the Government to implement the same system in Andhra Pradesh; 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) to (c) Copra is one of the commodity for which Minimum Support Price (MSP) is declared by Government. Copra is procured by National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation (NAFED), as a Central Agency, under Price Support Scheme (PSS) as and when prices fall below the MSP. Losses, if any, are borne 100% by the Government of India. The procurement is continued till the prices are stabilized. The scheme is applicable throughout the country.

[Translation]

Development of Allahabad as Tourist Destination

3096. SHRI ATIQ AHMAD: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated any scheme to develop Allahabad region as tourist destination;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal to link it to pilgrimage tourism; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Development of tourist places is primarily undertaken by the State Governments/UT Administrations. However, the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, also sanctions tourism projects at tourist sites of national and international importance in various States/UTs in consultation with them.

No proposal to link Allahabad to pilgrimage tourism has been received for Central financial assistance during the current financial year.

Tourism Development In North East

3097. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether North Eastern Development Finance Corporation Limited (NEDFI) has negotiated an agreement with Air Deccan to run small air-craft in remote areas of the region;

(b) if so, the terms and details of agreement, indicating the sectors to be covered and tourist and other destinations to be connected alongwith cost sharing pattern and time-schedule thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to implement the same?

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

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

Development of Horticulture and Agriculture Projects

3098. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of central funds allocated, released and utilized for the development of horticulture and agriculture projects during the Ninth and Tenth Five year Plans, State-wise; and

(b) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to increase funds for Maharashtra 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)

Department is implementing a number of schemes for enhancement of production of agriculture and horticulture crops in the country.

The budgetary outlay and expenditure incurred on Plan schemes of the Department related to agriculture, horticulture and other allied areas during the Ninth Plan and first two years of Tenth Plan are given below:

(Rs. Crore)

Year	BE	Expenditure
1997-98	1416.00	1208.00
1998-99	1941.00	1344.00
1999-2000	1941.00	1457.00
2000-01	1950.00	1649.00
2001-02	1970.00	1777.92
2002-03	2167.00	1656.78
2003-04	2167.00	2055.95

(b) The Department is implementing a number of Centrally Sponsored Schemes in the State of Maharashtra for augmentation of agriculture production including horticulture production. Under these schemes Rs. 87.83 crore in 2002-03 and Rs. 101.46 crore in 2003-04 had been released for the State of Maharashtra.

Mandatory use of Fly Ash in Construction Work

3099. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been made mandatory to use fly ash in the construction of all road and flyover embankments within a radius of 100 km of a thermal power plant; and

(b) if so, the extent to which the directives of Ministry of Environment and Forests are executed by the concerned authorities of Delhi which has three plants at Rajghat, Indraprastha and Badarpur collectively producing 160000 metric tonnes of fly ash per month?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) All the agencies functioning in the National Capital Territory of Delhi have been directed by Delhi Administration to make use of fly ash in road projects. DDA has reported that it is making use of fly ash in the ramp portion of the flyover being constructed by DDA at Sadiq Nagar near Mool Chand flyover. The National Highways Authority of India has initiated necessary steps to include use of fly ash in the construction of flyovers on NH-8. In the year 2003-04 about 3,30,000 tonnes of fly ash was utilised for road ambankments and flyover construction.

Loss due to Natural Calamity

3100. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has made any assessment the loss due to natural calamity (felling of trees) in Achepur village in Unnao district, Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) Ministry of Home Affairs is concerned in the matter and information is being collected from that Ministry.

Non-Payment of P.F. Amount from Various Establishments

3101. SHRI BIKASH CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received innumerable complaints regarding non-payment of P.F. amounts to the workmen of various establishments;

(b) if so, the number of workmen and their nominees who have not received the payment after their retirements and deaths;

(c) the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps the Government has taken for early payment of P.F. and pensions to the concerned workmen?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO): (a) No, Sir. The

claims which are complete in all respects are normally settled within 30 days as per scheme provisions. However, delay in certain cases occur on account of non-remittance of contribution/non-submission of returns by the employer, non-submission of completed form by the members and lengthy settlement procedure.

(b) and (c) During the year 2003-04 out of a total of 24,57,176 claims filed by the members/nominees, only 59,357 cases were pending as on 31.3.2004. As there is a continuous flow of claims, there will be cases pending clearance at any given point of time.

(d) All the field offices of the Employees Provident Fund Organisation have been instructed to settle the death cases on top priority. Provident Fund and pension cases are being regularly monitored by the Employees Provident Fund Organisation.

Special Tourism Zone in Gujarat

3102. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received proposals from State Governments including Gujarat to set up tourism zones in the States;

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

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) to (c) A concept proposal has been received in the Ministry of Tourism from the State Government of Kerala for establishment of a Tourism Special Economic Zone in Veli-Kovalam-Poovar area. However, there is no scheme in the Ministry of Tourism for establishment of such zones.

National Status to Pitri-Paksha Mela

3103. SHRI RAJESH KUMAR MANJHI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to accord national status to Pitri-Paksha Mela in Gaya in Bihar; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) There is no scheme in the Ministry of Tourism to accord national status to any festival held in any State.

Funds for Development of Horticulture

3104. SHRI RAGHUVEER SINGH KOSHAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the allocation made to States for development of horticulture during Tenth Five Year Plan, State-wise;

(b) whether the National Horticulture Mission has marked out the area under horticulture in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof during the last three years, State-wise;

(d) whether any research programmes are being conducted in Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), State Agriculture Universities and Private/Public Sector institutions;

(e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the names of research institutes;

(f) whether the grant is given to the said institutions; and

(g) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and institution-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) The total allocation made for the development of horticulture during the Tenth Five Year Plan is Rs. 2105 crores excluding programmes on horticulture being undertaken under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Macro Management in Agriculture—Supplementation/ Complementation of States Efforts through Work Plan. The allocation for the Macro Management Scheme for the Tenth Plan is Rs. 4313.00 crores out of which funds to the tune of 25% are expected to be spent for development of horticulture. However, State-wise allocation have not been made for the Tenth Plan.

(b) and (c) The National Horticulture Mission proposes to adopt a cluster approach for the development of horticulture duly taking into account the existing area and potential. The available information about area under horticulture in different states in the country is given in enclosed statement-I.

(d) and (e) Research programmes relating to fruit crops, vegetables crops, potato and tuber crops, floriculture and medicinal plants, plantation crops and spices are being conducted through the Institutes under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), State Agricultural Universities, Public and Private Sector institutes are also involved on location specific research. The list of the Research Institutes/State Agriculture Universities is given in the statement-II enclosed.

(f) and (g) The State-wise and Institute-wise details of funds allocated for horticultural research by the ICAR is given in the statement-II enclosed.

Statement I

Statewise Area under Fruits & Vegetables during last three years

State	Area in 000' Ha.		
	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
1	2	3	4
Andaman & Nicobar	6.8	6.8	7.3
Andhra Pradesh	697.9	798.3	822.9
Arunachal Pradesh	72.1	62.4	61.3
Assam	345.3	348.2	323.8
Chandigarh	0.2	0.2	0.2
Chhattisgarh	96.0	118.5	113.1
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	2.2	2.2	2.2
Daman and Diu	0.5	0.5	0.5
Delhi	114.9	111.1	43.8
Goa	18.1	18.3	17.2
Gujarat	378.5	381.2	449.6
Haryana	172.4	181.7	195.0
Himachal Pradesh	257.8	257.6	209.5
Jammu and Kashmir	186.6	193.0	144.5
Jharkhand	170.7	190.0	150.9
Karnataka	670.6	615.2	609.0
Kerala	349.3	348.8	277.0
Lakshadweep	0.5	0.5	0.5
Madhya Pradesh	301.7	183.0	184.3
Maharashtra	938.3	985.3	991.1
Manipur	34.4	36.7	38.3

1	2	3	4
Meghalaya	61.8	59.7	53.4
Mizoram	25.9	25.8	21.5
Nagaland	51.6	51.3	15.2
Orissa	917.9	868.4	851.4
Pondicherry	4.8	4.8	5.2
Punjab	165.2	172.5	178.8
Rajasthan	115.1	121.4	112.8
Sikkim	22.9	26.4	24.0
TamilNadu	443.0	441.2	390.1
Tripura	60.7	59.6	60.0
Uttar Pradesh	955.9	1066.2	1133.8
Uttaranchal	296.6	291.3	126.2
West Bengal	1208.7	1286.6	1360.7
Total	3869.0	4010.2	3787.9

Statement II

List of Research Institutes/State Agriculture Universities

A. Research Institutes

1. Fruits Crops

- Indian Institutes of Horticultural Research Bangalore.
- Central Institute for Sub-tropical Horticulture, Lucknow.
- Central Agricultural Research Institute, Port Blair.
- Central Institute for Arid Horticulture, Bikaner.
- Central Institute of Temperate Horticulture, Srinagar.
- National Research Centre for Banana, Trichy.
- National Research Centre for Litchi, Muzaffarpur.
- National Research Centre for Grapes, Pune.
- All India Coordinated Research Project on Tropical Fruits at Bangalore.
- All India Coordinated Research Project on Sub-tropical Fruits at Lucknow.
- All India Coordinated Research Project on Arid Fruits at Bikaner.

2. Vegetable Crops

- Indian Institute of Vegetable Research, Varanasi.
- Indian Institute of Horticultural Research, Bangalore.
- National Research Centre for Mushroom, Solan.
- National Research Centre for Onion and Garlic, Rajgurunagar, Pune.
- All India Coordinated Research Project on Vegetables at Varanasi.
- All India Coordinated Research Project on Mushroom at Solan.
- National Seed Project for Vegetable crops at Varanasi.

3. Potato and Tuber Crops

- Central Potato Research Institute, Shimla.
- Central Tuber Crops Research Institute, Thiruvananthapuram.
- All India Coordinated Research Project on Potato at Shimla.
- All India Coordinated Research Project on Tuber Crops at Thiruvananthapuram.

4. Floriculture and Medicinal Plants

- Indian Institute of Horticulture Research, Bangalore.
- National Research Centre for Orchirds, Pokyong.
- National Research centre for Medicinal and Aromatic Plants, Anand.
- All India Coordinated Research Project on Floriculture at New Delhi.
- All India Coordinated Research Project on Meidcinal and Aromatic Plants at Anand.
- All India Coordinated Research Project on Betelvine at Anand.

5. Plantation Crops

- Central Plantation Crops Research Institute, Kasargod.
- National Research Centre for Oil Palm, Pedavegi.
- All India Coordinated Research Project on Palms at Kasaragod.
- Indian Institute of Spices Research, Calicut.
- All India Coordinated Research Project on Spices, Calicut.
- National Research Centre for Seed Spices, Tabiji, Ajmer.

B. State Agriculture University

1. Acharya N.G. Ranga Agricultural University, Hyderabad.
2. Assam Agricultural University, Jorhat.
3. Bidhanchandra Krishi Viswa Vidyalaya, Nadia, West Bengal.
4. Gujarat Agricultural University, Anand.
5. Haryana Agricultural University, Hissar.
6. Jawaharlal Nehru Krishi Viswa Vidyalaya, Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh.
7. Kerala Agricultural University, Trichur.
8. N.D. University of Agricultural and Technology, Bhubaneswar.
9. Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana, Punjab.
10. Rajasthan Agricultural University, Bikaner, Rajasthan.
11. Rajendra Agricultural University, Pusa, Bihar.
12. Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore.
13. University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore, Karnataka.
14. Dr. Y.S. Parmar University of Horticulture and Forestry, Solan, Simla, Himachal Pradesh.
15. Regional Research Laboratory, Jorhat, Assam.
16. Regional Research Laboratory, Bhubaneswar, Assam.
17. Regional Research Laboratory, Jammu.
18. G.B. Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment and Development, Almora (new).
19. Birsa University of Agriculture, Ranchi, Jharkhand.

Statement III

State-wise and Institute wise details of funds allocation for horticultural research by the ICAR

(Rs. in Lakhs)

State	10th Plan Allocation
1	2
Karnataka	
IIHR, Bangalore	1741.00
AICRP on Tropical Fruits	1309.70
NRC on Cashew, Puttur	568.00
AICRP (Cashew), Puttur	454.50
Total	4073.20

1	2
Uttar Pradesh	
Central Institute of Sub Tropical Horticulture, Lucknow	120.00
AICRP Sub Tropical Fruits, Lucknow	820.00
IIVR, Varanasi	1380.00
AICRP, Vegetables, Varannasi	950.00
NSP, Vegetables, Varanasi	600.00
Total	4950.00
Maharashtra	
NRC for Citrus, Nagpur	843.00
NRC for Grapes, Pune	855.00
NRC for Onion, Garlic, Pune	680.00
Total	2378.00
Tamil Nadu	
NRC for Banana, Trichy	665.00
Total	665.00
Bihar	
NRC for Litchi, Muzaffaur	870.00
Total	870.00
Jammu & Kashmir	
Central Institute of Tropical Horticulture, Srinagar	1040.00
Total	1040.00
Sikkim	
NRC for Orchards, Pakyong	671.00
Total	671.00
Rajasthan	
Central Institue of Arid Horticulture, Bikaner	1180.00
AICRP, Arid Zone	547.00
NRC Seeds, Spices, Ajmer	620.00
Total	2347.00
Himachal Pradesh	
Central Plantation Crops Research Institute, Shimla	1505.00
AICRP, Potato, Shimla	701.85
NRC Mushroom, Solan	540.00
AICRP Mushroom, Solan	350.00
Total	3096.85
Kerala	
Central Tuber Crops Research Institute, Trivandrum	1000.00
AICRP (Tuber Crops)	337.46
CPCRI, Kasargod	1420.00
AICRP on Palm, Kasargod	675.00
Indian Institute of Spices Research, Calicut	735.00
AICRP Spices, Calicut	700.00
Total	4867.46
Andhra Pradesh	
NRC for Oilpalm, Podavegi	749.00
Total	749.00
Gujarat	
NRC for M&AP	1150.00
Net work on M&AP	650.00
Net work on Betelvine	450.00
Total	2250.00
Andaman & Nicobar	
Central Agricultural Research Institute, Port Blair	1450.00
Total	1450.00
Delhi	
AICRP on Floriculture	920.78
Total	920.78

IIHR — Indian Institute of Horticultural Research.
AICRP — All India Coordinated Research Project.
NRC — National Research Centre.
IIVR — Indian Institute of Vegetable Research.
NSP — National Seeds Project.

Criticism of New Environmental Policy Draft

3105. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJI RAO:
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

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

(a) whether the noted environmentalists have criticised the New Environmental Policy Draft as reported in the *Hindu* dated December 2, 2004;

(b) if so, the main objections raised by the environmentalists;

(c) the criteria fixed by the Government to invite experts and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) for discussion;

(d) the number of NGOs and the name of the experts allowed to participate in the discussion on the subject;

(e) whether the Environmentalists have claimed that the draft attempts will weaken the already inadequate mechanism meant to safeguard the environment;

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

(g) the remedial measures being taken by the Government to safeguard the national environmental interest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Yes, Sir. As reported in the 'Hindu' dated December 2, 2004, some environmentalists have criticized the draft National Environment Policy (NEP).

(b) The main objections raised by these environmentalists are that the process of formulation of the draft NEP has been non-consultative and the draft appears to assume that market and economic instruments would solve environmental problems.

(c) and (d) A mix of grass root level and National level Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), representing diverse interest groups were invited for discussion on the draft NEP on the basis of equitable regional representation along with some Experts/Research institutions. List of these invitees is enclosed as statement. All invitees were allowed to participate in the discussion.

(e) Yes, Sir. Some NGOs have raised this point.

(f) and (g) The draft NEP is response to our national commitment to a clean environment mandated in the constitution. The NEP, when finalized, would further strengthen the existing mechanism meant to safeguard the national environmental interest.

Statement

List of Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and Expert/Research Institutions invited for discussion on Draft National Environment Policy held in Ministry of Environment & Forests (MoEF)

1. Ms. Sunita Narain, Centre for Science and Environment, New Delhi.
2. Dr. Ashok Khosla, Development Alternatives, New Delhi.
3. Ms. Vandana Shiva, Research Foundation for Science, Technology & Ecology, New Delhi.
4. Ms. Suman Sahai, GENE Campaign, New Delhi.
5. Chintan, Environment Research & Action Group, New Delhi.
6. Shri R.K. Ramachandran, Director, Society for Action Research on Appropriate, Raipur (UP)
7. Shri G.S. Thakur, General Secretary, Jammu & Kashmir Environment and Wasteland Development Society, Jammu (J&K)
8. Centre for Consumer Action, Research & Training (CUTS), Jaipur (Rajasthan).
9. Shri Rajendra Singh, Director, Agriculture and Village Development Organization, Jaipur (Rajasthan)
10. General Secretary, SEWA Self Employed Women's Association, Ahmedabad (Gujarat)
11. Dr. Narayan Hegde, Managing Trustee and President, Pune (Maharashtra)
12. Honorary Secretary, Bombay Natural History Society (BNSH), Mumbai (Maharashtra)
13. Chairman, Bombay Environmental Action Group (BEAG), Mumbai (Maharashtra)
14. Secretary, Friends of Earth & Sons of Soil (FESS), Matheran, Maharashtra.

15. Society for Promotion of Area Resource Centre (SPARC), Mumbai (Maharashtra)

16. Director, Foundation for Rehabilitation of Local Health Traditions (FRLHT), Bangalore (Karnataka)

17. Shri Leo F. Saldhana, Environment Support Group, Bangalore (Karnataka)

18. Dr. A. Ravindra, Chairman, Centre for Sustainable Development, Bangalore (Karnataka)

19. Shri Aloysius P. Fernandez, Executive Director, Bangalore (Karnataka)

20. Dr. Jayaprakash Narayan, Campaign Coordinator, Loksatta, Hyderabad, (A.P.)

21. Shri Venkat Ramnayya, Youth for Action, Hyderabad (A.P.)

22. Dr. Sambasivrao Yarru, Action for Integrated Rural and Tribal Development Social Service Society, Tenali (A.P.)

23. Dr. Nanditha Krishna, CPR Environmental Education Centre, Chennai (TN)

24. Shri K. Janardhan, President, Kerala Shastra Sahitya Parishad, Trissur (Kerala)

25. Shri B.K. Senapati, Secretary, Orissa Environmental Society, Bhubaneshwar (Orissa)

26. Swami Asaktananda, Rama Krishna Mission, Kolkatta (WB)

27. Shri Tushar Kanjilal, Tagore Society for Rural Development, Kolkatta (WB)

28. Shri Asnikumar Moirangthrm, Secretary, Centre for Sustainable Society, Imphal (Manipur)

29. General Secretary, Assam General Science Society, Guwahati (Assam)

30. Mr. A.C.Z. Onunmawia, Coordinator, Centre for Environment Protection (CEP), Aizwal (Mizoram)

31. Ms. Keweu K. Yepthomi, General Secretary, Nagaland Institute of Health, Environment & Social Welfare, Kohima (Nagaland)

32. Prof. Kanchan Chopra, Head, Institute of Economic Growth (IEG), Delhi.

33. Director, Centre for Women Development Studies, New Delhi.

34. Director, Centre for Policy Research (CPR), New Delhi.

35. Director, National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA), New Delhi.

36. Secretary General & CEO, World Wild Fund, New Delhi.

37. Director, National Council for applied Economic Research, New Delhi.

38. Director General, Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, New Delhi.

39. National Institute for Public Finance & Policy (NIPEP), New Delhi.

40. Director, Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun (Uttaranchal)

41. Director, Indian Institute of Forest Management (IIM), Ahmedabad

42. Director & Member Secretary, Institute of Rural Management Association, Anand

43. Director, Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Ahmedabad

44. Director, Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research, Mumbai-400065.

45. Director, National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI), Nagpur

46. Director, National Institute of Oceanography, Dona Paula, Goa

47. Director, Institute for Social & Economic Change, Bangalore (Karnataka)

48. Director, National Law School of Indian University, Bangalore (Karnataka)

49. Director, Administrative Staff College of India (ASCI), Hyderabad (AP)

50. Director General, National Institute of Rural Development (NIRD), Hyderabad (AP)

51. Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology & Natural History (SACON), Coimbatore

52. Director, Centre for Earth Science Studies (CESS), Thiruvananthapuram (Kerala)

53. The Director, Madras School of Economics, Chennai (TN)

54. Director, Botanical Survey of India (BSI), Howrah (WB)

55. Director, Zoological Survey of India (ZSI), Calcutta (WB)

Mini Dal Mills

3106. PROF. M. RAMADASS: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Mini Dal Mills established in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether the government has taken adequate measures to install evaporative cool or zero energy storage in the place of cool storage in rural areas; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) There are around 1000 mini dhal mills set up in the country by private entrepreneurs. Based on information received from CFTRI, around 283 mini dhal mills have been set up under the 50% subsidy scheme of the Ministry and under UNDP is enclosed as statement.

(b) and (c) The technology for establishing evaporative cool or zero energy storage is available with R&D Institutions like Central Food Technological Research Institute (CFTRI) and Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI). This Ministry does not set up cold storage on its own. However, provides financial assistance for setting up of non-horticulture based cold storage. National Horticulture Board had provided financial assistance under their scheme of Establishment of Nutritional Garden in Rural Areas, in 2002-2003.

Statement

Mini Dal Mills set up with financial assistance from Ministry and UNDP

1.	Andhra Pradesh	13
2.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	1
3.	Assam	1
4.	Bihar	14
5.	Gujarat	6
6.	Haryana	6
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	6
8.	Karnataka	23
9.	Kerala	3
10.	Madhya Pradesh	26
11.	Maharashtra	29
12.	Manipur	7
13.	Nagaland	1
14.	Orissa	15
15.	Pondicherry	1
16.	Punjab	3
17.	Rajasthan	22
18.	Sikkim	1
19.	Tamilnadu	8
20.	Uttaranchal	1
21.	Uttar Pradesh	88
22.	West Bengal	8
	Total	283

[English]

Import Duty Free System

3107. SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO:
SHRI TUKARAM GANPATRAO RENGE PATIL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the food items being brought into the country by multinational companies after implementation by Government of import duty free system are affecting the Indian farmers;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the names of food items which come under the purview of the said system;

(c) whether the Government propose to reconsider the system; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (d) Under the Duty Exemption Scheme, duty free import of inputs required for export production is permitted. These imports are permitted exclusively for use in export production and are not allowed to enter the domestic market for re-sale. Duty free import of items, including agricultural items, is also permitted under the Free Trade Agreement with Sri Lanka and under Treaty from Nepal. Representations have been received by the Government pointing out the adverse impact of duty free import of pepper from Sri Lanka and that of vanaspati from Nepal. To mitigate the adverse impact of duty free vanaspati import from Nepal, the total quantity has been limited to only 1,00,000 tonnes per annum with effect from 6.3.2002. The representations regarding pepper are under consideration of the Government for suitable remedial measures, if found necessary.

EFC Grants to States

3108. SHRI SURESH ANGADI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of States who have been allotted/ extended EFC Grants for rejuvenation of Defunct Lift Irrigation Schemes for 2002-2003 and 2003-2004;

(b) the total amount released to each State during the above period;

(c) the States which have not utilized the amount at all;

(d) the reasons therefor;

(e) whether some States who have done commendable work and utilized the EFC Grant judiciously have not been released the balance EFC Grant;

(f) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(g) the steps taken by the Union Government to release the balance amount to such States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Eleventh Finance Commission has recommended a grant to Government of Karnataka for 2000-05 amounting to Rs. 55 crore for revival of the sick and defunct lift irrigation scheme as a special problem of the State.

(b) The Government of Karnataka have been released grant amounting to Rs. 41.25 crore (Rs. 11.06 crore during 2000-01, Rs. 11.06 crore during 2001-02 and Rs. 19.13 core during 2004-05 till date).

(c) to (g) The Government of Karnataka have reported utilization of grants amounting to Rs. 32.82 crore by the end of September, 2004. Further releases can be provided upon State reporting satisfactory utilization and fulfillment of other conditions as stipulated in guidelines. The State Government is required to utilize the grant upto 31.3.2005 and the balance utilized amount, if any will be transferred to Incentive Fund.

Grant to Agricultural Universities

3109. SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Association of Indian Agricultural Universities has submitted a proposal for the strengthening of research and education in the Agricultural Universities in the country during the Xth Five Year Plan period;

(b) if so, the salient features of the scheme;

(c) the financial assistance proposed for each of the Agricultural Universities in the country; and

(d) by when the final decision will be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) Yes Sir. The Association of Indian Agricultural Universities has submitted the proposal to Planning Commission.

(b) The proposal developed by the Association of Indian Agricultural Universities and submitted to the Planning Commission included following objectives:

1. To develop employment generation programmes for diversified spectrum of rural agricultural work force;
2. To develop cost effective technologies, their refinement and dissemination with integrated research for holistic development of agricultural system aiming to boost socio-economic status of farming community;

3. To develop forward and backward linkages with scientific organizations, line departments and Panchayati Raj institutions, industrial houses for co-ordinated approach toward effective transfer of technological practices;

4. To develop infrastructure for rendering quality services.

In order to meet these objectives the proposal included following programmes:

1. Courses for rural employment generation;

2. Skill empowerment for lecture Transfer of Technology;

3. Resource (target oriented)

4. Commercial activities for resource generation and better services.

(c) and (d) The association of Indian Agricultural Universities did not make university-wise funding proposal and the Planning Commission has not made allocation for the purpose.

[Translation]

Funds to States for Irrigation Projects

3110. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of funds released to State Governments during the last three years for irrigation projects, till date; and

(b) the amount utilized by the State Governments including Delhi and the balance amount unutilized during the said period, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) The Central Loan Assistance (CLA) of Rs. 8792.185 crore under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) and Rs. 50.50 crore as Additional Central Assistance were released to the State Governments during the last three years for irrigation projects.

(b) Out of the amount released for the irrigation projects, the State Governments have not utilized an amount of Rs. 586.959 crore released as CLA under AIBP. The Central Loan Assistance (CLA) under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) is released in 2 equal instalments. As per existing AIBP norms the second instalment is released only when the State Government has incurred 70 per cent expenditure of the first instalment including State share and utilisation certificate is submitted.

Essential Commodities Act

3111. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering any proposal for relaxation in the provisions of Essential Commodities Act, 1955 for the benefit of farmers and businessmen;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) to (c) No Sir. Does not arise. However, consequent upon improvement of the availability of various agricultural products, the Government has already removed controls under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 such as licensing requirements, stock limits and movement restrictions on most of the foodstuffs *viz.* wheat, paddy/ rice, coarse grains, sugar, edible oilseed sand edible oils, pulses, gur, wheat products (namely maida, rava, suji, atta, resultant atta and bran) and hydrogenated vegetable oil or vanaspati during the years 2002 and 2003. Now dealers can freely buy, stock, sell, transport, distribute, dispose, acquire, use or consume any quantity in respect of these commodities and shall not require a permit or license therefor under any order issued under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. Facilitating free trade and movement of foodgrains would enable farmers to get better prices for their produce, achieve price stability and ensure availability of foodgrains in deficit areas.

[English]

Grievances of Tobacco Workers

3112. SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY:
SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH:

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

(a) whether the All India Beedi, Cigar and Tobacco Workers Federation has submitted memorandum to the Government regarding their grievances and demands;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A number of issues like uniform wages throughout the country, supply of sufficient quantity of tendu leaves and tobacco to beedi rollers etc. have been raised in the memorandum. It has also been suggested that a Tripartite Committee may be formed to discuss these issues. The Joint Action Committee for Beedi Workers has also requested for forming the Tripartite Committee.

(c) Some of the issues raised in the memorandum by the All India Beedi, Cigar and Tobacco Workers Federation have been discussed among other in the meetings of the Central Advisory Committee on Beedi Workers Welfare Fund also. As suggested, government is in the process of forming a Tripartite Committee.

Threat to India from Tibet Lake

3113. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:
SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:
SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Tibet Lake that created threat to India recently has started receding;

(b) if so, whether China has invited India to Lhasa for discussions;

(c) if so whether a team of experts visited China to study the Tibet Lake;

(d) if so, the outcome of discussions held;

(e) the extent to which India has agreed to take steps to check its effect on our territory in future;

(f) whether India and China have reached any agreement to take joint steps; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) The Chinese authorities, during a visit of the Indian Technical Team to Lhasa during September 18-20, 2004, had informed that the artificial lake created due to blockage of river Parechu by a landslide on July 8, 2004 had started receding from August 20, 2004.

(d) During the discussions, the Tibet Autonomous Region Authorities had agreed that structural measures for controlled removal of blockage leading to emptying of lake were necessary before the advent of next flood season and that matter has to be taken up with their Central Government through diplomatic channels.

(e) to (g) The matter has taken up with the Chinese authorities through diplomatic channels and a visit of Beijing by the Indian Team is planned during the last week of December, 2004 for further discussions.

Integrated Food Law

3114. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:
SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH:
SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:

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

(a) whether any plan for Integrated Food Law is under consideration of the Government;

(b) if so, whether the Group of Ministers (GoMs) set up in April, 2002 for stream rolling a multiplicity of food-related laws under various ministries had held talks recently in this regard;

(c) if so, the main points discussed;

(d) whether any concrete report has been submitted by this group regarding the food law;

(e) if so, whether the Government has accepted its recommendations; and

(f) if so, by when the legislation is likely to be introduced in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (f) A Group of Ministers (GoM) has been constituted by the Government to propose legislative and other changes considered necessary for finalizing the Integrated Food Law and related regulations. The Group of Ministers has deliberated upon the draft Integrated Food Law. The matter is still under consideration of the GOM and as such no timeframe could be fixed for introducing the legislation.

Shallow Tubewell Scheme

3115. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is implementing National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) financed shallow tubewell scheme in Bihar;

(b) if so, since when this scheme is under operation and extent to which it has been financed by NABARD and the expenditure incurred thereon; and

(c) the targets fixed and success achieved in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The scheme is under operation since 2001-02. A total amount of Rs. 414.78 crore has been disbursed as loans by banks for 2,23,900 tubewell sets upto the end of October, 2004 against the target of 3,77,111 tubewell sets upto 2004-05. National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has so far refinanced Rs. 90.01 crore to participating banks under this programme and the expenditure incurred on subsidy released so far to banks is Rs. 199.796 crore.

Amendment in Charter Policy

3116. SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:
SHRI S.D. MANDLIK:
SHRI ANIRUDH PRASAD *ALIAS* SADHU YADAV:
SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:
SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to amend the existing charter policy to allow foreign tourists in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of Ministry of Civil Aviation thereto;

(c) the number of foreign tourists the Government is expecting this winter; and

(d) the number of chartered flights from across the globe sought permission to bring foreign tourists alongwith steps taken by the Government to improve the infrastructure for such chartered flights and foreign tourists?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) Tourist Charter guidelines have been amended recently permitting operation of Inclusive Tour Charters' with no limitations on frequency, size of the aircraft and destinations. Indian passport holders have also been allowed to travel on inclusive tour charters. There are no restrictions on frequency of flights and size of the aircrafts in respect of outbound tour charters provided the concerned outbound tour operator also organizes inbound charters with 2:1 tourist ratio between inbound & outbound operations. Presently there is no proposal to further amend the guidelines.

(c) During the last 11 months of 2004, there has been an increase of 24.0% in foreign tourist arrivals as compared to the corresponding period of 2003.

(d) For the season October 2004 to May 2005, so far Directorate General of Civil Aviation has permitted 975 charter flights to Goa, 21 charter flights to Trivandrum, 26 charter flights to Delhi and 44 tourist charter flights to Amritsar (upto December 2004). As far as infrastructure is concerned, tourist charter flights are permitted to all airports subject to the availability of customs and immigration facilities.

Construction Workers

3117. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether construction workers belonging to mining, loading and transporting materials have not been covered by 'The Building and other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Services) Act, 1996;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) by when those workers will also be covered under the said act?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO): (a) and (b) As per sections 2(d) and (e) of the Building and Other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Services) Act, 1996 a "building worker" means a persons who is employed to do any skilled, semi-skilled or unskilled, manual, supervisory, technical or clerical work etc. in the 'building or other construction work' which include the construction, alteration, repairs, maintenance or demolition or relating to building street, roads, railways, tramways, airfields, irrigation, drainage, embankment and navigation works, flood control works, generation, transmission and distribution of power, water works, oil and gas installations, electric lines, wireless, radio, televisions, telephone, telegraph and overseas communications, dams, canal reservoirs, water courses, tunnels, bridges, viaducts, aqua ducts, pipelines, towers, cooling towers, transmission towers etc. but does not include any building or any construction work to which the provisions of the Factories At, 1948 or the Mines Act, 1952 apply.

(c) Presently there is no proposal under consideration of the government to amend section 2(d) and (e) of the above Act.

Shifting of Lions from Gir National Park

3118. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU:
SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM:

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

(a) whether Lions are proposed to be shifted in view of epidemic threat in Gir National Park/Junagarh in Gujarat;

(b) if so the details thereof; and

(c) the details of locations identified as ideal habitat for the lions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (c) The Kuno Palpur Wildlife Sanctuary in Madhya Pradesh has been identified as an alternate home for the single isolated population of Asiatic lion in Gir forest of Gujarat. The decision to relocate a few lions to an alternate habitat was based on several considerations including epidemic threat.

Relaxation in Acquisition Specification

3119. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether various States including Orissa have requested the Union Government for relaxation in Food Acquisition Quality (FAQ) for procurement of rice/paddy from farmers;

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

(c) whether the Government is unable to accept the request of all these States; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor, 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 (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Government of Tamil Nadu, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh and Haryana have requested for relaxation in uniform specifications of paddy/rice for Kharif Marketing Season (KMS) 2004-2005 due to erratic rain fall and inclement weather, affecting the quality of paddy. After detailed examination of the requests of State Governments and considering the extent of the problem and to avoid distress sale of Paddy, relaxations in uniform specifications of paddy for KMS 2004-2005 have been allowed with value cut to the following States by the Government of India;

TAMIL NADU:

(1) Moisture Content upto 20% against the existing limit of 17%.

ORISSA:

(1) Damaged/discoloured/sprouted/weevilled grains upto 5% against the existing limit of 3%.

(2) Immature/shriveled/shrunken grains upto 5% against the existing limit of 3%.

MADHYA PRADESH:

1. Organic Foreign Matter upto 2% against the existing limit of 1%.
2. Damaged/discoloured/sprouted/weevilled grains upto 7% against the existing limit of 3% subject to Damaged grains not exceeding 4%.
3. Immature/shriveled/shrunken grains upto 7% against the existing limit of 3%.

However, the sum of the above three refractions should not exceed 12% against the existing limit of 7%. Further, the out turn ratio of rice obtained from paddy procured under relaxed specifications has been reduced by 2% for raw and parboiled rice. The out-turn ratio in case of raw rice would be 65% and for parboiled rice 66% instead of existing 67% and 68% respectively for KMS 2004-05.

[Translation]

ILO Report on Economic Security

3120. SHRIMATI KARUNA SHUKLA:
SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR:
SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KUSHAWAHA:

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

(a) whether the International Labour Organisation has recently issued a report titled "Economic Security for a Better World";

(b) if so, whether the report contains criticism of India in the matter of social and economic security; and

(c) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto and the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO): Yes Sir.

(b) The report says that both China and India have experienced higher economic growth in the globalization period and a decline in economic instability.

(c) Social and economic security of the workers in the country is a matter of concern of the government. Various steps have initiated by the government to safeguard their interest such as improvement of employment opportunities, bringing out an umbrella legislation for the unorganised sector, protection of wages etc.

Closure of Khardaha Depot

3121. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Khardaha depot of the Food Corporation of India (FCI) has been lying closed for the last one year;

(b) if so, whether a huge amount is being wasted in payment of rent, salaries of employees, etc.; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken by the Government to prevent such wastages?

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) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Orders have been issued for de-hiring of the godown. Further arrangement is being made to shift the staff and labourers for other gainful engagement.

[English]

Recommendations of Second National Commission on Labour

3122. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to refer to reply given to Unstarred Question No. 3715 dated August 23, 2004 and state:

(a) whether the Government has taken any decision on the recommendations of the second National Commission on Labour (NCL) for suitable enhancement in the ceiling for reckoning entitlement and for calculation of bonus to Rs. 7500 and Rs. 3500 respectively;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO): (a) to (c) A proposal regarding amendment to the Payment of Bonus Act, 1965 to enhance the calculation ceiling from Rs. 2500 to Rs. 3500 and eligibility limit from Rs. 3500 to Rs. 7500 as recommended by the Second National Commission on Labour (NCL) is being examined while considering that the benefits of bonus are required to be extended to the employees of Public Sector undertakings (both Central & State), Central and State Governments and Autonomous Organisations besides Private Sector resulting in huge financial burden to the Government exchequer.

Joint Ventures between NDDB and State Co-operative Milk Federations

3123. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:
SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken any decision on the share-holding pattern on joint ventures (JVs) between National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) and the State Co-operative Milk Federations;

(b) whether under this JVs schemes the State Federations would be free to market their own produce or even opt out of the JVs proposal;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether milk production has been increasing at the rate of 9 per cent annually and marketing only by 4 percent; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) No, Sir. A wholly owned company of NDDB through its subsidiary unit has decided to enter into Joint Ventures with State Cooperative Dairy Federations for the purpose of strengthening the marketing of their liquid milk and identified products under the brand name of the respective Federations. These Joint Ventures are purely voluntary in nature. The pattern of share holding between the Mother Dairy Company and the concerned State Dairy Federation will be in the ratio of 51:49.

(d) and (e) The milk production in the country has gone up by about 4% during the 9th Five Year Plan. Due to three consecutive droughts in the country, presently, it has come down to around 2.2%. However, the marketing has increased by 8.5% during 2003-2004 as compared to 2002-03.

Decline in Cultivation of Oilseeds

3124. SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:
SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a 40 per cent downfall in the cultivation of oilseeds;

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

(c) whether the Government is going to provide all the facilities to the agriculture based industries, alongwith other concessions, for massive investment in the field of oilseeds;

(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 (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Dos not arise.

(c) and (d) Government of India is providing financial assistance in the form of grant through the Ministry of Food Processing Industries for setting up/modernisation/ expansion of edible oil industries at 25% of the cost of plant, machinery and technical civil work subject to a maximum of Rs. 50.00 lakh in general area and 33.33% to a maximum of Rs. 75.00 lakh in difficult areas. Besides, Government of India is also implementing a scheme "Research & Development on Post Harvest Technology on Oilseeds, Pulses & Maize" under which Post Harvest Technologies relating to oilseeds are being developed through Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) with 100% Central grant-in-aid and as a part of transfer of technology assistance is provided for establishment/ modernisation of Palm Oil mills, Rice Bran Oil refineries, demonstration unit of Red Palmolein and Vegetable Oil

Blend etc. to the selected private beneficiaries at subsidized rates.

(e) Does not arise.

Ban on White Asbestos

3125. SHRI SURENDRA PRAKASH GOYAL:
SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:
SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY:
DR. RAJESH MISHRA:

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

(a) whether some Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) have been compaigning for a total ban on white asbestos in the country claiming that it causes lung cancer;

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

(c) whether the Government has conducted any scientific study to verify the above claim of NGOs; and

(d) if so, the result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has received representations from a few Non-Governmental Organisations for a total ban on white asbestos in the country. However, as no scientific study establishing that the use of white asbestos causing lung cancer is available, it is not considered as desirable to ban the use of white asbestos.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Decline in Foodgrains Production in Karnataka

3126. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the foodgrains production in tribal areas of Karnataka has declined as the irrigation in these areas depends on rain;

(b) if so, the remedial steps taken by the Union Government;

(c) whether the Union Government is providing adequate quantity of foodgrains to the affected tribals;

(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 (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (e) The foodgrain production has declined from 99.96 lakh tonnes in 1998-99 to 68.31 lakh tonnes in 2002-03 in Karnataka including its tribal areas.

To increase the foodgrain production in the State, assistance is provided under Macro Management Mode of Agriculture. Assistance is also given under the scheme of "Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM)" to increase production and productivity of pulses.

Government of India allocates adequate quantity of foodgrains under the schemes of Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY), Special component of SGRY, Annapurna, Integrated Child Development Scheme, Mid-Day Meal Scheme and Grain Bank to the States for eligible people including tribals.

Poaching of Migratory Birds

3127. SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the growing incidents of poaching of migrating birds in Chilika Lake in Orissa;

(b) if so, the number of cases which came to the notice of the Government during the current year; and

(c) the steps taken to stop such killing and marketing of birds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Government is aware of the incidents of poaching of migrating birds in Chilika Lake. However, as per the report of the State Government, no trend is discernible.

(b) As informed by the State Government, seven cases have come to their notice during the current year (2004-05).

(c) Steps taken by the State Government to stop killing and marketing of birds are enclosed as statement.

Statement

(i) Bird protection committees have been constituted in 20 villages adjacent to the lake by drawing members from the fishermen and other communities to actively prevent poaching and poisoning of birds and to provide information to the Forest Department about cases of killing of birds.

(ii) Tangi Range which covers the northern Chilka belt is the area where most of the activities of bird poaching take place. A control room has been set up at this Range office as a Nodal Centre for round the clock monitoring of all enforcement activities for bird protection. Patrolling in the bird congregation areas in the lake has been carried out from 7 camps set up on the peripheral villages to keep constant watch on the activities of shooting, poisoning, trapping or snaring of birds.

(iii) Surprise check of boats plying in the lake are being carried out frequently. Similar surprise checks are made on the vehicles plying in the area on the village roads and on the National Highway to detect bird meat.

(iv) Four patrolling squads have been formed and each squad is equipped with guns, VHF sets and they have been reinforced by engaging temporary personnel from the locality on contract basis.

(v) Watch and ward has been mounted in the paddy fields surrounding the lake where birds flock for foraging and roosting to prevent poaching and poisoning in these areas.

(vi) The Youth Clubs, local NGOs, Bird Protection Committees and Fishermen's cooperatives have been mobilized through motivation camps organized by the Chilika Wildlife division to isolate the elements indulging in poaching and poisoning of birds. Publicity and signages have been put near the eating houses on the road side to inform the people to desist from eating bird meat which may contain poison.

(vii) One Section of APR Force (Armed Police Personnel) has been deployed at Sorana village for assisting the Forest staff in tackling law and order problems in course of search, seizure and arrest of offenders.

Setting up of National Fisheries Development Board

3128. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD:
SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to increase fisheries production in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government has any proposal for setting up of a National Fisheries Development Board;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) by when the said board is likely to be made functional?

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

(b) to (d) The feasibility of establishing a National Fisheries Development Board with the broad objectives to bring all activities relating to fisheries and aquaculture under a single umbrella with a view to improve the production, processing and marketing of the fishery products is under examination.

[Translation]

Decline in Per Capita Availability of Foodgrains

3129. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:
SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO:
SHRI PRABODH PANDA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the per capita availability of foodgrains in the country during the last three years and till date;

(b) whether the per capital availability of foodgrains in the country has declined during the last three years;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the effective steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to meet the shortage of per capital availability of foodgrains?

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 per capita availability of foodgrains during the last three years, for which figures have been compiled, is given below:

Year	Per capita availability in kilograms per year
2000-01	151.9
2001-02	180.4
2002-03	159.2

(b) and (c) There have been fluctuations in per capita availability of foodgrains due to fluctuations in foodgrains production caused by abnormal variations in weather conditions. The severe drought of 2002, that adversely affected several States in the country, led to a sharp decline in foodgrains production in 2002-03 which contributed to the decline in per capita availability of foodgrains in the country.

(d) Availability does not necessarily mean access, which depends mainly on purchasing power. The Government therefore implements employment generation and welfare schemes to enhance access of the needy sections of population to foodgrains. These include the Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana, the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), Mid-day Meal Scheme and the Antyodaya Anna Yojana. Besides, the Government also makes arrangements through the mechanism of buffer stock to ensure food security all over the country.

In order to encourage farmers to raise production and productivity of major agricultural commodities, including foodgrains, to cope with increase in demand from the growing population, the Government fixes Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) every year. Besides, with a view to raising overall production of agricultural commodities, including foodgrains, the Government have identified the following areas for focused and priority attention:

- Doubling Rural Credit in three years, easing the burden of debt and high interest rate;
- Dry Land Farming, promotion of Horticulture production and Water Management;
- Creation of additional irrigation;
- Marketing support to farmers' produce for ensuring fair and remunerative prices;
- Assistance to the farmers under various agricultural and horticultural production programmes;
- Insurance of crops against production loss due to natural calamities.

[English]

Decline in Poaching of Waterfowl in Chilka Lake

3130. DR. PRASANNA KUMAR PATASANI:
SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG:

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

(a) whether poaching/hunting of waterfowl in Chilka Lake in Orissa has shown a decline since the year 2000;

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

(c) whether poachers/hunters/local communities/ Government and Non-Governmental Organizations have participated in the exercise;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the manner in which they have been rewarded by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) As informed by the State Government, poaching/hunting of birds has declined due to stringent anti-poaching measures and increased surveillance. The details of cases are given below:

Year	Number of cases booked			Number of offenders arrested
	Prosecution	Undetected	Total	
2000-01	4	33	37	8
2001-02	6	28	34	13
2002-03	5	53	58	9
2003-04	7	18	25	17
2004-05	7	2	9	7

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Youth Clubs, local Non Governmental Organizations, Bird Protection Committees and Fishermen's cooperatives have been mobilized through motivation camps organized by the Chilka Wildlife Division to isolate the elements indulging in poaching and poisoning of birds.

(e) Informers are suitably rewarded by Chilka Development Authority.

[Translation]

Rice Testing in Lucknow

3131. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:
SHRI ILYAS AZMI:

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

(a) whether the Government measures the quality of foodgrains for procurement and disbursement in the country;

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

(c) the number of rice samples rejected by FCI, Lucknow region during the last three years;

(d) whether some discrepancies were detected in the clearance of a number of samples:

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether responsibilities have since been fixed; and

(g) if so, the details thereof and the action taken against those held responsible?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The quality of foodgrains is assessed at the time of procurement as well as disbursement as per the quality specifications laid down by the Government. During procurement, the stock is accepted by Food Corporation of India (FCI) as per the uniform specifications. In UP, under decentralized procurement scheme, the stock is initially purchased by the State Government and same is delivered to FCI in the depots where TA/AM (QC) analyse the stock before accepting the same. At the time of issue, ample opportunities are provided to the officials of the State Governments/UTs to inspect the stock prior to lifting from FCI godowns.

(c) The number of rice samples found Beyond Rejection Limit (BRL) in regional lab, FCI Lucknow during the last three years as under:

Year	Number of samples found BRL
2001-02	21
2002-03	15
2003-04	38

(d) to (g) Whenever samples are found BRL on analysis, the cases are referred by FCI to its Vigilance Branch for initiating disciplinary action against the defaulters, who had accepted such BRL stocks. 39 officers/officials have been found responsible for purchase of BRL stocks and disciplinary action has been approved against them and the cases stand referred to Vigilance Branch of FCI. The details of the officers/officials are as under:

1.	Assistant Manager (QC)	25
2.	Assistant Manager (PP)	1
3.	Technical Assistant-I	8
4.	Technical Assistant-II	2
5.	Assistant Grade-I (PP)	1
6.	Assistant Grade-II (PP)	2
		39

[English]

Tourism Development in Eastern Region

3132. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the details of places of tourist attractions in Eastern India, State-wise;

(b) the number of domestic/foreign tourists visited such places during each of the last three years, State-wise; and

(c) the packages proposed for development of tourism in such places, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) It is the primary responsibility of the State Government/ UT Administrations to identify places of tourist attractions both man made and natural in their respective States.

The number of domestic/foreign tourists who visited Eastern India, State-wise, during each of the last three years, are as follows:

State	Year	Domestic	Foreign
Bihar	2001	6061168	85673
	2002	6860207	112873
	2003	6044710	60820
Jharkhand	2001	353177	2979
	2002	313134	2244
	2003	398346	3223
Orissa	2001	3109976	22854
	2002	3269205	23279
	2003	3701245	25020
West Bengal	2001	4943097	284092
	2002	8844232	529366
	2003	11300763	705457

(c) Development of packages is the concern of the tour operators. However, State-wise details of projects sanctioned during the current financial year so far are as follows:

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	Name of the project	Amount sanctioned	Amount released
	Bihar		
1.	Construction of new High School Building and shifting of existing High School from frontage Mayasarovar Lake, Budhgaya	33.11	33.11
2.	Eco-Tourism Development at Bhimbandh (Munger)	370.00	296.00
3.	Development of tourist Resort at Maner	407.20	325.76
4.	Eco-Tourism Development of Valmiki Nagar	300.06	240.00
	Jharkhand		
5.	Integrated Development of Massanjore (Dumka District)	474.97	379.97
	Orissa		
6.	Rural Tourism development of Village Pipli in District Bhubaneswar	17.30	14.00
7.	Development of Peace Park and Amphitheatre at Dhauli	488.51	391.00
8.	Rural Tourism of Village Raghurajpur (Puri District)	22.00	17.60

[Translation]

Unemployment Allowance

3133. SHRI KHIREN RIJIJU:
SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA:
SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK:
SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY:
SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE:
SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL:
SHRI MANJUNATH KUNNUR:
SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE:
SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL:
SHRIMATI KALPANA RAMESH NARHIRE:
SHRI TUKARAM GANGADHAR GADAKH:

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

(a) whether the Government has introduced any unemployment allowance scheme for unemployed youth in the country recently;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof;

(c) whether the State Governments have been asked to implement such scheme;

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

(e) whether the Union Government is rendering financial assistance to the State Governments; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

[English]

Inclusion of Bird Sanctuary in Tourism Map

3134. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to include Chhari-Dhanbdha in Kutch in Gujarat in tourist map; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to implement the same?

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

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Decrease in Agricultural Products

3135. SHRI SAJJAN KUMAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the percentage of agricultural product has decreased during the last five years;

(b) if so, whether the Government has reviewed the reasons for the decrease in the percentage of agricultural products; and

(c) the findings of the review and the reasons for the decrease?

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 statistics of National Accounts compiled by Central Statistical Organisation reveal that the figures of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in Agriculture including forestry and fishing as a percentage of overall GDP has shown a decling trend at current prices from 26.2% in 1999-2000 to 22.2% in 2003-04. The statement showing percentage of GDP in agriculture (agriculture product) including forestry and fishing in overall GDP during 1999-2000 to 2003-2004 is given below:

GDP (Rs. in crore) at current prices

Year	Agriculture Forestry and Fishing	All Sectors (Overall GDP)	%age share of Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing in overall GDP
1999-2000	461964	1761838	26.2
2000-01	468479	1902998	24.6
2001-02	521907	2090957	25.0
2002-03	509907	2249493	22.7
2003-04	560482	2523872	22.2

(b) and (c) The movement in the share of agriculture in overall GDP covering all sectors depends on the growth rate in agriculture vis-a-vis growth rates in other sectors, namely, industries and services. Relatively higher rate of decline in the share of GDP in agriculture during 2002-03 reflects the impact of severe drought that affected agriculture production and productivity in several States in the country. In order to reverse the declining trend on agricultural growth, it is necessary to accelerate investment in agriculture with a view to improving production and productivity across States/regions and crops. Government has, therefore, identified the following steps for focused attention aimed at promoting investment and growth in agriculture:

(i) Doubling of rural credit in three years, easing the burden of debt and high interest rates, and nursing cooperatives back to health.

(ii) Launching special programme for dry land farming in the arid and semi-arid regions of the country, and for horticulture and water management.

(iii) Stepping up of public investment in agricultural research and extension, rural infrastructure and irrigation.

(iv) Marketing reforms in the States aimed at promoting direct marketing of agricultural commodities from the farmers' fields without the intermediation of licensed traders and regulated markets.

(v) Providing investment subsidy to marketing infrastructure projects in States undertaking reforms.

[English]

Dope Testing by SAI before Olympics

3136. SHRI TEK LAL MAHTO: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India's system of dope testing is a farce and is open to manipulation as reported in *Indian Express* dated October 16, 2004;

(b) if so, the details of the testing done by the Sports Authority of India (SAI) before the Athens Olympics; and

(c) the details of the action taken/being taken by the Government to rectify the anomalies of SAI?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI SUNIL DUTT): (a) to (c) No, Sir. However, there are continuous reviews to safeguard against the possibility of manipulation through system improvements, training of Sports Authority India (SAI) scientists engaged in dope testing exercise etc.

All the sportspersons qualified for the individuals events and selected as members of the Indian Team for the 2004 Athens Olympic Games were tested for dope. Samples of 2 Indian Weightlifters who were tested positive for dope at the Athens Olympic Games were also tested prior to their departure and found negative for dope.

Development of Thin Forest Cover

3137. SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULASTE:
SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN:
SHRI CHANDRABHAN SINGH:
SHRIMATI NEETA PATERIYA:

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

(a) the area of the land covered by their forests in the country, State-wise;

(b) the schemes of the Union Government to convert thin forests into dense forests;

(c) whether any schemes for the development of thin forests have been received from various States by the Union Government during the last three years and current year;

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

(e) by when these schemes will be cleared by the Union Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) The state-wise forest cover in the country as per the State of Forest Report, 2001, published by the Forest Survey of India is enclosed as statement-I.

(b) Ministry of Environment and Forests is implementing National Afforestation Programme for development of forests in the country through the mechanism of Forest Development Agencies (FDAs).

(c) to (e) There is general demand from most of the states for central assistance for development and protection of forests. Under National Afforestation Programme 561 FDA projects have been approved out of a total of 660 projects received from the States. The state-wise figures of FDA project proposals received and approved are enclosed statement-II. Efforts are made to meet the demands of States to the extent possible, keeping in view the budget available with the Ministry.

Statement I

State/UT-wise forest cover as per State of Forest Report 2001

(Area in Km^2)

State/UT	Geographic Area	Forest Cover	
		Total	Percent
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	275,069	44,637	16.23
Arunachal Pradesh	83,743	68,045	81.25
Assam	78,438	27,714	35.33
Bihar	94,163	5,720	6.07
Chhattisgarh	135,191	56,448	41.75
Delhi	1,483	111	7.51
Goa	3,702	2,095	56.59
Gujarat	196,022	15,152	7.73
Haryana	44,212	1,754	3.97
Himachal Pradesh	55,673	14,360	25.79
Jammu & Kashmir	222,236	21,327	9.56
Jharkhand	79,714	22,637	28.40
Karnataka	191,791	36,991	19.29
Kerala	38,863	15,560	40,04
Madhya Pradesh	308,245	77,265	25.07
Maharashtra	307,713	47,482	15.43
Manipur	22,327	16,926	75.81
Meghalaya	22,429	15,584	69.48

1	2	3	4
Mizoram	21,081	17,494	82.98
Nagaland	16,579	13,345	80.49
Orissa	155,707	48,838	31.36
Punjab	50,362	2,432	4.83
Rajasthan	342,239	16.367	4.78
Sikkim	7,096	3,193	45.00
Tamil Nadu	130,058	21,482	16.52
Tripura	10,486	7,065	67.38
Uttar Pradesh	240,928	13,746	5.71
Uttaranchal	53,483	23,938	44.76
West Bengal	88,752	10,693	12.05
A&N Islands	8,249	6,930	84.01
Chandigarh	114	9	7.51
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	491	219	44.60
Daman & Diu	112	6	5.53
Lakshadweep	32	27	85.91
Pondicherry	480	36	7.45
Total	3,287,263	675,538	20.55

Statement II

Sl. No.	Name of State/UT	No. of FDA Project proposals received upto 30.11.2004	No. of FDA Project proposals sanctioned upto 30.11.2004
1	2	3	4
1.	Haryana	15	15
2.	Orissa	29	28
3.	Jammu & Kashmir	31	31
4.	Uttar Pradesh	61	56
5.	Himachal Pradesh	26	25
6.	Uttaranchal	30	28
7.	Punjab	9	4

1	2	3	4
8.	Bihar	9	6
9.	Gujarat	15	13
10.	Jharkhand	27	26
11.	Maharashtra	41	38
12.	Rajasthan	14	13
13.	Tamil Nadu	32	31
14.	West Bengal	20	14
15.	Andhra Pradesh	32	24
16.	Chhattisgarh	27	26
17.	Goa	3	3
18.	Karnataka	41	35
19.	Kerala	25	14
20.	Madhya Pradesh	42	30
21.	Arunachal Pradesh	16	13
22.	Assam	28	17
23.	Manipur	12	11
24.	Meghalaya	7	7
25.	Mizoram	30	19
26.	Nagaland	18	16
27.	Sikkim	7	7
28.	Tripura	13	11
	Total	660	561

[Translation]

Minimum Support Price Policy

3138. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Minimum Support Price (MSP) policy is in force in the country;

(b) if so, the details of MSP for all agricultural produce and foodgrains during the last three years;

(c) the measures adopted by the Government to safeguard the interests of the farmers in case the market prices falls below the MSP; and

(d) the details of the crops, the prices of which fell below the MSP 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) A statement indicating the Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) of agricultural commodities fixed in recent years is enclosed.

(c) and (d) The main objective of price policy for agricultural produce is to ensure remunerative prices to the growers for their produce. With a view to safeguard the interest of the farmers, Government organizes purchase operations through public and cooperative agencies such as Food Corporation of India (Wheat, Paddy & Coarse Cereals), Jute Corporation of India (Jute), Cotton Corporation of India (Cotton), National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (NAFED) (Pulses and Oilseeds) and Tobacco Board (Tobacco), besides other agencies designated by the State Governments for procurement of commodities for which MSP has been announced.

The wholesale prices of agricultural commodities are constantly monitored and instances of market prices ruling below the MSPs are referred to the respective designated central nodal agencies for undertaking procurement operations. The designated central nodal agencies are required to intervene in the market for undertaking price support operations in case the prices fall below the MSP level fixed by the Government. In the immediate post harvest period the prices tend to fall below the MSP in certain centres in respect of certain crops. During the last three years the prices of paddy, wheat, jowar, bajra, maize, barley had fallen below MSP in certain centers for varying period of time. The prices of pulses have generally prevailed above MSP with only occasional fall below MSP in case of arhar (tur), urad, moong and gram in some centers.

Statement

Minimum Support Prices
(According to Crop Year)

(Rs. per quintal)

Sl.No.	Commodity	Variety	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03 Spl. Drought relief price		2003-04	2004-05	(#)increases in MSP 2004-05 over 2003-04
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8		9	10	11
1.	Paddy	Common	440	490	510	530	530	20	550	560	10(1.8)
		Grade 'A'	470	520	540	560	560	20	580	590	10(1.7)
2.	Jowar		390	415	445	485	485	5	505	515	10(2.0)
3.	Bajra		390	415	445	485	485	10	505	515	10(2.0)
4.	Maize		390	415	445	485	485	5	505	525	20(4.0)
5.	Ragi		390	415	445	485	485	5	505	515	10(2.0)
6.	Wheat		550	580	610	620	620	10	630	640	10(1.6)
7.	Barley		385	430	500	500	500	5	525	540	15(2.9)
8.	Gram		895	1015	1100	1200	1220	5	1400	1425	25(1.8)
9.	Arhar (Tur)		960	1105	1200	1320	1320	5	1360	1390	30(2.2)
10.	Moong		960	1105	1200	1320	1330	5	1370	1410	40(2.9)
11.	Urad		960	1105	1200	1320	1330	5	1370	1410	40(2.9)
12.	Masur (Lentil)*		—	—	1200	1300	1320	5	1500	1525	25(1.7)
13.	Sugarcane@		52.70	56.10	59.50	62.05	69.50	—	73	74.50	1.50(2.0)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8		9	10	11
14.	Cotton	F-414/H-777/J34	1440	1575	1625	1675	1675	20	1725	1760	35(2.0)
		H-4	1650	1775	1825	1875	1875	20	1925	1960	35(1.8)
15.	Groundnut in Shell		1040	1155	1220	1340	1355	20	1400	1500	100(7.1)
16.	Jute	TD-5	650	750	785	810	850	—	860	890	30(3.5)
17.	Rapeseed/Mustard		1000	1100	1200	1300	1330	10	1600	1700	100(6.3)
18.	Sunflower Seed		1060	1155	1170	1185	1195	15	1250	1340	90(7.2)
19.	Soyabean	Black	705	755	775	795	795	10	840	900	60(7.1)
		Yellow	795	845	865	885	885	10	930	1000	70(7.5)
20.	Safflower		990	1100	1200	1300	1300	5	1500	1550	50(3.3)
21.	Toria		965	1065	1165	1265	1295	10	1565	1665	100(6.4)
22.	Tobacco (VFC)	Black Soil (F2 Gr)	22.50	25.00	26.00	27.00	28.00	—	31.00	—	
	(Rs. per kg.)	Light Soil (L2 Gr)	25.50	27.00	28.00	29.00	30.00	—	33.00	—	
23.	Copra	Milling	2900	3100	3250	3300	3300	—	3320	3500	180(5.4)
	(Calendar Year)	Ball	3125	3325	3500	3550	3550	—	3570	3750	180(5.0)
24.	Sesamum		1060	1205	1300	1400	1450	5	1485	1500	15(1.0)
25.	Nigerseed		850	915	1025	1100	1120	—	1155	1180	25(2.2)

@Statutory Minimum Price (SMP) linked to a basic recovery of 8.5% with proportionate premium for every 0.1% increase in recovery above that level. The SMP for 2002-03 includes the one time drought relief of Rs. 5 per quintal recommended by CACP.

*The MSP for masur (lentil) has been fixed from the crop year 2000-01.

#Figures in brackets indicate percentage increase.

Relief to Soyabean Farmers

3139. SHRI CHANDRABHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the soyabean crop in Madhya Pradesh destroyed due to the infestation of caterpillars causing huge losses to the farmers;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to mitigate the sufferings of the farmers;

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

(d) whether farmers suffer huge losses due to the use of spurious fertilizers and pesticides;

(e) if so, the steps taken to check the distribution of spurious fertilizers and pesticides; and

(f) the other steps proposed to be taken to protect the interest of the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) The Government of Madhya Pradesh has reported that soyabean crop in an estimated area of 9,81,167 hectares has been affected by Caterpillars out of which the crop in 1,37,228 hectares has been damaged by more than 50%. Farmers whose crops have been affected by infestation by caterpillars can avail compensation under

the National Agriculture Insurance Scheme. Funds allocated to the State under the Integrated Scheme for Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM) and Macro Management Scheme can be utilized for controlling this pest.

(d) to (f) The supply of quality inputs to farmers in ensured through law enforcement and imparting training to farmers on correct and judicious use of quality insecticides under the overall ambit of eco-friendly Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach. Further, the State has been advised to update infrastructure facilities in Pesticide Testing Laboratories and Bio-control laboratories. The Central Government has been giving grants-in-aid for the purpose.

To ensure adequate availability of good quality of fertilizer to the farmers at reasonable prices, Government of India has declared fertilizer as an essential commodity under Essential Commodities Act, 1955 and issued Fertilizer Control Order, 1985 to regulate the trade, prices, quality and distribution of fertilizer in the country. The enforcement agency of the State Government is empowered to take appropriate administrative and legal action against those who indulge in production and sale of fertilizers which do not meet the specifications prescribed in the Fertilizer Control Order, 1985.

Check on Fake Goods

3140. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR:
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:

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

(a) whether a new technology to curb counterfeit products has been launched recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the present mechanism has failed to check the proliferation of fake goods;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the extent to which the new technology has been successful to check fake goods?

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) Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) is not aware of any new technology to curb counterfeit products.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

[English]

Krishi Vigyan Kendra

3141. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the major achievements of Krishi Vigyan Kendras for the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the funds allocated and released to these Kendras during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(c) whether some Krishi Vigyan Kendras are working under the supervisions of some NGO's in Jammu and Kashmir State; and

(d) if so, the name of such NGO's and amount allocated to these NGO's during each of the last three years with their contributions, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) The Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) aims at technology assessment and refinement through demonstration of technology/product and its dissemination through training of farmers and extension personnel. There were 376 KVKs as on 31.3.2004. The major achievements of the KVKs for the last three years (2001-02 to 2003-04) are as follows:

- 74,286 demonstration on the farmers' fields to establish the production potentials of improved agricultural technology.
- Training of 17.04 lakhs farmers.
- Training of 1.53 lakhs extension personnel.
- Participation of 27.04 lakhs farmers in extension activities.

The State-wise detail is given in the statement-I enclosed. In addition, the KVKs produced 12431 tonnes of seeds and 94.09 lakhs planting materials for availability to the farmers.

(b) During the period, an amount of Rs. 235.97 crores was allocated. Based on the utilization of fund vis-a-vis the performance Rs. 233.65 crores were released. The State-wise detail for each of the three years is given in the statement II enclosed.

(c) The KVK that working under an NGO in Jammu and Kashmir was ordered for closure and subsequently for transfer to the Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology, Jammu. However, the transfer has been stayed by an order of the court.

(d) Out of 376 KVKs, there were 77 KVKs with the NGOs, the names of which are given in the enclosed statement-III. During the last three years, Rs. 74.08 crores was allocated to these KVKs. The State-wise detail during each of the last three years is given in statement-IV enclosed. The KVKs are funded on 100 percent basis.

Statement I

State-wise Achievements of KVKs during 2001-02 to 2003-04

Sl. No.	State/UTs	No. of KVKs Sanctioned	No. of Beneficiaries of Training Programme		No. of Demonstrations conducted	No. of Beneficiaries of extension activities
			Farmers	Extension Personnel		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	A&N Islands	1	2458	245	208	14042
2.	Andhra Pradesh	22	101048	8088	4152	108499
3.	Bihar	23	109225	17185	4505	168913
4.	Chhattisgarh	4	8334	2860	962	41256
5.	Delhi	1	629	34	232	463
6.	Goa	1	4085	187	149	17745
7.	Gujarat	13	54938	2665	3259	140400
8.	Haryana	15	108850	12418	2679	63147
9.	Himachal Pradesh	12	66200	2039	5585	21532
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	9	17625	2404	686	9107
11.	Jharkhand	7	43227	3090	4155	74135
12.	Karnataka	21	175882	8701	4346	300965
13.	Kerala	13	124230	8868	337	180049
14.	Lakshadweep	1	3451	1310	—	1066
15.	Madhya Pradesh	31	53374	8726	4953	162309
16.	Maharashtra	31	173845	18749	6128	222545
17.	Orissa	16	22869	4512	6737	51441
18.	Pondicherry	2	12022	1627	139	44707

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
19.	Punjab	10	54413	4530	1336	218950
20.	Rajasthan	31	153739	6455	2194	51351
21.	Tamil Nadu	22	199672	10953	5202	157041
22.	Uttar Pradesh	41	111083	19687	7429	476650
23.	Uttaranchal	8	6040	584	851	48971
24.	West Bengal	12	41795	3755	5202	115268
25.	NE States	29	55214	3534	2861	13194
	Total	376	1704248	153006	74286	2703736

Statement II

Statement showing the funds allocation and funds released to KVKs during 2001-02 to 2003-04

(Amount in lakhs)

Sl. No.	State	No. of KVKs	Funds Allocated			Funds Released		
			2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	A&N islands	1	43.05	37.57	30.60	43.05	37.57	30.60
2.	Andhra Pradesh	22	413.58	585.96	564.32	413.58	585.96	564.32
3.	Bihar	23	356.00	385.90	476.37	356.00	385.90	476.37
4.	Chhattisgarh	4	95.90	137.30	117.50	86.64	137.30	117.50
5.	Delhi	1	22.50	—	—	22.50	—	—
6.	Goa	1	23.55	25.90	29.10	23.55	25.90	29.10
7.	Gujarat	13	237.00	258.20	223.70	226.60	258.20	223.70
8.	Haryana	15	289.00	417.40	415.58	282.65	417.40	415.58
9.	Himachal Pradesh	12	263.13	359.64	474.13	263.13	359.64	382.17
10.	Jharkhand	7	94.71	103.81	97.42	94.71	103.81	97.42
11.	J&K	9	80.70	128.60	205.90	66.48	128.60	205.90
12.	Karnataka	21	250.43	271.66	325.89	250.43	268.16	325.84
13.	Kerala	13	215.50	242.08	253.90	215.50	242.08	253.90
14.	Lakshadweep	1	17.34	18.60	18.90	17.34	18.60	18.90

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
15.	Madhya Pradesh	31	383.90	565.47	647.16	364.09	558.07	646.74
16.	Maharashtra	31	538.82	850.00	848.73	538.82	850.00	839.43
17.	Orissa	16	308.60	486.66	483.81	299.90	486.66	483.81
18.	Pondicherry	2	62.10	54.20	68.13	62.10	54.20	63.13
19.	Punjab	10	246.60	317.40	326.32	246.60	317.40	297.35
20.	Rajasthan	31	746.73	1119.22	791.15	746.73	1119.22	791.15
21.	Tamil Nadu	22	298.77	401.52	400.85	297.62	389.98	400.85
22.	Uttar Pradesh	41	806.10	912.06	1009.06	806.10	908.92	1009.06
23.	Uttaranchal	8	47.60	64.70	62.65	47.60	64.70	62.85
24.	West Bengal	12	238.91	245.55	242.35	238.91	245.55	242.35
25.	NE States	29	340.00	228.50	844.80	340.00	228.50	844.80
	Total	376	6420.52	8217.80	8958.32	6350.63	8192.32	8822.62

Statement III

State-wise List of NGOs with KVK

Sl.No.	Name
1	2
	Andhra Pradesh
1.	Youth for Action, Domalyuda Hyderabad-500029
2.	Aurobindo Institute of Rural Development, Gaddipalli, Nalgonda-508201
3.	Rayalseema Seva Samiti, Tirupathi, Chittoor-517520
4.	Gram Nava Nirman Samiti, Vidyanagar, Hyderabad
5.	Shri Hanumantharaya Educational & Charitable Society, Kothapeta, Kurnool
6.	Bhagavatula Charitable Trust, Yellamanchili-531005, Vishakhapatnam
7.	Deccan Development Society Basheerbagh, Hyderabad
8.	Vinayashram Cherukupalli, Mandal, Guntur-522309
	Bihar
9.	Gram Nirman Mandal Ashram, Sokhodera-805106, Nawada
10.	Banavasi Seva Kendra, Adhaura-Bhabhua, Kaimur-821116
11.	Khadi Gramodyog Sangh, Khadigram, Jamui-811313
12.	S.K. Choudhary Edn. Trust, 141 Sukhdeve Vihar, Mathura Road, New Delhi-110025
13.	Charvak Socio-Eco. Development Trust, Koshi College, Khagaria
	Gujarat
14.	Bhartiya Agro Industries Foundation, Pune
15.	Mangal Bharti Bahadurpur, Baroda-391125

1	2
16.	Sarswati Gram Vidyapeeth, Samoda, Mehsana
17.	Rural Agro. Research & Development Society, Juhu, Bombay
	Haryana
18.	Society for Creation of Heaven on Earth, Ambala-133104
19.	Bhagwat Bhakti Ashram, Rampura, Rewari-123401
	Jharkhand
20.	Santhal Paharia Seva Mandal, Deoghar-814152
21.	Ramkrishna Mission Ashrama, Morabadi, Ranchi-834008
22.	Holycross V.T.I, Hazaribagh-825301
	Karnataka
23.	JSS, Rural Development Foundation, Mysore
24.	Belgaum Integrated Rural Development Society, Belgaum
25.	K.H. Patil Agril. Sciences Foundation, Gadag-582205
	Kerala
26.	Mitraniketna, Vellanad-696543, Tiruvananthapuram
27.	Bapooji Sewak Samaj, Chakkopallam, Idukki
28.	Christian Agency for Rural Development, Thiruvalla, Pethennamthitta
	Madhya Pradesh
29.	Kalukheda Shiksha Samiti, Kalukheda, Ratlam
30.	Deen Dayal Research Institute, Rani Jhansi Road, New Delhi
31.	Kasturba Gandhi National Memorial Trust, Indore
32.	Centre for Rural Dev. & Environment, Bhopal
33.	Pt. Deendayal Krishi Vikas & Anusandhan Sansthan, Bhopal

1	2
	Maharashtra
34.	Jeevan Jyoti Charitable Trust, Parbhani-431401
35.	D.Y. Patil Education Society, Talashande, Kolhapur
36.	Satpuda Edn. Society Jalgaon, Jamod, Buldana-443402
37.	Sharam Sadhna Trust, Amravati-444602
38.	Sharam Safalya Foundation, Amravati-447701
39.	J.N. Instt. of Edn. Sci. & Tech. Research, Nanded-431602
40.	Shabari Krishi Pratshtan, Solapur-413001
41.	SUVIDE Foundaiton, Risod, Akola-444506
42.	Poip Falaotpadan Sankar Samiti, Sindhudurg (MS)-416616
43.	Gokhale Edn. Society, Nasik
44.	Satpuda Vikas Mandal Pal, Raver, Jalgaon-425508
45.	Deen Dayal Research Institute, Rani Jhansi Marg, New Delhi
46.	Kalayani Gorakshan Trust, Pune-411001
47.	Agril. Development Trust, Baramati-413115, Pune
48.	Pravara Instt. of Res. & Edn. in Natural & Soc. Sci., Ahmednagar
49.	Vasant Prakash Vikas Pratisthan, Sangli-416416
50.	Marathwada Shethi Sahayya Mandal, Jalna-431203
51.	Saint Namdev Sevabhavi Sanstha, Hingoli
52.	Dr. Hedgewar Seva Samiti, Nandurbar-425412
	Manipur
53.	Foundation for Environment and Eco. Dev. Services, Imphal
54.	Uttou Joint Farming Cum Pisci Culture Coop. Society Ltd., Bishnupur

1	2
	Rajasthan
55.	Pragati Trust, Chomu, Jaipur-303702
56.	Vidya Bhawan Society, Badgoan, Udaipur-313001
57.	Gandhi Vidya Mandir, Sardar Shahar, Churu-331401
58.	Society to Uplift Rural Economy, Barmer-334001
59.	Keshyanand Memorial Trust, Hanumangarh-335065
	Tamilnadu
60.	Centre for Deve. & Communication Trust, Madurai
61.	UPASI, Glenview, Coonoor-643101 Nilgiri Distt.
62.	Tamilnadu Board of Rural Development, Madras-500017
63.	RVS Education Trust, Dindigul, Anna
64.	TN Board of Rural Development, Madras-500012
65.	Bhakva Memorial Trust, Madras-600080
66.	MYRDADA, Domlur Layout, Bangalore-560071
67.	SCAD Cherandevi, Tirunelvelli
	Tripura
68.	Sri Ramkrishna Seva Kendra, Kolkata
	Uttar Pradesh
69.	Kamla Nehru Memorial Trust, Sultanpur-228118
70.	Deen Dayal Research Institute, New Delhi (KVK, Gonda)
71.	Deen Dayal Research Institute, New Delhi (KVK, Chitrakoot)
72.	Kunwar Ram Bux Singh Edn. Society, Lucknow-226006
73.	Raja Avdesh Singh Memorial Society, Pratapgarh
74.	P.G. College, Ravindrapuri, Gazipur-233002
	West Bengal
75.	Sri Ramkrishan Ashram, South 24 Parganas-743338
76.	Sewa Bharti, Kapgari, Midnapur-721505
77.	Kalyan P.O. Vivekanand Nagar, Purulia-735219

Statement IV

State-wise funds allocated to NGO KVKs during 2001-02 to 2003-04

(Amount in lakhs)

Sl.No.	State	No. of KVKs	Funds Allocated		
			2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	8	195.40	261.95	270.40
2.	Bihar	4	89.20	114.68	126.07
3.	Gujarat	4	118.70	144.80	130.55
4.	Haryana	2	43.55	50.50	53.95
5.	Jharkhand	3	54.71	63.66	70.70

1	2	3	4	5	6
6.	Karnataka	3	84.18	86.20	101.88
7.	Kerala	3	310.47	431.50	431.33
8.	Madhya Pradesh	5	120.23	105.43	140.07
9.	Maharashtra	19	387.37	587.35	643.18
10.	Rajasthan	5	173.00	161.10	166.30
11.	Tamil Nadu	9	161.24	269.20	251.95
12.	Uttar Pradesh	6	165.95	215.12	183.04
13.	West Bengal	3	82.11	85.60	95.50
14.	NE States	3	33.55	25.10	121.70
	Total	77	2019.66	2602.19	2786.62

Representatives of Animal Welfare Organization in Film Censor Committee

3142. SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state the number of persons from animal welfare organizations on various film censor committees as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): There are no persons from Animal Welfare Organizations on various Film Censor Committees as on date.

Tea Labourers in Assam

3143. SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL: With the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Assam Labour Plantation Act, 1951 has not been implemented by the Tea companies in Assam since inception;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to protect the interest of the tea labourers in Assam?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SEKHAR RAO): (a) The Plantations Labour Act, 1951 is being implemented by the Tea companies in Assam.

(b) In view of (a) above question does not arise.

(c) As per the information received from the State Government of Assam, the State Government has issued instructions to timely rectify irregularities as pointed out in the inspection reports; prosecuting the recalcitrant plantation employers in the Courts of law; implementing decisions taken in the tripartite-level annual meetings of the State Housing Advisory Board, the State Medical Advisory Board, the State Education Advisory Board, and the State Standing Labour Committee of plantation workers, and in the quarterly meetings of the District-Level Committee for monitoring the progress of implementation of the Plantations Labour Act, 1951, to safeguard the interests of the plantation workers.

Narmada Project as National Project

3144. SHRI V.K. THUMMAR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government proposes to declare Narmada Project as National Project; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

YADAV): (a) and (b) There is no proposal to declare Narmada Project as a National project.

New Projects for Development of Sports in W.B.

3145. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received any new projects for the development of sports from West Bengal during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the funds allocated for the purpose, project-wise;

(d) the number of projects cleared so far; and

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

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI SUNIL DUTT): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Under the Scheme of "Grants for Creation of Sports Infrastructure" 41 project proposals have been received from the Government of West Bengal during the years 2001-2002 to 2004-2005 (as on 15.12.2004). Out of which, 33 proposals have been approved. The details of above projects have been given in the statement enclosed.

(e) The decision on the remaining proposals depends upon the receipt of responses as well as progress report on incomplete sanctioned projects from the Government of West Bengal.

Statement

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of the project/location with implementing agency	Amount approved in principle with date	Amount released with date	Balance payable	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Indoor Stadium (Cat. II) at Jalpaiguri	20.00 18.12.2001	20.00 in 3 instalments	-	project Completed
2.	Football field and Athletic Track at Serampur Municipality, Hooghly	2.25 25.9.2002	2.25 6.10.2003	-	Project Completed
3.	Development of football/cricket ground at Bajkul by Tarun Sangha, Fakirchak, Distt. Midnapore	1.385 22.3.2002	1.20 2.6.03	0.185	UC/CC awaited
4.	Development of playfield at Bidhanagar Municipality, Calcutta by Bidhannagar Municipality	3.25 25.5.2002	—	3.25	PR/Audited accounts awaited
5.	Development of playfield Cooch Behar Municipality, Distt. Cooch, Behar by Cooch Behar Municipality	4.00 25.9.2002	2.00 2.12.2003	2.00	UC/CC awaited.

1	2	3	4	5	6
6.	Development of playfield Raipur-Sonarpur Municipality, Distt. 24, Parganas (South)	2.25 25.9.2002	1.13 18.11.2003	1.12	UC/CC awaited
7.	Development of playfield at New Barrackpore Municipality, Distt. 24 Parganas (North)	1.50 25.9.2002	1.00 2.12.2003	0.50	—do—
8.	Development of playfield at Haldia Municipality, Distt. Midnapore Development of Football field	1.50 25.9.2002	0.75 3.10.2003	0.75	—do—
9.	Tarakeshwar Municipality, Distt. Hooghly	2.25 25.9.2002	1.12 18.11.2003	1.13	—do—
10.	Bhadreshwar Municipality, Distt. Hooghly Development of Volleyball court	0.30 25.9..2002	—	0.30	PR/Audited Accounts awaited
11.	Chandernagore Municipality, Distt. Hooghly	3.00 25.9.2002	1.50 3.10.2003	1.50	UC/CC awaited
12.	Rishra Municipality, Distt. Hooghly	3.25 25.9.20002	— —	3.25 —	PR/Audited Accounts awaited
13.	Joynagar-Mozilpur Municipality, Distt. 24 Pargana (South)	2.50 25.9.2002	—	3.50	—do—
14.	Development of playfield at Teharpur, Nodia by Teharpur Notified Area Authority, Distt. Nodia	1.50 25.9.2002	0.75 2.12.2003	0.75	UC/CC awaited
15.	Development of playfield EGRA Municipality, Distt. Midnapore	2.25 25.9.2002	1.12 14.11.2003	1.13	—do—
16.	English Bazar Municipality, Distt. Malda Development of football field	1.50 25.9.2002	—	1.50	PR/Audited Accounts awaited
17.	Development of playfield at Gangaramnagar Municipality, Distt. Dakshni Dinajpur by Gangaramunagar Municipality	1.67 25.9.2002	—	1.67	—do—

1	2	3	4	5	6
18.	Development of football/Hockey field at Govt. High School, Darjeeling by Darjeeling Municipality.	1.50 25.9.2002 (Being a Govt. School admissible grant is 50% of the cost or Rs. 1.50 lakh whichever is less)	0.75 3.10.2003	0.75	UC/CC awaited
19.	Development of playfield at Basirhat Municipality, Distt. 24 Pargana (North) by Basirhat Municipality.	2.25 25.9.2002	—	2.25	PR/Audited Accounts awaited
20.	Development of volleyball court at Dum Dum by Dum Dum Municipality, Distt. 24 Paraganas (North)	0.30 25.9.2002	—	0.30	-do-
21.	Development of Playfield at Naihati Municipality, Distt. 24 Parganas (North) by Naihati Municipality	3.00 25.9.2002	1.50 14.11.2003	1.50	UC/CC awaited
22.	Development of playfield at South Dum Dum Municipality, Distt. 24 Pargana (North)	1.05 25.9.2002	—	1.05	PR/Audited Accounts awaited
23.	Development of playfield at Barrackpore Municipality, Distt. 24 Pargana (North)	2.25 25.9.2002	—	2.25	—do—
24.	Development of football field by North Barrackpore Municipality, Distt. 24 Paragana (North)	1.50 25.9.2002	—	1.50	—do—
25.	Baranagar Municipalitty, Distt. 24 Pargana (North)	1.75 25.9.2002	—	1.75	—do—
26.	Development of Volleyball field at Barasat Municipality, Distt. 24 Pargana (North) by Barasat Municipality	0.30 25.9.2002	—	0.30	—do—

1	2	3	4	5	6
27.	Development of football field by Ashoknagar-Kalyangarh Municipality, Distt. 24 Pargana (North)	1.50 25.9.2002	1.00 2.12.2003	0.50	UC/Completion Certificate awaited
28.	Gobardanga Municipality, Distt. 24 Pargana (North) Development of Football field	1.50 25.9.2002	—	1.50	PR/Audited Accounts awaited
29.	Playfield at Kalyani Municipality, Kalyani Nadia by Kalyani Municipality	4.05 21.11.02	2.00 2.12.2003	2.05	UC/Completion Certificate awaited
30.	Playfield at Vivekanand Mission Asram, Haldia, Distt. Midnapore by Vivekananda Mission Ashram, Haldia.	1.50 14.5.2003	1.35 24.5.2004	0.15	—do—
31.	Indoor Stadium category-I at Bolpur by Sriniketan Santiniketan Development Authority at Bholpur, Distt. Birbhum	84.00 26.9.2003	—	84.00	PR/Audited Accounts awaited
32.	Football/Cricket Ground at Sankhadiha, Distt. Midinapore by Bahumukhi Sangha, Sankhadiha	1.50 24.12.2003	1.35 24.5.2004	0.15	UC/CC awaited
33.	Football/Volleyball ground at Hallyan, Distt. Howrah by Hallyan Sangha Howrah	1.786 24.12.2003	—	1.786	PR/Audited Accounts
34.	Deelopment of playfield at Khardah Municipality, Distt. North 24 Parganas				Deficiencies intimated on 21.8.2002
35.	Development of playfield at Siliguri Municipality Distt. Darjeeling				Deficiencies intimated on 22.8.2002
36.	Development of playfield Kharagpur Municipality, Distt. Midnapore				Deficiencies intimated on 18.9.2002
37.	Development of playfield at Panihati Municipality Distt. 24 Parganas (North)				Deficiencies intimated on 19.8.2002.

1	2	3	4	5	6
38.	Swimming Pool & Indoor Stadium at Deshboundhu Park, North Kolkata				Deficiencies intimated on 27.1.2004
39.	Development of playfield at Raghunath Smritti Sangha, Kalitala, 24 Parganas (South)				No fresh cases of Midnapore & 24
40.	Maitana Jana Sevak Sangha, Battala, Midnapore				Parganas (South) will be considered till the pending projects of these 2 Districts including 3 projects approved about 11 years back are completed. State Government was informed accordingly on 27.9.2004
41.	Swimming Pool complex at Tukrganj Distt. Coach Behar				Deficiencies intimated on 14.12.2004.

UC—Utilisation Certificate
CC—Completion Certificate
PR—Progress Report

Incentive for Cotton Production

3146. SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of AGRIULTURE be pleased to state the details of the incentive for cotton production throughout the country particularly in Maharashtra?

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 supplement the efforts of the State Governments for increasing production, productivity and improvement in quality of cotton, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Mini Mission-II under Technology Mission on Cotton is implemented in 13 cotton growing States of the country including Maharashtra. Under Mini Mission-II, assistance is provided for the transfer of improved production technologies through field demonstrations, trainings of extension personnel and farmers, and on the use of seeds, sprayers, sprinklers/drip irrigation systems, pheromone traps, bio-agents, etc. Besides, assistance is also provided to States for establishment of bio-agent production units, seed-delinting plants and surveillance of disease and pests.

Review of Basel Ban Amendments

3147. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has called for removing impediments in the free movement of recyclable wastes due to the difficulties faced by rapidly industrialising countries in accessing non-ferrous metalic waste in the Basel Convention on the Transboundary Movement of Hazardous

Wastes and their disposal in Geneva on November 28, 2004;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether India has demanded the review of the Basel Ban Amendment; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (d) In the 7th meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, held at Geneva during 25-29 October 2004, India has drawn attention to the fact that difficulties are being faced by rapidly industrialising countries in accessing non ferrous metallic wastes. India also called for a review of the Basel Ban Amendment keeping in view that:

— The criteria for listing countries under Annexe-VII of the Basel Convention are not objective and measurable; and

— Countries outside Annexe-VII of the Basel Convention have capacity for environmentally sound reprocessing of non-ferrous metallic wastes and have put in place regulatory regimes in line with the objectives of the Basel Convention.

Protection of Species of Animals in U.P.

3148. SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of livestock is decreasing continuously in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the total number of various types of livestock in Uttar Pradesh at present alongwith the comparative figures of ratio between animal and human population;

(d) whether the Government has evolved any action plan to protect certain type of species of animals in Uttar Pradesh; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) Total number of livestock in Uttar Pradesh at present is given in the statement enclosed. The ratio between livestock and human population in Uttar Pradesh as per provisional estimates of Livestock Census of 2003 is 0.35.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The Government of India is implementing National Project on Cattle and Buffalo Breeding (NPCBB) from October 2000, which includes the objective of conservation and development of important indigenous breeds. Besides, Government of Uttar Pradesh is also implementing its State Breeding Policy for Cattle and Buffalo.

Statement

Estimates of Number of Livestock in Uttar Pradesh

Sl. No.	Animal Type	Number* (In 000)
1.	Crossbreed Cattle	1804
2.	Indigenous Cattle	17317
	Total Cattle	19121
3.	Buffaloes	21550
4.	Sheep	1660
5.	Goats	12416
6.	Horses & Ponies	174
7.	Mules	63
8.	Donkeys	186
9.	Camels	20
10.	Pigs	2679
	Total Live stock	57869
11.	Dogs	5132
12.	Rabbits	22

*Source 17th Livestock Census-2003 (Provisional key results)

[Translation]

Violation of Environmental Laws by Factory Owners

3149. SHRI SURAJ SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any provision to take action against the factory-owners violating environmental laws;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the State-wise number of cases registered during the last three years and the nature of the action taken thereon;

(c) whether the Government proposes to enact laws by incorporating provisions of financial penalties against the defaulters/offenders;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the prospective schemes of the Government for environment conservation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 provide for powers for taking action against defaulting industries.

(b) As per the available information from State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs)/Pollution Control Committees (PPCs), during the last 3 years, a total of 364 cases have been filed against the industries. Out of these, 114 cases have been decided. The action taken against the polluting industries include issuance of notices/ directions under Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and legal actions against such units through SPCBs/PCCs. Time bound Action Plans have been prepared for defaulting units for setting up the pollution control facilities.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. The existing laws sufficiently provide for actions to be taken against defaulting units including financial penalties.

(e) Time bound Action Plans have been prepared for defaulting units for setting up of the pollution control facilities. A road map has also been drawn under the Charter on Corporate Responsibility for Environment Protection (CREP) for 17 categories of industries for progressive improvement in environmental management practices through adoption of cleaner technologies.

[English]

Use of Sea Water for Agriculture

3150. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to explore the use of sea water after desalinization for Agriculture; and

(b) if so, the plans drawn up and the areas identified alongwith the areas where the process has already started particularly coastal line of Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, the National Common Minimum Programme of the United Progressive Alliance Government inter-alia states that "to put an end to the acute drinking water shortage in cities, especially in southern states, desalination plants will be installed all along the Coromandel Coast starting with Chennai."

Bird Population in Nalabana Bird Sanctuary

3151. SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the impact on the bird population of Nalabana Bird Sanctuary in Chalika Lake in Orissa due to opening of a new mouth at Arakhakhuda;

(b) when was this mouth opened; and

(c) the details of bird census figures for this sanctuary since then?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) The new mouth of the Chilika lagoon was opened at Ramabhartia on 23.9.2000. As informed by the State Government, no detailed scientific study has been done on the impact of opening of new mouth on Nalabana Bird Sanctuary.

(c) The census figures of birds in the Nalabana Sanctuary are as follows:

Year of Census	Number of Birds (in lakhs)
2000-01	5.56
2001-02	2.33
2002-03	2.03
2003-04	1.81

Sports Technology Mission Programme

3152. SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI:
SHRI NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up Sports Technology Mission Programme to improve the performance of sportspersons; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI SUNIL DUTT): (a) No such proposal is under consideration of the Government.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Testing of Foodgrains

3153. SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the quality of foodgrains stored in godowns of FCI is not being checked in absence of adequate number of laboratories; and

(b) if so, steps being taken by the Government for setting up more laboratories?

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. Quality of foodgrains is maintained during storage in godowns of FCI and there is no such report that quality is not checked due to absence of adequate number of laboratories.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Construction of Stadium in Karnataka

3154. SHRI M. SHIVANNA: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received any request from the Government of Karnataka for construction of stadium in Chamaraja Nagar district;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the total amount released for the purpose; and

(c) if not, by when the said stadium is likely to be constructed?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI SUNIL DUTT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The details of proposals and their status, received from the Government of Karnataka under the scheme of "Grants for Creation of Sports Infrastructure" during 2001-2002 to 2004-05 (as on 30.11.2004) for construction of stadia in Chamaraja Nagar district of Karnataka are given below. It is for the State Government of Karnataka to get the approved projects completed expeditiously and submit Utilisation Certificate/Progress Report/Completion Certificate etc. to avail the approved grant from the Government.

Sl.No.	Project	Grant approved	Grant released (Rs. in lakhs)	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Taluk Stadium at Hanur Kollegal, Chamrajnagar	16.00	8.00	Utilisation/Completion Certificates have not been received from the State Government.
2.	Basketball/ Volleyball courts at taluk stadium Gundlupet, Chamrajnagar	1.95	Nil	Progress Report/Audited Accounts have not been received from the State Government

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Indoor stadium cat. III at Gundlupet, Chamrajanagar	30.00	Nil	-do-
4.	Dist. Level sports complex at Chamarajanagar	—	—	Deficiencies conveyed on 18.12.2003.

Fishermen Facing Problems

3155. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the serious plight of fishermen in the country;

(b) if so, whether fishermen in the coasts of Kerala are in great financial strain;

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

(d) whether traditional fishermen are in distress due to trolling and other modernisation including liberalised policies;

(e) whether multinationals and private companies have made use of such liberalised policies;

(f) if so, whether traditional fishermen have been affected therefrom;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) the measures taken to help traditional fishermen to save them from such threats and difficulties?

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

[Translation]

Road shows to attract Tourists

3156. SHRI SITA RAM SINGH: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to organise "road shows" in foreign countries to make India a popular destination for tourists;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the name of countries where such shows have been organised or proposed to be organised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) to (c) Organising of Road shows for marketing and promoting India as a desirable tourist destination is a continuous and ongoing promotional activity of the Ministry of Tourism, in important tourist generating markets overseas.

[English]

Integrated Programme for Development of Horticulture

3157. SHRI D. NARBULA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether integrated programmes for development of horticulture in tribal/hilly areas, a centrally sponsored scheme is under implementation;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the financial allocation made by the Government during the current financial year and Tenth Five Year Plan, State-wise;

(c) the details of schemes undertaken in Darjeeling district of West Bengal during the said period and financial allocation and utilization of funds, till-date?

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) A Central Sector Scheme on "Integrated Development of Horticulture in Tribal/Hilly Area is being implemented since 2000-01 for promotion of horticulture in Tribal/Hilly areas. The programme includes: Crop Production, Transfer of Technology, Irrigation facilities, Horticulture Machineries, On-Farm Handling, Alternative Marketing System and any other need based horticulture activities. An allocation of Rs. 160.00 lakhs has been field for current financial year and Rs. 4500.00 lakhs for Xth Five Year Plan. The programme is project based and no fixed allocation made State-wise.

(c) In Darjeeling District of West Bengal, an amount of Rs. 215.75 lakh have been sanctioned till date since 2002-03. Upto 2004-05 an amount of Rs. 156.75 lakh already released out of which Rs. 97.75 lakh utilized upto 2003-04.

Compensatory Afforestation

3158. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of damage to environment and forests resources during the last three years by each public and private sector companies dealing with mining activities in various parts of the country particularly in Orissa;

(b) whether plantation of trees has been undertaken in the pits and holes left behind by these companies after mining;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and the action taken/ proposed to be taken by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (d) During last three years, 297 project proposals involving 20,295 hectare of forest land for mining have been approved all over the country under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. In respect of Orissa, 26 project proposals involving 2482 hectare of forest land for mining have been approved during this period. Thus, forest cover and forest resources over 20,295 hectare of forest land have been affected due to mining activities. While granting approval for mining under the said Act, specific conditions of compensatory afforestation, safety zone creation, enrichment plantation, reclamation of already exhausted area, overburden dump stabilization are stipulated to mitigate the ill effects arising out of cutting of trees and subsequent mining in that forest area. User Agencies comply with these conditions under the supervision of State Forest Department which are further monitored by the Regional Office of this Ministry. During last three years, compensatory afforestation over 5,240 hectare has been stipulated in lieu of the forest land diverted for mining in respect of Orissa.

Default in Payment of ESI dues

3159. SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1730 dated July 19, 2004 and state:

(a) the quantum of defaulted amount;

(b) the quantum of the arrèars recovered so far from the defaulter employers; and

(c) the action has been taken against the defaulter employers?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SHEKHAR RAO): (a) The cumulative defaulted amount of ESIC contribution alongwith interest as on 31.3.2004 was Rs. 918.47 crores.

(b) About Rs. 100.23 crores has been recovered during the current financial year from April 2004 to November 2004.

(c) In the event of non-payment of ESI contribution by the defaulting employers, the dues are recovered by the recovery officers of the ESI Corporation as arrears of land revenue according to the provisions of Section 45-C to 45-I of the ESI Act, apart from launching of prosecutions under Section 85/85A of the ESI Act, and under Section 406/409 of the Indian Penal Code.

Prices of Vegetables

3160. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the prices of onion and potato are high as compared to the international market;

(b) if so, the prices of onion and potato in international market;

(c) the quantity of onion and potato exported during the last three years, country-wise;

(d) the foreign exchange earned therefrom; and

(e) the remedial measures proposed to be taken by the Government to keep prices of onion and potato under control?

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) The quantity and value of onion and potato exported during the last three years are given in the statement-I and II enclosed respectively.

(e) The production of onion and potato is expected to be higher this year and prices have recently registered a downward trend.

Statement I

Destination-wise Export of Onion from the Country during the year 2001-02 to 2003-04

(Qty in Mts.)
(Value in Rs. lakhs)

Destination	2001-2002		2002-2003		2003-2004	
	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Dubai	81711	6539.55	108039	7540.98	104361	10078.35
Bahrain	14336	1179.59	21658	1542.52	23145	2512.85
Doha/Qatar	1297	100.21	3210	244.51	1722	174.6
Sharjah	1397	111.44	9099	666.91	13110	1188.63
Kuwait	1332	109.07	1450	105.35	3407	408.72
Abudhabi	8725	706.48	4063	310.18	7264	720.06
Pakistan	1391	98.72	15583	1003.79	0	0
Re Union	3151	441.93	5530	623.29	6093	779.31
Dammam	7236	608.84	15943	1131.96	14592	1510.59
Singapore	16432	1510.19	20484	1612.20	37356	3590.33
Malaysia	83551	7683.6	111402	8239.32	161695	18383.41
Maldives	3347	369.3	3901	442.31	3937	533.68
Sri Lanka	84236	6781.73	102668	7160.66	113788	10729.07
Bangladesh	187104	13571.76	94132	5602.82	303325	26944.31
Nepal	1488	99.51	6750	334.73	26882	1985.60
Seychelles	645	89.41	688	88.35	375	57.37
Mauritius	7842	927.48	9587	1138.39	11230	1553.42

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Muscat	182	15.21	1773	131.66	2451	236.8
Manila	541	79.09	0	0	52	6.21
Greece	—	—	—	—	1170	166.26
Others	980	117.42	9251	798.77	4706	610.94
Total	506924	41140.53	545211	38718.70	840661	82170.51

Statement II

Destination-wise Export of Potato from the country during the year 2001-02 to 2003-04

(Qty in Kgs)
(Value in Rupees)

Destination	2001-2002		2002-2003		2003-2004	
	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Australia	3015	14367	0	0	0	0
Bangladesh	184020	1018146	0	0	160300	484958
Bahrain IS	0	0	0	0	41410	200282
Canada	0	0	10000	48229	0	0
Denmark	0	0	0	0	200000	865920
Germany	0	0	0	0	630000	2019938
U.K.	0	0	24414	1074753	8000	35569
Italy	14400	154231	0	0	388440	1810320
Japan	0	0	0	0	7000	11300
Kuwait	0	0	0	0	3520	16780
Sri Lanka	386910	2430243	7800769	51179544	3816200	24598666
Maldies	0	0	333329	2517684	803037	5004632
Mauritius	20000	82411	1129250	9889079	3021100	26965918
Malaysia	265800	1409778	41000	215558	97000	555984
Norway	0	0	0	0	3000	23228
Nepal	6432769	18847089	14687638	50127322	55234659	198915211

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Oman	1200	12703	0	0	131597	836543
Qatar	0	0	70000	485905	43000	215423
Saudi Arabia	5310	24801	1700	20613	9000	31383
Singapore	87000	432700	121131	1617146	114520	910169
Switzerland	0	0	1000	11005	0	0
Seychelles	0	0	0	0	216000	1820064
U.A.E.	941902	8884430	144900	1049208	312090	1871175
U.S.A.	30000	95496	0	0	800000	3535212
Yemen Republic	0	0	0	0	500000	2031698
Unspecified	0	0	0	0	1200000	5104759
Product Total	8282326	33406395	24365131	118236046	67739873	277865132

National Water Programme

3161. SHRI DEVIDAS PINGLE:
PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:
SHRI MUNSHI RAM:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to formulate National Water Programme by merging the department of Land Resources and Water Resources;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether shortcomings have been noticed in the projects meant for water conservation; and

(d) if so, the detail thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (d) No, Sir. However, the Government of India has constituted an Inter-Ministry Task Group to address integration of selected ongoing schemes with multiple Ministries to address the water conservation agenda through a National Water Mission and to make specific recommendations/suggestion for combing the various programmes.

[Translation]

Technology for Improved Storage Godowns

3162. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:
SHRI DEVIDAS PINGLE:
SHRI MUNSHI RAM:
SHRIMATI ANURADHA CHOUDHARY:

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

(a) whether Bhabha Atomic Research Centre has developed any storage technology to increase the self life and preserve quality and nutrition of grains, fruits and vegetables;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to set up such godowns in various States;

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

(d) the quantity of foodgrains, fruits and vegetables destroyed during the last three years due to lack of proper storage facility, year-wise and State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

Bhabha Atomic Research Centre has developed the technology for radiation processing of grains, fruits and vegetables for disinfestations. The technology helps in inhibition of sprouting in tubers, bulbs and rhizomes and delay in ripening in fruits and vegetables. It also helps in destruction of microbs responsible for food spoilage and elimination of parasites and pathogens of public health importance in food.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. The Government currently does not propose to set up radiation processing plants in different States. However, Department of Atomic energy has set up two radiation processing plants one each at Vashi, Navi Mumbai and Lasaigaon near Nasik.

(d) No authoritative estimates for post harvest losses including due to improper storage facility in foodgrain fruits and vegetables are available. However, the post harvest losses are quoted to be 10% in foodgrains and 20-40% in fruits and vegetables.

[English]

Business Plan for Farmers

3163. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Commission on Farmers has submitted its reports for improving the lot of the farmers;

(b) if so, the main recommendations of the commission; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to improve the lot of the farmers, especially the small and the marginal 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) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) A number of schemes are under implementation to improve the lot of farmers including the small and the marginal farmers. Assistance is given to the farmers under different schemes for various components like seeds, Integrated Pest Management, infrastructure development, plant protection measures & equipments farm implements & machinery, micro irrigation, micro nutrients, etc.

Use of Banned Sea Shells

3164. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the production and export of certain Mollusca Sea Shells has gone down drastically from Andaman and Nicobar Islands due to ban on certain sea shells from 2001 onwards and their production and export has increased two folds from Chennai, Rameshwaram and Kolkata etc.;

(b) if so, whether the Government has received any representation from Handicraft Association of Andaman and Nicobar Islands requesting for giving relaxation of certain banned Mollusca Sea Shells as local items; and

(c) if so, the action the Government has taken to ensure the use of adequate local sea shells by the Handicrafts Artisans for revenue generation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (c) Government had vide its notification dated 11th July 2001 included fifty two species of Molluscan in the Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. Thereafter, several representations including from the Andaman Sea Shell Handicrafts Association, Port Blair were received requesting for giving relaxation for certain molluscan species that are used as handicraft items. After careful consideration, the Central Government excluded twenty eight species from the Schedule of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

The ban imposed on the export of certain species of Molluscs is applicable throughout the country. Therefore, the question of any increase/decrease in the export of these banned species should not arise.

[Translation]

Smuggling of Bhoj Trees

3165. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether indiscriminate felling and smuggling of Bhoj trees has posed a threat of its extinction; and

(b) if so, the concrete action plan formulated by the Government for conservation of this trees?

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

(b) Following measures have been taken for the conservation of forests including those of Bhoj trees:

(i) Legal measures like Indian Forest Act, 1927, Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, Forest Conservation Act, 1980 and Environment Protection Act, 1986 and the rules, guidelines thereof.

(ii) Management measures like working of forests according to approved Working Plans, Forest Development Agencies and Joint Forest Management.

(iii) Financial measures like providing assistance to the States/Union Territories under centrally sponsored schemes and externally aided projects.

Under the Centrally Sponsored scheme called 'Integrated Forest Protection Scheme', in Operation since 2002-2003, funds are provided to States and Union territories primarily for strengthening of infrastructure for protection of forests from illicit feelings, fires, encroachments etc.

(iv) A network of protected areas has been established.

[English]

Sharing of Yamuna River Water

3166. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Memorandum of Understanding was signed between Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh and Delhi on sharing of Yamuna water;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof;

(c) whether Rajasthan is not getting its share from Yamuna river despite the provision in the MOU;

(d) if so, whether the Government proposes to intervene and resolve the matter; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh and Delhi on May 12, 1994 regarding allocation of surface flow of Yamuna upto Okhla. Considering their irrigation and consumative drinking water requirements, the basin States agreed on the following allocation of utilizable water resources of river Yamuna assessed on mean year availability.

1. Haryana	5.730 BCM (Billion Cubic Metres)
2. Uttar Pradesh	4.032 BCM
3. Rajasthan	1.119 BCM
4. Himachal Pradesh	0.378 BCM
5. Delhi	0.724 BCM

Pending construction of the storages in the upper reaches of the river, an interim seasonal allocation was also decided for the States. The seasonal allocation decided in respect of Rajasthan was as below:

State	July-Oct.	Nov.-Feb.	March-June	Annual
Rajasthan	0.963 BCM	0.07 BCM	0.086 BCM	1.119 BCM

(c) to (e) For utilization of its share of Yamuna waters, Rajasthan has framed two schemes viz., "Utilization of Yamuna waters in Bharatpur district" and "Utilization of Yamuna waters in Jhanujhunu & Churu districts". These schemes have been cleared by the Technical Advisory Committee of the Ministry of Water Resources on 7.2.2003. The schemes were however cleared subject to concurrence of Haryana for the cost of works to be carried out in their territory and taking up construction in Haryana and Rajasthan simultaneously. The concurrence of Haryana to the two schemes is awaited. Accordingly, Rajasthan submitted the matter for consideration in the meeting of Upper Yamuna River Board held on 6.8.2004 where Haryana indicated their disagreement. Subsequentally, Haryana requested for a meeting of the Upper Yamuna Review Committee (UYRC) in which the matter could be discussed as an agenda item. This has been agreed and agenda items for the next meeting of UYRC have been invited from all the party States.

Setting up of Consumer Courts

3167. SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD:
SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE:

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

(a) whether Consumer Courts/Forums have been set up at the district and State level;

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

(c) whether the Union Government provides any assistance to the States in setting up such Courts/Forums;

(d) if so, the amount allocated for this purpose during each of the last three years, State-wise; and

(e) the details of existing Consumer Courts/Forums, 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) As per the information made available by the National Commission there are 34 State Commissions and 582 District Fora functioning in the country.

(c) and (d) To supplement the efforts of the State Governments one time grant of Rs. 61.80 crores was provided to the States/UTs by the Central Government to strengthen the infrastructure of the consumer disputes redressal agencies during the years 1995-1999. No grant was allocated for this purpose during the last three years.

(e) The State-wise number of State Commissions and District Fora is given in the statement enclosed.

Statement

Sl.No.	States	State Commission	District Fora
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1	25
2.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	1	2
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	1	13
4.	Assam	1	23
5.	Bihar	1	37
6.	Chandigarh	1	2
7.	Chattisgarh	1	16
8.	D&N Haveli/Daman & Diu	1 (combined)	2
9.	Delhi	1	9
10.	Goa	1	2
11.	Gujarat	1	19
12.	Haryana	1	19
13.	Himachal Pradesh	1	12
14.	Jammu & Kashmir	1	2
15.	Jharkhand	1	22
16.	Karnataka	1	30
17.	Kerala	1	14
18.	Lakshadweep	1	1
19.	Madhya Pradesh	1	45
20.	Maharashtra	1	34
21.	Manipur	1	8
22.	Meghalaya	1	7
23.	Mizoram	1	8
24.	Nagaland	1	8
25.	Orissa	1	31
26.	Pondicherry	1	1
27.	Punjab	1	17
28.	Rajasthan	1	33
29.	Sikkim	1	4
30.	Tamilnadu	1	30
31.	Tripura	1	3
32.	Uttar Pradesh	1	70
33.	Uttaranchal	1	13
34.	West Bengal	1	20
	Total	34	582

[Translation]

Production of Oilseeds and Pulses

3168. SHRI KRISHNA MURARI MOGHE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal worth Rs. 145.74 crores has been received from the Government of Madhya Pradesh to increase the production of oilseeds and pulses with the help of GICA in the Bundelkhand area of Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether the proposal is under consideration of the Union Government; and

(c) if so, the time by when the required approval is likely to be accorded and the budget provided therefore?

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 of Madhya Pradesh had sent the project concept document on "Maximizing Oilseed and Pulse Production in Bundelkhand Region in the State of Madhya Pradesh". The project was examined. The State Government has been requested to submit a revised project proposal in the format prescribed for Japanese assistance and duly addressing the comments of the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation. The revised proposal from the State Government has not yet been received.

Hockey Astroturf in U.P.

3169. SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the places in Uttar Pradesh where Hockey Astroturf is proposed to be laid;

(b) whether the same is proposed at Jhansi and Bareilly; and

(c) if so, by when it is likely to be laid down?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI SUNIL DUTT): (a) to (c) Viable proposals from the State Governments under the Scheme of "Grants for Installation of synthetic Surfaces" for availing admissible Central assistance for laying of Synthetic Hockey Surfaces are considered by the Ministry. Based on the viable proposals received in the Ministry for the IXth Plan onwards from the Government of U.P./Sports Authority of India, the installation of synthetic hockey surfaces in the following towns of Uttar Pradesh have been approved by the Government.

Sl.No.	Project	Central assistance approved (Rs. in lakhs)
1.	Synthetic Hockey Surface at Dhyan Chand Stadium, Jhansi	100.00
2.	Synthetic Hockey Surface at SAI sub-centre, Lucknow	100.00
3.	Synthetic Hockey Surface at Saffai, Etawah	100.00
4.	Dhyan Chand Stadium, Lucknow	50.00

No proposal for laying Synthetic Hockey Surface at Bareilly has been received during the last 3 years (2001-02 to 2003-04) and the current year (as on 31.12.2004). The project at Sl. No. 4 above has been completed.

Completion of the work of laying of astro turf in other locations would depend on receipt of progress report and other requisite documentation from the State Government and their execution schedule.

[English]

Exclusive Agency for Procurement

3170. SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether some, State Governments have requested the Union Government to appoint an exclusive agency under Food Corporation of India for the specific purpose of procurement of paddy and coarse grains at Minimum Support Price; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon?

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

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Impact of Mining on Ridge Area

3171. SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether ridge area of Delhi is drying up due to mining operations and excessive drawing of ground water in ridge area of Haryana;

(b) if so, whether Supreme Court/High Courts had ordered to develop a dense forest area or green belt therein order to maintain its natural beauty;

(c) if so, the details of the action being taken by the Government in pursuance of the Court's orders; and

(d) the action taken by the Government against the persons found guilty, if any, for not complying with the court's orders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Central Ground Water Board has reported that in the Delhi Ridge area bordering Haryana, the water level has shown an increasing trend after stoppage of pumping from mines located on the Haryana side within 5 kms. of Delhi-Haryana border.

(b) The Supreme Court in its order in M.C. Mehta Vs. Union of India matter has directed to maintain the Ridge in its Pristine Glory.

(c) The action taken to conserve the Delhi Ridge inter-alia include: (i) constitution of the Delhi Ridge Management Board, (ii) Notification of 7777 hectares of Ridge as Reserve Forest under Section 4 of the Indian Forest Act, 1927, and (iii) Notification of 4206 hectares of uncultivated surplus Gram Sabha land situated in Southern Ridge for vesting with Forest Department of Government of NCT of Delhi for afforestation purpose.

(d) The action taken in this regard by the Government of NCT of Delhi inter-alia include: (i) seizure of trucks and implements, and (ii) filing of reports in appropriate courts.

[English]

Farm Output

3172. SHRI G.V. HARSHA KUMAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the farm output has declined during the last year; and

(b) 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 (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) No, Sir, the farm output in terms of Gross Domestic Product at factor cost (at 1993-94 prices) in Agriculture including Forestry & Logging, and Fishing stood at Rs. 315635 crores in 2003-04 as against Rs. 289385 crores in 2002-2003, thus showing a growth of 9.1 percent in 2003-04 over the previous year.

(b) Does not arise.

Irregularity in Tourism Office in London

3173. SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN:
SHRI KAMLA PRASAD RAWAT:

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA:
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY:
SHRI DEVIDAS PINGLE:
SHRI MUNSHI RAM:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of grave financial irregularity in its London based tourism office;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has conducted any inquiry into the matter;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) the action taken against erring officials?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) to (e) Some observations relating to financial and procedural matters have been made by the Audit party during its periodic inspection of the India tourism office in London. These have been communicated to the office for compliance. A vigilance inquiry has been ordered into one such matter.

Food Adulteration

3174. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether food adulteration is rampant in the city despite the food samples being picked up by the Food Inspectors;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor alongwith the number of samples picked up by them during the last three years;

(c) the total number of Food Inspectors required alongwith the current strength;

(d) the number of cases where samples were found to be adulterated also indicating the commodities concerned;

(e) the reasons for failure to pick adequate number of samples by Food Inspectors for proper assessment; and

(f) the action taken by the Government where the samples were found to be adulterated?

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

Availability of Ground Water

3175. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the availability of ground water in the country is much less than that of surface water; and

(b) if so, the assessment made by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) As per assessment made, the average annual flow in the river systems of India has been estimated to be 1869 Billion Cubic Meter (BCM). The annual utilizable water resources are estimated to be 1122 BCM, which includes surface water resources of 690 BCM and ground water resources of 432 BCM.

Death of Leopards

3176. SHRI KIRIP CHALIHA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that 12 leopards were found dead in areas near Gibbon Wildlife Sanctuary in Assam during the last three years;

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

(c) whether leopards are on the verge of extinction in Assam; and

(d) if so, the action taken by the Government to protect them as per laws?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) As reported by State Government, 9 leopards have died during the last three years in areas near Gibbon Wildlife Sanctuary in Assam. The details are enclosed as statement.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The action taken for protection and preservation of Leopards include:

- Leopard is included in the Schedule I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, thereby getting the highest protection. Hunting and dealing in the products of leopards are banned.
- Export-Import Policy of Government of India puts total ban on the export of all species of wild animals and their products.
- The trade of leopards is regulated by the provisions of Conservation on International Trade of Endangered Species of flora and funa (CITES) to which India is a signatory.
- States Governments have notified important habitats of leopards as National Parks and Sanctuaries. The Government of India provides financial assistance for such protected areas.

Statement

Sl.No.	Year	Sex	Nos.	Date	Place	Reason for death
1.	2002	Female	1	26.4.2002	Inside Gibbon Wildlife Sanctuary, Compartment No. 3	Due to old age
2.		Female	1	29.4.2002	Kotiapani Goan	Due to old age
3.		Female	1	20.8.2002	Melleng Goan	Killed by Tea Garden labour
4.	2003	Female	1	12.11.2003	Kakojan Tea Estate	Suspected poisoning but the forensic report ruled out the same
5.		Male	1	4.11.2003	Kakojan Tea Estate	In fighting
6.		Male	1	15.11.2003	Kakojan Tea Estate	Suspected poisoning but the forensic report ruled out the same
7.	2004	Female	1	24.3.2004	Karia Goan	Due to old age
8.		Female	1	2.8.2004	Chenijan Tea Estate	In accident
9.		Male	1	7.12.2004	Velleoguri Tea Estate	Suspected poisoning but the forensic report ruled out the same

[Translation]

Operation of PDS

3177. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT:
SHRI GIRIDHARI YADAV:
SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY:
SHRI ILYAS AZMI:

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

(a) the details of the welfare schemes run by the Union Government for which Food Corporation of India is supplying foodgrains either free or at highly subsidised rates;

(b) the quantity of foodgrains and other essential commodities supplied during the last three years, scheme-wise;

(c) whether certain States, including Karnataka, are not lifting the foodgrains allotted to them under various welfare schemes;

(d) if so, the fresh steps taken by the Union Government to clear very old stock of foodgrains from FCI godowns;

(e) the number of shops and consumer counters being operated under the PDS; and

(f) the number of persons benefited under PDS?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) The details of the Welfare Schemes run by the Union Government for which Food Corporation of India is supplying foodgrains either free or at highly subsidized rates are given in Statement-I & II enclosed.

(c) No, Sir. State Governments/Union Territories including Karnataka are lifting the foodgrains allotted to them under various Welfare Schemes.

(d) The old stock of foodgrains is sold through Open Market Sale Scheme (Domestic) and through Tender Sale by Food Corporation of India (FCI).

(e) Four lakh seventy six thousand nine hundred seventy three (4,76,973).

(f) The number of families benefited under PDS is 22.47 crores. The averages size of each household in the country is 5.51.

Statement I

Details of Allocation & Offtake of Foodgrains under various Welfare Schemes

(fig. in lakh tonnes)

1. Targetted Public Distribution System (TPDS)

For the benefit of people covered under Public Distribution System, who are ration card holders and are being provided foodgrains at subsidized rates.

	Allocation			Offtake		
Year	Rice	Wheat	Total	Rice	Wheat	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
2001-02	170.76	129.32	300.08	80.42	55.24	135.67
2002-03	358.60	384.68	743.28	102.40	96.16	198.55
2003-04	343.14	369.18	712.32	132.67	106.64	239.31
2. Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana (SGRY)						
Allotment of Foodgrain free of cost to States/UTs in various employment generation programme.						
2001-02	23.64	11.14	34.78	11.69	5.64	17.33
2002-03	28.01	13.90	41.91	21.15	18.87	40.02
2003-04	30.58	16.58	47.16	30.94	20.83	51.17*
3. Special Component of Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana						
Allocation is made to States for drought/flood affected families for running Food for Work Projects.						
2001-02	21.66	9.68	31.34*	20.51	8.52	29.03
2002-03	37.02	26.38	63.40	31.89	13.33	45.22
2003-04	43.05	22.79	65.84	32.55	21.89	54.44

*Offtake includes offtake against backlog.

*Allocation made under Food for Work Programme is now known as Special Component of SGRY.

4. National Food for Work Programme (NFFWP)—Newly launched in October, 2004.

Food grains is provided under employment generation scheme for 150 districts of the country.

	Allocation		
Year	Rice	What	Total
2004-05	14.80	5.14	19.94

5. Mid-Day Meal Scheme

Foodgrains is provided for running Mid Day Meal Scheme for children upto primary level by Department of Elementary Education, Ministry of Human Resource Development.

	Allocation			Offtake		
Year	Rice	Wheat	Total	Rice	Wheat	Total
2001-02	18.67	9.96	28.63	13.48	7.28	20.76
2002-03	18.84	9.40	28.24	13.75	7.45	21.20
2003-2004	17.72	9.08	26.80	13.49	7.20	20.69

6. Annapurna Scheme

Allocation of foodgrains for indigent Senior Citizens for running Annapurna Scheme under State Plans.

Sl.No.	Year	Allocation of foodgrains (Rice and Wheat)	Offtake of foodgrains (Rice and Wheat)
1.	2001-02	1.62	0.93
2.	2002-03	0.78	1.15
3.	2003-04	1.23	1.09

7. Scheme for Supply of Foodgrains to SC/ST/OBC Hostels/Welfare Institutions

For SC/ST/OBC Hostels with minimum 2/3rd inmates of these categories and Welfare Institutions.

	Allocation			Offtake		
Year	Rice	Wheat	Total	Rice	Wheat	Total
2001-02	—	1.96	1.96	0.76	0.07	0.83
2002-03	6.58	4.53	11.11	1.30	0.14	1.44
2003-04	7.88	5.19	13.07	3.15	0.23	3.38

8. Wheat Based Nutrition Programme (WBNP)

Foodgrains for children below 6 years and expectant/lactating women.

	Allocation			Offtake		
Year	Rice	Wheat	Total	Rice	Wheat	Total
2001-02	0.80	1.75	2.55	0.32	1.03	1.35
2002-03	1.47	3.27	4.74	0.69	2.13	2.82
2003-04	1.04	5.00	3.72	4.76	2.47	3.08

9. Nutritional Programme for Adolescent Girls

Allocation of foodgrains for undernourished adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating mothers.

2002-03	0.41	0.22	0.63	0.17	0.01	0.18
2003-04	2.23	0.28	2.51	0.63	0.02	0.65

10. Emergency Feeding Programme

To provide food security to old, infirm and destitute families in 8 KBK districts of Orissa under State Plan.

2001-02	0.13	0	0.13	0.05	0	0.05
2002-03	0.14	0	0.14	0.13	0	0.13
2003-04	0.14	0	0.14	0.14	0	0.14

11. Grain Bank Scheme

Provision of foodgrain to safeguard against starvation during natural calamities in tribal areas.

2002-03	0.02	0.01	0.03	0.005	0	0.005
2003-04	0.05	0.13	0.18	0.01	0	0.01

12. World Food Programme

Sale of foodgrains at BPL rates to BPL category under the development schemes administered by international organization.

	Sale		
Year	Rice	Wheat	Total
2001-02	0.108	0.389	0.497
2002-03	0.062	0.594	0.656
2003-04	0.063	0.235	0.298

Statement II

Details of allocation of other essential commodities during 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04

1. **Sugar** (fig. in lakh tonnes)

Sugar season	Quantity
2001-02	27.79
2002-03	22.59
2003-04	26.08

2. **Kerosene Oil (SKO)** (fig. in lakh tonnes)

Year	Quantity
2001-02	100.22
2002-03	96.07
2003-04	92.76

[English]

Reinventing EPF India Programme

3178. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Provident Fund Account holders are facing great difficulties of withdrawal from their account;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government launched modernisation programme namely Reinventing EPF—India by the Employees Provident Fund Organization in the year 2001;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the status and the number of PF subscribers covered under this scheme as on date;

(f) whether this scheme has shown encouraging results for withdrawal of PF by its subscribers; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor and the steps taken or being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SHEKHAR RAO): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The claims which are complete in all respect are normally settled within 30 days as per scheme provisions. However, delay in certain cases occur on account of non-remittance of contribution/non-submission of returns by the employer, non-submission of completed form by the members and lengthy settlement procedure.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Employees' Provident Fund Organisation has taken up the task of modernisation through the project "Re-invention EPF, India" in the year 2001 with the following goals:

(i) Geometric growth in the number of covered establishments and in the number of enrolled subscribers.

(ii) "Any-time, Any-where" access to account status, pension information etc. to every member.

(iii) Establish a turn around time of 2-3 days between receipts of claim and issue of cheques.

(iv) Improving voluntary compliance.

(v) To extend the reach of Social Security to an increasingly mobile workforce both in organised and unorganised employment.

(e) As on 31.3.2004, there were 400.92 lakh members of the Employees Provident Fund Scheme, 1952.

(f) Yes, Sir. During the year 2003-04, a total of 24,57,176 claims have been filed by the members/ nominees for withdrawal from the fund.

(g) Does not arise in view of (f) above.

International Level Sports Facilities for Commonwealth Games

3179. SHRI K.S. RAO:
SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL:

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

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to take expertise from Western Australia for providing international level sports facilities for Commonwealth Games 2010 to be held in India;

(b) if so, whether the Government has signed any agreement in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI SUNIL DUTT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Commonwealth Games

3180. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN:
SHRI AJIT JOGI:
SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:

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

(a) the details of the schemes under consideration pertaining to the Commonwealth Games proposed to be held in India 2010;

(b) the details of structural provisions for organising the Commonwealth Games, 2010;

(c) whether any assessment has been made to find out the cost of holding the games;

(d) if so, the total estimated expenditure to be incurred under various heads for the purpose;

(e) whether any decision has been taken regarding mobilising funds for the purpose; and

(f) if so, the sources from where these funds are proposed to be mobilised?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI SUNIL DUTT): (a) and (b) The Commonwealth Games, 2010 have been allotted to India and are scheduled to be held at Delhi. A Core Group of Ministers (GOM) has been constituted for coordinating the work relating to the organization of the Commonwealth Games to be held in Delhi in 2010. The Organising Committee required to be constituted, as per the bid document, has not been registered. A Task Force on upgradation of Sports Authority of India's infrastructure has been constituted and Central Public Works Department (CPWD) has been engaged as consultants in this regard.

(c) and (d) At the time of Government approval for Commonwealth Games Bid Indian Olympic Association (IOA) had projected an expenditure of Rs. 399.05 crores. Besides, Government of NCT of Delhi has projected cost of construction of Games Village at Rs. 186.00 crores and Rs. 32.50 crores for construction of indoor and outdoor stadium in the Yamuna Sports Complex and for upgradation of existing infrastructure of the Delhi Development Authority. The detail of the projected estimates are given in the statement-I enclosed. However, at the time of presentation of bid document at Jamaica the projected estimates of expenditure were revised upwards. These estimates are further likely to be revised after detailed scrutiny.

(e) and (f) IOA while submitting the proposal to Government had, on the basis of a consultants assessment, had projected revenue generation of 100 Million US Dollar.

Statement

Sl.No.	Description	Rs. in Crores
1	2	3
I. Preliminary Estimates given by Indian Olympic Association		
(i)	Sports Infrastructure: This involves (i) the upgradation of the exiting infrastructure and (ii) the construction of new Stadia. Upgradation: To make the Games economical the existing Sports structure under the management of SAI and the sports infrastructure of DDA, MCD, NDMC and the educational institutions in Delhi could be utilized. To meet the International standards facilities at all the existing infrastructure need upgradation, which may cost around Rs. 150 crores including electronics score boards and latest communication facilities.	
(ii)	Conduct of the Games	

1	2	3
(iii)	Catering to participants	
(iv)	Air travel, Accommodation and catering to Federation Officials from abroad and India	
(v)	Transport	
(vi)	Opening & Closing Ceremonies	
(vii)	Games Secretariat	
(viii)	Other expenditure	
	(Hospitality—Publicity—Office Furniture—Printing—Stationery—Telephone—Fax—Souvenirs—Electricity—Travel etc.)	
(ix)	CGF License Fee	
(x)	Travel Grant to Participants	
	Sub-Total of preliminary estimates of IOA	399.05
II.	Preliminary estimated cost of Games Village projected by Government of NCT	186.00
III.	Estimated Cost of Construction of the indoor and outdoor stadium in Yamuna Sports Complex and that of up gradation of existing infrastructure of the DDA	32.50
	Total	617.50

Financial Nightmare in Pensions

3181. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:
SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR:

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

(a) whether Employees Provident Fund Organization (EPFO) has warned that the country could face financial nightmare since it did not have adequate pension schemes as reported in Statesman dated November 1, 2004;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SHEKHAR RAO): (a) and (b) In a presentation made before the Planning Commission, Employees' Provident Fund Organisation had indicated that the number of aged persons in the country, 60 years and above, is increasing and this upsurge in aged population shall require old-age income security.

(c) The Employees' Pension Scheme under the Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 provides for pension to the retired members and family pension to widows/orphans etc. The coverage under the Act is improving.

Central Food Technology Research Institute

3182. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:
PROF. M. RAMADASS:

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

(a) the year of the establishment of Central Food Technology Research Institute;

(b) the main objectives thereof; and

(c) the research work undertaken by the said Institute during the last three years and current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) The Central Food Technological Research Institute was established in the year 1950.

(b) The main objectives of the Institute are to:

(i) prevent food wastages through adaptable appropriate technologies.

(ii) ensure better nutrition through innovative product development and basic research.

(iii) add value to agri-resources through cost effective processess.

(iv) harness untapped food resources through innovation.

(v) by-product utilization for cost effectiveness.

(vi) human resource development in the area of food technology.

(vii) capacity building and basic studies in the area of food safety.

(viii) assure food quality and food safety through achievable protocols and standards with international benchmarking.

(c) The major areas in which Institute has undertaken Research & Development activities during the last three years and current year are as under:

(i) Health, tradition and convenience foods

(ii) Natural, nature-similar, nature-identical biomolecules, bioactive materials and metabolites

(iii) Development of products processes and protocols.

(iv) Long-term strategic research.

(v) Bioavailability of bioactive components from spices with emphasis on additives from natural sources.

(vi) Value addition to selected agri materials.

(vii) New and novel processes.

(viii) Long-term strategic research with enzymes.

(ix) Societal projects to outreach extension of shelf life.

Minimum Support Prices for Agricultural Products

3183. SHRI RAJESH VERMA:
SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:
SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA:
SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have increased the Minimum Support Prices for wheat, rice and some other agricultural products/crops recently;

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

(c) whether the Government proposes to increase Minimum Support Prices for other agricultural products/ crops and also to include some more products/crops, which have not been provided with any assured price so far with a view to increase their production;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefore?

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 have increased the Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for various agricultural products, including wheat and paddy, as announced in the Price Policy for Kharif and Rabi crops of 2004-05.

(b) A statement indicating the Minimum Support Prices of agricultural products in recent years is enclosed. The MSPs are uniform throughout the country.

(c) and (d) The Government decides on the Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for various agricultural commodities taking into account the recommendations of Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP), the views of State Governments and concerned Central Ministries as well as such other relevant factors, which in the opinion of the Government, are important for fixation of MSPs. The Government does not propose to include additional products/crops.

(e) The Government is implementing the Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) for procurement of horticultural commodities. In order to protect the growers of horticultural commodities from distress sales in the event of bumper crop, MIS is implemented for a particular commodity on the request of the State Government which is ready to bear 50% loss (25% in case of North-Eastern States), if any, in its implementation.

Statement

Minimum Support Prices
(According to Crop Year)

(Rs. per quintal)

Sl.No.	Commodity	Variety	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	Spl. Drought relief price	2003-04	2004-05	(#)increases in MSP 2004-05 over 2003-04
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8		9	10	11
1.	Paddy	Common	440	490	510	530	530	20	550	560	10(1.8)
		Grade 'A'	470	520	540	560	560	20	580	590	10(1.7)
2.	Jowar		390	415	445	485	4885	5	505	515	10(2.0)
3.	Bajra		390	415	415	445	485	10	505	515	10(2.0)
4.	Maize		390	415	445	485	485	5	505	515	20(4.0)
5.	Ragi		390	415	445	485	485	5	505	515	10(2.0)
6.	Wheat		550	580	610	620	620	10	630	640	10(1.6)
7.	Barley		385	430	500	500	400	5	525	540	15(2.9)
8.	Gram		895	1015	1100	1200	1220	5	1400	1425	25(1.8)
9.	Arhar (Tru)		960	1105	1200	1320	1320	5	1360	1390	30(2.2)
10.	Moong		960	1105	1200	1320	1330	5	1370	1410	40(2.9)
11.	Urad		960	1105	1200	1320	1330	5	1370	1410	40(2.9)
12.	Masur (Lentil)*		—	—	1200	1300	1320	5	1500	1525	25(1.7)
13.	Sugarcane@		52.70	56.10	59.50	62.05	69.50	—	73	74.50	1.50(2.0)
14.	Cotton	F-414/H-777/J34	1440	1575	1625	1675	1675	20	1725	1760	35(2.0)
		H-4	1650	1775	1825	1875	1875	20	1925	1960	35(1.8)
15.	Groundnut in Shell		1040	1155	1220	1340	1355	20	1400	1500	100(7.1)
16.	Jute	TD-5	650	750	785	810	850	—	860	890	30(3.5)
17.	Rapeseed/Mustard		1000	1100	1200	1300	1330	10	1600	1700	100(6.3)
18.	Sunflower Seed		1060	1155	1170	1185	1195	15	1250	1340	90(7.2)
19.	Soyabean	Black	705	755	775	795	795	10	840	900	60(7.1)
		Yellow	795	845	865	885	885	10	930	1000	70(7.5)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
20.	Safflower		990	1100	1200	1300	1300	5	1500	1550	50(3.3)
21.	Toria		965	1065	1165	1265	1295	10	1565	1665	100(6.4)
22.	Tobacco (VFC)	Black Soil (F2 Gr)	22.50	25.00	26.00	27.00	28.00	—	31.00		
	(Rs. per kg.)	Light Soil (L2 Gr)	25.50	27.00	28.00	29.00	30.00	—	33.00		
23.	Copra	Milling	2900	3100	3250	3300	3300	—	3320	3500	180(5.4)
	(Calendar Year)	Ball	3125	3325	3500	3550	3550	—	3570	3750	180(5.0)
24.	Sesamum		1060	1205	1300	1400	1450	5	1485	1500	15(1.0)
25.	Nigerseed		850	915	1025	1100	1120	—	1155	1180	25(2.2)

@Statutory Minimum Price (SMP) linked to a basic recovery of 8.5% with proportionate premium for every 0.1% increase in recovery above that level. The SMP for 2002-03 includes the one time drought relief of Rs. 5 per quintal recommended by CACP.

*The MSP for masur (lentil) has been fixed from the crop year 2000-01.

#Figures in brackets indicate percentage increase.

[Translation]

Introduction of Contract System for Cricket Players

3184. SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA:
SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR CHOUDHARY:
SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD NISHAD:

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

(a) whether Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has introduced contract system for the cricket players;

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

(c) the reasons for repeated involvement of the BCCI in legal disputes?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI SUNIL DUTT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per information received from the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), this is an annual contract restricted to 20 cricketers every year. The cricketers are selected by a committee comprising of the President, BCCI; Secretary, BCCI; Chairman of the Selection Committee and the Coach of the Indian team. The Captain of the Indian team is also consulted in the matter.

The selected players are graded in three categories 'A', 'B' and 'C' and the players listed in these categories are paid Rs. 50 lakhs, Rs. 35 lakhs and Rs. 20 lakhs, respectively in addition to their match fees.

The purpose of the contract system is to ensure more accountability form the players and at the same time, offering them protection in case of exigencies like injury etc.

(c) A number of court cases have been filed against BCCI in the recent past. They relate mainly to BCCI's selection policy; management and style of functioning and lack of transparency in the procedures. Some of these issues have also been raised with reference to BCCI's associate members.

Construction of Pond in Villages

3185. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KUSHAWAHA:
SHRI MOHAN RAWALE:
SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated any scheme to construct a pond in each village of the country for irrigation; and

(b) if so, by when it is likely to be launched and funds released to the State Governments during the current year for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) No, Sir. However, a pilot scheme on Repair, Renovation and Restoration of Water Bodies directly linked to Agriculture incorporating the proposals of the states is proposed to be taken up in line with announcement made by Union Finance Minister in his Budget Speech of 2004-05.

(b) The details about launching and funds to be released to states during the current year depend upon the project proposals getting approved and taken up for execution.

[English]

Rain Water Harvesting Project in Orissa

3186. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to take up any rain water harvesting projects in Orissa particularly in the drought prone areas; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Water being a State subject, it is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Governments to formulate plans for augmenting water resources. The Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), under the Ministry of Water Resources, has also conceived a Centrally Sponsored Scheme at an estimated cost of Rs. 175 crores for Artificial Recharge to Groundwater and Rainwater Harvesting during the remaining part of the X Five Year Plan. This scheme includes the State of Orissa also with thrust on drought prone areas.

[Translation]

Dam Safety Authority

3187. SHRI AJIT JOGI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to set up Dam Safety Authority to maintain unsafe dams; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) At present there is no proposal to set up Dam Safety Authority to maintain unsafe dams. However, Government of India has already set up a Dam Safety Organization in Central Water Commission under the Ministry of Water Resources in May, 1979 whose function is to provide advisory dam safety services to dam owning States/Organizations.

Amanat Barrage Project

3188. SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR DUBEY: Will the Minister of WATER REOSURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Amanat Barrage Project is being implemented in drought affected districts of Palamu in Jharkhand, and

(b) if so, the details thereof and 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) Auranga Reservoir Scheme which consists of a Level Crossing named "Amanat Barrage" on the river Amanat was cleared by the Planning Commission in September 1983 for a cost of Rs. 185.40 crore. Subsequently in 1993 revised cost estimate of Rs. 247.61 crore was accepted by the Advisory Committee of Ministry of Water Resources subject to clearance from Ministry of Environment & Forest and Ministry of Tribal Affairs. The State Government has submitted the revised proposal costing Rs. 914.24 crore for Auranga Reservoir Scheme on river Amanat to Central Water Commission for appraisal. The clearance of the Scheme depends on the compliance of the State Government to the observations of the Central Appraisal Agencies and subsequently the completion of the scheme will depend upon the priority given to the scheme by the State Government.

[English]

Orange Production in Manipur

3189. SHRI MANI CHARENAMEI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that Tamenglong district of Manipur is an orange producing district;

(b) if so, whether the Government has provided any technical and financial support for higher yield, storage and processing units in the district including its transportation to other parts of the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government has any plan to send a team of experts to assess the scope of orange production and its export; 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) to (c) Yes, Sir. Tamenglong is an important Orange producing district of Manipur State. To harness the potential of growing horticultural crops including orange in North Eastern State, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture in North Eastern States including Sikkim since 2001-02.

The Government provides technical and financial support for improving the yield as well as infrastructure facilities for Post Harvest Handling, Storage, Marketing, Export and Processing of Horticulture produce in Manipur state, which includes Tamenglong District of Manipur for promotion of Orange through four Mini Missions of Technology Mission.

The Mini-Mission-I which relates to Research and technology development is coordinated and implemented by India Council of Agriculture Research. The Mini Mission-II which relates to Improving production and productivity is coordinated by Department of Agriculture & Cooperation and implemented by the Agriculture/ Horticulture Department of the States. The Mini Mission-III which relates to Post-harvest management, marketing and export is coordinated by Department of Agriculture & Cooperation and implemented by National Horticulture Board, Directorate of Marketing & Inspection, National Cooperative Development Corporation, National Agriculture Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Limited and Agriculture and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority. The Mini Mission-IV which relates to Processing is coordinated and implemented by Ministry of Food Processing Industries.

The details of the financial assistance provided under the Mission in Manipur state is as under:

Year	Rs. in lakhs
2001-02	487.03
2002-03	731.67
2003-04	837.26
2004-05	825.00

(Allocation for 2004-05 is Rs. 1100 lakhs)

The details of assistance provided for Tamenglong district are given in the statement enclosed.

(d) and (e) A team of experts from National Research Centre, Nagpur; Indian Council of Agricultural Research, Manipur Centre and officials of State Department, Manipur have made assessment on production of Orange in Tamenglong district. The team observed that Tamenglong district with ideal agro-climatic conditions is suitable for growing Orange on a commercial scale. For promotion of export of horticulture products including orange in Manipur State, Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), under Ministry of Commerce has been regularly conducting awareness programmes for farmers and exporters.

Statement

Details of financial assistance provided under the Horticulture Technology Mission in Tamenglong district of Manipur State since 2001-02

Sl.No.	Component	Unit	Physical	Financial (Rs. in lakhs)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Orange (area expansion)	ha	435	56.550
2.	Low Cost Green House	Sq. m.	7031	5.625

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Medium Cost Green House	Sq.m.	1000	0.800
4.	Drip Irrigation	ha	2	0.570
5.	Shade Net	Sq. m.	2700	3.850
6.	Anti Hail Net	Sq. m.	20200	101.000
7.	Mulching	ha	12	0.840
8.	Small Nursery	No.	2	6.000
9.	Community Tanks	No.	12	12.000
10.	Manually operated sprayer	No.	65	0.975
11.	Power operated Sprayer	No.	4	0.200
12.	Adoption of IPM	ha	65	0.650
		Total		189.06

[Translation]

Norms for Selection of Coaches

3190. SHRI RAM CHANDRA PASWAN: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any norms have been prescribed to send coaches alongwith the teams for the international sports competitions;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the coaches sent for various international shooting competitions since 2000 till date;

(c) the name of coach recommended by the Department Selection Committee for Final of the Finals shooting competitions held in Slovania with player; and

(d) the reasons for rejecting the recommendation of the said committee and also reasons for not attending the said competition by player?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI SUNIL DUTT): (a) and (b) There are no fixed norms for deputing coaches to accompany teams going for international sports competitions. The number of coaches deputed depends on the size of the contingent of sportspersons and the importance of competition/event.

A statement containing the details of the coaches sent for various international shooting competitions since 2000 till date is enclosed.

(c) and (d) The departmental committee recommended the name of Shri Shyam Singh Yadav as coach for the said event. The recommendations of the Departmental Committee are recommendatory. The Government however, approved the deputation of Prof. Sunny Thomas to accompany Major R V S Rathore, Shooter for ISSF World Cup Finals-2004 at Slovenia as he as the national coach was considered to be the appropriate choice. National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) did not send the team and it was asked to clarify the reasons for the same. The reply of NRAI has not been found satisfactory and it has been decided to deduct one exposure admissible to NRAI at full cost during 2005.

Statement

Sl.No.	Event	Name of the coach
1	2	3
	2000	
1.	ISSF World Cup at Milano & Munich in Rifle Pistol Event from January 26-30, 2000.	Shri Sanjay Chakraverty Shri Deep Bhatia
2.	9th Asian shooting Championship Malaysia from January 22-31, 2000	Prof. Sunny Thomas Mr. Tibor Gonczol Mr. Laszlo Szucsak Mr. Teimuraz Matoian Mr. Marcello Dradi
3.	ISSF World Cup at Sydney from March 22-31, 2000	Mr. Laszlo Szucsak Mr. Mohinder Lal
4.	Training-cum-Competition in Europe from May 1-June 12, 2000.	Prof. Sunny Thomas Mr. Laszlo Szucsak
5.	World Cup Lonato and Egypt from May 5-20, 2000	Mr. Marcello Dardi Mr. Reimmuraz Matoiah
6.	Meeting of the shooting Junior Hopes at Plzen (Czech republic) from June 29 to July 2, 2000.	Mr. Laszlo Szucsak Deep Bhatia
7.	Training-cum-competition of Trap Shooters in Italy under Mr. Dradi foreign coach from July 25th to 20th August, 2000	Mr. Marcello Dradi
8.	ISSF World Cup at Atlanta from July 14-22, 2000	Prof. Sunny Thomas
9.	Participation of Abhinav Bindra and Mr. Laszlo Szucsak in 2000 World Cup Final at Munich from Nov. 14-19, 2000	Laszlo Szucsak
10.	XXVII Olympics Games, Sydney, Australia from Sept 15-25, 2000	Mr. Marcello Dradi Mr. Lszlo Szucsak
	2001	
1.	11th Meeting of Shooting Hopes at Plzen (Czech Republic) from June 28 to July 1, 2001	Sanjay Chakraverty Viren Bhatt

1	2	3
2.	ISSF World Cup at Milano (Italy) from May 28 to June 4, 2001 and at Munich (Germany) from June 4-11, 2004	Prof. Sunny Thomas Shri D. Lingam Shri Randhir Singh Shri T.S. Dhillon
3.	ISSF World Cup, Lonato and Trg. in Bologna from June 13-23, 2001 and June 24-30, 2001	Mr. Marcello Dradi Shri Irshad Kazim
4.	Commonwealth Shooting Championship at Bisley Camp from August 22 to Sept. 1, 2001 and ISSF World Cup Finals at Munich on 25.8.2001	Sh. Shyam Singh Yadav Sh. Deep Bhatia Prof. Sunny Thomas Mr. Tibor Gonczol Mohinder Lal A.K. Balalshanmugham Marcello Dradi
	2002	
1.	European Tour-International Air Gun Shooting 2002, Munich (24-27th Jan, 2002) 11th International Baltic Cup at Aarhus from January 29 to February 1, 2002	Prof. Sunny Thomas Mr. Uwe Reisterer Kunwar Randhir Singh
2.	ISSF World Cup at Sydney and Shanghai from April 20-29, 2002	Shri DVS Rao Shri D.S. Chandel Mr. Tibor Gonczol
3.	International Junior Shooting Competition at Suhl (Germany) from May 7-12, 2002	Shri Sanjay Chakraverty Shri Randhir Singh
4.	ISSF World Cup at Atlanta and Milano from May 18-23, 2002	Prof. Sunny Thomas
5.	12th Meeting of Shooting Homes at Plzen (Czech Republic) from June 13-16, 2002	Shri D. Lingaam Shri Viren Bhatt
6.	ISSF World Cup at Suhl (Germany) from June 26 to July 1, 2002	Mr. Juan Giha Yarur
7.	48th ISSF World Shooting Champisonship at Lahti (Finland) from Juy 2-16, 2002	Prof. Sunny Thomas Mr. Tibor Gonczol Mr. Marcello Dradi
8.	Asian Clay shooting Championship at Bangkok from August 12-21, 2002	Shri P.S. Sodhi Shri Sushil Chaudhary

1	2	3
9.	ISSF World Cup Finals at Munich from August 20-25, 2002	Shri Sanjay Chakraverty
10.	XVII Commonwealth Games 2002 at Bisley (UK) from July 25 to August 4, 2002	Prof. Sunny Thomas Mr. Tibor Gonczol Shri Jagjit Singh Sethi
	2003	
1.	ISSF World Cup at Fort Benning (USA) from May 3-10, 2003	Prof. Sunny Thomas
2.	Junior Internaional Competititions at Suhl form May 27 to June 1, 2003	Shri Sanjay Chakraverty Shri M. Padmanabhan
3.	ISSF World Cup at Zagrab & Munich from June 2-16, 2003	Prof. Sunny Thomas Shri A.K. Balashanmugham
4.	ISSF World Cup at Changwon from June 30 to July 8, 2003	Prof. Sunny Thomas Kanwar Randhir Singh
5.	Meeting of Shooting Hopes 2003 at Plzen from 26-29, 2003	Shri T.S. Dhillon
6.	ISSF World Cup at Spain from June 22-29, 2003	Shri Sushil Chowdhary
7.	ISSF World Cup at Lonato from September 2-8, 2003 and in Nicosia from September 10-17, 2003	Shri Jagjit Singh
8.	ISSF World Cup Finals at Milano (Italy) from October 7-12, 2003	Prof. Sunny Thomas
	2004	
1.	10th Asian Shooting Championship at Kualalumpur from February 6-18, 2004 and ISSF World Cup at Bangkok from February 19-27, 2004 and Sydney from February 28 to March 8, 2004	Prof. Sunny Thomas Mr. Stanislay Lampidus Mr. Tibor Gonczol Shri Jagjit singh Kanwar Randhir Singh Shri N.S. Rana Shri S.S. Yadav Shri P.S. Sodhi
2.	ISSF World Cup, Cairo & Athens from April 10-30, 2004	Prof. Sunny Thomas Mr. Stanislav Lapidus M. Padmanabhan
3.	International Junior Competition at Suhl from May 18-23, 2004	Shri D.S. Chandel Shri Sanjay Chakraverthy Shri A.K. Balashanmughan

1	2	3
4.	ISSF World Cup held at Americana (Brazil) from May 28 to June 6, 2004	Shri Jagjitt Singh
5.	ISSF World Cup at Milano from June 14-21, 2004	Prof. Sunny Thomas
6.	14th Meeting of Shooting Hopes—2004 at Plzen (Czech Republic) from June 17-20, 2004	Ms. Abha Dhillon Kanwar Randhir Singh
7.	Asian Clay Shooting Championship at Bangkok from July 1-10, 2004	Shri Deep Bhatia Shri Sushil Chowdhary
8.	Trg. in Hungary for the shooters qualified for Athens Olympics from July 15 to August 3, 2004	Prof. Sunny Thomas Mr. Stanslav Lapidus
9.	ISSF World Cup Finals at Bangkok from Oct 25-31, 2004	Prof. Sunny Thomas
10.	9th SAF Games, Islamabad from 28th March to 8th April, 2004	Mr. Syed Mohammed Ispahani Shri Diren Bhatia Syed Wajid Ali Shri Viren Bhatt Shri Sanjeev Bahl Ms. Abha Dhillon

[English]

Accommodation Facilities to Mine Workers

3191. SHRI JUAL ORAM: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any housing/shelter scheme for Iron ore, Manganese and Ferrochrome mines workers in the country particularly in Orissa; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SHEKHAR RAO): (a) and (b) The Government is implementing an Integrated Housing Scheme for Beedi Workers, which is also extended to Mine Workers for Iron Ore, Manganese Ore and Chrome Ore Mines (IOMC) and Limestone & Dolomite Mines Workers. Under this Scheme, financial assistance @ Rs. 20,000 per worker, for construction of his house; which has recently been enhanced to Rs. 40,000 per worker w.e.f. 1st July, 2004, or 50% of the actual cost of construction, whichever is less, is provided to eligible workers in various States. Besides, mine managements are granted subsidy at the rate of Rs. 40,000 under Type-I and Rs. 50,000 under Type-II (inclusive of developmental charges) or 75% of the actual cost of construction per tenement, whichever is less, for providing shelter to mine workers by charging a monthly nominal rent. The State-wise details of Mine Workers, who were sanctioned housing subsidy during the last three years, are given in the statement enclosed.

Statement

State-wise number of Houses sanctioned during the three years for Mine Workers under IOMC Labour Welfare Fund

Sl. No.	Name of the State	2001-2002			2002-2003			2003-2004		
		Type I	Type II	IHS	Type I	Type II	IHS	Type I	Type II	IHS
1.	Orissa	90	10	565	20	—	—	—	—	—
2.	Karnataka	—	—	—	—	—	01	—	—	—
	Total	90	10	565	20	—	01	—	—	—

Theft of Sandal Wood

3192. SHRI SHRINIWAS DADASAHEB PATIL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the funds allocated to Maharashtra under the joint forest management programme during the last three years and the percentage of forest land in the State, district-wise;

(b) whether the Government is aware of the growing incidents of sandalwood thefts by organised gangs from forest lands in Satana district of Maharashtra.

(c) if so, the number of such incidents reported by the District Forest Administration during the last three years and current year and the steps taken by the Government in this regard;

(d) whether nexus between forest officials and sandalwood smugglers has been observed; and

(e) if so, the steps taken/to be taken to overcome the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Under National Afforestation Programme of the Ministry, an amount of Rs. 18.63 crore has been released during last three years to Forest Development Agencies (FDAs) in the State of Maharashtra for regeneration and eco-development of degraded forests and adjoining areas by involving Joint Forest Management Committees. The detailed statement indicating district-wise percentage of forest cover in the State is enclosed.

(b) Yes Sir.

(c) Illicit cutting of 284 sandalwood trees has been reported by the District Forest Administration during the last three years and upto November 2004 of the current year. 50 offence cases have been registered and 41 accused have been prosecuted in the court.

(d) and (e) The Ministry has not received any report regarding nexus between forest officials and sandalwood smugglers.

Statement

District-wise Percentage of Forest Cover in Maharashtra

Sl.No.	Name of District	Percentage of Forest Cover
1	2	3
1.	Ahmadnagar	1.83
2.	Akola	6.70
3.	Amravati	25.69
4.	Aurangabad	4.84
5.	Bhandara	25.84
6.	Bid	2.44
7.	Mumbai City	0.64
8.	Mumbai Suburb	18.39
9.	Buldana	6.41
10.	Chandrapur	34.49
11.	Dhule	6.86

1	2	3
12.	Gadchiroli	69.78
13.	Gondiya	37.92
14.	Hingoli	2.50
15.	Jalgaon	10.56
16.	Jalna	1.32
17.	Raigarh	31.99
18.	Kolhapur	23.60
19.	Latur	0.92
20.	Nagpur	19.83
21.	Nanded	8.10
22.	Nandurbar	24.12
23.	Nashik	7.07
24.	Osmanabad	1.22
25.	Parbhani	2.11
26.	Pune	8.40
27.	Ratnagiri	26.94
28.	Sangli	1.75
29.	Satara	8.67
30.	Sholapur	0.36
31.	Sindhudurg	45.67
32.	Thane	27.95
33.	Wardha	13.41
34.	Washim	6.46
35.	Yavatmal	18.77
	Forest Cover in State	15.43

Change in Farm Extension

3193. SHRI A.K. MOORTHY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a demand has been made for change in farm extension method;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, 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) to (c) The Department of Agriculture & Cooperation has brought out a Policy Framework for Agricultural Extension (PFAE) for aligning the agricultural extension system in the country to meet the changing extension needs. Major elements of PFAE are:

- Reforming public sector extension.
- Promoting private sector in extension.
- Augmenting media and information technology support for extension.
- Mainstreaming gender concerns in extension.
- Capacity building/skill upgradation of farmers and extension functionaries.

12.00 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON 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 Bureau of Indian Standards, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Bureau of Indian Standards, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 1281/2004]

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table-

(1) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Narmada Control Authority, Indore, for the year 2003-2004, alongwith Audited Accounts.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT. 1282/2004]

(2) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619 A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

(i) Review by the Government of the working of the Kerala Land Development Corporation Limited, Thiruvananthapuram for the year 1998-1999.

(ii) Annual Report of the Kerala Land Development Corporation Limited, Thiruvananthapuram, for the year 1998-1999, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) Above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT. 1283/2004]

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI SUNIL DUTT): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table-

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development, Sriperumbudur, for the year 2003-2004, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development, Sriperumbudur, for the year 2003-2004.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT. 1284/2004]

(2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Sports Authority of India, New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Sports Authority of India, New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000.

(3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT. 1285/2004]

(4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Sports Authority of India, New Delhi, for the year 2000-2001, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Sports Authority of India, New Delhi, for the year 2000-2001.

(5) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (4) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT. 1286/2004]

(6) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Laxmibai National Institute of Physical Education, Gwalior for the year 2001-2002, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Laxmibai National Institute of Physical Education Gwalior for the year 2001-2002.

(iii) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (6) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT. 1287/2004]

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): Sir, on behalf of Shri Kantilal Bhuria, I beg to lay on the Table-

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Cooperative

Union of India, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004.

(ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the National Cooperative Union of India, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004, together with Audit Report thereon.

(iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Cooperative Union of India, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT. 1288/2004]

(2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Federation of Labour Cooperatives Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Federation of Labour Cooperatives Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT. 1289/2004]

(3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Federation of Urban Co-operative Banks and Credit Societies Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004.

(ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of National Federation of Urban Co-operative Banks and Credit Societies Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004, together with Audit Report thereon.

(iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Federation of Urban Co-operative Banks and Credit Societies Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT. 1290/2004]

(4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Horticulture Board, Gurgaon, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Horticulture Board, Gurgaon, for the year 2002-2003.

(5) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (4) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT. 1291/2004]

(6) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management, Hyderabad, for the year 2003-2004.

(ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management, Hyderabad, for the year 2003-2004, together with Audit Report thereon.

(iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management, Hyderabad, for the year 2003-2004.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT. 1292/2004]

(7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Agricultural Marketing, Jaipur, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Agricultural Marketing, Jaipur, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(8) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (7) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT. 1293/2004]

(9) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Agricultural Marketing, Jaipur, for the year 2003-2004, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Agricultural Marketing, Jaipur, for the year 2003-2004, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(10) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (9) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT. 1294/2004]

(11) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Council for Cooperative Training, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004.

(ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the National Council for Cooperative Training, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004, together with Audit Report thereon.

(iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Council for Cooperative Training, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004, alongwith Audited Accounts.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT. 1295/2004]

(12) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Oilseeds and Vegetable Oils Development Board, Gurgaon, for the year 2003-2004, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Oilseeds and Vegetable Oils Development Board, Gurgaon, for the year 2003-2004.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT. 1296/2004]

(13) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619 A of the Companies Act, 1956:-

(a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the National Seeds Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004.

(ii) Annual Report of the National Seeds Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT. 1297/2004]

(b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the State Farms Corporation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004.

(ii) Annual Report of the State Farms Corporation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT. 1298/2004]

(14) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under section 619 A of the Companies Act,1956:-

(i) Review by the Government of the working of the Karnataka Meat and Poultry Marketing Corporation Limited, Bangalore, for the year 2003-2004.

(ii) Annual Report of the Karnataka Meat and Poultry Marketing Corporation Limited, Bangalore, for the year 2003-2004, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT. 1299/2004]

(15) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of section (3) of the Agricultural Produce (Grading and Marking) Act, 1937:-

(i) The Vermicelli Macaroni and Spaghetti Grading and Marking Rules, 2003 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 317 in Gazette of India dated the 6th September, 2003.

(ii) The Sundried Raw Mango Slices and Powder Grading and Marking Rules, 2003 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 416 in Gazette of India dated the 29th November, 2003.

(iii) The Wheat Atta Grading and Marking (Amendment) Rules, 2003 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 450 in Gazette of India dated the 20th December, 2003.

(iv) The Pulses Grading and Marking Rules, 2003 published in Notification No. G.S.R.129 in Gazette to India dated the 17th April, 2004.

(v) The Fruits and Vegetables Grading and Marking Rules, 2004 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 220 in Gazette of India dated the 26th June, 2004.

(vi) The Makhana Grading and Marking Rules, 2004 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 244 in Gazette of India dated the 24th July, 2004.

(16) Six statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (15) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT. 1300/2004]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table-

(1) A copy of the Environment (Protection) Second Amendment Rules, 2004 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No.G.S.R.448 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 12th July, 2004 under section 26 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 together with a Corrigendum thereto published in Notification No. G.S.R. 520 (E) dated the 12th August, 2004.

(2) Two statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT. 1301/2004]

(3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Plywood Industries Research and Training Institute, Bangalore, for the year 2003-2004, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Plywood Industries Research and Training Institute, Bangalore, for the year 2003-2004.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT. 1302/2004]

(4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Forest Management, Bhopal, for the year 2003-2004, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Institute of Forest Management, Bhopal, for the year 2003-2004.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT. 1303/2004]

(5) A copy of the Notification No. S.0.1211 (E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 3rd November, 2004 delegating power under section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 to the Chairman of the Board mentioned in the Notification for issuing directions to any industry or any local or other authorities for the violations of the standards and rules relating to hazardous wastes, subject to certain conditions, issued under section 23 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. 1304/2004]

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): Sir, on behalf of Dr. Akhilesh Prasad Singh, I beg to lay on the Table-

(1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under, sub-section (6) of section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955:-

(i) The Sugar (Price Determination for 2003-2004 Production) Amendment Order, 2004 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 640 (E)/ Ess. Com./Sugar in Gazette of India dated the 24th September, 2004.

(ii) G.S.R. 727 (E) Ess. Com./ Sugarcane published in Gazette of India dated the 2nd November, 2004 notifying the minimum support price of sugarcane payable by sugar factories as mentioned therein for 2003-2004 sugar season.

(iii) The Sugar (Price Determination for 1999-2000 Production) Amendment Order, 2004 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 428 (E) Ess. com./Sugarcane in Gazette of India dated the 2nd November, 2004 together with a Corrigendum thereto published in Notification No. G.S.R. 762 (E) Ess. Com./Sugar dated the 23rd November, 2004

[Placed in Library *See* No. LT. 1305/2004]

12.03 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 rule 127 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 16th December, 2004 agreed without any amendment to the Securities Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2004 which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 7th December, 2004."

(ii) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 127 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 16th December, 2004, agreed without any amendment to the Enforcement of Security Interest and Recovery of Debts Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2004 which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 7th December, 2004."

(iii) "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 Central Excise Tariff (Amendment) Bill, 2004, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 3rd December, 2004 and transmitted to the Rajya Sabha for its recommendations and to state that this House had no recommendations to make to the Lok Sabha in regard to the said Bill."

12.03$^{1}/_{2}$ hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS

First to Fourth Reports

[Translation]

DR. M. JAGANNATH (Nagar Kurnool): Sir I beg to present the First, Second, Third and Fourth Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Petitions.

12.04 hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Status of Implementation of Recommendations contained in the First Report of Standing Committee on Water Resources

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi, I wish to congratulate you for being the pioneer in this experiment. I am very happy.

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): Thank you, Sir.

I am making this statement on the status of implementation of recommendations contained in the First Report of Standing Committee on Water Resources in pursuance of Direction 73A of the hon. Speaker, Lok

Sabha issued vide Lok Sabha Bulletin Part-II, dated September 01, 2004.

The Standing Committee on Water Resources examined the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Water Resources for the year 2004-05 and presented their first report in this regard to the Lok Sabha on 23rd August, 2004. The report contains 17 recommendation paragraphs. The recommendations of the Committee mainly relate to less allocation for plan schemes of the Ministry; delays in approval and execution of schemes under major/ medium irrigation sector; preparation of feasibility report and DPR etc. of inter-linking of rivers; artificial recharge of ground water to arrest decline in ground water level; implementation of restructured Centrally Sponsored Command Area Development and Water Management Programme; and expeditious implementation of ongoing flood control and anti-erosion schemes.

The 17 recommendation paragraphs of the above said report contain broadly 20 recommendations. All the recommendations of the Committee have been considered in the Ministry of Water Resources. On 8 recommendations, action as proposed by the Committee has already been taken and initiated. Implementation of 9 recommendations is dependent on actions by State Governments or Planning Commission. The Ministry of Water Resources is pursuing with State Governments and Planning Commission. Other recommendations are under process. The Action Taken Replies have been sent to the Committee.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh): Mr. Speaker. Sir, we must compliment you as also the Government for this new practice.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know whether the statement made by the Hon'ble Minister will be sent to the standing committees?

[English]

Then, the Committee has to say whether they accept this Action Taken Replies or not. Action Taken Report has to go to the Standing Committee. This should not be the end of the matter. It has to go to the Standing Committee.

MR. SPEAKER: The Standing Committee had made its recommendations, either unanimous or whatever I do not know. A new rule has now been incorporated and as per that, the hon. Minister of the concerned Ministry has to make a report as to what the Minister has done.

The earlier usual Action Taken Report had not been given a go-by. That will remain. But by now, the hon. Minister knows the report and he knows the recommendations also.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (Puri): Sir, but practically no action has been taken.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: You have just heard what has been said.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You can make it in a proper manner.

....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This is very unfortunate.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: A new experiment has started. We are complimenting the Minister. All the Chairmen will be complimented for this.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Certainly in the Committee you are entitled to discuss this. I am not preventing a discussion in the Committee.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, I would like to convey that we have discussed this matter in depth in our Ministry. We have tabled three forms, which should be addressed to the Planning Commission, the Central Government and the State Governments. According to that we have set up a Cell to pursue the matter aggressively and vigorously everyday and the outcome will be obviously conveyed to the House at the appropriate time.... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha): Sir, I would like to compliment the hon. Minister and I would also request that all the hon. Ministers make such statements in the House... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: If they do not make it, they will be hauled up here for a breath of privilege.

...(Interruptions)

12.07 hrs.

RE: POSTPONEMENT OF CALLING ATTENTION

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, there are two Calling Attention Notices. The first Calling Attention Notice given by Shri Gurudas Dasgupta on the changes in the Banking Policy, which remains inconclusive on 15 December 2004, is listed at Sl. No. 11 in today's Order Paper. This is to be followed by the Calling Attention Notice given by Shri Ajay Maken on the deteriorating health care services in AIIMS listed at Sl. No. 12.

The hon. Minister of Finance has requested that as he has a meeting with the Prime Minister of Malaysia, the distinguished guest in out country, at 12.15 p.m. today, his Calling Attention Notice maybe postponed till after Lunch. Now, if the House agrees then we can accept that.

So far as the other Calling Attention Notice is concerned, we shall take it up tomorrow.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, as I had told you that a very strange incident took place in the country. For the first time people watched on television that Union Minister Lalu Prasad ji distributing notes of rupees 100 denomination to people in slum areas. After distributing money, he asked them to eat sweets, join his rallied and support his party. After this, he gave another statement. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Let us have some patience to listen to others. You are not bound by his statement.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Those who do not accept it, they are not bound by it.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Malhotra, ordinarily you raise a matter of breach of privilege. Then that is a matter for Election Commission to decide. But I am allowing you to briefly raise it. Please finish it as soon as possible.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: He gave another statement that he was not taking any bribe or money. Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is an offence to accept or offer bribe. He said that there was no question of bribe in what he was doing . Mr. Speaker, Sir, the issue of code of conduct is not as important as this point that the Hon'ble Prime Minister has kept him in his cabinet. Does he approve that any Minister can distribute money and ask the people to come to his rally. We want that Hon'ble Prime Minister should come here and clarify the position in this regard?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You have made your point.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: If the Hon'ble Prime Minister does not remove such a Minister from his Cabinet, then will he not be in the same position for the guilt committed by the Minister as he is still keeping the Minister in his Cabinet who is accused of distributing money openly to the people. Collector is also being paid and trains are being arranged for the people to come to the rally?.. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: What is this? I will try to ensure that everyone gets an opportunity to speak.

[English]

I will now request you to take your seat.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: It seems that these elections will turn out to be a mockery.. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANIL BASU (Arambagh): Whether it was only their monopoly to do such type of work..*(Interruptions)*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir the Hon'ble Prime Minister is requested to reply to it

whether he is coming to speak or not? There is no statement from the Government in this regard. We stage walk out in protest of this development.

12.09 hrs.

(At this stage Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra and some other Hon'ble Members left the House)

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I earnestly request all of you to take your seats. They have a right to walk out. Every party has a right to walk out. We have also done it. You have done it too.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will be recorded.

*...(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: What do you do that.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, sarees were distributed during BJP rule... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will be recorded.

*...(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: Howling is not permitted in this House.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ramdas Athawale, you are violating the Rules.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJILAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have a long list of fake universities in India. We have an Act of 1956 in our country to deal with the fake Universities. According to this law, if any fake University is detected, there is a provision of penalty of Rs. One thousand. Like these fake universities operating in our country, campuses of foreign Universities are located in Delhi and there is no validity of degrees awarded by these foreign Universities. This is a question of future of lacs of children. These degrees can neither provide admission anywhere nor fetch employment. The University Grants Commission had sent a draft action plan to the Ministry of Human Resource Development three years ago asking the latter to take strong penal action against these fake Universities. Then the Government was being run by Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee and now the present Government has been in power for the last seven months. Why is the Government delaying the provision of strong penal action against these fake Universities? I would request that the Government should immediately make provision of a strong law to deal with fake Universities including the foreign Universities whose campuses exist here and whose degrees are not valid.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: We have got only 35 Members to speak. Kindly do not interrupt each other.

[Translation]

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH (Udhampur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, with you permission, I would to place the matter of refugees of POK before the House. As you are aware that Jammu & Kashmir has a total area of 2 lakh 22 thousand 236 square kilometer. Out of which Pakistan and China have illegal possession of 78,114 square kilometer area. Pakistan has handed over 5 thousand 180 square kilometer area to China illegally. China has 37,555 square kilometer area in its possession. The people who had shifted from Mirpur and Muzaffarabad. lived in Mirpur who are 96,575 in number. The people who were displaced from Muzaffarabad, Poonch and Mirpur do not even have land and ownership rights and they have not been able to go back to their respective places. In Mirpur, a dam namely Mangla dam was built but the people of Mirpur were told to return to Mirpur. Would they go to a place submerge in water.

Whether any compensation was provided to our Indian refugees in Pakistan? I would like to suggest that a Commission should be constituted in this regard. These people should be accommodated by constituting a Commission. 24 seats in the Assembly are lying vacant. They don't have their representation there. These people should be given due representation.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Shri Mallikarjuniah.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not disturb him. He is a very respected Member. He speaks rarely.

---

*Not recorded.

SHRI S. MALLIKARJUNIAH (Tumkur): Sir, among the *Harijans*, there are two groups—one is *madhigas* and another is 'right-hand' people. Out of these, *madhigas* community people are in large number, and all facilities provided to the *Harijans* are being taken away by these 'right-hand' people. IAS, IPS and other such officers have taken away their share. Therefore, what they are saying is that the *Harijans* and the *madhigas* should be given priority as per the population figure, among the Scheduled Castes people. That is the demand of the people of this community.

MR. SPEAKER: This is how it should be raised. We all should learn from the senior Member. He never defies the Chair.

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY (Basirhat): Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of this august House to a very important matter. Kolkata city is one of the biggest cities in our country. Kolkata international airport is not only the gateway of Eastern and South Eastern regions of our country but also the gate way of South-East Asian countries and ASEAN countries also. Some of these countries are very much prospering regarding the economic affairs. Our hon. Prime Minister attended the ASEAN Summit and asked for more trade and other business with other ASEAN countries.

As the Kolkata international airport is the gateway of South-East Asian country, Sir, through you, I demand the Government of India to upgrade, modernize and expand the Netaji Subhash Chandra International Airport. I also demand, through you, Sir, that more frequent international flights from Kolkata international airport to other important countries in the world.

I hope, the Minister will respond. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: He is not here.

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: Sir, it is very urgent and important matter, and it is in the interest of the entire country .... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Everybody, including the Chair, is associating with this matter. Now, Shri Ravichandran.

SHRI RAVICHANDRAN SIPPIPARAI (Sivakasi): Hon. Speaker, Sir, Doordarshan is a well-known television media in India. It reaches every nook and corner of the villages in India as a free channel.

Previously, Tamil news in DD-1 and Podhigai (Tamil) channels were telecast between 8.30 p.m. and 9.00 p.m. Now, this duration of 30 minutes has been reduced to 15 minutes and news bulletin time is changed between 8.15 p.m. and 8.30 p.m. The reduced and changed time of 30 minutes has been allotted to Hindi serials.

Hence, I urge upon the Union Government to take necessary action and revoke the time and duration as telecast earlier in favour of Tamil news bulletin.

[Translation]

YOGI ADITYANATH (Gorakhpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the deaths caused by starvation in Uttar Pradesh. Three persons have died from starvation in Kushinagar, Sant Kabir Nagar and Basti districts of Uttar Pradesh recently. Mr. Speaker, Sir, previous Government led by NDA had made a provision of the BPL ration cards for the people living below the poverty line. Not only that, a scheme of 'Varishtha Nagrik Anna Yojana' 'Food For Work programme' was launched under 'Annapoorna Yojana' and a programme was launched for free-distribution of food grains in the drought affected areas but with a heavy heart I am to say that today people are dying of hunger in Kalahandi in Orissa, West Bengal, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and in other parts of the country. The administration has become insensitive and is not functioning properly. And that is why the schemes launched for the people living below poverty line in the country are not being implemented. Therefore, once again I request the Government to review all these schemes. Directions should be issued to the Government of Uttar Pradesh to take action against the administrative officials of the districts concerned where starvation deaths are taking place.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Supreme Court has also taken congizance of the starvation deaths in Uttar Pradesh and has issued notice to the Central and State Governments. This is really a serious issue. Therefore, the Government should pay attention to this situation so that starvation deaths do not occur. On one hand, the godowns of the Government of India are full of grains but on the other hand starvation deaths are taking place in the country, certainly, nothing can be more shameful than this. Therefore. this issue should be taken into cognizance... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMJILAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Central Government should be aware of all the facts. There is no such scheme that is not being implemented in Uttar

Pradesh ...*(Interruptions)* Hon'ble Member is making allegations without any reason..... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: Where from has he got the information about West Bengal? We are protesting. He has misled the House about West Bengal. He is giving misleading information....*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker Sir, If some body makes allegations without facts ...*(Interruptions)* I would like to know which one of the scheme launched by the Central government is not being implemented by the State government ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will be recorded except the speech of Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

In regard to any hon. Member who is making a statement, it does not mean that those who do not agree with him will be bound by the truth or otherwise of the statement. Listen to others. You will have the opportunity to contradict. There are hon. Ministers. You can do it at the appropriate time, but you cannot have a running commentary like this. The Chair cannot decide whether something is being said correctly or otherwise. I have to assume that the hon. Member is responsible when he makes a statement. But this is not the way to contradict.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will be recorded except the speech of Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: You please sit down. You give a notice, and I will allow you.

...*(Interruptions)*

---

*Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing is being recorded. Do not record it. Only the speech of Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan will go on record. Please let us have something. I am trying to accommodate.

Now, Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan, you do it briefly.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Sir, I would like to bring to the notice of the present Government a very important subject. Now, collective bargaining is an inseparable right of the working class. To implement this right, they must have the right to strike work. Unfortunately, by a decision of the Supreme Court, the workers as well as the Government employees are now denied the right to strike work. So, it must be made a fundamental right.

I urge upon the Central Government, this is, the present UPA Government to bring in legislation making the right to strike a fundamental right. It must be done as it is as important as any other agenda on the National Common Minimum Programme. So, I once again urge the UPA Government to bring in legislation in the next Session of Parliament. Probably, in the Budget Session itself, they should bring in legislation making the right to strike a fundamental right. I think they will do it. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You have made it.

SHRI A.K.S. VIJAYAN (Nagapattinam): We are associating with this.

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: We are also associating.

MR. SPEAKER: Everyone is associating.

[Translation]

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR (Chimur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Public Health workers have been doing a very commendable job in the country for the last 25 years. There were 6 lakh 17 thousand posts of Public Helath workers in the country, out of them 3 lakh 97 thousand posts are lying vacant. Public Health worker Scheme in Maharashtra ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Is it a matter of the Central Government or State Government?

[Translation]

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR: This is the scheme of the Central Government. There are 45427 posts of Public Health workers in the State of Maharashtra out of them 34,566 people are still in Maharashtra.

The Government of Maharashtra has not provided any honorarium or any other funds to them for the last three to four years. Request was made to the Central Government in this matter. Then they have issued letters to them. As such, 'Pada Swayam Sevak Scheme' was formulated there but they were not even covered under that scheme. Now it is being stated that the Central Government are going to scrap Public Health Workers Scheme and instead are going to launch Rural Health Mission Scheme from the month of April. If it is true then I would to like to submit that 3 lakh 97 thousand Public health workers working under this scheme should be given priority in Rural Health Mission Scheme and should be accommodated in that scheme and people appointed earlier should be protected. If this doesn't happen then there would be gross injustice to 3 lakh 97 thousand persons. Therefore, through you, I am drawing the attention of the Central Government to this issue.

CHAUDHARY BIJENDRA SINGH (Aligarh): Hon'ble Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am thankful to you for going me an opportunity to speak on the issue of public importance. Ours is an agricultural country. Agriculture is a national wealth of this country that creates other resources. If the agricultural land is not protected, it would be detrimental to the national interests. The Yamuna river flows from Meerut down to Mathura, Agra via Bagpat, Gautam Budha Nagar. During monsoon due to floods, lakhs of hectare of land in my State gets damaged by soil erosion. Consequently, the farmers are severely affected. National production is declined and there is a loss to the Nation. Not only that, on many occasions, there has been a land dispute between Uttar Pradesh and Haryana and the parties resorted to firing killing many people from both the sides. This is an important issue, therefore, demarcation should be undertaken in this area.

Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Central Government towards it that a comprehensive scheme should be devised to prevent such incidents and the erosion of land. And if any such scheme is in vogue it should also be implemented there with the developmental point of view. If there is no such schemes such schemes should be implemented there in order to avoids such dispute, to provide benefit to the framers and in the national interest.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This is an important matter.

SHRI ABDULLAKUTTY (Cannanore): Sir, I invite the attention of this House to the most serious problem that has arisen in Pandalur taluk of Gudalur district in the State of Tamil Nadu.

About 25,000 farmers' families which had settled there for decades are being evicted by the Forest Department, calling them 'encroachers'. The fact of the matter is that these farmers had been there for several decades, since the time of their forefathers. They have ration cards, electricity connections, telephone facilities and also identity cards issued by the Election Commission of India.

Former Member of Parliament of India, Shri S. Ramachandran Pillai and I visited these villages last year. The issue is very serious. Many years ago, the former Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, veteran leader, Shri A.K. Gopalan had himself struggled for the cause of the farmers of this area, to secure their rights. I request that the Government should take a sympathetic view of the problem being faced by these settlers of Gudalur District and immediately send a team of Members of Parliament to Gudalur District to verify the facts of the issue and to help the farmers of Gudalur District.

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE (Idukki): Sir, I associate myself with what the hon. Member has expressed.

12.30 hrs.

RE: Need to compensate the people of Jammu and Kashmir border areas on whose land defence related installations have been set up by the defence forces

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL SHARMA (Jammu): Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the House towards the problems being faced by the lakhs of people inhabiting in the border areas of Jammu-Kashmir. The land of these people has been acquired for Mines area, Ditch area and for setting up the military camps but in return nothing has been provided to them.

Sir, whatsoever is given as compensation, is not made available in time. They are dying of starvation.

Central Government and the Ministry of Defence sanctions compensation. Subsequently, the funds are transferred to the State Government. Then the State Government delays it. I appeal to the Central Government and the Minister of Defence, in particular to find some way out to streamline the procedure of providing timely compensation to the farmers.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the people whose land has been acquired for Ditch, Military camps or mines or fencing the land would not be returned to them. If the Government don't give them compensation in time. the farmers will have to face a lot of difficulties. Therefore, I request the Government that instructions should be issued to the State Government to pay compensation at the earliest and I again request the Central Government and the Ministry of Defence to pay compensation in time to those people whose lands have been acquired so that they could make arrangement for the sustenance of their children.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): I want to associate with him. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: His name may be recorded.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Shivraj V. Patil, you need not respond. If you have something to say, you can make a statement later on. Do you want to say something now?

...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): We will consider it for a favourable decision. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to submit to the Minister of Railways, through you, that a Zonal Office of Railways was to be set up in Jaipur. Former Prime Minister Shri Deve Gowda ji had also laid the foundation stone for the same. At that time I had asked a question to him whether he had come to lay the foundation stone or for performing 'Bhoomi Pujan'. Sir, I would like to inform that land has not been provided so far for the zonal office of Railways in Jaipur. The number of zonal offices established by the Railways is negligible. I request that Kota should also be included in this Zonal Office as the people of Kota have to face a lot of difficulties in commuting to Mumbai.

Sir, through you, I request the Central Government to provide land for said Railway Zonal Office immediately. It doesn't matter whether it was set up in Kota or not but it has been established in Jaipur. I extend you a lot of thanks for it. Alongwith the Zonal Office, staff quarters for Railway employees are also to be constructed. That work should also be done immediately. People will get employment with the setting up of a Zonal Office in Jaipur.

Sir, there is no direct Rail-link from Jaipur to Chandigarh and Haridwar. No train is running from Jaipur to Haridwar or Chandigarh. My submission is that everybody has to go to Haridwar. Therefore direct train from Jaipur to Haridwar and Chandigarh should be introduced.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, you are supreme and our custodian. My submission is that you are in a position to force the government....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I cannot compel the Government but through me you can make your point only.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I request the Government that the land should be provided to set up Zonal Office in Jaipur, develop Railway Colony over there and direct trains from Jaipur to Haridwar and Chandigarh should also be introduced.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I wish everybody follows his example. He sits quietly and patiently that I always try to call him. He never creates any problem. I thank him for this cooperation. He is always raising the issue regarding Jaipur.

SHRI ALKESH DAS (Nawadwip): A Committee, consisting of top industrialists formed by the Director of BIS instructions, has proposed that weigh and measure system as well as the collection of tax should be through a private organisation. The total system would be controlled by the Central Government instead of the State Government, for which each State Government separately would lose above Rs. 10 crore annually. Again, the salary and T.A. of the Controller and the Inspectors are going to be given by the State Governments. Again, these private companies are getting the right to certify by putting national emblem ASHOK STAMBHA'. The manufacturers of weighing instruments have to pay more than five to 20 times for license and extra one lakh guarantee money. The fee hike for the calibration certificate is ten times. Actually, for this 40 lakh people, who are connected with weigh and measure industry, will become jobless and the weigh and measure system of our country will also be at stake.

[Shri Alkesh Das]

So, I want to draw your kind attention and the attention of the concerned hon. Minister in this regard.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA (Hamirpur, U.P.): Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I want to draw the attention of Minister of Railways towards my constituency Hamirpur and Mahoba in Bundelkhand. I would like to tell you that these districts are in the most backward area. I would like to draw your attention towards the stoppage of main trains over there. A decision was taken to run a Sampurna Kranti Train (2448/2447) from Nizamuddin to Chitrakoot (Uttar Pardesh) and a stoppage was provided at Mahoba. Once I inquired about it from the railway officials and I was told that stoppage at Mahoba is fixed. But the recently published Time-Table does not show any stoppage at Mahoba. So the general public of my constituency is very agitated.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I demand through you to the Government to ensure its stoppage at Mahoba. Alongwith this train there are two more trains. Make it sure that the Express train, from Kanpur to Durg, stops at Ragol station, and the train going towards Jagannathpuri ...*(Interruptions)* should be routed via Jhansi and Mahoba once in a week.

MR. SPEAKER: You should have talked regarding this in Rail budget.

....(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there has been no work regarding railways in Bundelkhand since independence. There are two proposed rail lines - one from Hamirpur to Harpalpur via Rath and second from Bhind (Muraina) to Mahoba via Urai. Ensure that the survey is conducted and proposed lines are laid.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I thought we decided to raise matters of urgent national importance.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: All matters are of importance. Shri Adhir Chowdhury to speak now.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Thank you, Sir. It comes as a rude shock to the Indian people that India has been denied a permanent seat in the Security Council.

MR. SPEAKER: Who has denied it? Where is it denied? It is not yet denied. Do not complicate matters. You raise some other matter. Do not complicate it.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Yes sir.

MR. SPEAKER: Our country will not accept that position.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: The regional representation in the General Assembly should be the basis of determining a permanent seat in the Security Council. It has been observed that Africa and Asia together hold one permanent seat, five non-permanent seats while sharing 55 percent of General Assembly's membership. On the other hand, Latin America and Caribbean States together hold only two non-permanent seats.

MR. SPEAKER: These things cannot be decided here.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: But the European contingent including America together hold three permanent seats and two non-permanent seats while sharing 26 percent of the General Assembly membership.

MR. SPEAKER: You say that India's case is very justified and we shall ask for it.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Sir, it has been a constant endeavour or the successive Governments of India to mobilise the world support in favour of India being inducted as a permanent member in the Security Council. However, the P-5 contingent is deliberately obstructing the inclusion of India's permanent membership into the Security Council with a right to veto.

MR. SPEAKER: Let us leave it to our Foreign Ministry and others.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Therefore, we may send our feelings and sentiments to the United Nations General Body so that India, in future, could be inducted as a permanent member in the Security Council. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: We appreciate your feelings. Shri P.C. Thomas to speak now.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha): Sir, India is obliged to bring a law regarding patent products before 1.1.2005. But, so far, no legislation has come forth and no draft has been given and there is no move from the

Government side to pass the Bill before this Session is going to end in three-four days. We apprehend that this is going to come as an Ordinance which, of course, will be a very serious matter because this requires a lot of discussion. It has to go to the Standing Committee and it has to go to the public. It has to be discussed in detail. We would also like to suggest very many important things especially the serious matters have to be taken into account to see that the prices of the life-saving drugs should not go very high and they should be accessible and acceptable.

MR. SPEAKER: What is your point?

...(Interruptions)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Sir, this is a very important point.

MR. SPEAKER: I know it; that is why I allowed it.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: This patent issue is not being discussed in the House. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Malhotraji, you are a senior member. I would like him to make his point. Shri Thomas, what is the point you are making?

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Sir, all these matters regarding medicine, agriculture, farmers and software are important. We really apprehend that an Ordinance will be issued without discussion. We have been hearing some Members saying that 'I am not prepared to support this law; but because it came as an Ordinance, I have no other way'. We have seen it coming from the side of some supporting parties.

MR. SPEAKER: Very well, that is the point.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: So, my submission is that if, at all, the Government intends to bring the law, it should be brought before this Session ends. Secondly, if the Government cannot do that, it must call a Special Session of Parliament immediately so that this must be discussed in detail. It has to go to the Standing Committee and it has also to go to the people for further discussion. *...(Interruptions)*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: What is the response of the Government? *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The Government does not have to respond. This is very unfair.

...(Interruptions)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Sir, the whole country will be suffering. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: There are 35 matters raised and then on 17 matters, you want the Government to respond every time. No, I cannot ask the Government. It is entirely for the Government to respond. I cannot compel them.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Santasri Chatterjee.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am not preventing them, but I cannot compel them. You know this very well.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Santasri Chatterjee.

Nothing else will be recorded.

*...(Interruptions)**

SHRI SANTASRI CHATTERJEE (Serampore): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister of Railways to the problems faced by the ordinary passengers. It has become a matter of grave concern. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You have made your point very forcefully- what else can you do?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat. You have made your point very clear.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have allowed the hon. Member. He has made his point forcefully. You can associate with that. What are you talking about?

...(Interruptions)

---

*Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: Do not interrupt the proceedings. You associate with that.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I cannot direct. Sorry.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: No, there is not a single precedent in this House in 58 years. I will not follow this. Now please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You can associate. I will allow you to associate, without notice even.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SANTASRI CHATTERJEE: It is reported in various newspapers that passengers travelling in sleeper class are offered food by some unscrupulous elements. After accepting the food, they fall asleep and these elements rob the passengers of all their belongings. *...(Interruptions)* Recently, one family was travelling by Kalka Mail from Delhi to Howrah. In the same way, the family was robbed at Mughalsarai station. Fortunately, the lady could not be intoxicated fully. She foungt with them and saved the family to some extent, and culprits were arrested at Asansol. But such happenings are going on.

Sir, I would request, through you, to the hon. Minister of Railways to kindly rise to the occasion and ensure the safety and security of the ordinary passengers.

SHRI JUAL ORAM (Sundergarh): Mr. Speaker, Sir, about 22,000 ex-servicemen living in different parts of Orissa are passing their days in dire poverty. They have not been provided any assistance to earn their livelihood. There is a provision in the Recruitment Rules of the State Government to fill up three percent of the vacancies by the ex-servicemen. There is a similar provision to provide reservation for them in the public sector undertakings. But due to lack of proper co-ordination, the ex-servicemen are not being recruited against the posts reserved for them. A decision was taken by the State Government to provide five acres of land to each ex-serviceman who has fought the war between 26th October, 1962 and 31st January, 1964. This decision has not been carried out in the case of each identified ex-serviceman who has fought the war in the forward area. Due to lack of proper co-ordination in implementing the decision of the Government and in the absence of any directions from the Centre, the ex-servicemen and their family members are passing their days in great hardship.

Unless the Central Government intervenes in the matter, the ex-servicemen, who have contributed a lot for the sake of the nation, will continue to suffer. As such, I demand that the Central Government should set up a cell, with contribution of matching grants to the State of Orissa, for the suitable rehabilitation of the ex-servicemen and their family members.

SHRI K.C. SINGH 'BABA' (Nainital): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to raise the issue of immediate Central financial assistance to the Bhawali TB Sanitorium in Nainital, Uttaranchal. This Sanitorium is approximately 100 years old and caters to the need of thousands of TB patients living below the poverty line, coming from all parts of the country and in particular, poor TB patients residing in the difficult hilly terrains of Uttaranchal. The DOT Scheme is doing well but the increased number of cases of fourth and higher stage tuberculosis, that is, multi-drug resistance TB patients are not being properly taken care of due to lack of proper infrastructure facilities. There is an urgent need to take effective steps for providing facilities of proper treatment to such cases.

Due to scarce financial resources, the Sanitorium is now, almost, on the verge of collapse. The situation, therefore, calls for immediate release of adequate Central funds to the Sanitorium in order to ensure that Bhawali Sanitorium in Nainital can be upgraded to the level of Chest Institutes, as in Delhi, where Multi-Drug Resistance TB patients can be properly treated. Thank you, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Chandra Mani Tripathi--not present. Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Hon'ble Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the fact that though there has been a significant revolution in the field of information technology in the country but till now over 67 thousand villages of the country, especially most of the villages in 13 states including Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra and Chattisgarh are devoid of the basic telephone facilities. This does not include areas with a population of less than 100 and the villages in hilly and forest areas and terrorism infested areas. I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the 12,386

villages of Rajasthan where so far telecommunication has not made inroads. I had requested for WLL to the Government. The last Government had done a lot in this regard but after the arrival of the new Government funds meant for installing new communication system, WLL was not allocated. At one side the faulty MARR system was not fully replaced, on the other hand tele-communication system was not provided to those villagers who had deposited the money seven to eight years back.

Through you, I would request the Government to make more and more allocations from the universal fund to Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited and direct them to take necessary action to make tele-communication facilities available in Rajasthan, especially the rural areas.

[English]

SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH (Jhalawar): Sir, I would like to associate.

MR. SPEAKER: There is no notice for it.

[Translation]

PROF. CHANDER KUMAR (Kangra): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to move a proposal to the Central Government through you that 7.19 percent share of Government of Himachal Pradesh for all the projects launched in Himachal Pradesh by the Central Government, Punjab or any other Government, before and after the reorganisation may please be released immediately as per the agreement with the Central Government at the time of reorganisation of Himachal Pradesh.

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' (Almora): Mr. Speaker, Sir, recently the issue of increase in the interest rate on GPF of Central Government employees had come up. I would like to say that the employees besides the Government employees.....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: It had also been raised before.

[Translation]

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA': The interest rate on E.P.F. is likely to be raised to 9.5 percent from the present rate of 8.5 percent whereas lakhs of Central Government Employees feel that the interest rate on their G.P.F should also be more than 8%. There is a feeling of discontentment among Government employees due to this apprehension of discrimination. I would like to make a request to the Central Government to consider it seriously and pay special attention to it.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Hannan Mollah, I have received two notices from you for raising two issues, but you can raise only one issue.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Health Minister regarding a serious problem in our country. Due to absence of any law to regulate the functioning of Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART) in our country, thousands of people are suffering physically, mentally and financially. One estimate says that there are hundreds of ART clinics functioning in different parts of the country, and approximately Rs. 50,000 crore worth of business is coming from those centres. It is also stated that most unqualified doctors are running those centres.

Approximately, 10 percent to 15 percent Indian couples are reported to be infertile. So, they have to visit these fertility centres, but these centres are not entitled to preserve the ovum, sperm, embryo, etc.

They are not entitled, but they do it illegally, without the consent of the donors, and they sell it at a whopping price. They are exporting it to European countries because it is prohibited in those countries. This is a very serious matter. The functioning of these ART Centres is not only illegal, immoral, but also in financial terms, they are adopting corrupt practices.

I would request the hon. Health Minister to take note of that and bring a suitable law to check these things. ICMR formed a Committee to look into that and they submitted their report, which is also not correct. The matter should be properly inquired into. After consultations with all the concerned, a correct decision should be taken and a regulatory act to control the ART Centres should be brought before this House.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI (Rewa): Mr. Speaker, Sir, you had called my name.

MR. SPEAKER: Please wait now. It will come at last. You will be called in at the last. Everybody should know that you are not in time in the House.

SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg your pardon.

MR. SPEAKER: It's okay. you have been pardoned. I will call your name.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You cannot break the queue at your sweet-will.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the percentage of poverty is increasing in the country. As per Government data 26% people are living below poverty line and as per Reserve Bank of India 25% people are living below poverty line. I make a request to the Government that when Shrimati Indira Gandhi was the Prime Minister of India she started the special component plan for scheduled castes. She started a sub-plan for tribals and there was a provision in that, that the project must have a provision commensurate to the population of scheduled castes. So, I demand that in the forthcoming budget there should be a provision of 15% for scheduled castes and provision of 17.5% for tribals and planning commission should be guided accordingly While they sanction the budget of States. If separate provision is made in the budget for scheduled castes and scheduled tribes proportionate to their population, then only poverty can be eliminated from the country. This is what I demand from the Government.

(English)

MR. SPEAKER: No more trouble today.

SHRI P.K. VASUDEVAN NAIR (Thiruvananthapuram): Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a matter of national importance, which we have discussed many times, and that is the issue of recent hike in petroleum prices. The argument was that crude oil prices were going up, but for some time, the Government knows that the prices are coming down; now, they have stabilised at some point. There was a news that petrol and diesel prices may come down following the fall in crude oil prices.

I would like the Minister and the Government to take this House into confidence instead of going to the Press with some statements, some speculation. When the House is in Session, such an important matter should be brought before the House, and the House should be taken into confidence. If at all it is possible to reduce diesel prices, I am emphasising 'diesel prices', that should be done immediately.

MR. SPEAKER: You are right that when the House is in Session, no policy statement should be made outside.

[Translation]

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA (Dhandhuka): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the farmers of Gujarat are very much troubled now-a-days due to the policy of C.C.I. Thousands of farmers staged a demonstration and burnt their cotton on the way. So I am constraint to say:-

"Kissan desh ki shaan hain, Kissan desh ki aan hain,

Phir bhi ve pareshasan hain, Pure dekar daam, karo unka samman,

Mat karo unka apman, Kissan hain mahan".

They want support price. They want to export their cotton.

They want import duty on cotton to be increased and that C.C.I. should open more centres in Gujarat. The cotton is brought to my State from other States. They want that those States should purchase that cotton themselves. Alongwith this they have given a very good slogan—"Desh ke hum bhandar bharenge, lekin daam poore lenge." The farmers of Gujarat, the farmers of the entire country works for this country, they die for this country. But still they are forced to commit suicide. The farmers of the Gujarat should not be coerced to that level. So I request the Government of India to take appropriate action in this regard.

SHRI MAHESH KANODIA (Patan): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I also support his views so my name may also be associated with it...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: If you people keep quite then only I shall give a chance to every one to speak.

[English]

It is a very important issue. One should allow it. But this should not be the common method. From the next session, if I am here I shall follow strictly the BAC Resolution. Only matters of urgent public importance and maximum 15 issues per day will be allowed, to be taken up.

SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH (Farrukhabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want your patronage. There is a district Farrukhabad in Uttar Pradesh from where I am the Member of Parliament. Only one train 'Kalindi Express' runs from there for Delhi. The misfortune with this train is that it has been suspended numerous times during past three years either due to fog or flood in Yamuna. Traders in large number generally travel to Delhi from there. Just now I am informed that the same train is being cancelled again from 27th onward. That is the only train for Delhi from there. I want you to direct the Government not to suspend that train, because suspension of this train would cause lot of inconvenience to the people commuting to and fro from Delhi. So I request you to continue this train.

SHRI SRICHAND KRIPLANI (Chittorgarh): Mr. Speaker, Sir, this House is the Supreme institution of the country. We always discuss law and order situation in this House.

MR. SPEAKER: Does everyone remember that?

SHRI SRICHAND KRIPLANI: My submission is that as he too might have read in the papers, so many incidents of theft have taken place in the flats of many Members of Parliament in South Avenue.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Member, this is a serious matter. I have already asked for a report. I have called the senior most police officer here so that I can take it up. But I am allowing it today. I take it seriously.

[Translation]

SHRI SRICHAND KRIPLANI: When I was residing in North Avenue, I had heard about theft of undergarments, thieves were even taking away pipes etc. but theft cases like this after breaking in the houses of Members of Parliament, were never heard before. The Minister of Home Affairs Mr. Shivraj Patil is sitting here. Thieves entered into the houses of Members of Parliament and after locking the doors from inside continued ransacking for three hours. What kind of message we are sending to the country?

MR. SPEAKER: Thieves should not break into anybody's house.

SHRI SRICHAND KRIPLANI: Thieve ate ice-cream and took away mobiles with them.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I have called the Police Commissioner. He is coming at one O'clock.

[Translation]

SHRI SRICHAND KRIPLANI: This time they have only stolen things. Next time they will shoot down a Member of Parliament and there is no one to protect them.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This is a serious matter. I have called the Police Commissioner and I am going to meet him just now.

[Translation]

SHRI SRICHAND KRIPLANI: This case belongs to the whole House. It is not particularly mine.

MR. SPEAKER: Please conclude now. You have raised a right issue.

SHRI SRICHAND KRIPLANI: You direct the Government. The Minister of Home Affairs should make a statement. This is a very serious matter, so it must be replied...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Do not fall into his trap. You are spoiling your case by falling into his trap.

[Translation]

We will see to it. You have raised the issue in a very precise manner, that is why I had permitted you.

SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU (Berhampur, Orissa): Mr. Speaker, Sir, you have given me time to speak for which I am thankful to you. Only one month back, the Government have launched a revolutionary national programme 'food for work' in the country. It will benefit the poor people of the country. In this regard a supplementary question was put to hon. Minister. But I did not get reply to that. A Criteria has been fixed for including the backward districts under National Food for Work Programme. Gajpati district falls in my Constituency and it is the most backward district of Orissa. But hon'ble Minister has stated that the name of my district is not there in the list forwarded by the State Government. Maximum people belonging to Scheduled Castes and

[Shri Chandra Sekhar Sahu]

Scheduled Tribes live in Gajpati district and about 70 percent of the population is below poverty line. Besides, backwardness is also there in that district and that area is also a naxalite affected area. Due to this reason also, that area falls under that scheme on the basis of criteria fixed by the Minister. Therefore, through you, I request the hon'ble Minister that the name of my district may also be included in the list of 150 districts of the country selected by him for this programme.

13.00 hrs.

[English]

DR. K.S. MANOJ (Alleppey): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to the strike by fishermen in Kerala for the last one week. Today, they are actually picketing the fishing harbour, Cochin. The problem is the lack of diesel and kerosene supply for them. State Government is levying about Rs. 6.55 per litre of diesel which is supplied to the fishermen. One fishing boat requires 1,500 litre of diesel per week, which means a fisherman requires around Rs. 60,000 worth of diesel per week for his fishing boat. Hence, they are on strike for the last one week. I would request the hon. Minister to provide subsidy for the diesel used for the fishing boat.

Traditional fishermen are also using kerosene. Now, kerosene supply for the traditional fishermen is provided through the public distribution system. Actually, the number of ration cardholders is increasing day by day with the result kerosene required by the fishermen is not met through the public distribution system. I would request the hon. Minister to provide adequate quantity of kerosene exclusively for the traditional fishermen.

SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU (Kakinada): Sir, I associate with the issue raised by Dr. Manoj.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes. But in future, for associating with the issues raised by other hon. Members, you are required to give notice.

SHRI K.S. RAO (Eluru): Sir, to achieve the ambitious target of GDP growth of eight percent, the need of the hour is skilled manpower and technological manpower. Andhra Pradesh is contributing at great length in technological manpower. Andhra Pradesh has got 240 engineering colleges, apart from a number of colleges of management, pharmacy etc. But Andhra Pradesh does not have a regional centre of AICTE, which is the demand of the people of Andhra Pradesh. All these institutions have to go to the regional centre at Chennai, and then to Delhi to get the permission or to get their colleges monitored for quality and standard. I would request the hon. Minister of HRD to start a regional centre of AICTE at Hyderabad at the earliest. This is our immediate requirement.

MR. SPEAKER: Shrimati Nivedita Mane—not present.

SHRI NARAYAN CHANDRA BORKATAKY (Mangaldoi): Sir, during the last week, a series of bomb blasts have taken place in Assam, *i.e.* in Guwahati, Nagaon, Tinsukia, Morigaon and Digboi. A very grave situation is existing there. Actually, in Guwahati city in a Police Station campus, one bomb exploded which has resulted in the death of a constable and a Home Guard and five others have been injured. In Nagaon, one person has died. In Morigaon, two persons have died and 50 persons are injured, in the aforesaid districts out of which, five persons are seriously injured. In the last few months, it is observed that, bomb blasts have become a routine matter. State Government is not serious enough to curb such heinous crimes.

Security measures adopted by the State Government are also not adequate to combat terrorism prevailing in Assam. Under the circumstances, the situation in Assam is very grave. I urge upon the Central Government to intervene in the matter by initiating a CBI inquiry. In the last Independence Day function, there was a bomb blast in Dhamaji in which 13 persons including 10 children died and two Ministers of Assam were said to be involved in the Bomb blast. Considering all this, I urge upon the hon. Home Minister to intervene in the matter by initiating a CBI inquiry into the whole matter and inform the House accordingly.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ajit Kumar Singh - not present.

Shri Lakshman Singh to speak. This is not a precedent. In future, I will not call you.

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH (Rajgarh): I am sorry, Sir

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, Sir, pornographic pictures of a girl and a boy, who were the students of Delhi Public School have been shown on mobile phone in the recent past. This incident has given a grave shock to the culture of our country.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This is not your notice.

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH: This was my notice.

MR. SPEAKER: All right.

[Translation]

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is a strange psychological pressure on the parents of students. The Government have made efforts and arrested some persons. But the main accused is still absconding. The most surprising thing is this....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This matter was raised by Shri Subodh Mohite, last Friday.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR (Bangalore South): This matter is a different one.

[Translation]

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH: Shri Manish Bajaj, who is the CEO of Baazi. com, has been arrested. The most surprising thing is that the Secretary of United States is backing him. If any Indian is arrested in America and the India's Ambassador speaks in his favour, what would be the reaction of United States? The Government should enact a strict law in order to avoid recurrence of such incidents. We want that the Minister of the Government should give a statement in this regard. The interference of the Secretary of State in this matter is not proper. He may be informed that this issue is country's internal issue and related to the culture of the country. It would be better if he does not interfere in this matter....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRIMATI TEJASWINI SEERAMESH (Kanakpura): I would like to associate myself with what Shri Lakshman Singh has raised...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MD. SALIM (Calcutta-North East): We should not come under the pressure of America.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Chandra Mani Tripathi to speak. Shri Tripathi, my comments apply to you also. When your name is called, you should be here.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI (Rewa): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have already apologized....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You are senior member.

[English]

This applied to everybody.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI: Mr. Speaker, Sir through you, I would like to draw the attention of hon'ble Minister for Finance towards the miserable condition of the employees of regional rural banks. The employees of rural banks get different pay and facilities at different places. I want that the employees of all the regional rural banks may be merged by a process of reconstitution and a national rural bank should be established for them so that the policy of same pay for same work could be implemented for them. In addition to this, I also demand grant of pay, allowances and facilities to the employees of regional rural bank at pat with the employees of promoter banks of rural banks in the country.

MR. SPEAKER: You have made a just demand.

.....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: We have covered 38 matters today.

[Translation]

SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA (Faridabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, let me also allow to speak for one minute.

MR. SPEAKER: Also speak about the good work, I have done.

The House stands adjourned for Lunch to meet at 2.10 p.m.

13.08 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for lunch till ten minutes past fourteen of the clock.

14.14 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at Fourteen Minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—*contd.*

Situation arising out of the move of the Government to Change the Banking Policy

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, the House shall take up Item No. 11—Calling Attention.

The hon. Minister had already made a statement. Now. Shri Gurudas Dasgupta to ask only clarifications.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA (Panskura): Sir, at the outset, I must make it clear that even becoming a Member of the Party which supports the Government, I am extremely sorry and I may apologise that I am not being able to support the contention of the hon. Finance Minister. It seems, there is a digression, deviation. There is an undeclared change of vital policy of the Government without taking the Parliament into consideration, without taking the partners or the supporters of the Government into consideration.

Sir, that is not my complaint against the Minister. He has every right to choose his own path but since it is a coalition Government, we have a right to be consulted. The Parties, who are there in support of the Government, have a right to be consulted but we have not been. The hon. learned Minister has built up his argument on five pillars. I am not speaking of Panchsheel. I am speaking of the five disputed pillars of argument which the hon. Minister has tried to build up while defending his policy, the change of banking policy or rather reform of the banking policy in whose direction, only the Minister can say.

At the beginning he says, "changes are contemplated to bring Indian banks to global level". Nationalised Indian Banks are to be taken to the global level. What for? I agree, for effectiveness or for better functioning. But is it not true that the global banks in the world do have little social commitment for the progress, to fight unemployment or to fight poverty? If the global banks do not have any social commitment, then but implication the hon. Minister of Finance is saying that while making the Indian banks global or globalised, they are allowed to disown or abandon their commitment for the social progress.

May I know form the hon. Minister, whether the global standard banks, as he is asking the Indian banks to become, will have a commitment to open rural branches? Will they have any commitment to advance credit to the rural masses at a subsidised rate? Will they have any obligation for developing the priority sector of India? Will these banks be obliged to take steps to use people's money for people's welfare? That is the primary consideration before us. Rs. 16 lakh crore are deposited in the banks. It is people's savings. It is the small savings of the people. We want people's money to be used for the people's welfare. By becoming a global bank, necessarily the social aspect of the banking policy is bound to suffer, is bound to get weakened. Therefore, may I know from the hon. Minister the reason behind this?

We do not need global banks. We need banks to promote our development, to bring about increased investment rate. We want strong banks, sound bands but nationalised banks that are committed to the nation. That is what we believe should be the part of the banking policy. It seems, by pleading for having global banks, hon. Minister is giving a good-bye to the basic principles that led to nationalisation by Shrimati Indira Gandhi, whom Shri Chidambaram may not have forgotten till today.

Sir, his second argument is that it would lead to consolidation. Now, the basic principle of economic reforms was to instil a spirit of competitiveness. 'Competition' was the buzz word of economic reforms. But the hon. Finance Minister is pleading for consolidation, which means, monopolistic growth. Now, the proposal is to bring down the number of 27 nationalised banks to five -- five monopolistic banks. Therefore, what was the principle of economic reforms? Was it competition or monopolistic growth? I am sorry to say that if banks are merged, if the number of banks are reduced, if banks are consolidated, then it would lead to monopolistic growth in the banking sector which, in my opinion, will impair upon the social obligation of banks. I can definitely say that consolidation will lead to weakening of the policy which the country need for promoting growth.

Sir, secondly, why does the hon. Finance Minister want consolidation? He has been very categorical in his assertion, We cannot accuse Shri Chidambaram of holding his cards close to his chest. In that respect he has been very transparent. What he says is the reason for consolidation? The reason for consolidation is to reap the economies of scale in terms of manpower and other resources, which means that he would like to rescue manpower. In order to reap the benefit of economies of scale, the hon. Finance Minister is pleading for reduction in manpower. Unfortunately, this is not the mandate. Shri Chidambaram today is a Member of the Lok Sabha and so are many of us because we pleaded for a change in the economic policies. We pleaded for an alternate policy. By speaking of consolidation, Shri Chidambaram has given an impression that he believes that there has to be VRS; there has to be retrenchment and there has to be more unemployment. It will lead to a situation where this country would have less job opportunities. Can we afford this? In order to reap the benefit of scale of economies in manpower, he is indirectly pleading for a reduction of manpower and is talking about redundancy of manpower. This will lead to less job opportunities and will contribute to the worsening of the unemployment scenario in this country. Can we afford that?

Sir, this is not all. It also means contractualisation. We find contractualisation in foreign banks. Shri Chidambaram is very fond of foreign banks. He would like the Indian banks to follow the footsteps of the global banks. What are the foreign banks doing in India? The foreign banks are found to be the conduits of finances to terrorists in the country. In the 80's, there was a Committee set up by the Reserve Bank of India under the Chairmanship of the former Governor of RBI, Shri Amitava Ghosh to look into this aspect. It categorically listed the criminality of the foreign banks. Now, Shri Chidambaram wants the Indian banks to follow the footsteps of the global banks, which means the foreign banks and, if it is done, it will lead to contractualisation, outsourcing and reduction of labour cost and in the process lead to benefit of scales of economies. Therefore, we are opposed to it lock, stock and barrel.

Sir, his third argument is that the banks should have a Capital Adequacy of the international standards. That is why, he has mentioned two things - Capital Adequacy and NPA - as a reason for consolidation and also as a reason for the changes that he would like to bring about in the banking sector. Most of the banks in the country, let me inform the House, if not all, are having Capital Adequacy - nine percent of the capital should be the risk advance -- of the international standard. Then, why should there be any further improvement? Why does the hon. Finance Minister want more? He would like to use the improvement in Capital Adequacy norm as a stick to beat down the nationalised banks and to drive these banks in the direction of the global banks. It is too weak an argument to plead for consolidation which will lead to monopolistic growth.

Sir, the Government has to right to talk about NPAs. Who are the defaulters? Shri Chidambaram can find a list of the defaulters from the RBI. Many of the defaulters are in the corridors of power. Government is too soft on them. The Government has not initiated any criminal proceedings against the defaulters to realise the sum locked because of NPA. There are not enough teeth in the law to punish the defaulting persons. Despite the previous NDA Government taking steps to realise the NPA, despite Shri Chidambaram having taken over the reigns of the Finance Minister for over six months what is the amount locked up because of NPA? In just one year, the total volume of NPA is about Rs. 18,000 crore. Would the Finance Minister kindly let us know the names of the defaulters? The Finance Minister never wants us to know the names of the defaulters. Why is it so? Why is this softness towards the defaulters? I would not like to use the word 'collusion' here because that is too bad a word to be used. But, why is this indulgence? The hon. Finance Minister the other day used the word 'forbearance' and I would like to use that word here. Why is he so indulgent? Only the names of the defaulters against whom suits have been filed have been made known. So, the increase in NPA is because of the collusion between the bank management and the defaulters, the indulgence of the RBI and forbearance and softness of the Minister of Finance. In order to kill a dog, give it a bad name. That is the kind of an argument he is making in order to plead for a qualitative change in the banking system.

Sir, what has been the fourth argument of the hon. Finance Minister? That is his real argument. He does not have a hidden agenda but this is his real agenda and this is where he is playing his cards close to his chest and that is the issue of FDI. He has an undiluted love for FDI and he also believes that FDI can be the most desirable tool to foster economic growth and that is why he is bringing about these changes. It is because of FDI that he is doing all these things. He is absolutely candid in his admission. I wish to read from his statement. He says:

[Shri Gurudas Dasgupta]

> "FDI flow will create an enabling environment for higher FDI flow along with infusion of new technology and management technology."

Sir, we are a country of 110 crores people. We need technology from FDI. We need improved technology through FDI and we cannot do it ourselves. We can hire technology; we can buy technology. For better technology we should not touch the feet of FDI. I am sorry to say that. But he has reasons for it. There is another reason for FDI.

He says: "Higher growth rates cannot be achieved and maintained unless the level of investment in the economy increases." He does not believe that domestic resources can be mobilized. For that, he says that there is a need to increasingly involve the private sector and also attract foreign investment. Therefore, the whole efficacy of the new Policy is his love for FDI. I plead that FDI cannot play a crucial role for the development of India. We have to believe that we have our own resources. Government has no political will to mobilise the domestic resources. Please tax the reach. Regarding bringing the green field area under the tax net, Government has no commitment because they are afraid to touch the rich people. Therefore, he has an illegitimate argument for having FDI. In order to win the hearts of FDIs, the banks are sought to be privatised, the banks are sought to be globalised and consolidated.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have taken more than 20 minutes. Please conclude now.

....(Interruptions)

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: The hon. Minister should not grudge.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): After this discussion, there is another discussion on the Supplementary Demands for Grants....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: That is the responsibility of the hon. Speaker and not that of the hon. Finance Minister. You are as much a Member as I am.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: My business must be completed.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: I know it. We will sit late to get your business done.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please address the Chair and conclude.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: My last point is this. He concludes saying about strengthening the banking sector for the benefit to the customers and preserve their trust. Who is the customer? Borrowers are the customers. Sir, he has no concern for the depositors. He has no concern for the leading role that the banks should play in the development of India. He has concern only for the borrowers. This is where we disagree. Mr. Chidambaram is drifting away from the fundamental principles of nationalisation. For FDI inflow, he is ready to surrender even the basic principles of the role of nationalised sector.

I would only give you two examples. Mr. Chidambaram asked for 74 percent control of the private banks. There are 29 private banks. Their capital is Rs. 3250 crore and deposit is Rs. 2,62,000 crore. If they are to purchase 74 percent of shares, then what will they invest? They will invest only Rs. 2,000 crore. By investing Rs. 2000 crore, the foreign corporates can control Rs. 2,62,000 crore of India's hard-earned savings.

Lastly, we have 27 banks. Total capital is Rs. 14,000 crore and deposit is Rs. 12,27,000 crore. He would like to reduce it. Most of the banks are having 70 percent shares. He would like to reduce it to 49 percent shares which means if the private sector spends nearly Rs. 3000 crore, they will have 49 percent representation on the Board, and they will have reasonable control in the banking policy. I am only saying this because I feel that India's hard-earned national savings deposited in the banks are sought to be privatised and are sought to be handed over to the foreign corporates and private corporates.

I would just give you one more example. A person in a private bank has taken a loan of Rs. 100 crore. He did not pay back the loan. But with Rs. 50 crore of that loan, he purchased the shares of the bank and became a member of the Board of Directors who are stealing the money of the banks. We will purchase the shares of the banks and will sit on the Board. And Mr. Chidambaram would have the satisfaction of handing over our Rs. 16 lakh crore either to the foreign corporates or to the private corporates.

Sir, let Mr. Chidambaram know that we shall oppose it. We shall suppose it tooth and nail. There is going to be a strike on 21st in General Insurance Corporation. There is going to be a strike in Dena Bank on 22nd of December. There is going to be a strike on the day on

which the shares are listed for sale. I request Mr. Chidambaram not to incur the displeasure of the people who have voted them to power. Please think of the people who have voted for you. Do not incur the displeasure of the people. You know what would be the effect if you incur their displeasure. I hope Mr. Chidambaram will kindly re-consider this policy.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I made my statement last week. I would have been happy if the hon. Member had once again paid attention to the facts stated in my statement and asked me questions to clarify anything which I may have left ambiguous in my statement. The thrust of his intervention is not to ask questions but to give expression to his own personal views on the subject, which I respect, although I may not agree with all of them, and convert this into a mini debate. If I may say so, there is nothing ambiguous in my statement. My statement is clear, categorical and states the Government's policy which is totally consistent with the National Common Minimum Programme.

The Narasimhan Committee was appointed and gave its Report in 1991. The Congress Government, then the United Front Government, then the NDA Government in its own way, and now the UPA Government, have implemented many reforms, including banking reforms. The question which every hon. Member should ask himself is: Has our banking sector become stronger, thanks to the reforms or not? One can have an ideological view, which opposes the banking reforms. But it is universally acknowledged that our banks are stronger today. Both public sector banks as well as private sector banks are stronger today. Especially public sector banks are extremely stronger today.

I remember in 1997-98, several banks were floundering. Among them were two banks headquartered in my State of Tamil Nadu, in Chennai, and three banks headquartered in West Bengal, in Kolkata. Today, all five of them have turned around and are now stronger, thanks to reforms. If the hon. Member has any doubt about my commitment to make the banking sector stronger, all that he needs to do is to go to Kolkata and meet with the union of UCO Bank, meet with the trade union of United Bank of India, meet with the trade union of Allahabad Bank. ...*(Interruptions)* They will tell him how, thanks to the intervention of the Government, banks have become stronger, thanks to reforms, banks have become stronger.

These figures have been presented many times in this House. Even last week I presented these figures in an answer to a Question on banks. I do not feel tired of repeating them. Let me repeat them again. Hon. Member has said that NPAs have grown. Obviously, he relies on his own figures. I can only rely on official figures.

In 2002-03 and 2003-04, net NPA of public sector has declined from 4.53 percent to 2.98 percent. Is that growth or decline? Is that strength or weakness? The net NPA of nationalised banks has declined from 4.74 percent to 3.13 percent. The net NPA of the State Bank of India Group has declined from 4.12 percent to 2.71 and even in the detested private sector banks, the net NPA has declined from 2.32 percent to 1.32 percent. This is with regard to net NPA. Gross NPAs have also declined. I could give you figures of profitability, I could give you figures of spread, I could give you figures of expansion and I could give you figures of interest rates. In every parameter, our banks have become stronger, thanks to reforms implemented since the Narasimhan Committee Report of 1991. What we are doing is, take this reform process forward and when we do that, we will certainly consult our partners, we will certainly consult Opposition parties and we will certainly take Parliament into confidence. Obviously, I have no way of amending any law without parliamentary approval.

Let me quickly deal with the three points on which the hon. Member had pointed questions. The first point he said is, if a nationalised bank or a public sector bank becomes a global bank, it will lose its social objectives. I can hardly understand the logic. If a public sector bank remains a public sector bank and if the Government has the majority of ownership of a public sector bank, why would it lose its social objectives? On the contrary, there is enormous literature which talks about consolidation, competition and convergence as the three 'Cs' driving the banking sector all over the world and India cannot be immune to what is happening all over the world. Consolidation, competition and convergence are the three mantras which all banks have to follow, including Indian public sector banks. When that happens, our public sector banks will be stronger, not weaker. Their footprints will traverse to a larger part of India, not confined to cities and urban areas. They will serve more customers, not less. For example, we have four crore borrowers in the farm sector from our banks and this year, we have announced in the 18th June Policy that we would add another 50 lakhs. In one year, we are going to add another 50 lakh institutional borrowers. This can only improve if our banks are stronger, and strength, to a large extent, comes from scale and size.

[Shri P. Chidambaram]

Sir, in the top 200 banks in this world, India has one bank and Indian banks are smaller than banks in Taiwan. Out of the top 200 banks in the world, India has one bank, namely, the State Bank of India and its rank is 82. The next Indian bank, ICICI Bank is somewhere between 400 to 450 in terms of size. As a great nation aspiring to be an economic powerhouse, do we not aspire that among the top 200 banks in the world we should have at least half-a-dozen banks? That is precisely what consolidation is about. The banking sector has realised it, bank managements have realised it, the Standing Committee on Finance, which I will quote presently, has realised it, the UPA Government realises it, the Coordination Committee realises it and, contrary to what the hon. Member said, we have discussed this subject in the Coordination Committee and we are fully keeping the leaders of the parties represented in the Coordination Committee involved.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I record my disapproval of the statement that the Coordination Committee has approved. ...*(Interruptions)* It is far from truth.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please do not disturb him.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, I am not yielding. It is not for him to deny it here. ...*(Interruptions)* He is not in the Coordination Committee. He cannot deny it.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: We have never given you the green signal.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I am speaking from my personal knowledge.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: I am also speaking from my personal knowledge.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: He cannot speak from personal knowledge because he was not on the Committee.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: It is not the question of being on the Committee, it is the question of Knowledge of the past...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No disturbance please.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: He has asked certain clarifications and I have answered them.

The next point that the hon. Member says in that consolidation is opposed to competition. Again, I am puzzled. Why is consolidation is opposed to competition? As I said, consolidation will make banks more competitive. It gives them a more competitive edge. It is consolidation which will make our banks not only competitive in the Indian context, it will make them globally competitive.

Finally, he says, 'a statement reaping the benefits of scale means reducing manpower'. Again, I am puzzled. Why should reaping the benefits of scale mean reducing the manpower? Reaping the benefits of scale will mean increasing the number of bank branches, increasing the banking business, increasing turnover, increasing your deposits, increasing you lending and, to the extent the manpower is required, banks will recruit manpower. For examples, after the 18th June Policy, after a long break, after a break of about five or six years, for the first time, under the direction of this government, under my direction, banks are recruiting agriculture graduates in order to lend more to agriculture. Many banks are recruiting as many as a hundred agriculture graduates in order to ensure that farm credit is given.

I do not understand any of these criticisms because they do not seem logical to me. They do not follow from my statements. In fact, hon. Member and Members of the House should know that banking reforms and the steps that we are taking are a continuation of the steps that have been announced from time to time. For example, Section 12, sub-section (2) of the Banking Regulation Act was sought to be amended by introducing a Bill in this House. The Bill was referred to the Standing Committee. The Standing Committee consisted of Members of all parties, including three from the CPI (M) and one from the CPI also, and every other party. This is what the Committee said in its unanimous report and I quote:

> "The Committee after after having examined the provisions of the Bill and after having considered the material placed and evidence tendered before them by the Government, public sector and private sector banks are convinced of the Objects and Reasons of the Bill. They are of the view that this Bill will not only provide for setting up of subsidiaries of foreign banks, but it will also pave the way for consolidation process in Indian private banks. They feel that as far as sub-section 2 of Section 12 of the Banking Regulation Act goes, the opportunities will be available to all investors and the investment will not remain confined to foreign banks only. They are constrained

'ɔ observe that this vital information should have been mentioned in the Statement of Objects and Reasons. They want the Government to make suitable amendments in this regard."

Consolidation, competition, convergence are the three forces driving banking reforms all over the world. Consolidation was suggested by the Narasimhan Committee way back in 1991. We are encouraging banks to consolidate among themselves. We are not giving any directions. The process of consolidation starts from the bank themselves. If a bank wants to consolidate with another banks, Government certainly will view that with favour.

As regards legislative chances, I will certainly come to this House if any legislative changes have to be made. I cannot make any changes to any banking law without the approval of this House. When I come to this House with legislative changes, surely this House will have an opportunity to debate.

Let me conclude by saying that banking reforms implemented by successive Government since 1991 have made our banks stronger more competitive and more beneficial to all sections of borrowers and depositors. I think, we should continue on the path of reforms, including banking sector reforms.

14.49 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I think, the hon. Members will agree with me that Matters under Rule 377 be treated as laid on the Table of the House just to save time because today we have so much other work to do.

(i) Need to build a high bank canal in Sabarkantha district of Gujarat for the benefit of farmers

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY (Sabarkantha): The Sabarkantha District, northern and north-eastern parts of Banaskantha District in Gujarat are always under the drought situation. The agriculture is rain-fed and the irrigation facilities are scanty. There are numbers of dams built in this region; however, the catchment areas of these dams bordering Rajasthan remain unirrigated. This region also does not fall in the command area of Narmada canal.

In view of this, the high-bank canal along the border of Gujarat-Rajasthan in Sabarkantha district should be constructed to assure crops to farmers to alleviate poverty in this region. The Minister of Water Resources should initiate the step in this direction with the Government of Gujarat and allocate appropriate amount of money for construction of this high-bank canal in Sabarkantha district and for the parts of Banaskantha district.

(ii) Need to release funds directly to the Gram Panchayat Presidents in Tamil Nadu for undertaking developmental work in their areas

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN (Palani): There are 5 municipal corporations, 102 municipalities, 611 town Panchayats, 385 unions and 12618 village Panchayats in Tamil Nadu. Presently, the Central Government releases funds to the District Rural Development Agency which is under the control of the State Government and they send the money to the Gram Panchayats. For the past three years, the State Government is not providing any funds to the Gram Panchayats. By virtue of Tenth Finance Commission, the Tamil Nadu Government allocated Rs. 32,000 p.m. to Rs. 50,000 p.m. to every Panchayat, out of which the State Government deducts about 90 percent money as dues of electricity. With the meagre balance amount the Gram Panchayats are not able to give even the salaries of the staff. All developmental work in the Panchayats comes to a standstill in view of the severe financial crunch. The public could not get even the basic facilities such as drinking water, sanitation, etc. from the Panchayats. The Panchayat Presidents find if very difficult to face the public due to their helplessness. The situation is now alarming in the State and about 4000 Panchayat Presidents have already decided to resign their post.

Sir, I demand that an amount of not less than Rs. 10 lakh per year be released directly to the Gram Panchayat presidents for developmental work under their jurisdiction every year.

(iii) Need to computerize the rail reservation facility at Khairthal Railway Station in Jaipur Division of Rajasthan

[Translation]

DR. KARAN SINGH YADAV(Alwar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Khairthal is a major railway station in Jaipur division of North West Railway from where the railway department earns a revenue of more than one crore rupees every year. The population of this place and nearby areas is more than one lakh. The Government of India has also declared Khairthal as a satellite town of national capital project.

---

*Treated as laid on the Table.

[Dr. Karan Singh Yadav]

At present 5 pair of 10 express and superfast express trains have stoppage at Khairthal in which passengers travel daily to Jammu, Delhi, Ambala, Hardwar, Dehradun, Mumbai, Porbandar, New Bhuj, Palanpur, Mehsana, Aburoad and Ajmer. People have to travel to Alwar, Jaipur or Delhi to get the reservations done as there is no reservation facility at Khairthal. It is wastage of time and money of the passengers Revenue of almost Rs. 50 lakh from Khairthal is getting added to the income of other stations and Khairthal is suffering the loss of Rs. 50-60 lakh every year due to which this station is deprived of other facilities.

At present, construction work worth crores of rupees is being carried out at Khairthal Station. The thousands of inhabitants of Khairthal would not have to go to other stations for reservations if computerized reservation centre is provided there alongwith this construction work. On an average 2000 passengers alight at Khairthal and the same number of passengers boards trains from here everyday. There is no point of justification in depriving Khairthal of the reservation facility when railway department has provided this facility at other less important stations.

Therefore, I would like to request the hon. Minister of Railways to provide computerised reservation facility at Khairthal-Alwar immediately.

(iv) Need to take steps to check the declining ground water level in Dausa and other districts of Rajasthan.

SHRI SACHIN PILOT (Dausa): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, ground water level is depleting continuously in my constituency, Dausa and almost entire Rajasthan due to continuous drought and excessive demand of water.

This area is agro based and shortage of water is creation difficulties for the farmers and agriculture labourers. Apart from this, people engaged in animal husbandry too are facing severe problems due to the non-availability of water.

The State Government is spending crores of rupees every year on the famine relief works but there is an urgent need to conserve water and develop water resources to find out a permanent solution of this problem. There are several rivers and canals in my constituency on which small dams can be constructed. Moreover, it would be beneficial to construct small anicuts at certain distances.

On one hand drought and famine like situations have arisen, on the other hand wells, hand pumps and tube wells are drying up. Moreover, the supply of power is nominal due to which there is no options for irrigation. Keeping in view the seriousness of the situation I particularly request the agriculture and rural development ministries to implement projects for increasing water level and conserving available water immediately.

(v) Need to expand the Indore Railway Station by acquiring land in the adjoining areas

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN (Indore): Mr. Speaker, Sir, as per the latest census population of Indore has increased to approximately 25 lakh and in view of the increased population and future needs the existing capacity of the Railway station is insufficient. At present 18 pairs of broad gauge trains and approximately same numbers of meter gauge trains are running from the Indore. There were three mills of NTC in Indore which are lying closed and the Ministry of Textile propose to revive other mills of the State to clear outstanding dues of the labourers by selling the lands of the said mills land of the Swadeshi and Kalyan mill is adjacent to railway line and it is suitable for extension of Railways line, railway station and the Railway Workshops meant for providing the maintenance facilities for the Trains. Both the undertakings are under the Government of India so it would not be difficult for railways to acquire the land of the said undertakings. I request the Ministry of Railway to acquire these land to undertake the development/ expansion work of Indore Railway Station.

(vi) Need for extending Central assistance to the Government of Gujarat for re-surveying the village of the tribal areas in the State

[English]

SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR (Vadodara): The project proposal of re-survey of 2788 villages out of 3750 villages of tribal areas of Gujarat at the estimated cost of Rs. 350.65 lakhs has been prepared and sent to the Central Government on 30.12.2003. Subsequently, two reminders in this regard, were sent on 5.2.2004 and 4.3.2004. Unfortunately, no Central assistance has been released by the Central Government so far.

I urge the Government to release the amount without much loss to time.

(vii) Need to permit Government of Rajasthan to utilize the balance sanctioned amount for completion of Mewar Complex project in the State

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI (Udaipur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Minister of Tourism, Government of India had sanctioned an amount of 3 crore rupees to be paid in three installments during the year 1998-99 and 1999-2000 for the work related to Mewar Complex. However out of this amount Rs. 2.8 crores are still lying unutilised because the Government of India had directed the Government of Rajasthan not to spend further amount without getting specific approval from the Central Government.

In this regard a meeting at the level of Ministry of Tourism and Culture, Government of India was held in October, 2003. Tourism, Secretary of the Government of Rajasthan also attended this meeting and in principle it was agreed that the Government of Rajasthan will complete the rest of the work with said remaining funds. Accordingly, tenders were invited, despite all this. Department of Culture, Government of India asked the Rajasthan Government to return the remaining amount vide its letter dated 31.12.2003. This matter was reconsidered in the meeting convened on April, 8, 2004 and it was agreed that the Government of Rajasthan will utilise the said amount for the completion of the remaining work by ensuring these funds would not be utilised for those work that are being undertaken by this scheme. Under this scheme a plan involving an amount of 12.44 crore has been formulated for the development of the following places related to the life of the Maharana Pratap:

1. Haldighat (where battle was fought)
2. Gogunda (where coronation took place)
3. Chanvad (where Maharana Pratap laid down his life)

Through this House I request the Hon'ble Minister of Tourism to allow the State Government to spend remaining funds to complete the unfinished work. Accordingly, the work being carried out by the Central Government should be completed at the earliest and a proposal for the development of Tourism for 2004-2005 should be passed.

(viii) Need for four laning of National Highway No. 215 stretching from Panikoili to Rajamunda in Orissa

[English]

SHRI ANANTA NAYAK (Keonjhar): The State road from Panikoili to Rajamunda was accorded sanction in June 1998 as a national highway. Since then no significant steps have been taken to upgrade that road in my Constituency as a National Highway despite the fact that the people of several parts of the State depend on that road for transporting minerals. Everyday 11 thousand trucks ply on that road carrying iron ore, manganese from the hinterland to Paradip Port for expert purposes. As the road has been declared as a National Highway the State Government is not taking any step for its maintenance. As a result of that the movement of traffic has become very difficult.

Unless the Highway is made four lane the congestion of traffic cannot be reduced. The plight of the users of that National Highway will further increase since that is the only direct route to connect Cuttack, the commercial capital and Bhubaneswar, the Capital of Orissa. The proposal to make the National Highway four lane has been pending since long.

In view of that, I demand that the National Highway No. 215 be upgraded to four lane and the entire work be completed by the end of Tenth Plan. The fund may be adequately allocated for that National Highway without any further delay.

(ix) Need to review the decision to demote a large number of Principals of Kendriya Vidyalayas

SHRI P. MOHAN (Madurai): About 300 principals who were working in Kendriya Vidyalaya all over the country were demoted all of a sudden by the Ministry of Human Resource Development. All these principals who were selected about four or five years back temporarily first and regularised subsequently, after conducting special examinations had been working for the past four years.

Moreover, their appointments were approved by the Board of Directors under the chairmanship of Minister, Human Resource Development. In the circumstances, without any prior notice or explanation, they have been demoted and that was done by a Commissioner. A Commissioner cannot alter the decision of the Board of Directors under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble HRD Minister.

[Shri P. Mohan]

Secondly, whatever mistakes have been occurred, that is the mistake of the management and not the mistake of concerned principals. In such a situation, blaming the principals and demoting them is not proper and justified. This will affect the educational activities in those institutions. Hence, the Ministry of HRD should reconsider and withdraw the decision of demoting these 300 principals.

(x) Need to take steps to check the decline in the water level in the country

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail): Mr. Speaker, Sir, excessive exploitation of ground water have depleted the ground water level below the alarming level. Central Government should take it seriously. Laws should be formulated in this regard and circulated to all the States. Exploitation of underground water is being done for industrial as well as domestic needs. Central Ground Water Authority should be issued a notification to check the unscrupulous exploitation of ground water and ensure its strict adherence.

In the regions where ground water level has reached to alarming level vested in with full authority to check the unscrupulous exploitation of ground water. Some States have not been paying any attention to the model bill sent to them by the Centre. Water is a very sensitive matter and one can not live even a single day without water.

(xi) Need to construct a reservoir in the upper reaches of Chandan river in Banka area of Bihar

SHRI GIRIDHARI YADAV(Banka): Mr. Speaker, Sir, through this House I would like to state that the Banka area in Bihar reels under the fury of floods every year. Consequently several villages are submerged by flood water and several people lose their lives. Besides, it also results in the death of cattle and fields of farmers get inundated with water. This has become a perennial problem. Main cause of flood is release of water from Chandan river. The embankment of this river is very weak. This flood can be controlled by constructing a reservoir. Besides, construction of upper reservoir some other measures should also be taken by the centre for controlling flood so as to provide relief to lakhs of people.

Through this House, I request the Government to construct a upper reservoir on Chandan river. Union Government should take steps to control the floods.

(xii) Need to provide funds for building a proper drainage system in Fatehpur city U.P.

SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD NISHAD(Fatehpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the hon'ble Minister of Urban Development that conditions of Urban districts in rural areas is not as good as that of the newly developed urban centres in the vicinity of Metropolitan cities. Fatehpur district is spread over a length of 7 km. and breadth of 7 km with a population of about three lakh. In absence of a proper sewage disposal system, the routine life of the city gets disrupted owing to the stagnant sewage water throughout the city. In 1989 the then Prime Minister made an announcement for sewer lines in large scale for the disposal of sewage, but this has not been implemented so far.

I, therefore, demand from the Government of India to allocate necessary funds for early commencement of work of laying of sewer line from Shanti Nagar to Bada Pool in District Fatehpur City, Uttar Pradesh.

(xiii) Need to conduct an enquiry into the work executed under the Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana in Saran and Sewan districts of Bihar

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, India is called the country of villages, and India lives in its villages. But the villages of India are still far away from development. Even after passage of a long period of our independence the villages have yet to get access to the basic amenities.

To fulfil this object Pradhan Mantri Gram Sarak Yojana was started by the Central Government to bring th villages into mainstream but the Central Government have failed to fulfil this objective in all over the country, particularity in Saran and Sewan districts of Bihar. Now there is hardly any trace of road in Saran and Sewan districts of Bihar. What to speak of plying vehicle even the pedestrians find it difficult to move along such road. The roads constructed under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sarak Yojana is also in dilapidated condition. Construction work of roads has been pending for years.

Through you, I demand from the Central Government to conduct an enquiry by the Vigilance department into the work executed under the Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sarak Yojana in Saran and Sewan districts of Bihar.

(xiv) Need to address the problem of pesticide residues in soft drinks

[English]

SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR (Calicut): Media reports are suggesting that farmers are using soft drinks - Coke, Pepsi and other such drinks - as an insecticide in their fields. Farmers, in many districts of Chattisgarh, MP and AP, say that these drinks are very effective in killing pests in their farms and have began replacing conventional pesticides for these products. Scientists, quoted in these news reports, have been amazed by this discovery of farmers but cannot expelling how these drinks, made and consumed by people, are being effective in killing pesticides.

It will also be noted that in February, 2004, the Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) on pesticide residues in and safety standards for soft drinks, fruit juices and other beverages had concluded that the report, which and analysed and found pesticides in the drinks was correct. Rajasthan High Court has directed that the soft drink company to inform consumers about the quantum of pesticides in their bottles by printing the details on their label. The Supreme Court has also endorsed this ruling, which now means that people will at least know and have the choice about consuming pesticides.

But this is clearly not adequate. The fact is that children in our country consume these drinks and it is of great concern that farmers use these same drinks as pesticides. The JPC recommendations have not been implemented so that standards for the final product are mandated for these drinks to ensure consumer safety. The Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has only mandated the quality of water that will be used in the manufacture of these drinks, which will not protect public health as it will not assure consumers of the total quantum of pesticides has been regulated.

(xv) Need to instruct NEEPCO to resume the work on Turial Hydro Power Project in Mizoram

SHRI VANLAL ZAWMA (Mizoram): I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards temporary closure of Turial Hydro Power Project (60 MW) in Mizoram. It is important to mention that NEEPCO has already invested approx. Rs. 250 crore in the project.

NEEPCO had agreed to pay Rs. 8 crore compensation to the local population. NEEPCO has already paid Rs. 4 crore compensation on time. But the trouble started due to non-payment of the rest Rs. 4 crore compensation after three months of the due date. The local population started peaceful agitation on June, 2004 for the outstanding compensation to be paid by NEEPCO. In September, 2004, local people withdrew agitation to resume the project for the interest of the nation at large.

Till date NEEPCO has not resumed the work. NEEPCO is claiming escalation in the project estimation due to temporary closure of the project. If NEEPCO does not start the project immediately, the cost of the project will further increase. We may land up in a no return situation. If the compensation is the bottleneck, the State Government has already written to the Power Ministry to reassess the compensation.

I request the Government of India to intervene in the matter and instruct NEEPCO to start the project immediately and settle the matter of compensation.

14.50 hrs.

DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS—(GENERAL) 2004-2005—*Contd.*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, the House shall take up Item No.14, further discussion on the Supplementary Demands for Grants 2004-05. Shri Adhir Chowdhury will continue.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY (Berhampore, West Bengal): Sir, in continuation to my yet-to-be concluded deliberation on Supplementary Demands for Grants, I would like to add a few more paras.

Sir, first of all, I must convey my warm and hearty congratulations to the UPA Government as this is the first time since Independence that the UPA Government has taken special steps to put a check on erosion, which has been devastating various parts of West Bengal has virtually and drastically changed geographically Murshidabad, Malda and other districts also. The Government has already constituted a Task Force in this direction and erosion-affected people have started heaving a sigh of relief after getting rid of this devastating erosion which existed over the years.

Again, I would urge upon the Government, through the hon. Finance Minister, to see that West Bengal is such a State which has been affected by arsenic

[Shri Adhir Chowdhury]

contamination. As many as four crore people in the State of West Bengal have been living under the constant threat of arsenic menace. In the Murshidabad district, out of 26 blocks, 22 blocks have been affected by arsenic contamination, well exceeding the tolerance limits as prescribed by the World Health Organisation.

The Opposition has been pulling up their socks to discredit the brilliant performance of our hon. Finance Minster. But, Sir, a few days earlier, no less a person than the Nobel laureate, Prof. Amartya Sen had praised lavishly the performance of UPA Government. I just read a few lines from *The Statesman*.

> "Calling for greater Government activity in social sectors, especially basic education and health care, Nobel Laureate Prof. Amartya Sen, who spoke at the India Habitat Centre here today said that the Indian economy have suffered from chronic under-activity in these fields on the one hand and over-activity, particularly licence raj, on the other hand. Prof. Sen said the 1992 reforms had tried to address the problems but they could not be dealt with effectively. But, there is considerable evidence now that the present Government is more committed to remove that imbalance in the social sector."

Our hon. Finance Minister has struck a balance between mutually reinforcing objective of equity, stability and growth. Special emphasis has been put on social upgradation, employment generation, and reduction on dependence on disinvestment. Therefore, Sir, Opposition may be angry over the performance of this Government.

Already, macro-economic fundamentals are indicative of the growth of our economy. Production of basic goods, capital goods, intermediate goods and consumer durables are maintaining sustained growth. Index of six infrastructure industries increased by 5.6 percent in April-August as compared to 4.2 percent; Export growth has registered an increase by 24.4 percent as compared to 8.1 percent; indirect tax collections grew by 11.73 percent till November; Customs Duty is showing an increase of 12.10 percent and Excise Duty grew by 7.58 percent. Service Tax during first eight months increased by 62.13 percent. The rate of growth of the manufacturing sector over the corresponding period last year remained consistently at 8 percent. Consumer durable showed double-digit growth. BoP both in terms of Current and Capital accounts recorded surpluses of Rs. 1.9 billion and Rs. 5.6 billion during the first quarter. Foreign Exchange reserve touched Rs. 7.5 billion during April-June, 2004. External debt has increased to Rs. 112.66 billion as compared to 112.5 billion at the end of March, 2004.

Long-term debt declined by Rs. 1.1 billion to Rs. 106.7 billion. Short-term debt rose by Rs. 1.2 billion due to trade-related credits on account of buoyant imports.

The total expenditure of the Government during April-September, 2004 was Rs. 1,95,573 crore or 41 percent of the Budget Estimate for the year 2004-05 compared to Rs. 2,17,101 crore or 49 percent of the Budget Estimate for the year 2003-04. The capital expenditure during April-September, 2004 was Rs. 29,115 crore compared to Rs. 25,074 crore in April-September, 2003.

The Plan expenditure goes up by Rs. 6,384 crore in absolute terms. The non-Plan expenditure by April-September has gone up to Rs. 1,42,299 crore compared to Rs. 1,70,211 crore.

The Central pool remained consistently above the buffer stock norms as per the recommendation of the Expenditure Reforms Commission in the first half. The stock on October 1, 2004 was at 20.3 million tonnes, 12 percent higher than the buffer stock norm of 18.1 million tonnes, and excess stock of food grains has subsidy implications in the form of carrying cost.

Sir, as you know, the penury and petty syndrome has been done away with by the present Government. We do not want the food grains to be rotten in our godowns.

Scheduled commercial bank credit was increased by 11.3 percent against four percent. Food credit was increased by Rs. 2,677 crore against Rs. 12,107 crore in the previous year, with a turn around of Rs. 14,800 crore.

Non-food credit had registered a robust increase of 11.5 percent against six percent.

On the expenditure front, the centre has been able to reduce the outgo on subsidies from Rs. 26,439 crore to Rs. 21,995 crore.

The Union Budget proposed a blueprint on subsidies prepared by the National Institute of Public Finance.

Sir, we are very much concentrating on quality expenditure by curtailing the wasteful expenditure and by fiscal consideration while sustaining the growth momentum with renewed thrust on welfare economies. However, the inflationary trend is very much evident on account of high oil prices, combined risk of high and uncertain oil prices. The sudden change of international liquidity environment had become a matter of concern. However,

the inflationary trend has further been compounded by the increasing prices of steel and metal. Therefore, may I ask the hon. Finance Minister whether he is contemplating anything to contain the inflationary trend?

Sir, as we know, India is an oil importing country. The oil situation has been aggravated by the Iraq war, by the strike in Venezuela, and by the controversy about the control of Yukos in Russia. Therefore, may I ask the hon. Finance Minister whether he is conceiving stabilization of fund for the survival of Oil Pool Account? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude. You have spoken for 18 minutes.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: I will take a few more minutes.

Sir, we are well aware that in the wake of phasing out of agreement on textile and cloth, India is on the verge of obtaining a wide opportunity in view of our multi-fibre raw material base. However, the share of our textiles in the world is nominal, just three percent in comparison to the Chinese share of 25 percent. I ask the hon. Finance Minister whether, in view of the situation, the Indian textile market could be swamped by the invasion of silk or cotton yarn from China through Bangladesh.

15.00 hrs.

I want to know whether it has been reviewed or not. Is any pre-emptive measure being taken up by this Government? The Opposition parties were resorting to unconvincing arguments. May I just tell one story to them?

"Nigahen Jinki Nahin hai, Ubharte hue Suraj Par,
Ve dubte hue taron ki baat karte hain
Congress ke Saath, hum Janta ke Saath,
Congress kaa haath, aam Janta ke saath."

SHRI SAMIK LAHIRI (Diamond Harbour): Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to express the view of my Party on this Demands for Supplementary Grants which is before us to be debated.

Sir, I do agree that within a span of six months, no Government can be tested. We have to wait at least one financial year to know or to judge the financial management, the expenditure and income, the overall Budget and policy of the Government. So, I do not wish to go into the details of all those things. When the hon. Finance Minister had placed the Budget on the 8th of July this year before this House, he was quite optimistic on two counts. First, he very candidly expressed the view of the UPA Government that this Budget would uphold the interest of the rural and the poor population of this country. They were neglected for the last six years. The second part was that he was quite optimistic that there would be increase of revenue sources.

If I quote the Finance Minister, while presenting his Budget, in his Budget speech in paragraph 52, he said about the revenue income. "Beside, my tax proposals, I have looked at another source of revenue. There are large recoverable arrears both in direct taxes and in indirect taxes." Again he went on saying, "Even the undisputed arrears are quite substantial. I have, therefore, assumed that I would be able to recover a tidy sum this year." With this, we also expressed our opinion on behalf of our Party that with this additional income, definitely a chunk of money would go or would be spent for the poor and the rural population of our country.

Now, if we go to the second aspect about revenue collection, it is a fact that on all counts, so far as indirect tax is concerned, if we compare the month of October in the previous year with the month of October this year, definitely the collection of customs duty, excise duty and service tax is much higher in terms of percentage and in terms of quantity. Even if we compare last year from April to September with this year, here also we will see that there is a definite increase in customs duty, excise duty and service tax by 69 percent. But some reports appeared in the newspaper that the Government has internally asked the different revenue collection departments to raise the target, and the Government is in a fear that there will be a shortfall in tax collection. In case of customs duty, Rs. 2,000 crore has been fixed as their target. In case of service tax, it is fixed as Rs. 2,000 crore. In the direct tax component, Rs. 5,000 crore has been revised, and they have been directed to fix up their target to an additional Rs. 5,000 crore.

The hon. Minister of Finance has to definitely spell out before us whether the tax collection is quite satisfactory or not. We apprehend that whenever there is a huge fiscal deficit and whenever there is a fall in revenue collection, all the social sectors get the maximum hit in social expenditure like health, education, etc. Even in the previous year's Budget, when the NDA Government was there, we saw that in the Revised Estimates, the social sector expenditure was reduced to a huge extent. So, definitely, we would like the hon. Minister of Finance to enlighten us how really the tax collection is moving. ...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): Sir, let me assure the House, the latest figures show that we are on target. In income tax, corporation tax, and customs duties, we are on target.

The reason why, internally, maybe, the Department has increased the target in some of these heads is because we are doing well; and so they may have internally increased the target. I am not admitting to any increase in target but internally if the Department has done so that is a point in favour.

In personal income tax, corporation tax, and custom duties, we are on target. It is only on excise duties that we are slightly behind. One of the reasons for this is that we have cut excise duty on petroleum products. That is one of the reasons but I am confident that we would try to make up as much as possible on excise duties also. On service tax, as the hon. Member has also said, the collection is quite buoyant.

When I reply to the debate, I would give that exact figures; but since he said that this has appeared in the newspapers. I thought this clarification should also appear in the newspapers tomorrow. On personal income tax, corporation tax and customs duties, we are bang on target; in fact, we are slightly ahead.

SHRI SAMIK LAHIRI: I thank the hon. Minister of Finance for this positive and very good intervention. Even after the clarification made by the hon. Minister of Finance, so far as excise duties are concerned, there is definitely room for improvement. The prices of steel and petroleum products were going up and therefore the Government decided to go for a tax cut in these sectors but it is also a fact that the manufacturing sector has grown and the average industrial growth was higher compared to last year. Still, why has the excise duty collection remained lower? I think, the Government should look into this aspect also.

So far as direct tax is concerned, on corporate income tax and personal income tax, it has been categorically assured by the hon. Minister of Finance that the collections are on target. It is true that they are on target but if we look at the arrears that are pending and the total arrears realised this year, it is definitely much higher than last year. This year, the figure that I have got is Rs. 3,462 crore; last year, it was Rs. 2780 crore. There is still a huge amount of arrears pending. The CIT arrears, as on September 1, 2004 was Rs. 40,392 crore; the pesonal income tax arrears is Rs. 43,190 crore. So, I would like to know what is being done about collection of arrears. In the Budget Speech, the hon. Minister of Finance had assured this House that other sources like arrears which were pending, including undisputed arrears, would be very efficiently collected. So, the Government must look into this aspect also and tell us why so much of arrears are still pending.

When the petroleum price were much higher, the Government decided to go for a tax cut. I have a basic question to ask. It is the easiest way to put the tax on the petroleum sector because the Government gets the revenue at the source itself. So, why does the Government not explore the other resources? How many people are within the tax net now?

so far as I remember the figure, it is just above three crores. The number of people who are paying direct tax, income tax is below three crore. What is the market size of people who can afford to buy anything? According to the speeches on several occasions made by the Finance Minister or the hon. Prime Minister, the total market size is around 18 crore to 20 crore, who can purchase anything, any consumer durable. Why are they out of the tax net? How is this Government going to bring them within the tax net? Why are they not going to collect tax from them? It is the easiest way to put tax on the petroleum products and to put the burden on the nation. This is a very easy way. Now, definitely, that thing is very painful. The way I am speaking here, it is not so easy to realise or to bring all those sections into the tax net, but definitely, we should expect it from the UPA Government that overall revenue income will definitely go up and the burden, which is being put on the shoulders of the people, can be avoided very well. Why is this path not being taken by the Government? I intend to know that. We need to do this. There is another point.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please conclude. You have taken more than 11 minutes.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SAMIK LAHIRI: Sir, the second thing is that so far as the arrears in the indirect tax component....

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I have a list of more than 20 hon. Members who want to speak.

SHRI SAMIK LAHIRI: Sir, our party is having only two speakers.

MD. SALIM (Calcutta - North East): Discussion is about crores and crores of rupees and only 20 Members to speak!. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SAMIK LAHIRI: Sir, if we discuss arrears on the indirect taxes side also, we will find that in the customs, there are arrears of Rs. 3,702 crore and in the excise also, there are huge arrears. How are these arrears going to be realised by the Government? What plan do they to realise these arrears? I wish to know that.

Now, I go to the expenditure side of mid-term Budget. I must say one point before this House that in the mid-term review also, it has been spelt out that major subsidies have been decreased by Rs. 4,444 crore. On what count were these reduced? They were reduced on food grains and on petroleum, particularly kerosene and LPG. who are using all these things? If these subsidies are removed, how is the UPA Government going to serve the people who have been deceived for the last six years by the other government, by the NDA Government? Definitely, we must take into account the problems of the people, what the intention of the people was at the time of casting their votes and electing this Government and where the people's agenda goes. If we remove subsidies on things which are being used by the common people, by the poor people, by the downtrodden people and by the middle-class, and keep on taxing them on the other hand, how will the commitment of the UPA Government be fulfilled? I again request this Government to reconsider its decision on this particular account.

If we look at the fiscal deficit, we find that there is no sign that the fiscal deficit is going to be reduced. What is happening? I apprehend it is going to happen as to what has happened in the past. It has happeneed everytime, as I mentioned just before, that always the social service sectors are getting hit out of it, always the expenditure on education, health and rural development is reduced. If I take the example of rural development, I can quote the Finance Minister. In a debate, on the point of expenditure on or allocation for rural development, the Finance Minister had said: Compare it with the revised budget because there was ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please conclude your speech.

SHRI SAMIK LAHIRI: I am concluding within five minutes.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Not five minutes, you conclude within one minute.

SHRI SAMIK LAHIRI: The Finance Minister had said: Compare it with the revised budget. Now, even if we consider the original allocation, that is, BE and add to it whatever is now proposed to be allocated for rural development, the total amount comes to just above Rs.7,000 crore.

What is going to happen if we fail to address the problems of the rural population? What is going to happen if we fail to address the basic problems of our country? We can talk a lot about growth, namely, such and such is the percentage of growth in our country, this sort of thing is happening. etc. What is the ground reality of our country, even though we are using many terminologies for it?

If we look at the Human Development Report, our rank is 127th. If we look at the public expenditure on health, it is below 1 percent. If we look at the public expenditure on education, it is around 4 percent. It is good that this Government has decided to impose cess. During the Budget debate also we had mentioned that the Government should look into this cess. Is this cess entirely spent on education or is it being diverted to some other places? How is this Government going to ensure it? How this Government is going to take care of the public expenditure on different social sectors? All this is not, unfortunately, being reflected in the Mid-term Review or in the Supplementary Budget, which appeared before us.

Sir, we are talking about reforms, and it is all right. Reforms are going on, but we are talking about land reforms. In Bengal, we can say from our own experience, with the help of land reforms the market size has been expanded. Why are we not going for land reforms? Why is this Government not taking up the agenda of land reforms? They can expand the market, the purchasing power of the people will be more, there will be overall industrial boom, and other economic activities will also go up.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Samik Lahiri Ji, some more Members of your party are to speak. So you please conclude your speech. If you continue your speech, Shri Varkala Radhadkrishnan will not get time to speak.

SHRI SAMIK LAHIRI: Sir, I will conclude my speech in two minutes.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Lahiri, you have already taken 16-17 minutes. Only 19 minutes have been allotted to your party. Now you please decide as to what you have to do.

[English]

SHRI SAMIK LAHIRI: Sir, I am concluding. Why the Government is not taking up the issue of land reforms? It should be taken up.

[Shri Samik Lahiri]

Secondly the Government is pursuing very vigorously the issue of liberalisation. I would like to quote from the monthly review of the World Bank by an economist. I am sure that our hon. Finance Minister knows him very well. In the monthly review of March 2004, Mr. Branco Milanovic found that the richest 1 percent in the world get as much income as the poorest 57 percent. The richest 5 percent had, in 1993, an average income of 114 times greater than that of the poorest 5 percent; the ratio was 78 times in 1998. The poorest 5 percent grew poorer, losing 25 percent of the real income, while the richest 20 percent saw their real incomes grow by 12 percent, more than twice the average world income. This is presently what is happening in the world. We must protect our people, and we must prospect our economy. We must look at the problems of the common people.

I should again request the UPA Government to look at the rural population, look at the poor people, look at those children who are out of the schools, look at those undernourished and malnutrition suffered children, who are there in our country. The Government should try to put tax on those people who have money. The Government should try to recover black money, which has mounted here. Why is the Government not talking about realisation of black money, which is really hampering the growth of our economy?

Sir, I will not take any further time.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Mr. Lahiri, you have already taken the whole time of your party. No other hon. Member from your party will be permitted to speak.

SHRI SAMIK LAHIRI: Sir, I am concluding.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJILAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this House is considering the Supplementary Demands for Grants and the way Government is seeking approval of this August House on Supplementary demands for grants show that the Budget Estimates for this year presented by the Chidambaramji have proved wrong. Government is seeking approval of the Parliament to authorise total additional outlay of Rs. 38,62,177 crore.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as my learned friends have discussed just now, and I would also, particularly like to point out that the matter of the most prominent area of concern is the non-plan expenditure. We can see from the Budget presented so far that allocation of Non-plan expenditure exceeds plan expenditure. Only a small share of the amount, the amount which we want to provide or make available to the poor for the development reaches to the poor or targeted people. It is a matter of grave concern that Budget deficit and non-plan expenditure is increasing day by day and for this reason we make internal and external borrowing which add to the interest burden of the country. It means that additional financial burden of the country is increasing continuously.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in the mid-term review this concern was expressed that government have failed to check the budget deficit. Government propose to bring the budgetary deficit to zero level by the year 2008-2009. I fail to understand as to how the government would be able to achieve this target for which the process to achieve the target should have started within six months or an year. What are targets of the government for neutralization of Budget deficit? I am of the opinion that the Government has yet to take passive steps to achieve the said target deficit?

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, under the 2004-2005 Budget, steps like extending the ambit of service tax and introduction of security transaction tax were taken. Besides, an education cess of 2 percent on the income tax was also imposed to expand and promote the education and an amount of Rs. 2723 crore was collected under this Head till October, though instead of spending it for expansion of education it has gone to the Consolidated Fund of India. The Government should have set up separate education fund for keeping the funds collected in the name of education cess and the funds should have been spent for the expansion of education. But it does not happen in our country. These people are demanding Rs. Two thousand crore for 'Education for All' campaign. Sir, through you, I would like to say that it is true there are no schools and the standard of education needs improvement. It has been discussed several times in the House that the state governments should utilize the funds properly that is provided to them. The Government should evolve a mechanism for this purpose but that are ruled by Congress even in the most important state of Delhi only 25 percent of funds allocated for education for all campaign, have been utilized. 82 percent funds were utilised for all Rajasthan and 62 percent were utilised in Bihar. We are in power in Uttar Pradesh and the good thing is that in Uttar Pradesh maximum percentage of funds, that is, 98 percent have been utilized under education for all campaign. I want to request the hon. Shri Chidambaramji that only releasing funds to the state government is not sufficient, rather he should ensure whether the funds that he has released are being utilised

for that purpose, for which it has been earmarked and whether the entire amount has been utilised or not. I think it needs to be seen.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Government has implemented mid-day meal scheme under which Rs. 1.20 are being spent on each child. I want to ask whether it is possible to give nutritious food to children with such a meagre amount with a view to their health. What kind of nourishing food can be given in Rs. 1.20? Hence I would like to suggest that unless a separate arrangement is made, particularly for the schools located in villages, mid-day meal can not be provided to the children over there. The Government should spend more money on this scheme while maximum time of the teachers is wasted on this. I think more attention should be paid towards this. Most important thing is what kind of food is being provided to the children. There was a news-item in newspapers about Delhi Government that many school children have fallen ill due to inferior quality of mid day meal. Nutrition Foundation of India conducted a survey of the companies to which the contract for supplying meals was awarded and in its conclusion the Foundation found that the meals supplied by 10 companies out of 14 was of inferior quality. It is amazing that the order for supplying meals has been placed with those companies again. I would request the hon. Finance Minister to look into the matter. It is not proper to award contracts to those companies again about which it has been found in survey that they are supplying bad quality meal and whose credibility is not that good. Strict action should be taken against those people so that news-items about children's death or sickness do not appear in newspapers again.

As we know and have seen Chidambaramji is a great economist. 20 big industrial houses of the country owe Rs. 41,800 crore to financial institutions. Why does he favour such people? It is an irony that a poor man has to face a lot of difficulties if he takes loan of five thousand or ten thousand rupees from a financial institution. Rs. 41,800 crore are not being recovered from those 20 big industrialists but he talks of economic balance I feel that it will not do to have such paradoxes in our country. Strict action should be taken against these people.

Hon. Finance Minister while delivering his speech claimed that the economic condition of the country is improving. According to him share market sensex has risen, so have the foreign exchange reserves, the value of Rupee against Dollar has increased in the international market. The amount of Credit has increased in the agricultural sector. But simultaneously, there has been hike in prices as well. Whatever be our achievement in various sectors but if the common man gets affected adversely due to the hike in prices, it would lead to a general conception that the Government is not functioning properly.

Right now, we talked of increase in the prices of crude oil and petroleum products but through you, I would like to make a humble submission that where there has been an increase in the prices of these commodities, there we have also increased taxes. There has been 20 percent increase in tax recovery on petroleum products and 33 percent increase in taxes on crude oil in the year 2003-2004 in comparison to the year 2002-2003. If the revenue earned through these taxes could be distributed properly amongst the common consumer, then I feel the condition of the country could be improved to quite an extent and check can be put on the price hike.

Assistance from the Government assumes a great significance in a poor country which means ameliorating the condition of poor people and endeavoring to hale him out of a crisis. I want to talk about subsidy in particular. All the countries of the world are increasing subsidy in their countries while the Government of this country is gradually doing away with it. There has been 17 per cent decrease in the amount of subsidy on fertilizers this year. Last year, this amount was Rs. 26,439 crore and this year it has been reduced to Rs. 21,995 crore. I feel that taking away of subsidy on food is farcical in a poor country.

Then we talk of competition. The way the Government is functioning would definitely add to afflictions was of the common man.

In the end, I would like to submit, that I have gone through the various items of the demands of grants placed by the Government. He is giving Rs. 400 crore to Bihar for Indira Awas Yojana, which should be given. But I understand that he is providing them this fund since the elections are approaching because there he is completely dependent on Laluji in that matter. The Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh has repeatedly demanded funds for developmental works in the state since the state is in red. But, despite our repeated demands we do not get funds for developmental works. The Congress Party leaders often say that no development is taking place in Uttar Pradesh. We want to develop the entire state. But, since the financial resources of the state are limited and it has to run the Government with those limited resources. After all, why this persimonius attitude is towards us? Why this attitude against us? It seems all this is politically motivated. Through you, I would like to make a request

[Shri Ramjilal Suman]

that at least the Government should not work under any presumption. The people who have been neglected. victimised, destitutes have a right. When the percentage of poverty is high and the percentage of people living below poverty line is high, when the average rate of literacy is relatively low, such state where our party is in power has been an object of neglect by the Union Government for the last seven months. Through you, I would like to submit very humbly in regard to whatever was submitted by my two-three friends earlier that Rs. 2 crore sanctioned under MPLADS should either be discontinued or increased. What were the policies of Phartiya Janata Party or Congress Party or our Party, is a separate issue. But the Members who were defeated, if we analyse the entire situation then I can claim that these expectations from the Members, cannot be fulfilled with the amount of Rs. 2 crore.

I was a Member of this House in 1997. At that time, there was no MPLADS. One could do by going in villages. People never used to demand. Now, when you go to any village, people feel that the Member has come with a big bundle of money. The demands are not possible to be met with Rs. 2 crore. Therefore, my humble request to the Government is to either discontinue this fund or raise it to this extent that at least the MPs can expedite the developmental works.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You forgot to mention a point that the education system in villages of Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh and UP has totally collapsed. Rural education should find special mention.

[English]

SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU (Rajapur): Sir, this is the first time that the Finance Minister is reporting to Parliament after the enactment of the Fiscal Responsibility & Budget Management Act to know how the Act is being complied with by the Government. For the first time, there is a mid-term review of the Budget, which is also presented before the House. Sir, I must, of course, compliment him because he has already said that he rally believes in the spirit of the Fiscal Responsibility & Budget Management Act. One of the principles of this is that this year, in the six months period since the beginning of this financial year, the revenue deficit should have been 45 percent. This time, he has reported that it would be 78.7 percent of the Budget Estimate. We have already over-stated it substantially. At the same time, the non-debt receipts have also increased this year mainly on account the debt trappings by this State Government, which is a one-time affair. So, I think, over a period of time, as the year advances, you will have probably target of getting more tax collected. This is the point which he has said and I think the Finance Minister is going to be on target. I wish him all the best.

This year, 56,000 new assesses have been added. We have always been saying that we need to increase the tax GDP base. Only 56,000 assesses have been added. I would like to know how much tax had been collected from them because a person who files the income-tax becomes an assessee. Whether he pays income-tax or not is a different issue. When we are thinking of increasing the tax GDP ratio, our effort should be in increasing the amount of collection from new assessees. So, in that direction, I would like to know as to how he would really fair.

The Twelfth Finance Commission has just submitted a Report, two days ago, to the President of India. I am sure, it is going to have a great impact on the central financial resources during the year itself. How is it going to be effected? Is there any provision that is required or has anybody made any provision? How the fiscal deficit of the current year is affected is something, which I would definitely like to know from him. What is going to be the projected growth rate for the year? We always believe that unless we really sustain the great growth than we attained last year of more than eight percent, we are really not going to attain the various social targets that we have in mind. Therefore, this year we are interested in seeing the growth rate increasing. In fact, the Reserve Bank of India is already saying that the growth rate should be much more than what has been projected earlier. Therefore, I would really like to know from the Finance Minister about this because it is the first time that he is making a reporting under this Act.

It has already been highlighted that savings need to increase because we need more investment. And for more investment and for the growth to be sustained, the savings to be consumed little later, there should not be current account deficit. We should not resort to foreign debt. We really need more FDIs. Unfortunately, in this year, the FDI has fallen to 1.3 billion dollars from 2.1 billion dollars. I would really like to know how the efforts will remain during the year because already the Prime Minister has announced that there should be something like 100 billion dollars to be targeted for the next ten years. I would think that when it is really falling, then the growth rate has also increased. Of course, the Fiscal Responsibility Act will take care of this. It is reducing the savings. It

will turn into the revenue deficit. Then the Government's savings will improve. By and large, to improve the savings rate as well as to ensure that the FDI is also increased, would he make sure that investment target is not missed? I would really like to know from him. He has highlighted that manufacture in India is now operating on a theme basis. Just 24 percent or 26 percent of GDP is not enough. How will the efforts be really made to increase that? There again, the Government really needs to spell out the complete strategy how the manufacturing in India will grow.

About agriculture, whenever agricultural production grows, like it happened last year, the growth rate improves. We really need a weather proof, monsoon proof agriculture. This is something, which is important. Otherwise, every time the monsoon fails, the agricultural production dips and then our growth rate goes down. This is another thing I would like to know.

We are entering a very serious phase in our public finance. The debt of the Government of India is 64 percent of the GDP. The foreign debt is not as high but the domestic debt is increasing very rapidly. I think, we really need to do something about it. I would like to know about it. By reducing the revenue deficit itself, by definition, we cannot reduce the debt. Therefore, we really need an action plan to see how our debt will be totally reduced.

This year we have seen that our external commercial borrowing of the corporate sector has increased. The foreign debt has remained at 1.12 to 1.6 percent. On the one hand, we have got huge foreign exchange reserves and the rising of foreign exchange reserves is also causing a concern because the rupee is strengthening. We are actually doing open market operation for seeing that the rupee does not strengthen. As a result of this, liquidity is increasing in our system. People are assorting to external borrowing. Can you not think about a system whereby the external commercial borrowing can used as out resources? How can we actually use that for resources, for bringing about development into our infrastructure? In fact, the Planning Commission has already made a proposal that five billion dollars every year can be used for it. This is something, which we really need to identify for our infrastructure projects. Particularly in the power sector, particularly in the other infrastructure sectors. Infrastructure is crying for investment. At the same time, foreign exchange is rising. This is something which we really need to link. I am sure, the Government will have to plan for that.

RNI remittances this year have gone to 5.2 billion dollars. In fact, this is one of our success stories. Any not-resident Indian who is working abroad, particularly the workers who are remitting money back home, are helping us to tide over the problem. Therefore, we are having a Current Account surplus. These people are not really getting any incentive in the form of any fiscal incentive or otherwise from the Government. In fact, in the Investment Commission that has been appointed by the Government, there is not a single representative of the NRI. In fact, the money that should come to this country, most of it will come from the NRIs, as it happened in China; the overseas Chinees have contributed significantly to it.

Exports are driving up the economy because the domestic demand is not driving as rapidly as it should. Only eight major items are now constituting 66 percent of the exports.

So, it is another challenge which we really need to work on as to how we will be diversifying our export portfolios. Otherwise, this is something which will cost to us.

Sir, on infrastructure, the Electricity Act—as the hon. Finance Minister has also said -- has helped us to provide a stability to the policies on electricity sector. But there is always a talk of reviewing of the Electricity Act. That is also causing some sort of a confusion. So, I think, it is time that the Government makes it clear whether the Act is going to be reviewed. If at all, it is going to be reviewed, by what time the review would be completed? If at all, it is going to result into some changes, what are those changes being brought about, to ensure that this will really not result into destabilisation of the atmosphere that has been created?

Sir, another point of concern that we have is on the coal sector. The coal prices in India have increased so much. Now, if we compare the price of the Indian coal with that of the South African coal, it is probably six times higher in India to buy that coal. So, this is something which is unexplainable. This is something on the infrastructure that we really need to work on.

The second point of concern where all of us should be concerned. Where many of our friends have already been pointing out, is the state of affairs of the State finances. The developmental expenditure of the States has come down from 10.17 percent of the GDP to 8.9 percent of the last 10 years. Suppose, it had not come

[Shri Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu]

down, then the States would have got Rs. 29,000 crore more to invest on development. So, the net transfer from the Central Government to the State Government has come down from 5.57 percent to 3.35 percent of the GDP, and as a result of that, again, the States' ability to invest more has come down by Rs. 50,500 crore. So, the debt servicing of the States has gone from Rs. 9,175 crore to Rs. 43,128 crore, where the States are now giving Rs. 18,468 crore more in terms of repayment than getting anything from the Central Government. The States interest liability, in fact, has gone up from 8.32 percent to 12.96 percent. Therefore, there is a huge gap between the interest paid by the States and the interest received by the Central Government. The gap of the interest that the Central Government borrows and at the rate at which it gives back to the State Government has improved from 0.31 percent to 4.99 percent. That means, today the Central Government is charging five percent more from the States for the loans that the States takes from it. So, it is causing an adverse impact on the ability of the States to bring about development, which is actually telling in terms that they are not getting new infrastructure created. We say we want infrastructure to be created in the Central sector. But States also would need resources.

Sir, these Supplementary Demands should have provided for certain expenditure the Government is committed to. For example, the National Employment Bill is going to be introduced in Parliament. As per one estimation, one manday's job created would require Rs. 126 for guarantee. The National Advisory Committee is saying that it is Rs. 100 for one manday's job. Even if we take the least of this, the amount of money that would be required to provide the job guarantee, for 34 million families, would be Rs. 42,840 crore. If the Government is going to introduce that Bill very soon, then probably, some amount of money should have been provided. Is it going to be implemented this year? If it is not going to be implemented this year, it would have a huge impact on the finances and the fiscal deficit.

Sir, Tapas Mazumdar Committee, in 1999, had said that for education Rs. 13,700 crore would be required every year for the next 10 years, to just keep all the out-of-school children back to the schools. The amount of money required to be provided for this, would have been much higher. This is not provided, as a result of which, again, the fiscal deficit would have been much higher.

My next point is on PSU divestment. On PSU disinvestment, the Government has already taken the credit for projecting Rs. 4,000 crore during the current year. But so far, the money released is only five percent of the target. Is the PSU disinvestment going to take place? If it is not going to take place, then again, the fiscal deficit would rise by almost Rs. 4,000 crore.

Sir, the hon. Finance Minister announced that one million new water bodies would be brought into reality. I would like to know the progress in this regard. I was looking at Compliance Report of this year's Mid-Year Review, and there is really nothing mentioned about these water bodies.

On health care, the Centre for Health and Allied Schemes have said that two out of five Primary Health Centres really do not have even skeletal staff, and improvement in the Budget for the last year is only five percent. So, this again, will not be sufficient to meet the target. So, I would really like to know the progress about the Antyodaya Anna Yojana.

The point that I am making is that this Mid-Term Review of our current Budget as well as the reporting under the Fiscal Responsibility Act should encompas all the issues and make sure that we get a holistic picture to know whether the Government will be able to attain the targets as envisaged in the Act, and, the Supplementary Demand for Grants should provide for all these commitments which the Government has been making.

If adequate monetisation of these commitments is reflected in this Budget, probably the money will be much higher. ...*(Interruptions)* Being the Opposition Party Member, I would not like to take more time.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: One more Member from your party has to speak. If he is not making his submission then you can take more time.

[English]

SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU: No, I will let the other Member get a chance.

SHRI MILIND DEORA (Mumbai-South): Thank you, Sir. This is my maiden speech in Parliament.

At the outset, I think if we look at the Mid-term Review, the Finance Minister needs to be complimented for a high growth rate. We have seen the first quarter grow at seven per cent compared to five per cent corresponding quarter of last year. There are some

concerns, as some hon. Members have pointed out, with regard to the fiscal situation in the country. But, over all I think that this Government, my Party, came to power with the fundamentals of inclusive growth which integrate people into the growth process rather than exclude them from the growth process. I think I would like to compliment my Party President, Shrimati Gandhi, also for giving the best of the economic leadership to this nation. Today, we have a Finance Minister who is a self-proclaimed Investment Minister, which I think is the *mantra,* the kind of philosophy, the new attitude we need in this nation. However, as an Investment Minister I would not go so far as to maybe agree with the statement someone made recently, *viz,* he has an undiluted love for Foreign Direct Investment. But, focusing on investment by appointing agencies like the Investment Commission, setting up the National Manufacturing Competitive Council, these are key areas to actually increase growth of the nation as a whole.

I would like to bring one point of attention to the Finance Minister, which I believe is not debated that adequately in Parliament, and that pertains to urban infrastructure. I come from an urban constituency. I come from Mumbai. My city is the single largest contributor to the national exchequer. In terms of its contribution of excise, customs, taxes, it sends Rs. 50,000 crore every year to the national exchequer and its return is around one per cent. If a city, which is the gateway of India to investment, be it domestic investment, international investment, the city that houses the stock exchange, private sector, needs to grow we need to have a massive urban renewal programme not just in Mumbai city but in every other city around the country. We read regular reports in many Papers these days, about another city Bangalore, and various other cities where urban infrastructure is crumbling. Therefore, urban renewal should be taken up on a war footing. This Government was voted to power by various urban areas, various cities, not as per the expectations of many pool *pundits* and I think to live up to that expectation, a massive urban renewal programme should be offered a special package.

Pertaining to Mumbai specifically, two decades ago, the then Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi launched the Prime Minister's Grant Project (PMGP), a grant of Rs. 100 crore for Mumbai City. Even today we have 75 per cent of our population living in slums or dilapidated buildings yet we are talked as the commercial capital of the nation. So, actually improving housing, transportation, all this must be reviewed. One point Mr. Finance Minister, through you, Sir, which I would like to raise, the only time Mumbai was mentioned in the last Budget was when a tax exemption was given to re-develop the old dilapidated buildings. I would very much urge the Finance Minister to review this grant and whether this IT exemption has actually helped and has been tenant and re-development friendly or has it been more builder-friendly. And if it has been latter, I would even go so far as to submit that this exemption be scrapped.

15.49 hrs.

[SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN *in the Chair*]

Quickly, about the growth of various sectors, the most important pre-requisite for the growth of the nation as a whole, is infrastructure. Infrastructure, whether it is road, whether it is Tele-density, this is what connects village to village, villages to towns, farmers to market places, cities to cities, ensures free movement of goods and services. The Golden Quadrilateral Project has seen 8.5 per cent increase in the first half. We have seen electricity generation grown by eight per cent. Tele-density today stands at 8.2 per cent in the nation. We have finally achieved that trend which we see in countries like China, we see in continents like Africa, where cellular telephony, wireless telephony has out phased fixed line telephony.

However, there are some important issues in infrastructure which need to be addressed immediately. As India is rapidly becoming a manufacturing hub and is becoming a source to outsource various goods and services to the nation to enhance our export capabilities, there are two primary areas which need to be focussed on. First is our JNPT, the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust-which is a public port trust—and the other is NSICT which is a private port trust. It has been mentioned in the Mid-term Review that the short term strategies have been implemented. The long term issues which as growing third bulk terminal and fourth bulk terminal need to be pushed. But today the JNPT handles 50 per cent of the nation's cargo traffic. Yet there are delays because of roads. The roads are not concretized and not widened. So, this needs to be implemented on a war footing.

The Container Corporation of India, which is owned by the Ministry of Railways is actually increasing the number of links to and from JNPT. This will also go a long way in modernising the port and actually enhancing our export capability. The Mumbai Airport handles 80 per cent of the nation's international cargo traffic. I compliment this Government, the Finance Minister and also the Minister of Civil Aviation for taking this up on a war footing. But I hope that we can see modernisation of this

[Shri Milind Deora]

not just for my constituency or for Mumbai but just for the nation as a whole.

Broadly speaking, there are three main areas, *viz.*, services, agriculture, and industry. As regards services, in the first quarter, we have seen 10 per cent growth *versus* seven per cent growth in the corresponding period of the last year. The most vibrant service sectors besides information technology, are IT enable services and entertainment. I would say largely that these are on auto-pilot mode. There was a comment made sometime back that because of the benign neglect of the Government, these sectors are not contributing and not doing very well. I think these are on auto-pilot mode and are performing exceedingly well.

As regards, capital market, we have seen 25 IPOs in the first half which amounted to Rs. 11,000 crore compared to only 15 IPOs in the preceding half of last year which amounted to Rs. 2000 crore. There is a 400 per cent increase. I think largely this is because of reduction in the long term capital gains tax from 10 per cent to zero per cent and bringing down short term gains tax from 30 per cent to 10 per cent.

We have growth in agricultural sector. There have been several initiatives like setting up of Ministry of Panchayati Raj, restoration of water bodies, etc. Someone else has also mentioned that. From an urban stand point, I agree 70 per cent of the population does depend on the agricultural economy. If we strengthen the rural economy only then we can stem the process of urbanization which is leading to urban decay in various cities of the country.

However, there are some suggestions which I would like to make. There has been a lot of speculation in the papers about actually strengthening the working of cooperative banks. Today, the cooperative banks are regulated by NABARD. The NABARD is a lender and also a regulator. It has a commercial role as well as a regulatory role. So, clearly there can be conflict of interest. Separating them and revamping NABARD will go a long way.

Another point that has been raised is about common market connecting farmers and producers to their market places. One advent is commodity exchanges. We have seen commodity exchanges brought up in India for the first time and the most prominent being the NCDEC. Yet to ensure flexibility and to increase rural credit and to increase agri-lending which many banks provide—and otherwise are interested in doing—we should make warehouse receipts as the negotiable instruments. Once the farmer delivers the produce to the warehouse, which will standardise the quota, take the warehouse receipt, this would actually allow the farmers, to go out and get increased credit. This would result in increased produce and it would also ensure quality. This will go a long way in increasing agricultural production of the nation. Of course, someone else mentioned the importance with the emphasis on products in areas which did not rely so heavily on monsoon such as horticulture. The cold storage chain infrastructure has been discussed for a long time. Every bank in the nation today has 18 per cent priority lending to agriculture. If we can re-categorise agricultural lending, in turn we can actually ensure that out of 18 per cent quota, banks can lend and urge people to invest in cold storage infrastructure which in turn will actually enhance the produce of horticulture and other products which have low reliance on monsoon. Mr. Prabhu also wanted to make it monsoon and weather proof. That is the kind of vision we need for agriculture.

Industry saw very high growth particularly in manufacturing area like machinery equipment, chemicals, automobile sector, etc. Textile exports grew by 13 per cent in the first quarter. When we talk about employment, which is a commitment for this Government, today the largest employer in the country after the Railways and the Government is the textile sector. Come January 2005, textile quotas will be abolished. We have a one time opportunity where this industry will be competing globally. Actually to ensure global competitiveness where we will be going head on against countries like China, Thailand and other low cost producing countries, I believe that setting up of a National Manufacturing Competitive Council can go a long way in actually facilitating dialogue between the sectors, between the corporations and the Government.

Otherwise, broadly, as I said, the economy is looking positive. There are thoughts that we can expect a six per cent growth in the social sector. The mid-day meal scheme, the supplementary grant of Rs. 2,000 crore for the *Sarvasiksha Abhiyan* Scheme are very welcome measures.

Sir, as a member of the Standing Committee on Defence, I have a small point to raise. In the last Budget we saw an increase of Rs. 18,000 crore in the Defence sector. But more than just a massive increase in the Budget, we saw revenue expenditure was brought down to 43 per cent and capital expenditure was raised from 30 per cent to 57 per cent. This is the key to ensuring

modernisation. As we face conventional threats today we have to modernise our Armed Forces and this step would, no doubt, go a long way in ensuring that. Yet, when the Defence Acquisition Council makes a recommendation whether to buy or to make and if the recommendation is to buy then it goes to the DRDO and there is inevitably some delay in the process.

When the DRDO says that we should go for the buy, then we have to import it and this increases our reliance on imports thereby worsening the balance of payments position further. Therefore, creation and strengthening of a strong R&D-centric indigenous industry will lower our reliance on imports. This would be a matter of pride for us. If we could have demonstrated this in the IT sector, I am sure, we can do so in the areas of Defence as well. I think, one such incentive is being given in the pharmaceutical industry. For every one rupee invested on R&D in the pharmaceutical industry, there is tax rebate of Rs. 1.50 paise, if I am not wrong. If such an incentive can be given to the Defence sector, then we can see many companies that have strong R&D capabilities will be interested to invest in Defence research as well. This has gone a long way in strengthening our indigenous capabilities in pharmaceutical research as we are approaching a much more stringent patent regime. The only way we can compete with the multinational companies is by this way. Such incentives can also go a long way in strengthening our indigenous research capabilities in the Defence sector.

Sir, my last point is about the fiscal responsibility. This is a concern that has been raised by various hon. Members here. The FRBM does stipulate that we should bring the revenue deficit down to zero in four years. There are several reasons. The excise collection came down to absorb the oil price hike. However, maybe, to side with the Finance Minister, I would say that there is a leads and lags effect that the people must be aware of just by Quarter II, the point where we are right now, Government spending becomes very noticeable. By the end of the year, that is at Quarter IV, we see the unspent money from various Ministries being returned to the Government and we also see tax collection taking full effect. So, I believe, the situation at Quarter IV would be very different fiscally for the nation. But the way to improve the fiscal situation quickly is to improve and reform collection and expenditure.

Sir, to touch upon expenditure, I would like to submit that when we talk of subsidy, today there is a debate on revamping and reviewing the various subsidies. There are studies which have proven that every rural household and maybe a third of every urban household is dependent on bio-mass. If that is so, then that needs to be understood. If that is so, then the subsidy on LPG, kerosene, is it benefiting the poor? If it benefiting the non-poor? The Finance Minister has all the answers and the Ministry has all the answers and I am sure that they will dig out the information.

Sir, one more point that I would like to touch upon is though a very welcome measure, yet is a contentious issue. The intellectual circles are debating this issue today and that is about the NREG. I have a vested interest in this. If the rural economy develops, if we are able to provide jobs to the village youths, then less people are going to come to the urban areas and less of urban decay would we see and there would also be less strain on urban infrastructure. Yet, there is a discussion on this amongst the intellectual circles as to whether this scheme, which is to be tabled in the Parliament soon, is a job creation scheme, an employment generation scheme or a dole guarantee scheme. To ensure that it serves the purpose of the former, to ensure that jobs are created, one way of looking at it is that subsidy, be it rural or urban, must ensure creation of sustainable and durable assets which would ensure job creation. I would like to give one example here.

16.00 hrs.

Today, if someone takes a loan for housing and if they get an IT exemption, then that subsidy goes into creating an asset. It creates housing. It creates jobs in the construction industry and the sector supplying to the housing industry can benefit from it. So, that is the kind of a vision that we need with subsidies and with these kinds of schemes that ensure job creation. That has been the commitment of the UPA Government to the poor and to the youth of the nation and certainly, we will fulfil it. I welcome this.

My last point is on terms of collection. To increase the taxes to the GDP ratio which is today between eight to nine per cent, there are several initiatives that have been spoken about and reformed whether it is VAT or whether it is bringing down the customs tariff or whether it is exploring and bringing other services into the tax net. With industries that have a cheap and critical mass, these reforms need to be looked at. I think, in terms of tax collection, this Government is doing a very good job. Over the years, we have seen that, as taxes have been lowered, a lower tax regime leads to more compliance.

[Shri Milind Deora]

There is a lot of empirical data to prove this. But, I think, as we go into aggressively pushing the Income tax officers to collect taxes, there is some degree of complaints in this. While quoting the old saying "Do not milk the same cow thrice a day", I would say that we must push them for tax collection but just ensure that it is spread across the net.

With the fiscal situation that I have addressed, the overall economy looks very positive. I just hope, in a nutshell, that urban infrastructure will be given a special thrust in the forthcoming budget by the Finance Minister. A city like Mumbai is a goose that lays golden eggs. We must nurture this goose and give it more strength. Only then the overall economy will grow and the contribution to the national exchequer will increase.

With these words, I thank you, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Congratulations! Your speech was good.

[Translation]

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR (Chimur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, first of all, I would like to submit that the Government's machinery is gradually coming to a halt. Only yesterday, I read somewhere that the foreign exchange reserve was touched around 129 billion, 69 crore, 70 lakh dollars than that of the last of last week of 10 December that is 1.02 billion dollar as compared to earlier. This year the foreign exchange reserves in the week ending on 3rd December is 130 billion 71 crore dollar. This is meagre but it manifests the gradual breaking down of the Government's machinery. Be it foreign exchange reserve, be it G.D.P. or facing the problems, this Government claims that there is nothing to feel alarmed. In reality, coming events cast their shadows before, that is, how the child is developing. I feel that this Government is not adequately doing economic development. In regard to the outstanding of external debt I would like to submit that if you compare the year 1990-1991 to today's scenario you will find that the outstanding debt is more than double. I would not like to go in figures, since hon. Finance Minister has all figures. Even the total Outstanding liabilities have become more than double in comparison to that of the year 1991-92. Internal liabilities have also increased rapidly. He himself has admitted in his half-yearly mid-term review that in the industrial sector during April-September 2004 the growth rate of industrial production I.I.P. index has now reduced as compared to the last year except in May 2004, when it was 6.8 percent. It means that even the Government is changing its view point gradually. Hon. Finance Minister, in regard to G.D.P., agriculture and foodgrains growth rate the Government says that the increase in prices of petrol products is responsible for the price rise. In addition to it, famine is another factor. But I would like to tell him that in the year 1997-98 agriculture growth was 2.4, in the year 2001 it was 0.2 and in the year 2003 it was-3.1. Even during that period when N.D.A. was in power growth rate was properly increasing but during the regime of this Government GDP, growth rate and even the forex reserves are declining.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw your attention to another issue in regard to extra procurement and stocks, I would like to submit that even the stock is growing rapidly. The 20.3 million tonne stock of 1st October, 2004, was 12 per cent more, if 18.1 million tonne of buffer stock be taken as criterion. As a result, the old stock gets putrefied in godowns which is of no value. He can take two measures. Firstly, the excess stock of grains can be sold abroad so that we can get some money. In addition to it there is a need to revamp the distribution system. The procurement and PDS is in very bad state in this country. Adequate quantity of Foodgrains have been provided to the people. As has been stated that coverage under Antyodaya Yojana is being extended from one and a half crore to two crores, still the number of people dying of starvation is also increasing PDS will have to be revamped to address this problem. I do not want to go into figures as the Hon'ble Minister is also well aware of it. Attention must be paid to check corruption in PDS. On one hand people are dying of hunger whereas stock of foodgrains is diverted elsewhere. There is an urgent need to make strict law for that.

The Government says that there are huge amounts outstanding against the States, but I would like to draw your attention towards the interest rate and particularly towards Maharashtra. The loan against Maharashtra stands at Rs. One lac thousand crore. Under these circumstances, Maharashtra is incapable of repaying the loan to the Central Government. The rate of interest is the main reason for this. In this regard, I would like to say that the interest rate would have to be changed for repayment of loan. Either the loans against State Government should be waived off or reviewed by reducing the interest rate so that all the State Government. Whether in U.P. or Maharashtra or Rajasthan, which are under debt net—may be freed from it. The interest rate in India is more than the interest rate throughout the world, hence interest rate has to be reduced.

I want to draw your attention towards one more point. More than 500 farmers have committed suicide in Maharashtra and the reason for that is higher interest rate. I met Hon. Finance Minister before the presentation of budget. At that time I had raised this point and I would like to reiterate the same today. It was stated during the presentation of the last budget that a task force will be constituted, which might have been constituted as well but what was the outcome? The Congress Party and the Nationalist Congress Party promised before the assembly elections that they will waive the debt of farmers. The farmers are committing suicide and are caught in the debt net. Can the Maharashtra Government be asked to keep its promise now that the party has come into power. The State Government is denying it. The NDA Government did good work with respect to interest rate. The Government lowered the interest rate from 18% to 13% and then to 9%. At that time we planned to bring it down to 7%. The Government wants our farmers to compete with WTO. Our farmers will not stand anywhere in competition with WTO. Here the rate of interest is 9% whereas the cooperative does not give 9% of interest. 10% share is deducted there five percent is deducted under other heads and more than 17-18 percent is charged in all. I tell you the rate of interest which goes upto 17-18% in case of co-operatives, can be brought down to six or seven percent. Foreign citizens get loan at four percent in WTO but here it is 17-18 percent. How can Indian farmer compete? Whether the Government is thinking about it or not? I want to say that the Government should reconsider with respect to co-operatives. The commission, which goes to State co-operative Banks, District co-operative Banks and Primary co-operative societies, will have to be reduced.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, this Government provides Housing Loan at 7 percent rate of interest. Loan to set up industry is given at 7 percent then why the farmers get loan on 9 percent from Nationalised Bank. They can get loan at this rate only from the nationalised banks. The Loan is not given at this rate by the Co-operative Bank. I demand that a loan of Rs. 2 lakhs may be given at 7 percent interest by all the banks and the co-operative banks should also be asked to give loan at the same rate of interest.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to make a point about power. The situation that has arisen in the entire country, whether it is U.P. or in Maharashtra is not good. The power situation was much better in Maharashtra earlier but now a load shedding for six to eight hours is very common. This Government is doing nothing to generate electricity. In my view when there is a separate department for non-conventional energy, a separate department can be set up for smaller plans of 1 megawatt to 10 megawatt. Electricity can be generated by 15 feet water. All of you know about this. This aspect is being ignored. If we make small plans of 1 to 10 megawatt by tapping all the water sources of the country then 2 to 4 or 10 villages can be electrified by one megawatt each. If electricity is proposed to be generated through this method, there is a need to set up a separate department. The Central Government should provide the funds required for this purpose otherwise the whole country will be covered in darkness one day.

16.12 hrs.

[DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY *in the Chair*]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, farmers pay tax and interest. The farmers demand free electricity to run pumping sets. The Congress Party and Nationalist Congress Party promised before coming into power in Maharashtra that if they come into power in Maharashtra they will give free electricity but now they are denying it. Shri Sharad Pawar is also denying it. You should keep your promises.

Sir, now, I want to talk about giving electricity to the States. Talks were going on to provide more electricity to Rajasthan but it was not given more electricity. Politics is being played in MP. Now electricity is not being given to MP. The farmers there are getting affected due to lack of power. If electricity is not provided to a State, its functioning will be hampered. I want to quote a paragraph about Rajasthan.

[English]

> "As stipulated in the 1984 agreement pending receipt of the opinion of the Supreme Court and decision of the judge of the Supreme Court, Government of India should give due consideration to the request of Haryana and Rajasthan for making available additional power from the Central unallocated share from the Central generating stations, but nothing has been done so far to compensate the State of Rajasthan. The Ministry of Power, Government of India may be impressed upon to enhance the Central allocation quota to Rajasthan to the level of 40 per cent as was shared in the year 1996."

[Prof. Mahadeorao Shiwankar]

[Translation]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, this is the way the Government is functioning. By reading this, people of this country would be convinced that this Government is indulging in politics deliberately.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to make a point about irrigation. Funds have been demanded for irrigation in the supplementary Demand for Grants. It has been stated in Supplementary Demands for Grants that out of 181 projects, 37 and 46 large and medium projects have been identified for completion during 2004-05 and 2005-06 respectively. Merely identifying the projects would not serve the purchase. The previous Government started the work of linking the rivers but you have forgotten it. NDA Government talked about linking the rivers. By doing so more and more people would get water. 181 projects are pending today. I am from Maharashtra. Maharashtra has a big plan, a major project Bhoomi Pujan of which was done in 1980 by Shrimati Indira Gandhi. This Government is her follower but work on this project was not stated until 1996 when BJP and Shiv Sena formed the Government they started that project and spent Rs. 6-7 crores. Substantial work was done on that project but when the new Government came into power, the Congress Government and the Nationalist Congress Government dropped this project. I want to request you that Gosekhud project is very big project. The farmers of very large area of Maharashtra will get drinking water and water for irrigation after the completion of this project. I urge upon the Central Government to take control of this project and this project may be included in the 181 projects identified by you. The cost of this project was Rs. 300 crores in 1980. It rose to Rs. 2100 crores in 1995 and present it is Rs. 3 thousand crores.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the government towards tax and submit that the States are opposing the VAT tax plan of the Central Government. People from States held a demonstration in front of Parliament in this regard. The Government is organising meeting of Chief Ministers and Finance Minister of the States and is claiming that they have support of the people with respect to VAT, this is not true. What is the Government doing about it? The Government should make its policy clear otherwise State Governments are earning disrepute with respect to VAT. I request you to issue clear directions in this regard.

There are around 8000 narrow gauge Rail lines in the country. When you asked me, I told you that there is a narrow gauge Rail line from Nagpur to Nagbhir even today. Better means of transport can be made available.

Sir, when NDA Government was in power, programme to link roads, Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, programme to join the entire country through construction of four National Highways was started. The Government has ignored their programmes and is not releasing funds for this programme. In the last Rail Budget the trains were started in the areas to which the Rail Minister belonged. New trains were started in Bengal and Bihar but the rest of the places were ignored. Hon. Finance Minister may draw a map of the whole country and tell the hon. Rail Minister, how it is done and give directions in this regard.

Sir, grand announcement was made about telephones and BSNL. A letter was sent to me with regard to BSNL. It was written in that letter that BSNL service will be started in all tehsils of Nagpur by 31st December. Now it is being stated that it will take two to four months time. I was told in the Mumbai meeting that some old company has asked for four crore rupee for software and four crore rupees could not be provided. I don't know when it is going to be installed. I feel that the Reliance Company is going to be introduced on a large scale and the service that was to be provided by BSNL in all the tehsils was not started deliberately. Therefore, I request that BSNL Service should be started.

Sir, I would like to make a few points about my Lok Sabha constituency. Coal price is rising. Moorpar Coal mine in Chandrapur District of my Lok Sabha Constituency Chimur needs to be expanded. I have written to the Hon. Coal Minister but the reply was not satisfactory. Maand (Beshur), Minjhari, Bhansuli, Murpar Bandar Mines should be started. The old machinery should be replaced by new machinery. If you start these mines, they will make profit. Good quality coal is available there. The Government must take initiatives to start Iron, Manganese, quartz mines I Chandrapur, Gadchiroli and Bhandara districts in that area. I request you that the royalty of Goal given by Central Government may be given to Chimur area through Umrade Coal mines for the benefit of farmers and labourers, for providing to water its villages and funds for schools. Ghosekhurd project which is a big project and Human project which is a medium project must be included in the 181 projects. There was a disturbance because at time the NDA Government had considered giving a proper structure to the petrol sector but there is some controversy in the oil and cooking gas

sector. I will read it for you. Recently, Hon. Petroleum Minister Shri Mani Skhankar Aiyar proposed to abolish the subsidy on Kerosene oil and cooking gas and increase their price on the basis of cost of oil in the international market and other expenditures. The Hon. Finance Minister, Shri P. Chidambaram also spoke about abolishing subsidy on kerosene oil and cooking gas in mid-term review of economy of the country but on 16 December denying the news about a change of subsidy on essential commodities. Shri Chidambaram said that no decision had been taken in this regard. Is the Government going to decide after the session. The Government make it clear to the House as to what steps are proposed to be taken. The Government should clarify its stand about petrol. If petrol is an alternative for diesel then you most accept it. I would like to speak about Ministry of Environment and Forest. Some demands have been made but we see that rhino, lions and tigers are dying. Elephants are being killed.

The Government should do something about National Parks.

[English]

It is a beautiful country.

[Translation]

Our country is beautiful there are National Parks and Forests which are disappearing slowly. A provision of Rs. 1000-1500 thousand crore was made for this purpose in last budget, I have figures but I don't want to go into these. An outlay of around Rupees One crore was also proposed for this in supplementary Demands.

In this connection, I would like to ask if the Government is going to do something about the protection of wildlife and all the National Parks I request you to do something in this connection. Thank you for giving me time.

[English]

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY (Dhenkanal): Sir, today, we sit in this august House to discuss the Supplementary Budget of 2004-05. We have an able and a capable Finance Minister in this country today. He has to his credit many firsts.

Earlier, when he was the Finance Minister, he had been successful in achieving some underlying, some noble things which everybody expected he would repeat in this term also. We are still expecting and waiting for him to work some wonders which in the last 6 or 7 months, as of now, we do not seem to have benefited from his bright ideas and his experience.

Sir, I would like to concentrate first on my State Orissa which has been consistently considered to be a poor State. But, as you all know, all the States of the East, namely, Orissa, Bihar, West Bengal, Assam are not poor States. Intrinsically, these are very rich States, if you take into consideration their natural resources, and the amount of fresh water that flows through these States. If you take the human resource aspect also into consideration, we will all be happy to note that these States are very developed States. But, in the past, a lot of wrong was done to the Eastern part of the country, especially to States like Orissa. We are all aware about something called 'freight equalisation'. As far as freight equalisation is concerned, as you know, at the production head, whether it was coal or steel or iron ore or aluminium or managenese or whatever it may be, when they were produced or mined in Orissa or in Bihar and shipped to Mumbai or Ludhiana or Salem, the cost was the same as at the production head, thereby implying that the States in the Eastern part of this country like Orissa always subsidised in this country and it is these States which have built up this nation brick by brick. But, in return, today, what we see is that successive Union Governments,—except a small portion that the NDA ruled—federal Governments of India have always neglected the Eastern part of this country. Today, even the present Government has not fared better.

A State like Orissa does not only need money. As far as money is concerned, of course, we should get what we deserve. For example, they have not reviewed coal royalty, they have not tried to concentrate on our irrigation projects. They have not financed or funded sufficiently our irrigation projects, our infrastructure projects, thereby not only have the successive Central Governments taken away the wealth of States like Orisssa, they have also, on the other hand, tried to push up and keep us as if we were waiting somewhere at the back burner, and we do not have a right to be an active part of this nation.

Sir, infrastructure development in the Eastern parts of India has been consistently dwindling in terms of funding in all successive Plans. It is evident even in the last Budget, it is evident throughout this Plan, and we are yet to see what the next Plan bodes us.

[Shri Tathagata Satpathy]

Except Assam and some parts of the North-East, Jharkhand, Bihar, Bengal and Orissa, as I said earlier, all have much more water resources. They are rich in minerals and their human resources are yet to be exploited. I am repeating this with an intention that these aspects need to be underlined so that whichever Party comes to power at the Centre has to keep this in mind that unless you reach an even keel in this nation, no development is genuine or no development is sustainable.

For instance, let us look at the bank deposits in a State like Orissa. The State Bank of India alone had collected around Rs. 4,000 crore in the year 2002-03 as deposits. The Government deposits, individual deposits and all kinds of deposits but together come to Rs. 4,000 crore, out of which, the re-investment in the State was a meagre 16 per cent. It just shows that the banks in States like Orissa do not wish to re-finance agricultural projects, and they do not want to finance small-scale industries or medium-scale industries. The money collected is collected in Orissa or Bihar or Bengal but it is invested somwhere else, thereby making our people even poorer. So, it is time that we take a thorough look at where we are driving this country. We are in a State where backwardness and under-development have resulted in extreme naxalism. Sir, as you are aware, naxalism or activities connected with naxalites prosper when there is utter and abject poverty. When people are poor, when the villages are poor, and when the common man is looking for his daily meal, he is frustrated, he is hungry, he is willing to take up arms against anything that, he thinks, is slightly connected with establishment. So, when we are thinking of fighting naxalism with guns and with police, we are blissfully unaware that the problem does not lie with the bullets or the guns of the naxalites. The problem lies with poverty, no education or low education, and abject deprivation. If we meet these points, then we need not fight nexalites only with bullets, we could clean out their base and we could create a situation where it would be difficult for such elements to thrive.

Sir, I have a suggestion. Suppose, the federal Government thinks that it would link say, Ranchi with Vijayawada with a four-lane national highway, that would touch many religious places, it would touch mineral resource bases, and it would go through the heartland of naxalism. When they are planning for a red corridor, if the federal Government the Union Government of India plans for a proper national highway, then we will be able to beat them at their own game.

We will take the benefits to the society. With your so-called liberalism, your so-called open economy for the poorest of the poor in Eastern India, and with the road that would come, development, education and work would infuse wealth into those areas, but unfortunately what I find is that in successive Budgets and successive Plans, we preferred to remain blissfully unaware. We are not trying to meet certain basic demands of this country for which we are spending our energies, our resources in such a manner that they do not give us the fruits that the people are expecting. That is why, when most of us go to elections, when you go back to your constituency, people are constantly dissatisfied. They are asking all of us what the Government is doing, and our answer is that the Government is incapable, it is inept. So, it is like butter on bread. Everyone likes the thick coating of butter on his slice of bread. Here, the Indian Budget has successfully squandered away his spending. It is thinly spread out in all spheres.

We notice smaller countries like Thailand and Oman which have concentrated in two years' period or three years' period on particular projects, say, health, education and infrastructure. Infrastructure means, roads and ports. By doing it like that, what they have attained is a supremacy in those spheres where they have concentrated.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: I have nearly concluded. Some speakers before me have mentioned this. I would like to reiterate and pinpoint here that a project like the Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana, like four-laning and six-laning of the National Highways was not a political party's agenda. It was not something that the former Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee could have put in his pocket and taken it home. It was a wealth that was being built for the nation. He had the vision. But if somebody has a vision and the Government changes, let us not destroy a vision. Let us concentrate on the good things, no matter which Party started it, which political motive was behind it. A good thing is always good.

As we have seen, in this Budget these projects have been sidelined, especially the Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana. In my constituency, Dhenkanal of Orissa, I have seen in deep interior villages concrete roads that could be comparable to the concrete roads of Bombay or even some smaller roads of the USA. They are of that quality, but the project has come to a complete standstill. There is no work being carried out now.

In conclusion, I would request the Government to please widen your vision, think beyond petty political boundaries and give a break to this nation.

SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY (Nalgonda): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for this opportunity. Since we passed a good Budget in this House about six months back, certain promises, which this Government has made to the people and the nation, are certainly fulfilled. But many of the promises are yet to be fulfilled.

I would like to remind that price rise is one of the very important issues, and the people of the country are very much concerned about it. Unfortunately, while the prices of foodgrains and essential commodities are growing, there is no remunerative price being paid for the peasants for most of the commodities which they produce. We had a discussion in this House about the remunerative price and other things. Unfortunately, the suicides of the peasants are still continuing.

The hon. Minister of Finance and, on his instructions, the Reserve Bank of India, asked the nationalised banks and the private banks to be liberal and give more loans to the agriculture sector. I remember, the hon. Minister of Finance had gone to the extent of saying that he stood guarantee for the peasants and they should not ask for other guarantees. Definitely, there is an increase in the amount of loans sanctioned but it is not up to the mark. Otherwise, the suicides would have been stopped along back. Most of the loans which these banks are said to have given to the peasants are only book adjustments as if the old loans are paid back and new loans are given. This is a very unfortunate situation. The Ministry of Finance should intervene to find out really how many new loans are given to peasants in various places.

The agricultural labourers are the biggest victims of famine and drought situation in various parts of the country. We expected, because of the situation arising out of the drought in various States, the Government of India would come out with a courageous step to totally waive the loans of the peasants up to Rs. 20,000 or Rs. 25,000. There is a one-time settlement for big industrialists but there is no such possibility of writing off of loans of the peasants who are producing food for the entire nation. On the other side, there is no sign of improvement of labour market. This is a unfortunate situation.

A decision is yet to be taken on the reopening of the closed public sector industries in this country. This is a very serious issue. I would like to remind the hon. Minister of Finance through you that the commitment of the Common Minimum Programme is to be fulfilled at the earliest. While there are some positive steps being taken by this Government, I am sorry to say that there is no demarcation from the previous NDA Government on various policies. Once of the most important changes that should have been seen is on the question of commitment to the public sector. I do not say that the public sector undertakings which are totally running into losses should be reopened only to give wages to workers but there is a possibility that several industries could be modernised, reopened and at the same time give employment opportunities to a large number of workers, they were displaced because of the wrong policies pursued by the NDA Government which was against the public sector and which has made the public sector a victim continuously for the last several years.

The other issue is the question of disinvestment. Disinvestment is not necessary at this juncture when certain industries are earning profits. The decision of disinvestment in oil industry had been taken by the previous Government. I do not understand why the present Government is continuing to implement the same decision. There were allegations in the newspapers that ten per cent of the shares after disinvestment in the ONGC have been alloted to two unkown companies related to the Reliance Group. I do not know how far it is true. It has to be clarified by the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas and by the Ministry of Finance. When there are profits, why should they disinvest? It is a question of policy and it is a question of ideology. The public sector should be further strengthened.

I would like to remind the hon. Minister of Finance of certain other things also. The Supplementary Budget has given proposals for several Departments. Naturally, there is a Supplementary Budget for the Poastal Department also. I would like to remind him that there are about six lakh workers in the Postal Department and three lakhs employees, that is about 300,000 workers are continuing as extra-departmental employees for the last several decades. The Government is supposed to be a model employer in this country but unfortunately the Government is not plying that role. They are refusing to give proper facilities and regularise these extra-departmental employees. Fifty per cent of the workers in the Postal Department are extra-departmental employees, is a matter of serious concern.

The Employment Guarantee Scheme, which is to be introduced here, is limited to 150 districts. We welcome

[Shri Suravaram Sudhakar Reddy]

it. It is a very good step. It will help. But it should be extended to many more districts which are in need of this type of activity, maybe, at least, to 300 districts in the near future.

I would like to remind the Government through you, Sir, that on several arbitration issues between the Government and the employees, as I mentioned earlier on the question of the model employer, the Government is taking a very negative attitude. When there is a dispute between the Government employees and the Government and after negotiations have failed, it goes to the arbitration, and after the arbitrator has given a decision, this is not implemented by the Government for several years. It is kept in abeyance and ulttimately proposals are coming for a resolution in the Parliament, rejecting the arbitration awards. If the Government itself goes for this type of rejecting the arbitration awards. Then who will defend the workers in this country? And arbitration is something which the Government also accepts. The employer and the employee both should agree to implement these arbitration awards.

Sir, I would like to remind the hon. Minister of Finance about one very important aspect. In this Supplementary Budget, I do not find any special allocation or separate allotment for Telengana freedom fighters' pension. There are about 13,000 Telenganga freedom fighters who were continuously discriminated by the previous Governments for several years. During the last United Front Government, a special Screening Committee for the freedom fighters of the erstwhile Hyderabad State was appointed by the Union Government itself and all those who were in the Committee well know freedom fighters. They recommended about 13,000 names. About 18 new camps are to be accepted. For the last several years they are requesting for the Swatantrata Sanik Sammaan, unfortunately, there was discrimination against certain political parties? Telengana and Ponnapuravayalar arms struggles were not accepted as part of the freedom struggle. After 50 years of independence after they have applied and after their names have been cleared by the Screening Committee, their names are being rejected or are being kept in abeyance for several years.

Everyday we get the news that several old people are dying. If they get at least CGHS cards, if they get that honour that they are being accepted by the Government for Swatantrata Sanik Samaan, there is a possibility that they may live for some more months or for one or two years more. So, I request the hon. Minister of Finance to look into this issue very seriously.

Several lakhs of Telengana people participated in the freedom struggle. Nearly 4,500 people had laid down their lives for the liberation from the erstwhile feudal Nizam rule and they sacrificed everything. But, unfortunately, they are being denied these things.

Finally, I have a few suggestions to make to the hon. Minister of Finance. The Public Distribution System should be further strengthened so that the poor people in this country can be helped properly. I appeal for the reopening of the viable public sector undertakings. The Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers has asked for Rs. 300 crore, out of which Rs. 299 crore are required for the exchange loss. But I do not find any allotment for the reopening of the IDPL, which is a very important public sector undertaking under the M/o Chemicals and Fertilisers. Moreover, there is no mention about the HCL and CCI. These are the viable public sector undertakings. But, unfortunately, these have not been considered.

Sir, more liberal loans should be given to the agricultural labour. The bad debts are being written off for the industrialists. This is not a bad debt, this is because of the unusual situation in the country. So, the Government should come out with a courageous decision.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan—Not present.

Now, Shri Jasubhai Dhanabhai to speak.

[Translation]

SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD (Junagarh): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I support the Supplementary Budget Shri Chidambaram ji has presented. It is the Government's responsibility to provide livelihood and opportunities for development of the people of the country and if difficulties befall upon them, help them to ride over those difficulties. Besides, it is the duty of the Government to give right direction to the development of the country and to bring good name to it in the world.

If the coffer of the Government have paise 100, it can spend this money for the development, to provide succaur to the population, to speed up their development or it can spend this money to open up more service sectors. The Government must see it. Ever since the UPA Government has come into power, Hon'ble Finance Minister has made incessant efforts to provide proper direction to the economy.

I believe that the UPA Government will stick to its programme and the Supplementary Budget which it has presented will keep the promises, the UPA Government

has made to the people. There are a number of programmes such as food for work, universal education, road schemes, Indira Awas Yojana, Projects concerning different roads. Sampurna Gramin Rojgar Yojana etc. about which they made the people to believe and has brought Supplementary Budget which I support. There are two-three things wherein entire country believes. There is a need to develop the poor state, if any, in the country. I do not have the information about the whole country. I belong to Gujarat where there are many regions the people of which subsist on agriculture. The region could developed due to shifting (Jhum) cultivation. But the rains played truant and sea belt can not be used for cultivation. The farmer has neither rain water nor under ground water. The problem of livelihood has become quite serious and I request the Government to work there seriously so that the farmers could indulge in remunerative agriculture. He should get remunerative for that meagre crop which he could produce after very hard labour.

In our Saurashtra region, groundnut crop is plentiful. It is exported also. For the last several years people have been demanding that an export-zone should be set up in Gujarat.

The farmers who produce groundnut by their hard work, are unable to export them. They do not get remunerative price of their crop and their due share of income. They suffer losses in absence of Export Zone and presence of other agencies. If the exports are channelised through Export Zone, the earning of the Government can be boosted.

We do agriculture in revenue land. The farmers sow crop there. The fishermen works at sea-coast. We cannot provide him livelihood as such but the opportunities exist even today. There are some small villages and towns. If Jetties are placed at the deck, small fishermen can be saved from the troubles, they face due to big fishermen or boats. Today, the small fishermen are fighting for their livelihood. I want to draw the attention of the Government thereto.

Many a farmers, labourers and transporters are earning their bread with sugar mills. They are tied with them. Some sugar mills fails due to the non-availability of loan with low interest rate. Absence of rain failed the crops and they lack money. The farmers have yet to receive the dues of their produce. They get loans with 16-17 and 18% interest rate from outside. I request the hon'ble Finance Minister to grant loans with low interest rates to the sugar mills which failed on account of drought. All farmers are ready to do their bit to operate these mills. If they keep one quintal sugar in godown they get loan at 17% interest rate. If NCDC and SDF provide them loan at 6% interest rate for the period of one to two year, they will be succoured.

Horticulture is very common in our area. I, as an agriculturist can say that a number of goods can be exported. If the farmers process their crops, their incomes will be boosted up a bit. The processing units should be set up in the horticultural areas and Exports Units should be started. Our region is still in trouble. The supplementary demands mention the opening of AIDS and TB hospitals. Stone problem is rife in sea belt due to the non-availability of good drinking water. A number of people have fallen its victims. They have to go to Ahmedabad, Vadodra and Nadiad for treatment which are 500 kms away. As you are going to open AIDS and TB hospitals, you should also open hospitals to treat this disease. Our people are poor. They spend Rs. 8 to 10 thousand for treatment, which the common man can not shell out. The civil hospitals should be provided facilities to cure this disease. The Union Government should provide money for it.

Now, I want to draw the attention of the Government to an important matter which concerns with my area as well as with Rural Development Ministry. The money which Union Government provide State Governments to spend for rural development, is spent by them on other items. There are certain policies and programmer of the Union Government e.g. in Junagarh district, there is a programme to grant pensions to the aged if an earning member of the family dies, money is provided but for the last three years the whole amount has been spent on other items. Thus the payment is still outstanding. ...*(Interruptions)*. The Gujarat Government has not received even a single paisa. Where has this amount gone? I request the Government to provide the payment outstanding to State Government as soon as possible and check the spill over. With these words, I conclude.

SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI (Udaipur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am grateful to you giving me an opportunity to speak on this occasion. I want to draw the attention of the Government to some important points. The interim Budget, which was presented in the year 2004, by the Finance Minister of the NDA Government, had more stress on items of public utility. The Finance Minister of the UPA Government, when presented General Budget in July had said that the General Budget takes its cues from the interim budget and emphasizes more and more thereon. But it is not so. There is great

[Shrimati Kiran Maheshwari]

difference between his words and deeds and I shall mention the points here how it differs from the interim Budget.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, this budget has a step-motherly approach towards Rajasthan. I have been elected from Rajasthan so I know the conditions prevailing over there. I want to draw the attention of the House towards the step-motherly treatment of the UPA Government in respect of Rajasthan. From geographical point of view, Rajasthan is the largest state and occupies 10% of the total area of the country. It shelters 5% population of the country. But availability of water is only 1% of the country. Everybody is well aware of the fact that we have been facing severe drought for the last five years. The rainfall is scanty and it has been very less in divisional headquarters of Jodhpur, Udaipur and in Rajasthan. It is less by 50% to the average. All this has lead to the severe shortage of water. Keeping in view the scarcity, the Government of Rajasthan has sent some projects to the Union Government for their approval which are still lying pending with them. The State Government have requested the Union Government to approve these projects at the earliest possible and the amount which was allocated for this year, should be released but unfortunately we have not received funds till date. The Indira Gandhi Canal Project, Narmada Project etc., are very ambitious projects for the whole country and not for Rajasthan alone. The Former NDA Government had sanctioned funds for these projects and it was said these they would be completed within four years.

17.00 hrs.

But the UPA Government's Budget does not throw any light on the approved amount for these projects. I am very distressed to say that when we are facing severe famine, potable water is no available the Union Government is quite insensitive regarding water schemes. The Union Government has also treated us step-motherly in not interfering with Punjab's act of stopping 6MF water which is due to us because Punjab is ruled by a Congress Government and in Rajasthan, BJP is in power. You may have a look at Sri Ganganagar where the people have come out on streets, agitation are going on for water. But in spite of all these things, this insensitive Government is paying no heed towards it. So, I want to request the Union Government to approve the drinking water schemes sent by the Government of Rajasthan as early as possible. Famine relief works have been started in Rajasthan under the Calamity Relief Fund but the State Government are having only Rs. 272 crore for that purpose. It has been assessed that, by 2007 Rajasthan's famine relief requirements would be to the tune of Rs. 2380 crore. The Government of Rajasthan has sent a proposal to the Union Government in this regard. I request the Hon'ble Finance Minister, who is present here, to approve that proposal as early as possible so that Rajasthan which is facing famine, could be able to begin famine relief works properly and relief be given to the public there.

Not only this, the former NDA Government had started a scheme for the employment of the persons belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, particularly of Sahariya and Kathauri Tribes under which every family had to be provided with 100 days employment in a year, but the Rural Development Ministry has not made any provisions for that scheme in the General Budget. I would like to request you to sanction Rs. 21.30 crore which the NDA Government had sanctioned for the persons belonging to these tribal of Rajasthan. The UPA Government have not included it in its budget.

The NDA Government had planned to link the villages with the population of 500 persons with main road under Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana and this plan was to be completed by 2005. But till date, in all the states, broadly speaking, only the villages having the population of 900 persons have been linked with main roads. It is necessary for the development of villages that the villages having a population of 500 persons be linked with main road, The Government should also approve this scheme.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, our former Government had declared to set up AIIMS type hospitals in the whole country including Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan and Uttaranchal. There was a plan to set up AIIMS type hospital in each of these states.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, in this respect too, Rajasthan has been discriminated. One such hospital, which the Union Government had proposal to set up on the pattern of AIIMS, was proposed to be set up in Jodhpur but the Budget mentions nothing about it. It is very unfortunate that the Government adopts a discriminatory policy in the budget presented by it. It is distressing matter for all of us. Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to tell this Government through you that our former Government had started some schemes for the benefit of farmers which include crop insurance, drinking water and increasing availability of water for irrigation. The Government should think over allocating some funds to implement these schemes.

Sir, this Government is discriminating against Rajasthan. There is a Mewar Complex scheme for which Rs. 12.5 crore were sanctioned. But demands for supplementary grants do not have any provision in this regard. This scheme aims at linking the birth place of Maharana Pratap, the National Hero with the other places connected with his life, but this scheme too seems to have been shelved. It is not proper to deny its necessity. The denial of funds to the Mewar Complex Scheme reveals the thinking of this Government about Rajasthan and Maharana Pratap. This is the same intention of the Government which it has shown to insult and later on remove the name plate of Veer Savarkar in Port Blair. I would say that if the present Government does so it is trying to erase the memory of our national heroes. Therefore, I would like to request the UPA Government through you to think over it properly and provide adequate funds for all round development of all the States and it should not adopt distrimatory policy against any opposition ruled State should provide equal share to all in the Budget.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the States with special circumstances e.g. Rajasthan which is famine stricken, should be provided with maximum funds. Now, I conclude with these words and express my gratitude to you for providing me an opportunity to speak.

[English]

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Sir, while extending my support to the Demands for Supplementary Grants, I want to make some critical observations regarding the functioning of the Government.

I may point out that we have passed a statute last time for fiscal management and budget responsibility. There was a Bill, if you remember. We all together passed that Bill. The aim of that statute was to have a control on budget management and fiscal responsibility as well. However, it is an irony of fate that we follow the old procedure of coming to the House with Supplementary Demands for Grants even after passing that statute.

On going through these Demands for Supplementary Grants we find that they relate more or less to all the Ministries. Nowhere I find any unexpected item of expenditure. When the Budget was discussed, all these things were there. All the items given in these columns relate to expenditure which was quite expected. However, unfortunately, due to mismanagement, if I may put it that way, the Finance Minister is again coming to the House for Supplementary Demands, even after passing the Fiscal Management statute. It is an irony of fate.

We should deviate from the old practice. For that purpose we have passed the statute. If this is the position, what is the use of passing a statute like this for fiscal management and financial responsibility, and all these things? They will have to bear this is mind.

Hereafter, I would advise the hon. Finance Minister, who is an expert in this matter, not to come another time with the Supplementary Demands. He should strictly follow the guidelines enshrined in the Statute. The Statute is passed by the House with a purpose and that purpose is not served. With these general remarks, I would like to make some observations. I cannot go into all the details. There are many details.

In page 1 of the Demands for Grants, we have the demand for agriculture. I am coming to the State of Kerala. There is a crisis as far as agricultural produce in Kerala is concerned. Price stability is not there anywhere in Kerala and the prices deviate, fluctuate day by day. The poor agricultural farmers are in a state of starvation. Our hon. Finance Minister is in my neighbouring State. He is quite aware of the position in Kerala. The position of Kerala is fully worst.

We are now in the last quarter of this financial year. When you come to the House next time with the Budget proposals, you have to see that stability in the agricultural produce market is ensured. You have to take necessary steps so that the poor agricultural farmers would not commit suicide in the near future. I think, you will give a patient hearing to their grievances and something will be done to save the agricultural farmers of not only Kerala but also of throughout the country from further frustration and further loss of lives.

Secondly, I take the case of education. Education is more or less a matter of commerce. It is not a matter of service; it is not a matter of culture. It has become, pure and simple, a commercial business. Higher education has become more or less, cent per cent commercial education. When I refer to higher education, I refer to functional colleges. The admission for medical or engineering college seats is given for Rs. 10 lakh or Rs. 15 lakh. That is the position. So, we should have a sound educational policy. The Minister should stop this Rs. 10 lakh bargaining for the admission in medical colleges. He is also quite aware of it. In Tamil Nadu also, hundreds of colleges are mushrooming and they are demanding Rs. 10 lakhs or

[Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan]

Rs. 15 lakhs from students who are migrating to Tamil Nadu. This is the usual practice and experience. So, until and unless we take some drastic steps, we would not be able to control the situation. For that purpose, I would suggest that please bring in a Central legislation- a Central legislation defining the purpose and the manner in which higher education will have to be given effect to in our democratic country. Please bring in a legislation.

The legislation which you have brought in the matter of minority education is also dangerous. It has certain provisions which will allow these people in the name of minority education, extract, extort lakhs and lakhs of rupees from the students who are seeking admission. It is more than extortion. For that purpose, we have to define the Admission Boards and we will have to define the powers of the management, whether it is private or otherwise, whether it is minority or otherwise, we will have to define their powers of admission. There must be a uniform policy, a uniform law applicable throughout India. Education, I understand, is in the Concurrent List. But we must have a Central legislation to curtail the powers of management in collecting fees from the students.

Thirdly, coming to literacy, the United Nations have declared that in the 20th Century, almost all the people will become literate. Even now, in India, we are having the largest number of illiterate people. We have 35 crores of illiterates in India. Even then, we do not have a policy. We do not care as to what steps we have to take.

The National Literacy Campaign is there on paper only. It is not functioning properly. I would advise the Government, through you, Sir, that the Finance Minister must take some methods by which the National Literacy Campaign becomes a reality and there should be no one in India who is unable to read or write. That must be the policy. I would request him to adopt such a course.

Coming to transfer between the Union and the States, now we are at the stage of introducing a new tax system, the Value Added Tax (VAT). At the same time, there are apprehensions about this tax system being introduced. The traders are very much afraid of it. They want that each and every state should have a separate system of VAT. There should not be a uniform system in India. It is better if the VAT can be introduced in a varied form in each and every State, taking into consideration its geographical condition and other things. At this stage, I would tell the hon. Finance Minister that when we introduce the VAT, my State Kerala will be a loser. We were getting forty per cent of the total income from the sales tax and this will be lost. Naturally, there will be a loss for the State in terms of revenue in so far as Kerala is concerned. What is the remedy? Hon. Finance Minister may say that the Centre will compensate. That compensation will not be a matter of perpetuity. It may be done for two to three years. But, in the long run, Kerala will be a loser. So, I would request the hon. Finance Minister to look into this issue of transferring some service taxes to the States. Now, the Centre is collecting all service taxes. The Hon. Finance Minister must consider giving some service tax to the States.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: There are so many things to say. I do not want to go into the details because of lack of time. There are items which can be easily transferred to the States in the matter of collecting service taxes in lieu of sales tax. That matter may be looked into. I think, the Finance Ministers of the States and the Union Finance Minister will discuss all these matters and come to the rescue of the States.

Ours is a federal State. The Centre should definitely be strong enough and at the same time it should not be at the expense of the States. So, the States should also be encouraged in having a viable financial status in so far as this tax is concerned.

Another thing is textiles. Handloom is facing a crisis. Textile is also in the Demands for Supplementary Grants. The textile policy is there. But that policy has not been implemented so far. That policy is still on paper. No administrative orders have been issued. I will cite one example. The Cannanore district of Kerala has been declared as the centre for handloom textiles. To my knowledge, the connected matters have not been given effect to. The net result is that after a lapse of six months since you came to the power, nothing has been done in this respect to implement this policy in detail.

Lastly, I come to corruption. The Lokpal Bill is discussed. It has not been passed. Corruption is the order of the day. There is corruption from top to bottom. We experience corruption in every walk of life. Of course, there are courts and vigilance department.

The effectiveness of the Vigilance Department also is a matter of dispute now. We should not claim that we are doing justice, but the people should also feel that justice is being administered. That must be the criterion. We all claim that we have a very good vigilance, CBI investigation ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Radhakrishnan, please conclude now.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: So, I would request the hon. Finance Minister that when he comes next time with the Budget, he should see that this Bill is passed. A fair trial should be given, and the investigation into corruption charges should take place with due care and caution. I hope that he would look into all these matters.

With these words, I support the Demands for Supplementary Grants.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam): Mr. Chairman, Sir, we are discussing the Demands for Supplementary Grants for the year 2004-05. After passing of the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act, 2003, the Government requires to review the receipts and expenditure relating to the Budget.

The hon. Finance Minister has admitted that one of the weak areas of the current economic situation is inflation. Secondly, the hon. Minister has also appreciated the last year's performance of the NDA Government to achieve more than 8 per cent GDP. So, they did well in the agriculture, industry and service sector. According to the Mid-term Appraisal and even the quarterly appraisal, these sectors have done well.

17.22 hrs.

[SHRI ARJUN SETHI *in the Chair*]

We have to see the ground reality. That is the most important thing. Here, we are framing the policies. We are giving the figures etc. But they do not coincide with the ground reality. Regarding the price rise, I would submit that this is the highest inflation ever. It had not reached so high earlier. In the recent months, it had reached more than 8 per cent. Prices of all the essential commodities have increased. Recently, the Government has increased the price of petroleum three time. They have increased the price of gas two times. Now, the common man, the lower-income man, the middle-class man is suffering a lot. We have all this information.

Therefore, the Government should take suitable measures to control the prices of all the commodities. Even the State Governments are levying more than 30 per cent tax on the petroleum products. So, they should convene all the Chief Ministers' Conference to sort out these issues. All the State Governments are accusing the Centre, whether it was the NDA Government or whether it is the UPA Government in power. So, they have to take a considered view. They have to reduce the excise and customs duty Simultaneously, they should request the State Governments to reduce the sales tax. Then, the prices will be reduced.

Regarding agriculture, I would submit that the farmers of this country are providing food for more than 100 crore people. But it is a pity that they have no respect, they have no credit, they have no basic amenity, and they have no infrastructure. This is the fate of the Indian farmers today.

Last year, the Congress party led by Shrimati Sonia Gandhi and other State leaders accused the NDA Government and also the TDP Government for these suicides by the farmers. It is true that the farmers are committing suicide. The farmers are committing suicide not only in Andhra Pradesh but also in Karnataka, Maharashtra and various other parts of the country. The farmers are committing suicide. Everybody knows the fate of the farmers of this country. But Sir, my friends from the other side, have taken the political advantage. Okay, they have taken the political advantage. They had criticised the policies of the NDA Government at the Centre and they had also criticised the policies of the TDP Government in Andhra Pradesh. But what are they doing now? After the Congress party come to power in Andhra Pradesh as well as at the Centre, why did they not stop the suicidal deaths of the farmers? Why have they not taken steps to control all these things?

In Andhra Pradesh, about 2000 farmers had committed suicides in 200 days of their ruling. It is really a shameful thing. Even the foreign Ambassadors, after reading the newspaper report, came to Andhra Pradesh to enquire about it. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: He is not yielding. Please sit down.

DR. CHINTA MOHAN (Tirupati): Sir, he is giving wrong figures. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record except what Shri Yerrannaidu is saying.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing is being recorded. Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)**

---

*Not recorded.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Shri Parsuram, a student of MBA, has collected all the district-wise, mandal-wise, village-wise information and compiled it in this book. This book is the basis for me. I am not blaming them. They have been ctriticising the NDA and the TDP Governments for it. they made a promise that if they come to power, the suicidal deaths of the farmers would be stopped in this country. On the contrary, on an average, every day ten suicidal deaths are taking place in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra. My question to this Government is, what comprehensive policy does it have to control suicidal deaths of farmers.

The Government has made an announcement to the effect that in coming three years the credit to the farmers will be doubled. This is a good step. I also appreciate it. In reality, what happened in Andhra Pradesh or for that matter everywhere? How about the corporate sector of this country? All the cooperative banks, even the cooperative credit societies have no money. In the morning, one of my colleagues had raised this issue. Under the RBI Act, a number of banks are below the network and thus are not able to provide credit to the farming community. The Government has given money for re-capitalisation of the UTI as also of the nationalised banks but for the cooperative sector it has just appointed a Committee. The NDA Government had also appointed Kapur Committee. On Shri Vikhe Patil's recommendation also, another Committee was appointed. Every Government is appointing committees but nobody is looking for re-capitalisation. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: I have just started. Please give me five more minutes.

So, in the interest of public the Government has given money to UTI. To give breathing to the commercial banks, after Shri Devi Lal announced moratorium, the Government has lent money to them. But, to the cooperative banks, no money was given. This is very important issue. Suicides by farmers is really shameful for all of us in this country. The Government should look into the reasons of the farmers' suicides.

SHRI K.S. RAO (Eluru): Support Price is the main reasons for this.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Support Price is one of the problems. Now, Andhra Pradesh Government has announced a moratorium. They are not getting money. Even the private money-lenders are not providing money. All these are the factors responsible for farmers' suicides. So, a comprehensive policy in this regard, especially for the States like Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra where farmers are committing suicides, has to be announced by the Government of India. This is my earnest demand to the hon. Finance Minister.

Now, I come to the Employment Guarantee Scheme. The hon. Finance Minister has recently told the Media persons that he will be bringing a Bill in this session itself. Only two days are left and I am expecting that the Government will come with a Bill before the house adjourns *sine die*. As per Media reports as also as per my CPI, CPI(M) friends, the Act is now diluted. We are introducing the first of its kind of an Act. It should have stringent provisions which should be helpful to the unemployed persons. Taking help of this Act, they should be able to go to the Court or approach the District Administration and demand their right. So, the Government has to incorporate some stringent provisions in this Act, otherwise, it is of no use. Some States like Maharashtra has already had this Act. Some other such Acts are there in other States. Taking into consideration the deficiencies of all the existing Acts, the Government should enact a stringent Act in this regard.

Cotton farmers are not getting the Minimum Support Price. recently, the Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister and Members of Parliament met the hon. Prime Minister and the concerned Ministers also.

Even in Maharashtra, MARKFED is purchasing at Rs. 2500 per quintal. But in Andhra Pradesh, they are not getting even Rs. 1600 per quintal. The groundnut farmers, particularly in Rayalaseema are not getting Minimum Support Price.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Yerrannaidu, you may continue after one announcement.

Hon. Member, the hon. Speaker has received a request from the hon. Minister of Civil Aviation that in view of some urgent work, he will not be able to attend the Half-an-Hour discussion listed for today regarding proposal for new airports. Hon. Speaker has postponed the same for tomorrow.

So, we will continue this discussion on Supplementary Demands for Grants till 6 p.m.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: The cotton farmers are not getting MSP. Even groundnut farmers in Andhra Pradesh are not getting MSP. There Finance Minister should instruct the Cotton Corporation of India to open more purchasing centres for purchasing their product at the Minimum Support Price.

As regards amendment of Seeds Act, 2002, the previous TDP Government demanded this amendment. The present Rajasekhara Reddy Government and even other State Governments are also demanding it. There is no financial involvement in the amendment of Seeds Act and it would protect the Indian farmers. We are taking years together to do this. It is a shameful thing. Even the previous Government delayed it. That is why, my request to the hon. Minister of Agriculture would be to bring an amendment Bill to amend the Seeds Act in the next Session. There are a lot of loopholes. The present Act is not able to control the spurious seed sellers. That is why, the Finance Minister should take all the steps to control the suicide of farmers. You are saying that the country has 130 billion dollars foreign exchange. That is all right. The stock exchange is going up steadily. But what is the use? The farmers are committing suicide. There are starvation deaths. Is it not shameful? Who will believe that we have 130 billion dollars of foreign exchange reserve? So the first priority should be to prevent the suicides. From tomorrow onwards no suicidal deaths should occur in this country. Only then you and this Government would get the praise. Otherwise, nobody would believe that you will double the agricultural credit in three years. That is why, the Government should take all necessary steps to improve the condition of the farmers in this country.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, time and again hon. Members have raised their genuine concern about suicidal deaths. I think it is very shameful if any farmer in this country is driven to suicide and invariably because he cannot repay the loan. But I want to put this in a proper context. Please allow me to do so. I feel very deeply about it and I want to put this in the context. Studies conducted in Andhra Pradesh reveal that invariably the farmer who has committed suicide is a farmer who has taken a loan from a money lender. I am not saying in every case but, by and large, invariably he is a person who has taken money from money lenders. The money lenders lend at usurious rates and it is impossible for anyone whether he is a farmer or a businessman to pay those interest rates. The answer is to bring all the farmers under what we call "institutional credit". There are 10 crore farmer households in this country. When this Government took over, only four crore farmer households get bank credit. Six crore households do not get institutional credit. Now, it is impossible for any Government to jump from four crore to 10 crore in one year or six months. our ultimate goal is to ensure that everybody gets credit from a bank. But that cannot be done, however well meaning we are and whoever is the Minister, it cannot be done in one year. What have we done this year? This year, we have said that four crore farmers will be increased to 4.5 crore farmers. We are adding another 50 lakh new borrowers, among farmers, to institutional credit.

In the 18th July policy also I have said and I want to make this appeal to all those farmers who have borrowed from the moneylenders that they could come to any bank, the bank would take over that loan and given them the principal amount to pay off the moneylender and the farmers, in turn, can become institutional borrowers. That is, if a person has taken a loan from a moneylender at 30 per cent, then he can come to a bank and the bank would advance him the principal amount and the farmer then can pay off the moneylender and in the process become an institutional borrower.

I concede that this message has not spread throughout the country. It is going to take us some time to spread this message. I am travelling as much as I can. I have urged the hon. Members of Parliament to please travel in their constituencies, to go round to the banks, talk to the bank managers, talk to the farmers and tell them that if anybody is driven to a point where he cannot simply service the loan of a moneylender, then he should be taken to the bank and it must be seen that the loan taken from the moneylender is taken over by the bank and the moneylender is paid off. I would like to urge the hon. Members to please co-operate in this matter. This cannot be done by one person or one Minister or by one Government. Until all of us pull our weight together, this cannot be done. Believe me, over a period of time we will ensure that almost all farmers come under institutional credit. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Sir, I just want to ask one question. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can seek clarifications when the hon. Minister will reply to the debate.

...*(Interruptions)*

---

*Not recorded.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Sir, I agree with what the hon. Minister is saying. There was a question on this sometime back and I had given suggestions to the hon. Minister about this. We are taking his message but I would like to request the hon. Minister to appoint them in some advisory capacity. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing, except the speech of Shri Kharventhan, will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN (Palani): Mr. Chairman, Sir, thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to speak on the Demands for Supplementary Grants for the year 2004-05. I rise to support the Demands.

Sir, all political parties before elections make promises to the electorate. Now, this is the time to take stock of things and find out to what extent the promises made by the parties before elections have been fulfilled. The leader of our Party, Smt. Sonia Gandhi and also the alliance Partners of the UPA made certain promises to the people. It has been around 111 days that the UPA Government has come into power. I would like to mention some of the achievements of this Government in these few months that it has been in power.

Sir, first of all, the FDI ceiling in the civil aviation sector has been raised from 40 to 49 percent. The Foreign Institutional Investment Security and Exchange Board has reduced the time of processing applications from 13 working days to seven working days. The Government has raised the ceiling for FIIs in debt from one billion dollar to 1.75 billion dollar. Two percent cess has been levied both on direct and indirect taxes for funding basic education. Collateral security on education loan up to 7.5 lakhs has also been removed. A Task Force has been set up to recommend action for revamping the Co-operative Banking Sector. The Rural Infrastructure Development Fund has been revived with a corpus of Rs. 8,000 crore. Instead of the BIFR, we now have the Board for Reconstruction of Public Enterprises. The interest rates for Central loan to State Government has been reduced from 10.5 percent to nine percent. Furthermore, thousands of crores of rupees were allocated to the city of Chennai for setting up a de-salination plant in the city.

This is number one scheme throughout the world which comes under Reverse Osmosis Programme. If the Scheme is implemented, it will produce 200 million litres of water per day. But it is unfortunate that the State Government has not taken any steps to implement this Programme. Of course, money is given from the Government.

As regards Value Added Tax, I would like to mention that areas under my constituency like Ottanchattram and Kangeyam and an area under my neighbouring constituency, namely, Oothukuzhi are famous for butter and ghee. They are exported to various countries of the world. In Tamil Nadu, there is no sales tax for butter by the State Government. There is no TNGST and CST for ghee sold in Tamil Nadu. If ghee is sold in Tamil Nadu, the general sales tax is levied at 10 percent and if it is sold outside the State, then it is four percent. We came to know that the proposed Value Added Tax for butter and ghee is 12.5 percent. But there is no tax for desi butter sold by Khadi Bhandar. It will affect the farmers in places like Ottanchattram, Kangeyam and Oothukuzhi. I would request the Hon. Finance Minister not to levy any tax for butter and ghee.

With respect to problems relating to agriculture, Mr. Yerrannaidu has raised certain question. Our hon. Finance Minister has visited some places in Tamil Nadu and instructed the banks on the spot itself to give loans to farmers. But officers of the nationalised banks are asking individual farmers to get a clearance certificate from not less than ten nationalised banks of that region. After getting such a certificate from all those banks, they are simply saying that they are having the IRDP loan of Rs. 500 only and thus, the farmers are not sanctioned the loan. This is the situation. The co-operative banks are also not giving any loan to them. So, farmers are struggling for getting fresh loans. Those who regularly repay the loans are also not given fresh loans. So, the Government should take steps to give loans to farmers. Those farmers are living belows the poverty line. Hence, if loans are not waived, at least the penal interest should be waived off.

In the Demands for Supplementary Grants, there is a head for Minister of Health and Family Welfare. The National TB Control Programme is allocated Rs. 14 crore for meeting an additional expenditure of anti-AIDS Control Campaign under the National Aids Control Programme. The allocation for this Programme is Rs. 190 crore. While discussing about this aspect previously, I had mentioned that there are many NGOs who are getting crores of rupees from both our Government and abroad for AIDS Awareness Programme. Most of these NGOs are not spending a single rupee for this Programme. In a village

*Not recorded.

which has only 150 people, they are showing bogus bills for 2000 condoms and so on. So, the income tax authorities and other authorities must check these NGOs regularly. Otherwise, giving funds to them is of no use.

There is another column under the Minister of Rural Development. There is a programme called the National Food for Work Programme which has been allocated Rs. 2020 crores. There is already a Programme called Sampoorna Gramin Razgar Yojana under which we are giving foodgrains for the workers. We are giving Rs. 50 per day as their salary as also foodgrains at the block level. The rice given is totally taken away by the local politicians and being sold outside. The contractors are not giving any rice to the people. If that scheme is successfully implemented. then it will serve some purpose.

Another important is about the judiciary. I am not disputing that it comes under the State. Throughout the country, wherever we have moffussil courts are functioning, they have no building and other infrastructural facilities. The Government has to allocate a separate fund for construction of court buildings. As regards advocates, each State is having the Welfare fund Scheme. For example, in Tamil Nadu, the Welfare Fund Scheme is exempted from tax but Karnataka is not exempted from Income Tax. The Welfare Fund Scheme for advocates is implemented by the State Government throughout the country and it should be exempted from income tax.

I would like to make one more request, which is regarding farmers. In the Northern States, there is a lot of water, because it has rivers like the Ganga, Brahma Putra and other rivers. But if you go to South, there is no water at all. Unless the rivers are inter-linked, the problem will not be solved. Our Government has to allocate more funds for inter-linking of rivers.

[Translation]

SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD (Yavatmal): Mr. Chairman, Sir, we are discussing Demands for Supplementary Grants for the year 2004-2005. Sir, when this Government came to power it was projected that with leading economists such as Shri Chidambaram, Shri Manmohan Singh and Shri Ahluwalia the Government would do something new. Right from Common Minimum Programme, Presidents Address, Prime Minster's Address to the nation, it was reflected from every forum that the Government would take every possible step for development of the country Meanwhile, mid-year review was presented. The Budget is a mirror whereby the public can easily judge the level of price escalation. I remember the public made hue and cry when cooking gas prices were increased by Rs. Five which resulted in all round price escalation. See, how much dearer petrol and diesel have gone during last six months. It is a matter of grave concern. Day before yesterday whatever hon. Finance Minister told about inflation, is a matter of concern. We have seen that the Government gave something by one hand but took away that by the other hand. When Finance Minister presents Budget, all leading newspapers publish its review. When we go through the review, a different scenario appears before us.

Sir, I would like to remind you one thing The Government lowered tax on tractors by 2-4 percent but increased tax on steel. Our learned people wrote that the economic resolution is going to promote agriculture. I observe that the prices of TV and fridge and cigarettes have increased or decreased, but which way it is going to affect a rural poor? It leaves no effect on him. Budget hardly matters them. It neither benefits them nor harms them. Until and unless, a rural poor oriented Budget is presented it will not benefit the poor class. It will remain confined to merely big-talks.

I have seen that Bihar has been given a special package of Rs. 3225 crore. I hail from Maharashtra which has forwarded many proposals to the Central Government which include Nariman Point Bandra Linking Road Worli project. The said project will cost Rs. 3900 crore. The Govt. of Maharashtra has sought Rs. 1580 crore for it. Second proposal is relating to Mumbai Transmission Harbour Line for Shivadi-Nhava Sheva Sea Route Road. It will cost Rs. 2700 crore. The Govt. of Maharashtra have sought Rs. 1600 crore for it. Similarly, there is proposal relating to International Airport and several bridges. Mumbai contributes one third of the total revenue collection in the country. It is a metropolitan city. Therefore, I would urge upon the hon.. Finance Minister to pay attention to it. He should bear these aspects in mind while preparing the next Budget. If the Govt. addresses the problem of Agriculture and rural areas the need of poors, irrigation, roads, power, education, employment and housing for weaker section, then the problems which we are facing now, will not recur.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD: Sir, Dr. Bung Committee has submitted its report yesterday only. The report points out that over one-and-a-half-lakh poor children are dying of hunger. The State Government have accepted this fact. There is a Congress Government in the State as well as in Centre.

[Shri Haribhau Rathod]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, Cotton Monopoly Scheme in Maharashtra is being implemented by the State Government but the Government have no funds. Consequently, two-three thousand trucks and other loaded vehicles have to wait in the market upto two days as the Government do not have funds to pay them. This condition has been going on for the last three months. My submission is that he should render help in this regard. Cotton Monopoly Scheme is being run by the Government and the farmers as well. He should invariably help them.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri M.L. Shukla Vaidya, you speak now. Rathod ji, please conclude now.

SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD: Sir, there are people who forced to sell their children, even their daughters to quench their hunger. It so happened in Karnataka. It has been reported by the newspapers and the TV as well, yesterday. They are selling their children.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD: I will conclude in a minute.

MR. CHAIRMAN: One by one how many minutes you have taken.

SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD: If we do not bother for all this then who will? We do not have even a minute to hear all this. People are dying and the Government have become deaf. It should listen to the poor *.....(Interruptions)...* on one hand we have very poor people and at the same time on the other how we have very rich people.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Time allotted to your party is over.

SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD: I conclude with these words.

[English]

SHRI LALIT MOHAN SUKLABAIDYA (Karimganj): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to participate in this debate on Demands for Supplementary Grants for 2004-05.

Sir, our Budget is aimed to meet the National Common Minimum Programme. As you know, our economy depends mainly on agriculture and, that is why, maximum thrust has been given to rural development, agriculture. education, new technology and small and traditional industries. Without increasing the investment in agriculture, our economy cannot develop and we cannot achieve the desired rate of growth. That is why, our Government is going to, almost, double the investment in the rural sector.

Just now the hon. Member from the Opposition Benches was stating about the condition of the rural people. We all know the condition of our rural people and that is why the investment in the rural sector has been doubled by the Government. The main realistic effort, the Government made, is the provision for 100-day guaranteed employment.

We know that after its implementation, the economy of the people under BPL will be enhanced. They can join the productive process and that will also contribute to the growth of our GDP. There may be some economic constraint, but we know that our Finance Minister has a innovative vision and initiative and we can overcome this.

Just two hours back, one of the Members in the Opposition Benches was giving a very gloomy picture of our economy. He was stating how a child is developing and that shows how the economy will grow. I want to say how the child is developing and how our economy is developing. Though there were many odd factors, like 12 percent deficient rainfall, high price of petroleum products, we find that our revenue collection from the indirect taxes, in the first five months of the fiscal year, show an increase of 12.59 percent. The industrial growth in the first half of the year registered eight percent growth. The industrial growth in the first half of the year registered eight percent growth. The manufacturing sector grew at the rate of 8.2 percent. The export figures of September 2004 show a phenomenal growth of 25 percent. In infrastructure. 56 percent of the world of Golden Quadrilateral projects have been completed, and in electricity generation, upto October 2004, 7.5 percent growth has been registered as against 6.9 percent in the corresponding previous year. In telephony we have a very high growth. Mobile and land phones totalled to 88.4 million in October 2004. This is 27 percent above the level of previous year, which was 69.6 million. This is the picture how we are growing.

Another point which is very delighting to note is that the world rating by AT Kerney considered India as a superior manufacturing location than the US. 'India has

20 companies with less than 100 billion turnover', in FORBES the list of 2000 world's best companies. These are very encouraging to the investors all over the world. It can be realised what is the potential and power of our economy.

I wish to say something about North-Eastern region, particularly, our State of Assam. Recently, the hon. Prime Minister visited our region and because of his visit the poor people and peasants of our region have become very enthusiastic. They hope that their leaves will be changed very soon because ours is a very backward and undeveloped area. Though we have very much potential of development, it is not yet properly utilised by any of the Government. Our main problem is of transport. It is the bottleneck of our development. Many parts of our State are not well connected by rail or road.

I belong to Barak Valley. Barak Valley is a place where there is no train connection. A meter gauge line was there connecting Guwahati and in the name of conversion to broad gauge train runs upto Lumding, it was withdrawn. Now only a meter gauge line is there. There is no mail train and very frequently the trains are suspended there, which disrupts almost all the communications. The broad gauge construction was started about seven or eight years back. The previous Government could complete only 25 percent of works and it is due to the negligence of the Government, without sincere efforts we can not get a broad gauge line.

18.00 hrs.

MR. CHAIRMAN: How much time will you take?

SHRI LALIT MOHAN SUKLABAIDYA: I will just complete within two minutes.

Now the UPA Government has decided to step up the work because without its completion the broad gauge cannot move to Tripura, Manipur or other places. Our agriculture is most undeveloped. We need to introduce technology there. It is because, without application of technology, we cannot develop our agriculture. We have also cultivable land which is to be reclaimed. We have also swamp land. by applying technology we can also have one-time cultivation there.

Sir, every year we suffer from floods in the Brahmaputra and Barak tributaries, and lose billions of rupees. There was a proposal for dredging Brahmaputra and Barak. That has to be implemented. We need to control the floods.

We are proud of our tea industry. It earns huge revenue. Every day, almost half a million people are engaged in this industry. But, this industry is going to sick and the Government must take some action. One garden which is known as Pathni was taken over by the previous Government but that garden has now been abandoned and all the labourers are unemployed there are spending their time in inhuman condition.

There is a peculiar problem in our State. We have some teachers in permitted and Recognised schools and colleges. They do all the jobs like Government school teachers but they do no get any salary. So, I request as requested earlier that out of the two percent cess, which the Minister of Human Resource Development is going to get, we have to leave a part so that our teachers can be paid salary. With these words. I support the supplementary Demand for grants laid before the Parliament by the Hon'ble Finance Minister.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, the House stand adjourned to meet tomorrow, 21st December, 2004, at 11.00 a.m.

18.02 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, December 21, 2004/Agrahayana 30, 1926 (Saka).

ANNEXURE I

Member-wise Index to Starred List of Questions

Sl.No.	Member's Name	Question Number
1	2	3
1.	Shri Adsul, Anandrao V.	271
2.	Shri Athawale, Ramdass	269
3.	Shri Barad, Jashubhai Dhanabhai	278
4.	Shri Chakraborty, Ajoy	282
5.	Shri Gadhavi, P.S.	275
6.	Dr. Jagannath, M.	266
7.	Shri Kalmadi, Suresh	281
8.	Shri Khaire, Chandrakant	276
9.	Shri Kumar, B. Vinod	268
10.	Shri Mahato, Sunil Kumar	281
11.	Shri Mandlik, S.D.	274
12.	Shri Meghwal, Kailash	270
13.	Shri Mehta, Bhubneshwar Prasad	278
14.	Shri Moorhy, A.K.	276
15.	Shri Paswan, Sukdeo	264
16.	Shri Pathak, Brajesh	273
17.	Shri Patil, Shriniwas Dadasaheb	280
18.	Shri Pradhan, Dharmendra	279
19.	Smt. Purandeswari, D.	273
20.	Shri Rao, Rayapati Sambasiva	267
21.	Shri Rawale, Mohan	270
22.	Shri Rawat, Kamla Prasad	279
23.	Shri Reddy, M. Raja Mohan	277
24.	Shri Reddy, S.P.Y.	275
25.	Shri Reddy, Suravaram Sudhakar	265
26.	Shri Rijiju, Khiren	265
27.	Shri Saradgi, Iqbal Ahmed	266
28.	Shri Satpathy, Tathagata	277
29.	Shri Shivajirao, Adhalrao Patil	271
30.	Shri Sidhu, Navjot Singh	272
31.	Shri Singh, Kirti Vardhan	274
32.	Shri Veerendra Kumar, M.P.	263
33.	Shri Zahedi, Mahboob	264

Member-wise Index to Unstarred List of Questions

1.	Shri Abdullakutty	3040
2.	Shri Adsul, Anandrao V.	3098, 3105
3.	Shri Ahamad, Atiq	2972, 3096
4.	Shri Ahir, Hansraj G.	3120
5.	Shri Ajay Kumar, S.	3034
6.	Shri Angadi, Suresh	2992, 3108
7.	Shri Athawale, Ramdas	3110, 3133, 3167
8.	Shri Azmi, Ilyas	3011, 3020, 3131, 3177
9.	Shri Bansal Pawan Kumar	3042
10.	Shri Barad, Jashubhai Dhanabhai	3031, 3128
11.	Shri Barman, Hiten	2968, 3091
12.	Shri Barman, Ranen	3080
13.	Shri Baxla, Joachim	3080
14.	Shri Bhadana, Avtar Singh	3048, 3171
15.	Shri Bhakta, Manoranjan	3063, 3133, 3164
16.	Shri Bishnoi, Kuldeep	3050, 3152
17.	Shri Bose, Subrata	3080
18.	Shri Chakraborty, Ajoy	3122, 3133
19.	Shri Chaliha, Kirip	2994, 3176
20.	Shri Chandel, Suresh	2966, 3138
21.	Shri Chandrappan, C.K.	2999, 3109
22.	Shri Charenamei, Mani	3064, 3189
23.	Shri Chavan, Harishchandra	3038, 3048

1	2	3
24.	Dr. Chinta Mohan	3009
25.	Smt. Choudhary, Anuradha	3162
26.	Shri Choudhary, Nikhil Kumar	3039, 3045, 3165, 3184
27.	Shri Chouhan, Shivraj Singh	3055, 3137
28.	Shri Chowdhary, Pankaj	3111, 3173
29.	Shri Chowdhury, Adhir	3030, 3059, 3140, 3181
30.	Shri Chowdhury, Bikash	2979, 3101
31.	Shri Dasgupta, Gurudas	3060, 3159
32.	Shri Deshmukh, Subhash Suresh	2965, 3146
33.	Shri Dhotre, Sanjay	3171
34.	Shri Dubey, Chandra Sekhar	3064, 3188
35.	Shri Gadakh, Tukaram Gangadhar	3133
36.	Shri Gadhavi, P.S.	3134
37.	Shri Gamang, Giridhar	3049, 3130, 3151
38.	Smt. Gandhi, Maneka	3035, 3142
39.	Shri Gangwar, Santosh	3073, 3169
40.	Shir Goyal, Surendra Prakash	3914, 3048, 3125
41,	Shri Gudhe, Anant	3085
42.	Shri Hamza, T.K.	3040
43.	Shri Harsha Kumar, G.V.	3077, 3172
44.	Dr. Jagannath, M.	3160
45.	Dr. Jatiya, Satyanarayan	3054
46.	Shri Jha, Raghunath	3010, 3121
47.	Shri Jindal, Naveen	3068u
48.	Shri Jogi, Ajit	3083, 3180, 3187
49.	Shri Kanodia, Mahesh	2970
50.	Shri Khaire, Chandrakant	3117
51.	Shri Khan, Sunil	2995
52.	Shri Khanna, Avinash Rai	3031
53.	Shri Kharventhan, S.K.	3079, 3113, 3180, 3183
54.	Shri Koli, Ramswaroop	2974, 2997
55.	Shri Koshal, Raghuveer Singh	2989, 3104
56.	Dr. Koya, P.P.	3076
57.	Shri Krishna, Vijoy	3183
58.	Shri Kulaste, Faggan Singh	3026, 3137
59.	Shri Kumar, B. Vinod	3054, 3089
60.	Shri Kumar, Nikhil	3030, 3140, 3181
61.	Shri Kumar, Sajjan	3024, 3135
62.	Shri Kumar, Virendra	2985
63.	Shri Kunnur, Manjunath	3133
64.	Shri Kushawaha, Narendra Kumar	3004, 3044, 3082, 3120, 3185
65.	Shri Lonappan, Nambadan	3018
66.	Shri Madam, Vikrambhai Arjanbhai	2983, 3102, 3118
67.	Smt. Madhavaraj, Manorama	3019
68.	Smt. Mahajan, Sumitra	3015
69.	Shri Mahajan, Y.G.	2980, 3173
70.	Shri Mahato, Bir Singh	3016, 3129
71.	Shri Mahato, Sunil Kumar	3107, 3129
72.	Shri Mahto, Tek Lal	3025, 3136
73.	Shri Majha, Parsuram	2991, 3066, 3127
74.	Shri Mandal, Sanat Kumar	3022, 3132
75.	Shri Mandlik, S.D.	3116
76.	Shri Manjhi, Rajesh Kumar	2988, 3103
77.	Shri Meghwal, Kailash	3069, 3088, 3133. 3179
78.	Shri Mehta, Alok Kumar	3075

1	2	3
79.	Dr. Mishra, Rajesh	3014, 3048, 3125
80.	Shri Mistry, Madhusudan	3014, 3048, 3125
81.	Shri Modi, Sushil Kumar	3006, 3115
82.	Shri Moghe, Krishna Murari	3055, 3070, 3168
83.	Shri Mohan, P.	3005
84.	Shri Mohd., Mukeem	3067
85.	Shri Mohite, Subodh	3062
86.	Shri Mollah, Hannan	3112
87.	Shri Moorthy, A.K.	3093, 3193
88.	Shri Munshi Ram	2996, 3004, 3161, 3162, 3173
89.	Shri Murmu, Rupchand	3074, 3170
90.	Shri Nair, P.K. Vasudevan	2999
91.	Shri Narbula, D.	3056, 3157
92.	Smt. Narhire, (Saw.) Kalpana Rames	3031, 3075, 3133
93.	Shri Nayak, Ananta	2982, 3090, 3180, 3186
94.	Shri Nishad, Mahendra Prasad	3184
95.	Shri Oram, Jual	2967, 3090, 3191
96.	Shri Owaisi, Asaduddin	2976, 3116, 3178
97.	Shri Palanisamy, K.C.	2981
98.	Shri Panda, Prabodh	3043, 3129, 3145
99.	Shri Parste, Dalpat Singh	2969, 3092, 3133
100.	Shri Pawwan, Ram Chandra	3003, 3190
101.	Dr. Patasani, Prasanna Kumar	3017, 3130
102.	Shri Patel, Dinsha	3007
103.	Smt. Pateriya, Neeta	3137
104.	Shri Pathak, Brajesh	3027, 3100, 3133, 3185
105.	Shri Patil, Balasaheb Vikhe	3075, 3133,
106.	Shri Patil, Shriniwas Dadasaheb	3086, 3192
107.	Shri Pingle, Devidas	3004, 3048, 3161, 3162, 3173
108.	Shri Prasad, Anirudh *Alias* Sadhu Yadav	3116
109.	Shri Prasad, Harikewal	3000, 3020, 3075, 3124, 3131
110.	Rrof Ramadass, M.	2987, 3106, 3182
111.	Shri Ramakrishna. Badiga	2998, 3150
112.	Shri Rana, Kashiram	3011, 3123
113.	Shri Rao, K.S.	2993, 3179
114.	Shri Rao, Rayapati Sambasiva	3113, 3114
115.	Shri Rao. D. Vittal	3023
116.	Shri RAthod, Haribhau	3072, 3167
117.	Shri RAwale, Mohan	3060, 3075, 3175, 3185
118.	Shri Rawat, Ashok Kumar	3046, 3148
119.	Shri Rawat, Kamla Prasad	3173
120.	Prof. Rawat. RAsa Singh	2990, 3177
121.	Shri Reddy, G. Karunakra	3001, 3126, 3177
122.	Shri Reddy, Madhusudan	3065
123.	Shri Reddy, Magunta Sreenivasulu	2964, 3095
124.	Shri Reddy, S.P.Y.	3087
125.	Shri Reddy, Suravaram Sudhakar	3112
126.	Shri Renge Patil, Tukaram Ganpatrao	3012, 3016, 3023, 3107
127.	Shri Rijiju, Khiren	3133

1	2	3
128.	Shri Sai Prathap, A.	3027
129.	Shri Sangwan, Kishan Singh	3069
130.	Shri Saradgi, Iqbal Ahmed	3075, 3113, 3114
131.	Dr. Sarma, Arun Kumar	3057
132.	Shri Saroj, Tufani	2973
133.	Adv. Satheedevi, (Shrimati) P.	3040
134.	Shri Satpathy, Tathagata	3119
135.	Shri Scindia, Jyotiraditya M.	3061, 3163
136.	Smt. Sen, Minati	3033
137.	Dr. Senthil, R.	2984
138.	Shri Sethi, Arjun	3029
139.	Shri Shaheen, Abdul Rashid	3032, 3141
140.	Shri Shakya, Raghuraj singh	3039, 3184
141.	Shri Sharma, Madan Lal	2986
142.	Shri Shivajirao, Adhalrao Patil	3105
143.	Shri Shivanna, M.	3052, 3154
144.	Prof Shiwankar, Mahadeorao	2996, 3004, 3050, 3161, 3162
145.	Smt. Shukla Karuna	2977, 3120
146.	Shri Sidhu, Navjot Singh	3152
147.	Shri Singh Lakshman	3051, 3153
148.	Shri Singh, Chandra Bhushan	3044, 3114, 3147
149.	Shri Singh, Chandrabhan	3026, 3028, 3137, 3139
150.	Shri Singh, Dushyant	3066, 3166
151.	Shri Singh, Ganesh	3028, 3036
152.	Shri Singh, Kirti Vardhan	3116, 3183
153.	Shri Singh, Prabhunath	3021, 3174
154.	Shri Singh, Sitaram	3002, 3156
155.	Shri Singh, Sugrib	3078, 3182
156.	Shri Singh, Suraj	3047, 3149
157.	Shri Singh, Rajiv Ranjan "Lalan"	3009
158.	Shri Sonowal, Sarbananda	3037, 3143
159.	Shri Subba, M.K.	2975, 3097
160.	Smt. Thakkar, Jayaben B.	2978, 3099
161.	Shri Thojmas, P.C.	3053, 3155
162.	Shri Thummar, V.K.	3014, 3041, 3048, 3125, 3144
163.	Shri Tripathy, Braja Kishore	3048, 3058, 3116, 3128, 3158
164.	Shri Varma, Ratilal Kalidas	3038, 3048, 3173
165.	Shri Vasava, Mansukhbhai D.	3012, 3123, 3124
166.	Shri Verma, Rajesh	3081, 3183
167.	Shri Yadav Baleshwar	2971, 3094
168.	Shri Yadav, Giridhari	3000, 3023, 3177
169.	Shri Yadav, Paras Nath	3048
170.	Shri Yadav, Ram Kripal	3013
171.	Shri Yadav Sita Ram	3075
172.	Shri Yerrannaidu, Kinjarapu	3008, 3118.

ANNEXURE II

Ministry-wise Index to List of Starred Questions

Agriculture	264, 266, 267, 269, 271, 274, 280, 281, 282
Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution	263, 265, 272, 279
Environment and Forests	268, 273, 278
Food Processing Industries	
Labour and Employment	276
Tourism	270, 275
Water Resources	277
Youth Affairs and Sports	

Ministry-wise Index to List of Unstarred Questions

Agriculture	2972, 2974, 2975, 2976, 2980, 2981, 2982, 2983, 2984, 2992, 2993, 3001, 3002, 3005, 3006, 3007, 3008, 3009, 3016, 3022, 3025, 3026, 3029, 3039, 3045, 3050, 3052, 3055, 3056, 3058, 3061, 3067, 3070, 3072, 3076, 3077, 3078, 3082, 3085, 3086, 3089, 3090, 3095, 3098, 3100, 3104, 3107, 3109, 3114, 3123, 3124, 3126, 3128, 3129, 3135, 3138, 3139, 3141, 3146, 3148, 3155, 3157, 3160, 3163, 3168, 3172, 3183, 3189, 3193,
Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution	2964, 2973, 2988, 2999, 3003, 3010, 3027, 3030, 3031, 3033, 3075, 3081, 3094, 3011, 3119, 3121, 3131, 3140, 3153, 3162, 3167, 3170, 3174, 3177,
Environment and Forests	2969, 2971, 2977, 2985, 2986, 2990, 2994, 3011, 3012, 3013, 3014, 3017, 3020, 3035, 3038, 3040, 3041, 3044, 3049, 3063, 3069, 3080, 3084, 3092, 3093, 3099, 3105, 3118, 3125, 3127, 3130, 3137, 3142, 3147, 3149, 3151, 3158, 3164, 3165, 3171, 3176, 3192,
Food Processing Industries	2970, 3023, 3036, 3106, 3182,
Labour and Employment	2979, 2987, 2991, 3000, 3004, 3034, 3042, 3047, 3053, 3060, 3066, 3083, 3101, 3112, 3117, 3120, 3122, 3133, 3143, 3159, 3178, 3181, 3191,
Tourism	2967, 2997, 2998, 3019, 3021, 3024, 3037, 3046, 3059, 3068, 3071, 3079, 3096, 3097, 3102, 3103, 3116, 3132, 3134, 3156, 3173,
Water Resources	2965, 2966, 2968, 2978, 2989, 2995, 2996, 3018, 3028, 3043, 3048, 3054, 3062, 3064, 3074, 3087, 3085, 3091, 3108, 3110, 3113, 3115, 3144, 3150, 3161, 3166, 3175, 3185, 3186, 3187, 3188,
Youth Affairs and Sports	3015, 3032, 3051, 3057, 3065, 3073, 3136, 3145, 3152, 3154, 3169, 3179, 3180, 3184, 3190.

P.L.S. 40. VI. 14/2004
487

© 2004 By Lok Sabha Secretariat

Published under Rules 379 and 382 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha (Eleventh Edition) and Printed by M/s. Jainco Art India, New Delhi.