

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Seventh Session
(Fourteenth Lok Sabha)



(Vol. XVII contains Nos. 1 to 10)

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Dated... 8 Feb 2007...

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

Price : Rs. 80.00

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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Monday, February 20, 2006/Phalgun 1, 1927 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

[English]

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: We have foreign guests.

WELCOME TO HIS EXCELLENCY MR.
JAIME GAZMURI, VICE PRESIDENT
OF CHILEAN SENATE

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, Mr. Jaime Gazmuri, Vice President of Chilean Senate who is on a visit to India as our honoured guest.

He arrived in India on Saturday, 18th February, 2006. He is now seated in the Special Box. We wish him a happy and fruitful stay in our country. Through him, we convey our greetings and best wishes to the President, the Parliament and the Government and the friendly people of Chile.

11.01 hrs.

INTRODUCTION OF MINISTERS

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Prime Minister.

THE PRIME MINISTER (DR. MANMOHAN SINGH): Hon. Speaker, Sir, with your permission, I wish to introduce to you and, through you, to the august House my colleagues who have been inducted in the Council of Ministers recently but could not be introduced to the House earlier.

Cabinet Ministers

Shrimati Ambika Soni The Minister of Tourism and Culture

Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev The Minister of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises (Promoted to the rank of Cabinet Minister)

Minister of State

Shri Dinsha Patel The Minister of State in the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajanj, Bihar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have given a notice for Adjournment Motion regarding dissolution of the Bihar Legislative Assembly. The matter is with the Supreme Court ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: At 12 Noon, after the Question Hour, I will allow you. Thank you.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): The matter is so important that ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I will allow.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: The Constitution has been grossly violated and the hon'ble Prime Minister is directly responsible for it. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You please take your seat.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: It is a serious matter. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: At 12 Noon.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Hon'ble Prime Minister has left, but we want him to resign.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: In his absence also, you can ask for it. Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: All right, you may raise it at 12 o'clock.

[English]

Question Hour is very important.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

11.02 hrs.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Prabodh Panda, Q. No. 21.

Cut in food Subsidy

*21. SHRI PRABODH PANDA:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN":

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

(a) the stock position of various foodgrains including wheat in the country as on date;

(b) whether the stocks have declined considerably below the buffer stocking norms;

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

(d) whether the Government has decided to effect a cut in food subsidy on foodgrains being distributed under Public Distribution System, Targeted Public Distribution System and Antyodaya Anna Yojana;

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

(f) whether the Government is considering to reduce the monthly supply and hike the price of foodgrains under

various food based welfare programmes to overcome the situation;

(g) if so, the details thereof for both the Above Poverty Line and Below Poverty Line categories, separately;

(h) the quantum of foodgrains released/likely to be released during 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 under the said programmes; and

(i) the steps taken to improve the stock position and contain the price rise in the country?

[Translation]

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 (i) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (c) The stock of foodgrains in the Central Pool as on 1.1.2006 were 126.41 lakh tonnes of rice and 61.88 lakh tonnes of wheat against the buffer stocking norm of 118 lakh tonnes and 82 lakh tonnes respectively as on 1st January 2006. The stock of wheat was around 20 lakh tonnes below the buffer stocking norm of 1st January.

The decline of wheat stocks has been, *inter alia*, due to increased offtake of foodgrains under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and other welfare schemes, and lower procurement of wheat in comparison to the offtake.

(d) to (g) In order to rationalise the allocation of foodgrains under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), ensure that the food subsidy remains targeted towards poor households, and, keeping in view the reduced availability of foodgrains in the Central Pool, the Government took the following decisions on 6.1.2006.

(i) For Above Poverty Line (APL) households, allocation of foodgrains to State Governments to be fixed on the basis of 20 kg. per family per month from the earlier allocation of 35 kg. per family per month, or the offtake during 2004-05, whichever is lower.

(ii) For Below Poverty Line (BPL) and Antyodaya households, the allocation of foodgrains to States to be fixed on the basis of 30 kg. per family

per month from the existing 35 kg. per family per month.

- (iii) The APL Central Issue Prices (CIPs) of foodgrains, which were last fixed in July, 2001, to be revised upwards by Rs. 85 per quintal and Rs. 95 per quintal for wheat and rice respectively.
- (iv) The BPL CIPs, which were last fixed in July, 2000, to be continued at the same level.
- (v) The Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) CIPs at Rs. 2 per kg. and Rs. 3 per kg. for wheat and rice respectively to be continued without change.

However, the implementation of the above decisions has been postponed keeping in view representations from State Governments and political parties. Had these decisions been implemented, the resultant savings in food subsidy in a full year would have been around Rs. 2496 crore.

(h) The quantity of foodgrains released and likely to be released as per present projections during 2004-05 and 2005-06 is as under:

(In lakh tonnes)

Year	2004-05			2005-06 (Projected)		
	Rice	Wheat	Total	Rice	Wheat	Total
TPDS	165	130	295	175	121	296
Other Scheme	65	41	106	61	50	111
Total	230	171	401	236	171	407

In respect of the year 2006-07, at the current levels of scales of issue, the offtake is likely to be around the same level as in the year 2005-06.

(i) To improve the stock position, the following steps have been taken:

- (i) Measures to increase the procurement of wheat and rice in the coming procurement seasons;
- (ii) Import of 5 lakh tonnes of wheat.

For keeping a check over prices, the following steps have been taken:

- (i) Daily monitoring of prices of foodgrains;
- (ii) Release of additional stocks of wheat in the open market to contain the price rise in the country;
- (iii) Freeze in the Central Issue Prices (CIPs) of foodgrains under the TPDS;
- (iv) Ensuring adequate availability of foodgrains for TPDS and other welfare schemes in all States of the country.

[English]

SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Sir, the object of the Public Distribution System is not only to safeguard the interests of the poor masses but also to eliminate the hoarders and black-marketeers. As far as the Common Minimum Programme is concerned, the desired state of the revamping of the Public Distribution System still remains invisible. The demand for the Public Distribution System and Food for All is there. In this regard, a high-level Committee to formulate a long-term grain policy was set up by the Union Government.

MR. SPEAKER: What is your question?

SHRI PRABODH PANDA: I am coming to the question, Sir. As far as I know, the Report of the said Committee was submitted in 2002. One of its recommendations is that there should be Universal Public Distribution System in all parts of the country, so also a Uniform Central Prices.

How does the Union Government respond to the recommendations of the Committee? Is the Government ready to introduce the Universal Public Distribution System?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): This particular subject was discussed on many occasions. The Government has taken a conscious decision to concentrate only on the particular section which is really poor in the society. The entire thing is applicable to those who come under the Below Poverty Line and those who are the poorest of the poor. It is not possible to accept the Universal Distribution System.

SHRI PRABODH PANDA: It is the recommendation of the Committee and that is why, I raised it.

MR. SPEAKER: Very well. He has given his reply.

SHRI PRABODH PANDA: The second supplementary is that most of the State Governments are failing to purchase the Centrally-allotted quota of food grains due to dearth of funds, and restriction imposed by the Reserve Bank of India. In some States, VAT has been imposed on food grains from the PDS. There is a lack of viability of Fair Price Shops. This problem is there due to poor rate of commission and poor rates of transport rebate. My question is, whether the Government is ready to review all these constraints and restructure the whole system in this regard.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: In fact, we have introduced a system of discussion with all the State Governments. Recently, a meeting was called in Kolkata and we had invited the Food Ministers and Food Secretaries from around the States. The next meeting was called in Guwahati and all the Ministers and Secretaries from the North-Eastern States were invited. We discussed all these issues in detail. There are certain genuine issues and those issues have been resolved. But the question as to whether enough off-take is there or whether monetary support is there, is altogether a different question. Our experience is that most of the States, barring one or two, are practically lifting their food grains which have been allotted to respective States. That problem is not there.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN': Mr. Speaker, Sir, in my area sowing season starts in November and harvesting is done in April. Hon'ble Minister has made a mention of the decision of the Government taken in January with regard to the reduction of the quantity of wheat being distributed through the PDS and hike in its price on the ground of its shortage under buffer stock with the Government. On the contrary the Government had adequate buffer stock for four months. Moreover, FCI has asked all the State Governments to purchase the grains locally and distribute them through the PDS. It signaled that there was not a shortage of foodgrain and the Government ordered for its import. New crop arrives here in April, but, policy of the Government was that ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You need not discuss the entire policy in the Question Hour. You can put a specific question for information.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN': It created artificial shortage of grains here. I would like to know from the Government under what circumstances and under whose pressure the Government decided to import grains, whereas they had enough buffer stock? ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You can discuss it under the Motion of Thanks.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN': I would like to know under what circumstances the Government had to import grains. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This does not arise out of this. Even then, if hon'ble Minister wants to reply, he can do so.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN': Sir, it is not just a matter of subsidy only. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You have diverted from your question.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN': Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is a question about the buffer-stock too.

MR. SPEAKER: Please speak about the buffer stock.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You would get a full chance.

[English]

This is very important issue which has been raised just now. There is an occasion to discuss this under the Motion of Thanks.

[*Translation*]

DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon'ble Member has raised an issue other than buffer stock. I would like to say that as on 1 January, 2006, we required to maintain a stock of 200 lakh tonnes of both wheat and rice, which has now fallen to 188 lakh tonnes. Our rice stock is 8 lakh tonne more, whereas, there is a shortage of 12 lakh tonnes in the wheat stock. Newspapers have been reporting of constant increase in the prices of wheat. Last year, the procurement. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing to be recorded without my permission.

...(*Interruptions*)*

[*Translation*]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Country's production. ...(*Interruptions*)

DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH: Please listen to my reply. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Why are you replying to him?

...(*Interruptions*)

DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH: Hon'ble Member has raised the second issue about import. The Government have reviewed the stock position. Economic cost has increased a lot. In the year 2000, the Government decided to allot 35 kgs. of grain in place of 10 kg, because, in 2002, our godown were packed to full and with a view to vacate some space, we hiked the distributable quantity from 10 kgs. to 20 kgs. under the Antyodya Anna Yojna (AAY) to the families belonging to the BPL category. Subsequently, it was increased to 25 kgs. form 20 kgs. and then to 35 kgs. During 2001-02, 120 lakh tonnes of grains were distributed under the PDS, whereas, now in 2005-06, the Government have distributed 295 lakh tonnes of grains under the various schemes and under the PDS. From the date the UPA Government come to power, the number of families covered under AAY scheme has been increasing by the rate of 50 lakh families per year. So far as prices are concerned, the wheat which was available to us at a

price of Rs. 283.48 a quintal, is now also available at Rs. 1137.70 a quintal. Similarly, the price of rice, has also increased from Rs. 1030.80 to Rs. 1334.46 a quintal. It means, price of wheat has increased by 16 per cent. ...(*Interruptions*) and that of rice by 17 percent. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: There has to be brevity and relevance on both the sides.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN': Mr. Speaker, Sir, he has changed the issue. I would to like to submit that the date since the UPA Government has come to power, an artificial shortage is being created. ...(*Interruptions*)

DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH: The food subsidy which in the year 1999-2000. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: If your reply is lengthy, please lay it on the Table of the House.

...(*Interruptions*)

DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH: The food subsidy which was Rs. 9200 crore in 1999-2000 has swelled to Rs. 25746 crores in 2004-05.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Very good, that is the point.

[*Translation*]

DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH: We have taken a decision to import five lakh tons of wheat in order to bring down the food subsidy and the increasing prices in southern States.

MR. SPEAKER: You have said everything.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: It took six minutes to answer your supplementary question.

...(*Interruptions*)

*Not recorded.

[English]

SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Sir, under the APL household, they have revised the wheat allocation to 20 kilogram and for the BPL families, they have revised the wheat allocation to 30 kilogram. But they have reduced the wheat allocation to the *Aam Aadmi*, which is the motto of the UPA Government.

But how is it that those States which are going into election—there are seven States, which are going into election in the coming months—are getting proper rations and proper PDS? Why can you not increase the allocation for APL families and BPL families in other States and the rest of India?

MR. SPEAKER: His point is that you are indulging in discrimination because of coming elections.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: In fact, there is no change. The entire decision stays there. So, there is no question of any reduction at this point in time. This decision was taken deliberately. As the Minister of State has rightly mentioned, when we started the Public Distribution System, initially our allocation was 15 kilogram per family.

[Translation]

Then we increased the allocation from 15 kg to 20 kilogram, then from 20 kilogram to 25 kilogram, then 25 kg. to 30 kg and at last from 30 kg to 35 kg. since we had surplus stock which had to be disbursed. However, in the present scenario things have changed. So the decision to increase the price has been taken only for people above poverty line (APL). The Government decided to reduce their allocation and for rest of the BPL and AAY it was increased from 25 kg. to 35 kg. only and nothing beyond that and despite that the decision has been stayed.

[English]

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN: Sir, in States like Kerala, the Public Distribution System is functioning with a broad network for a very long time. It is really a very good and effective instrument to control prices in the open market. The proposed enhancement of the prices and also the reduction in the quantity of food grains would really affect adversely the common people.

I am glad to note that the decision is postponed, which is given by the hon. Minister, in his reply. I want to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government will take a decision not to implement the decision in future also because it is only a 'postponement' now. In the interest of the common people, will the Government take a decision not to implement the decision of enhancement of prices and reduction of quantity of food grains?

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: The Government of India has received a request from some Chief Ministers of States of West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh and Kerala. They have written and communicated to us saying that they have a definite view on this subject. So, we have decided that we should first understand their views and then, we would also like to explain the position of the Government of India to the respective States. Unless and until we sit together and exchange our views, we are not going to execute the decision.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: It is true that this Government has been providing adequate sums of money to subsidize the food grains for the poor and vulnerable people of our country. It is equally regrettable to note that large quantity of subsidized grains are being diverted to the market. Already, 31.5 per cent of food grains and 36 per cent of sugar have found their way to the market.

The number of fake ration cardholders has been increasing menacingly in various States particularly West Bengal. During the course of the election process, the Election Commission has noticed abnormally high number of fake ration cardholders; even people living in Bangladesh are found to be drawing rations in India. May I know whether the Government is devising any mechanism to restrain the issuance of fake ration cards to the people, depriving the vulnerable sections of our society of their dues?

Secondly, does the Minister have any figure to offer as to the quantum of foodgrains that has been lifted by the State Government of West Bengal under Antyodaya and Annapoorna Yojanas?

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: As to the second question regarding detailed information about how much food grain has been lifted by the States, particularly West Bengal, I will collect the information and pass it on to the hon. Member.

Regarding the other issue, there is no specific request from the Government of West Bengal that we should allot additional food for new ration cardholders. In fact, recently I had a meeting in Kolkata with the hon. Chief Minister of West Bengal and the hon. Civil Supplies Minister of West Bengal; my complaint is this. They are supposed to identify the families who live Below Poverty Line and for whom cards have not been issued. That is why, we have requested the Government of West Bengal that they should allot additional cards to the needy people who come under the category of Below Poverty Line.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the purpose of this system was to provide remunerative prices to the farmers for their crops and on the other hand it was to ensure that the people belonging to the weaker sections of society get commodities as per their requirement but something on the contrary has taken place. The farmer has not sold his crops to the Government or to the Government's procurement centres because of increase prices in the market. The Government took the decision to import wheat in a haste and in the process the big companies were allowed to procure wheat from the market. They procured wheat directly from the farmer at higher rates than that of the Government resulting in shortage in the Government's stock. I would like to know from the Hon'ble Minister the extent to which the rate of 5 lakh tonne wheat being imported by the Government is higher than the one being procured by the Government directly from the farmer and how five lakh tonne of imported wheat would meet the shortage of the 12 lakh tones of wheat? Besides, whether the Minister propose to review the permission with regard to procurement of wheat given to the major companies of private sector and to take the procurement of wheat back in the hands of the Government.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: There is no monopoly over procurement of wheat. In certain States there exists monopoly system for certain crops. These days, both the Food Corporation of India and private traders alike can procure wheat from the market, there is no restriction in it. Why this problem cropped up, is it because of shortage of foodgrains in the reserves? It is not so. The demand of foodgrains is high in the month of April. In Maharashtra the new season starts on 15th of March and procurement will begin from 19th March in Haryana, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh. Our problem is that what will be the situation in the month of April since there was a shortage of 12 lakh

tones of foodgrains in April as per the norms of buffer stock. Undoubtedly, there is stock to meet the demand of the people under the Public Distribution. Sometimes, more foodgrains have to be disbursed because of some emergency or if a problem crops up. Since the Government does not want to take any risk, hence a decision was taken to import five lakh tones of wheat. What will be its effect is an important question. The decision to import wheat was taken only in respect of the southern States. The imported wheat is not meant for the Central or Northern India. The prices of wheat were the highest in Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Andhra Pradesh and some import of this wheat is being done with the objective of enhancing the stock of imported wheat in these four States, otherwise there is no need. Our procurement as per the assessment will meet the requirement in the country, however, there is a need to increase the buffer stock since there may be some shortage therein. In the event of drought or flood in a State, more foodgrains have to be distributed. For such a situation, there is a need to keep more stock in reserve and this decision has been taken to handle the problem of food security.

[English]

Shortage of Fertilizers

*22. ⁺SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:
DR. CHINTA MOHAN:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the demand and supply of fertilizers recorded in the country during the last three years and current year, State-wise;

(b) whether there is shortage and delay in availability of fertilizers for the ongoing Rabi season;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government has made an assessment of the demand and shortage of fertilizers for the Rabi season in each State;

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

(f) whether the Government proposes to set up a buffer stock of fertilizers to meet the shortage;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) the remedial steps taken/being taken to monitor the prices and check black marketing the production of adulterated and spurious fertilizers in the country?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (h) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Statements indicating the State-wise demand and availability/supplies of major fertilizers namely Urea, DAP and MOP for the years 2002-03 to 2004-05 and the current year are at Annexures-I to IV.

(b) to (e) The demand of major fertilizers namely Urea, DAP and MOP is assessed for each State/UT for each crop season, before the commencement of the season in the Zonal Conferences by the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation in consultation with the State Governments. The assessed demand and estimated availability for Rabi 2005-06 season is as under:

(Qty. in Lakh MTs)

Name of Fertilizers	Assessed Demand	Estimated Availability
Urea	119.86	125.56
DAP	44.61	48.92
MOP	14.99	25.49

The State-wise demand and availability for Rabi 2005-06 is given at Annexure-IV.

(f) and (g) Yes Sir. Urea is the only fertilizer that is under partial distribution control and 50% of the urea produced in the country is allocated to States under Essential Commodities Act (ECA). In case of the major decontrolled fertilizers' such as DAP, Government maintains Buffer Stock to meet any exigent situation. During the current financial year 2005-06, keeping in view of the lower production of DAP in the country due to tight availability of raw materials/intermediates in the international market, the Department enhanced the buffer stock by import of DAP to the extent of about 8 lakh MT.

The entire demand of MOP is met through imports, as there are no exploitable reserves of MOP in the country. Keeping in view the adequate imports of MOP of importers during the year, no buffer stock of MOP was required.

(h) In order to ensure the adequate availability of the right quality of fertilizer at reasonable prices to the farmers throughout the country, the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation (DAC) the Government of India declared fertilizer as an Essential commodity and the Fertilizer Control Order (FCO) promulgated under Section 3 of Essential Commodities Act, 1955 to regulate trade, price, quality and distribution of fertilizer in the country. The FCO was subsequently revised in 1985. At present Urea, Zincated urea and anhydrous Ammonia are under statutory price control while other fertilizers are decontrolled fertilizers. The other decontrolled fertilizers are sold in the country at indicative MRPs fixed by the Government. It is mandatory under Clause 21 to print the MRP and all other particulars on the bags of fertilizers.

The FCO provides for compulsory registration of fertilizer mixture manufactures and authorization of dealers, specification of all fertilizers manufactured/imported and sold in the country, Regulation on manufacture of fertilizer mixtures and packing and labelling on the fertilizer bags, appointment of enforcement agencies, setting up of quality control laboratories and prohibition on the manufacturer/importer and sale of non standard/spurious/adulterated fertilizers. The order also provides for cancellation of authorization letters/registration certificates of dealers and mixture manufacturers and also imprisonment from 3 months to 7 years with fine to offenders under ECA. Offence under FCO have also been declared as cognizable and non bailable.

The specification of the fertilizers are specified in Schedule I Part A of FCO, 1985 and FCO strictly prohibits the sale of fertilizers which are not of the prescribed standard as laid down in Schedule I. There are 67 fertiliser quality control testing laboratories in the country which includes 4 central laboratories set up by the DAC at Faridabad, Chennai, Mumbai and Kalyani for testing the samples drawn by the Fertiliser Inspectors from the field/importers/manufacturers having total annual analyzing capacity of 1.25 lakh samples p.a. A statement indicating the State-wise number of fertilizer samples analysed and found non standard during 2004-05 is enclosed at Annexure-V. The enforcement of FCO has primarily been entrusted to State Governments. The DAC provides

training facilities and technical guidance to States and need based amendments in FCO, besides supplementing of their efforts through random sampling and inspection

in the field through their Inspectors. however, the results of these samples are also sent to State Governments for further follow up action on non-standard samples.

Annexure I

State-wise demand, availability, sales and closing stock of urea

Qty. 000'MTs

State	Kharif 2002				Rabi 2002-03				Kharif-2003				Rabi 2003-04			
	Require- ment	Availa- bility	Sale	Closing Stock	Require- ment	Availa- bility	Sale	Closing Stock	Require- ment	Availa- bility	Sale	Closing Stock	Require- ment	Availa- bility	Sale	Closing Stock
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Andhra Pradesh	1050	1105.02	747.87	357.15	1056	1098.63	837.6	261.04	1050	1081.14	841.58	239.56	1000	929.06	898.85	30.21
Karnataka	680	602.6	520.12	82.48	330	392.69	315.39	77.3	640	479.73	369.52	110.21	340	367.74	322.85	44.9
Kerala	65	72.74	61.33	11.41	60	59.64	47.74	11.9	65	66.82	57.76	9.06	50	53.17	47.97	5.2
Tamil Nadu	375	365.4	212.93	152.47	550	535.54	445.42	90.12	325	247.04	177.31	69.73	450	439.6	405.01	34.59
Gujarat	525	466.95	433.36	33.59	625	445.11	429.02	16.09	500	574.92	562.5	10.42	575	661.06	652.75	8.31
Madhya Pradesh	400	386.73	291.21	95.52	600	486.28	417.4	68.88	350	442.38	371.66	70.72	450	689.69	660.7	28.99
Chhattisgarh	300	296.29	227.79	68.5	75	118.35	82.73	35.62	300	310.27	266.12	44.15	50	104.42	83.31	21.11
Maharashtra	1050	1100.39	997.5	102.89	700	646.95	575.38	71.57	1050	1054.43	898.85	155.58	625	512.07	468.47	43.6
Rajasthan	400	321.23	290.29	30.94	600	489.75	471.64	18.11	375	431.4	409.16	22.24	650	667.29	650	17.29
Haryana	560	603.22	529.42	73.8	900	930.97	875.94	55.03	570	649.22	586.82	62.4	890	889.82	874.22	15.6
Punjab	1000	1093.88	1021.43	72.45	1100	1197.85	1106.24	91.61	1100	1111.1	1067.01	44.09	1150	1132.4	1108.48	23.92
Uttar Pradesh	2400	2405.91	2046.16	359.75	2300	2636.14	2427.86	208.28	2400	2404.31	2026.92	377.39	2470	2565.99	2423.42	142.57
Uttaranchal	107	102.14	86.72	15.42	72	91.05	82.79	8.26	102	86.85	64.74	22.11	80.4	92.72	82.17	10.55
Bihar	650	660.22	570.24	89.98	680	764.68	682.63	82.05	660	724	652.84	71.36	720	719.19	668.21	50.98
Jharkhand	100	109.47	93.73	15.74	40	50.23	43.16	7.07	100	107.19	100.46	6.73	35	37.24	36.95	0.3
Orissa	330	256.84	231.6	25.24	160	131.7	95.57	36.13	320	305.43	258.67	46.76	120	113.33	91.97	21.36
West Bengal	470	439.08	379.66	59.42	680	674.91	584.79	90.12	470	436.48	386.77	49.71	630	656.69	603.62	53.07
Assam	80	84.88	70.32	14.56	84.55	82.15	68.58	13.57	90	85.46	73.33	12.13	100	68.27	58.28	9.99
Tripura	11.57	11.35	5.78	5.57	12	11.66	7.15	4.51	13	12.44	7.87	4.57	12	12.92	6.45	6.47
Manipur	32	37.8	35.61	2.19	9.3	11.46	11.04	0.42	37	35.01	34.66	0.35	11.4	14.26	13.91	0.35

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Meghalaya	3	2.95	2.45	0.5	2.5	3.38	3.09	0.29	3	3.36	2.18	1.18	3	1.92	1.66	0.26
Nagaland	0.25	0.4	0	0.4	0.13	0	0	0	0.2	0	0	0	0.32	0	0	0
Arunachal Pradesh	0.35	0.83	0.14	0.69	0.43	1.2	0.11	1.09	0.45	0.79	0.03	0.76	0.38	0.76	0.09	0.67
Sikkim	0.9	1.2	1	0.2	0.5	0.76	0.15	0.61	0.85	1.11	0.4	0.71	0.2	0.71	0	0.71
Mizoram	0.6	1.3	0.06	1.24	0.4	0.6	0.03	0.57	0.5	1.38	0.12	1.26	0.5	0.76	0	0.76
Goa	1.5	1.89	1.55	0.34	2.2	1.21	1.21	0	1.5	1.7	1.7	0	1.25	1.33	1.31	0.02
Himachal Pradesh	32	31.04	30.22	0.82	25	16.28	16.15	0.13	32	31.68	31.52	0.16	23	20.54	19.68	0.86
Jammu & Kashmir	60	50.95	43.95	7	48	61.86	49.13	12.73	60	58.94	49.81	5.13	60	63.59	58.33	5.27
Delhi	5	2.18	1.42	0.76	20	6.14	4.95	1.19	2	0.63	0.63	0	15	1.15	1.15	0
All India	10699.52	10626.51	8944.5	1682.01	10744.15	10964.03	9699.24	1264.79	10630.42	10758	9311.85	1446.15	10529.1	10838.55	10258.87	579.7

Statement-wise demand, availability, sales and closing stock of urea

(Qty. '000 MTs)

State	Kharif 2004				Rabi 2004-05				Kharif 2005			
	Require- ment	Availa- bility	Sale	Closing Stock	Require- ment	Availa- bility	Sale	Closing Stock	Require- ment	Availa- bility	Sale	Closing Stock
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Andhra Pradesh	1000	913.69	861.81	51.88	950	993.47	884.26	109.21	1100.00	1105.54	1008.98	98.56
Karnataka	580	585.02	589.61	15.41	360	404.68	357.24	47.44	580.00	664.27	649.36	14.91
Kerala	68	68.26	66.53	1.73	65.17	46.73	43.75	2.98	85.00	68.18	64.53	3.65
Tamil Nadu	250	248.12	229.43	18.69	410	537.79	515.29	22.5	380.00	343.33	326.95	16.37
Gujarat	570	594.35	553.1	41.25	600	709.02	672.15	36.87	600.00	620.61	607.11	13.50
Madhya Pradesh	375	468.37	406.36	62.01	760	698.95	627.52	71.43	430.00	461.39	421.57	39.82
Chhattisgarh	325	326.69	310.39	16.3	51	96.33	73.21	23.12	385.00	358.37	351.78	6.60
Maharashtra	950	986.93	939	47.93	575	641.17	575.03	66.14	1000.00	1061.95	1042.78	19.17
Rajasthan	475	362.8	309.6	53.2	675	730.47	706.19	24.28	480.00	457.37	411.70	45.66
Haryana	615	704.05	603.08	100.97	900	956.52	871.28	85.24	675.00	845.11	742.49	102.62
Punjab	1125	1162.16	1089.02	73.14	1175	1339.03	1314.89	24.14	1220.00	1207.22	1178.74	28.49
Uttar Pradesh	2250	2391.7	2117.92	273.78	2460	2680.04	2392.63	287.41	2500.00	2401.62	2170.31	231.31
Uttaranchal	97	92.69	81.42	11.27	84	85.23	76.59	8.64	95.00	104.66	94.76	9.90

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Bihar	710	668.88	621.58	47.32	720	721.29	657.89	63.6	710.00	670.04	649.89	20.15
Jharkhand	125	133.59	128.87	4.72	33	41.38	34.57	6.81	130.00	116.03	115.30	0.73
Orissa	330	286.21	289.12	17.09	100	105.8	90.79	15.01	340.00	304.93	291.70	13.23
West Bengal	470	438.03	417.11	20.92	680	686.19	665.7	30.49	470.00	421.17	413.98	7.19
Assam	90	80.19	76.34	3.85	95	94.86	91.6	3.26	85.00	82.48	81.87	0.61
Tripura	13	10.61	8.86	1.75	10	14.14	11.25	2.89	15.00	14.33	8.17	6.16
Manipur	37	25.64	25.29	0.35	12.55	12.54	12.41	0.13	38.60	20.11	20.11	0.00
Meghalaya	3.5	2.74	2.62	0.12	3	3.23	3.22	0.01	3.50	3.46	3.32	0.14
Nagaland	0.3	0	0	0	0.21	0	0	0	0.30	0.08	0.08	0.00
Arunachal Pradesh	0.5	0.67	0	0.67	0.39	0.01	0.01	0	0.50	0.17	0.15	0.02
Sikkim	0.5	0.58	0.4	0.18	0.22	0	0	0	0.50	0.15	0.15	0.00
Mizoram	0	1.26	0.5	0.76	0.55	0.03	0.03	0	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.00
Goa	1.5	1.77	1.72	0.05	1.25	1.26	1.19	0.07	1.70	1.90	1.85	0.05
Himachal Pradesh	34	33.08	31.11	1.97	24	22	21.26	0.74	32.00	33.98	33.90	0.08
Jammu & Kashmir	60	55.42	45.86	9.56	60	55.94	47.88	8.06	60.00	68.07	59.26	8.82
Delhi	6	1.12	0.17	0.95	10	1.19	1.19	0	6.00	0.04	0.04	0.00
All India	10573.28	10660.16	9781.63	878.53	10834.91	11708.16	10767.32	940.84	11439.06	11451.85	10765.58	686.27

Annexure II**State-wise demand, availability, sales and closing stock of DAP**

(Qty. '000 MTs)

State	Kharif 2002				Rabi 2002-03				Kharif-2003				Rabi 2003-04			
	Require-ment	Availa-bility	Sale	Closing Stock	Require-ment	Availa-bility	Sale	Closing Stock	Require-ment	Availa-bility	Sale	Closing Stock	Require-ment	Availa-bility	Sale	Closing Stock
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Andhra Pradesh	425	264.29	186.77	77.52	325	210.16	170.29	39.87	425	254.89	202.72	52.17	280	260	199.08	60.92
Karnataka	250	207.8	156.54	51.26	155	148.61	128.46	20.15	260	161.97	134.55	27.42	140	137.4	99.75	37.85
Kerala	6	7.77	6.54	1.24	5	5.5	4.83	0.67	5.5	9.39	8.96	0.43	5.11	5.12	4.67	0.45
Tamil Nadu	135	109.71	74.48	35.23	160	113.92	100.49	13.43	100	88.6	78.07	10.53	130	130.67	124.06	6.61
Gujarat	210	173.94	133.57	40.37	225	284.86	252.53	32.33	240	199.27	154.55	44.72	225	262.88	255.62	7.26
Madhya Pradesh	225	301.73	209.68	92.05	343	270.29	156.72	113.57	210	278.56	198.95	79.61	300	355.51	277.75	77.76

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Chhattisgarh	75	71.25	46.9	24.35	18	48.51	23.38	25.13	75	75.44	52.77	22.67	12	49.62	19.98	29.64
Maharashtra	300	311.95	229.31	82.64	225	226.42	191.45	34.97	280	205.04	173.84	31.2	200	245.06	187.77	57.29
Rajasthan	250	177.96	118.27	59.69	250	194.44	129.77	64.67	225	230.41	188.37	42.04	220	208.14	174.97	33.17
Haryana	160	259.14	167.87	91.27	310	364.41	332.45	31.96	155	252.76	139.14	113.62	355	376.52	356.91	19.61
Punjab	225	406.24	247.41	158.83	430	451.15	368.35	82.8	215	377.41	258.11	119.3	450	471.63	413.81	57.82
Uttar Pradesh	450	594.72	370.76	223.96	975	1059.69	887.8	171.89	500	657.16	393.69	263.47	935	1036.06	839.77	196.29
Uttaranchal	9.5	8.31	4.69	3.62	26.08	16.05	13.74	2.31	6.8	9.58	5.02	4.56	27.5	17.71	15.86	1.85
Bihar	120	91.7	86.54	5.16	200	5.84	1.15	4.69	150	13.96	6.43	7.53	200	60.38	46.14	14.24
Jharkhand	60	73.35	65.15	8.2	15	75.69	67.7	7.99	60	59.19	52.47	6.72	40	26.2	22.11	4.09
Orissa	75	58.58	43.15	15.43	50	27.01	15.39	11.62	95	49.36	36.28	13.08	40	25.35	8.57	16.78
West Bengal	150	167.17	105	62.17	320	319.3	261.48	57.82	150	141.68	88.99	52.69	300	285.22	228.45	56.77
Assam	23	22.23	14.64	7.59	36	16.58	11.94	4.64	40	21.18	15.34	5.84	45.24	6.66	5.57	1.09
Tripura	0.3	0.02	0.02	0	0.1	0.06	0.06	0	0	0	0.03	-0.03	0.5	0	0	0
Manipur	4	0.12	0.12	0	1.5	0	0	0	4.35	0	0	0	1.6	0	0	0
Meghalaya	1.5	1.54	1.54	0	0.8	0.52	0.52	0	1.8	0	1.02	-1.02	0.8	0.48	0.48	0
Nagaland	0.2	0	0	0	0.18	0	0	0	0.25	0	0	0	0.32	0	0	0
Arunachal Pradesh	0.07	0	0	0	0.24	0	0	0	0.07	0	0	0	0.24	0	0	0
Sikkim	0.54	0	0	0	0.45	0	0	0	0.5	0	0	0	0.32	0	0	0
Mizoram	1	0	0	0	0.6	0	0	0	0.8	0	0	0	0.6	0	0	0
Goa	0.5	0.34	0.34	0	0.15	0.21	0.2	0.01	0.5	0.41	0.4	0.01	0.29	0.31	0.3	0.01
Himachal Pradesh	0.1	0.49	0.49	0	0.5	0	0	0	0.1	0	0	0	0.4	0.41	0.41	0
Jammu & Kashmir	35	19.84	17.34	2.5	29.23	16.32	16.15	0.17	30	22.94	17.14	5.8	30	32.14	25.44	6.7
Delhi	3	0.01	0.01	0	5	0.05	0.05	0	3	0.08	0.08	0	5	0.27	0.27	0
All India	3198.45	3334.32	2289.89	1044.43	4110.92	3860.97	3140.17	720.8	3238.32	3113.48	2211.07	902.41	3950.88	3998.97	3312.97	686

State-wise demand, availability, sales and closing stock of DAP

(Qty. '000 MTs)

State	Kharif 2004				Rabi 2004-05				Kharif 2005			
	Require-ment	Availa-bility	Sale	Closing Stock	Require-ment	Availa-bility	Sale	Closing Stock	Require-ment	Availa-bility	Sale	Closing Stock
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Andhra Pradesh	400	302.25	226.86	75.39	225	239.18	220.97	18.21	372.00	305.51	304.45	1.06
Karnataka	240	293.68	258.26	35.42	150	168.31	151.07	15.24	280.00	303.29	289.55	13.73

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Kerala	5	11.4	10.61	0.79	5.11	7.02	7.02	0	12.00	9.14	8.80	0.33
Tamil Nadu	95	162.77	132.45	20.32	125	157.67	148.47	9.2	150.00	170.65	157.50	13.15
Gujarat	225	223.05	182.31	40.74	225	332.68	329.75	2.93	270.00	243.34	138.27	105.07
Madhya Pradesh	200	295.81	186.91	108.9	400	314.27	275.38	38.89	220.00	259.59	192.46	66.13
Chhattisgarh	75	81.96	69.52	12.44	8.8	42.8	33.2	9.6	80.00	73.35	71.34	2.00
Maharashtra	225	317.59	284.56	33.03	200	260.98	245.46	15.52	325.00	283.97	247.34	36.62
Rajasthan	225	172.36	135.03	37.33	200	221.16	209.06	12.1	250.00	225.66	139.76	85.91
Haryana	160	199.74	84.16	115.58	375	400.32	383.74	16.58	160.00	253.74	131.03	122.71
Punjab	275	343.31	198.61	144.7	450	501.93	464.12	37.81	275.00	369.55	197.15	172.40
Uttar Pradesh	450	571.26	310.87	260.39	950	897.44	822.48	74.96	500.00	582.51	304.85	277.68
Uttaranchal	12	7.64	6.68	0.96	18	16.77	11.91	4.86	12.00	6.68	5.29	1.59
Bihar	150	37.56	23.51	14.05	150	9.06	74.96	15.64	100.00	76.20	61.58	14.64
Jharkhand	76.7	71.26	62.75	8.51	38	49.25	43.64	5.61	76.00	46.03	42.79	3.24
Orissa	60	58.28	43.21	15.07	20	24.78	22.44	2.34	65.00	58.61	55.10	3.50
West Bengal	141	137.92	102.81	35.11	320	254.78	230.36	24.42	130.00	145.94	130.53	15.41
Assam	50	20.83	18.73	2.1	35	8.46	5.46	3	30.00	13.37	12.06	1.31
Tripura	0.5	0	0	0	1.09	0	0	0	1.00	0	0	0
Manipur	4	0	0.01	-0.01	1.47	0	0	0	4.17	0	0	0
Meghalaya	2	1.32	1.32	0	0.3	0	0.64	-0.64	2.20	0	0	0
Nagaland	0.3	0	0	0	0.19	0	0	0	0.24	0	0	0
Arunachal Pradesh	0.07	0	0	0	0.2	0	0	0	0.08	0	0	0
Sikkim	0.25	0	0	0	0.15	0	0	0	0.25	0	0	0
Mizoram	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.50	0	0	0
Goa	0.5	2.37	0.3	2.07	0.4	2.62	0.23	2.39	0.55	0.72	0.36	0.37
Himachal Pradesh	0.2	0	0	0	0.3	0.47	0.21	0.26	0.20	0	0	0
Jammu & Kashmir	40	24.52	22.47	2.05	30	29.76	27.85	1.91	40.00	28.21	23.97	4.25
Delhi	3	0.02	0.02	0	5	0	0	0	3.00	0	0	0
All India	3120.84	3330.67	2365.26	965.41	3939.37	4023.44	3712.61	310.83	3344.285	3459.69	2518.59	941.1

Annexure III

State-wise demand, availability, sales and closing stock of MOP

(Qty. '000 MTs)

State	Kharif 2002				Rabi 2002-03				Kharif-2003				Rabi 2003-04			
	Require- ment	Availa- bility	Sale	Closing Stock	Require- ment	Availa- bility	Sale	Closing Stock	Require- ment	Availa- bility	Sale	Closing Stock	Require- ment	Availa- bility	Sale	Closing Stock
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Andhra Pradesh	125	112.5	105.66	6.84	150	128.42	123.89	4.53	125	126.96	115.62	11.36	150	156.3	148.49	7.81
Karnataka	160	141.21	124.41	16.8	85	90.72	85.69	5.03	160	103.96	95.85	8.11	90	101.01	87.86	13.15
Kerala	80	61	53.82	7.18	60	73.13	58.47	14.66	60	65.36	47.54	17.82	64	34.55	26.38	8.17
Tamil Nadu	150	123.37	103.88	19.49	205	163.71	141.8	21.91	120	111.48	92.32	19.16	170	108.1	105.51	2.59
Gujarat	40	59.8	33.55	26.25	50	90.51	79.1	11.41	45	57.73	35.91	21.82	65	80.43	67.6	12.83
Madhya Pradesh	25	20.59	11.63	8.96	14	27.42	17.9	9.52	30	27.02	20.08	6.94	14	25.83	18.57	7.26
Chhattisgarh	30	30.35	17.65	12.7	4.3	20.3	13.41	6.89	30	34.88	22.93	11.95	6	12.07	7.48	4.59
Maharashtra	140	127.21	101.51	25.7	125	134.76	119.54	15.22	130	82.51	74.19	8.32	120	88	57.51	30.49
Rajasthan	5	6.01	3.49	2.52	6	6.38	5.96	0.42	6	3.26	2.43	0.83	10	11.56	8.27	3.29
Haryana	10	12.22	6.73	5.49	11	10.19	7.76	2.43	6.5	13.57	11.68	1.89	11	14.69	9.08	5.61
Punjab	35	39.76	27.96	11.8	15	25.48	18.41	7.07	32	40	31.21	8.79	20	27.58	19.15	8.43
Uttar Pradesh	65	47.45	33.58	13.87	90	140.86	129.29	11.57	70	43.65	32.9	10.75	125	127.88	107.48	20.4
Uttaranchal	4.5	2.08	1.17	0.91	6.2	5.59	2.87	2.72	3.15	2.86	1.39	1.47	6.2	3.06	2.46	0.6
Bihar	40	20.05	19.75	0.3	70	0.3	0	0.3	60	4.32	0.8	3.52	70	30.46	28.66	1.8
Jharkhand	5	2.34	2.33	0.01	15	9.33	9.32	0.01	5	6.81	4.48	2.33	5	4.18	4.18	0
Orissa	60	33.27	29.85	3.42	30	26.44	19.65	6.79	61	43.77	35.47	8.3	26.8	22.91	18.49	4.42
West Bengal	120	92.69	87.84	4.85	225	194.62	186.72	7.9	120	81.64	65.26	16.38	225	179.03	167.41	11.62
Assam	35	31	25.79	5.21	40	36.54	30.95	5.59	40	28.83	24.24	4.59	45.24	26.21	24.95	1.26
Tripura	4.95	0.02	0.02	0	2.33	0.09	0.09	0	2.33	0.57	0.57	0	7	3.49	3.49	0
Manipur	2.5	0.06	0.06	0	1.3	0	0	0	2.05	0	0	0	1.35	0	0	0
Meghalaya	0.2	0.08	0.08	0	0.25	0.08	0.08	0	0.2	0.08	0.08	0	0.25	0	0	0
Nagaland	0.03	0	0	0	0.06	0	0	0	0.04	0	0	0	0.08	0	0	0
Arunachal Pradesh	0.03	0.01	0.01	0	0.12	0.01	0.01	0	0.05	0	0	0	0.11	0	0	0
Sikkim	0.12	0	0	0	0.09	0	0	0	0.05	0	0	0	0.18	0	0	0
Mizoram	0.5	0	0	0	0.35	0	0	0	0.5	0	0	0	0.3	0	0	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Pondicherry	3.1	3.38	3.11	0.27	4.57	5.18	5.05	0.13	3	2.43	2.38	0.05	5.5	5.11	5.09	0.02
Goa	0.5	0.56	0.56	0	0.25	0.23	0.21	0.02	0.5	0.86	0.86	0	0.25	0.3	0.3	0
Himachal Pradesh	0.4	0.08	0.08	0	4	4.67	4.67	0	0.4	0	0	0	4.2	4.64	4.64	0
Jammu & Kashmir	6	0.12	0.11	0.01	7	2.34	2.23	0.11	10	3.61	2.26	1.35	7	3.68	3	0.88
Delhi	0.6	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0.5	0	0	0	0.3	0	0	0
All India	1148.56	967.21	794.63	172.58	1223.02	1197.3	1063.07	134.23	1123.39	885.98	720.25	165.73	1249.93	1071.07	928.05	145.02

State-wise demand, availability, sales and closing stock of MOP

(Qty. '000 MTs)

State	Kharif 2004				Rabi 2004-05				Kharif 2005			
	Require- ment	Availa- bility	Sale	Closing Stock	Require- ment	Availa- bility	Sale	Closing Stock	Require- ment	Availa- bility	Sale	Closing Stock
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Andhra Pradesh	125	162.21	158.73	3.48	160	199.24	180.13	19.11	186.00	165.26	144.83	20.42
Karnataka	150	169.32	168.06	1.26	95	132.52	121.41	11.11	175.00	191.50	174.97	16.53
Kerala	75	57.43	57.06	0.37	64.29	41.43	40.64	0.79	65.00	71.08	67.47	3.61
Tamil Nadu	125	145.05	141.29	3.76	175	178.11	173.98	4.13	200.00	150.25	142.72	7.54
Gujarat	40	77.68	53.3	24.38	55	93.13	88.87	4.26	50.00	86.25	62.17	24.08
Madhya Pradesh	17	43.9	33.72	10.18	25	24.26	18.69	5.57	25.00	47.33	32.29	15.04
Chhattisgarh	40	42.24	34.64	7.6	8	16.66	11.31	5.35	37.00	50.71	38.90	11.81
Maharashtra	100	117.22	106.53	10.69	100	126.24	109.55	16.69	125.00	129.83	108.22	23.61
Rajasthan	5	12.04	6	6.04	8	12.38	10.19	2.19	10.00	12.98	4.57	8.41
Haryana	12	22.75	17.28	5.47	10	8.16	7.5	0.66	20.00	30.41	18.66	11.75
Punjab	35	49.73	36.63	13.1	20	28.07	20.3	7.77	40.00	78.50	51.62	28.88
Uttar Pradesh	50	119.49	83.68	35.81	135	109.99	92.83	17.16	110.00	132.31	56.90	75.42
Uttaranchal	5.8	1.94	1.94	0	5	3.15	2.26	0.89	6.00	3.25	2.87	0.38
Bihar	60	1.78	1.34	0.44	50	54.96	49.76	5.2	50.00	52.23	42.83	9.40
Jharkhand	12.95	3.27	3.26	0.01	6	0.02	0.01	0.01	15.00	5.05	5.02	0.03
Orissa	59.5	62.23	56.53	5.7	30	31.2	25.25	5.85	60.00	77.51	62.13	15.38
West Bengal	107	133.31	115.14	18.17	225	210.71	201.32	9.39	160.00	122.25	92.54	29.72

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Assam	45	24.53	17.96	6.57	40	43.5	37.84	5.66	35.00	29.60	21.09	8.51
Tripura	2.33	0	0	0	3.65	2.34	2.34	0	2.00	2.13	2.13	0.00
Manipur	2	0	0	0	1.33	0	0	0	1.30	0	0	0
Meghalaya	0.2	0.09	0.09	0	0.13	0.2	0.2	0	0.20	0.22	0.18	0.04
Nagaland	0.1	0	0	0	0.06	0	0	0	0.08	0	0	0
Arunachal Pradesh	0.05	0	0	0	0.09	0	0	0	0.05	0	0	0
Sikkim	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	0
Mizoram	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.20	0.00	0.00	0.00
Pondicherry	3.7	4.95	4.66	0.29	7.02	5.83	5.83	0	6.00	3.15	3.32	-0.18
Goa	0.6	0.66	0.65	0.01	0.35	0.31	0.31	0	0.60	0.67	0.67	0.00
Himachal Pradesh	0.3	0.1	0.1	0	5.5	4.87	4.87	0	0.30	0.10	0.10	0.00
Jammu & Kashmir	10	0.69	0.62	0.07	7	5.64	5.57	0.07	10.00	4.93	2.82	2.11
Delhi	0.5	0	0	0	0.3	0	0	0	0.01	0	0	0
All India	1084.17	1252.61	1099.21	153.4	1236.86	1332.92	1210.96	121.96	1389.88	1447.50	1137.00	310.50

Annexure IV**Requirement, Availability, Sales of Urea, DAP & MOP Rabi 2005-06 (Up to 15.02.2006)**

(Qty. '000 MTs)

State	Urea				DAP				MOP			
	Requirement Rabi 2005-06 (Oct-March)	Availability Up to 15.2.06	Sales Up to 15.2.06	Closing stock As on 15.02.2006	Requirement Rabi 2005-06 (Oct-March)	Availability up To 15.2.06	Sales Up to 15.2.06	Closing stock As on 15.02.2006	Requirement Rabi 2005-06 (Oct-March)	Availability Up To 15.2.06	Sales Up to 15.2.06	Closing stock As on 15.02.2006
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Andhra Pradesh	1250.00	1023.48	948.15	75.33	333.00	256.45	220.38	36.07	200.00	253.99	202.03	51.96
Karnataka	375.00	355.67	320.92	34.75	200.00	143.38	112.26	31.12	110.00	155.35	118.08	37.27
Kerala	70.00	48.45	45.79	2.66	8.00	5.99	5.37	0.82	65.00	49.80	42.99	6.81
Tamil Nadu	570.00	474.60	433.82	40.78	200.00	187.52	164.94	22.58	250.00	162.77	146.39	16.36
Gujarat	650.00	639.13	583.09	56.04	250.00	331.55	234.47	97.08	80.00	93.33	58.61	34.72
Madhya Pradesh	725.00	553.24	532.87	20.37	375.00	237.76	174	63.76	25.00	39.37	22.45	16.92
Chhattisgarh	85.00	58.93	42.40	16.53	36.00	36.7	13.4	23.30	12.00	25.49	7.28	18.21
Madhya Pradesh	675.00	584.18	502.16	82.02	260.00	200.69	138.43	62.26	120.00	142.92	96.80	46.12

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Rajasthan	750.00	719.96	694.46	25.50	240.00	285.99	234.23	51.76	10.00	18.52	11.84	6.68
Haryana	925.00	818.74	792.66	25.88	400.00	375.21	314.47	60.74	10.00	22.02	13.82	8.20
Punjab	1250.00	1026.46	997.88	28.58	490.00	498.24	406.49	91.75	25.00	46.80	31.49	15.31
Uttar Pradesh	2700.00	2190.44	2053.04	137.40	1050.00	893.46	773.61	119.85	150.00	164.22	102.97	61.25
Uttaranchal	82.00	76.86	63.87	12.99	15.00	20.71	14.16	6.55	5.00	2.33	2.08	0.25
Bihar	720.00	629.91	586.07	43.84	200.00	114.97	73.76	41.21	90.00	103.76	67.95	35.81
Jharkhand	45.00	37.57	32.56	5.01	40.00	23.61	14.97	8.64	10.50	0.98	0.33	0.05
Orissa	135.00	87.31	70.72	16.59	25.00	29.71	15.61	14.10	40.00	32.12	21.28	10.84
West Bengal	720.00	478.56	420.03	58.53	280.00	191.44	165.45	25.99	230.00	167.66	123.07	44.61
Assam	110.00	61.44	51.19	10.25	13.00	14.66	6.06	8.60	40.00	25.64	14.83	10.81
Other NE	31.57	15.67	11.44	4.23	5.61	0.00	0.00	0.00	6.18	1.56	1.50	0.06
Himachal Pradesh	27.00	21.95	19.78	2.17	0.30	0.82	0.04	0.78	5.00	4.83	4.83	0.00
Jammu & Kashmir	60.00	23.41	13.70	9.71	30.00	27.03	16.49	10.54	7.00	4.54	0.62	3.92
Other States	31.02	16.36	14.87	1.49	10.81	4.95	4.09	0.86	8.82	4.89	3.42	1.47
All India Total	11986.59	9942.32	9231.67	710.65	4461.72	3880.84	3102.68	778.16	1499.50	1522.31	1094.66	427.65

Annexure V

State-wise number of Fertiliser Samples Analysed and Found Non-Standard during 2004-05

Sl.No.	Name of State	No. of Labs	Annual Analysing capacity	No. of samples		Non Standard Failing in		%Capacity utilisation	%Samples Non-Standard
				Analysed	Nutrient content	Physical Parameter & Impurities	Total		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Assam	1	250	167	2	0	2	66.8	1.2
2.	Mizoram	1	250	0	0	0	0	0	0
3.	Jharkhand	1	1500	677	1	0	1	45.1	0.1
4.	Bihar	1	2000	881	34	0	34	44.1	3.9
5.	Orissa	2	3500	2429	184	13	197	69.4	8.1
6.	West Bengal	3	4500	3286	218	33	251	73	7.6
Total East & NER		9	12000	7440	439	46	485	62	6.5

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
7.	Gujarat	3	7750	8206	95	1	96	105.9	1.2
8.	Madhya Pradesh	4	9150	5388	844	153	997	58.9	18.5
9.	Chhattisgarh	1	4800	1933	124	0	124	40.3	6.4
10.	Maharashtra	4	10000	9106	936	276	1212	91.1	13.3
11.	Rajasthan	3	6000	4096	153	32	185	68.3	4.5
	Total West Zone	15	37700	28729	2152	462	2614	76.2	9.1
12.	Haryana	2	3300	2801	162	25	187	84.9	6.7
13.	Himachal Pradesh	2	2000	1762	211	7	218	88.1	12.4
14.	Jammu & Kashmir	2	1280	822	7	10	17	64.2	2.1
15.	Punjab	2	3500	3513	91	0	91	100.4	2.6
16.	Uttar Pradesh	3	10000	10847	1033	0	1033	108.5	9.5
17.	Uttaranchal	2	800	437	15	0	15	54.6	3.4
	Total North Zone	13	20880	20182	1519	42	1561	96.7	7.7
18.	Andhra Pradesh	5	15000	13551	186	39	225	90.3	1.7
19.	Karnataka	4	8150	5756	187	101	288	70.6	5
20.	Kerala	2	5000	4209	376	0	376	84.2	8.9
21.	Pondicherry	1	700	682	1	0	1	97.4	0.1
22.	Tamil Nadu	14	16800	17221	356	237	593	102.5	3.4
	Total South Zone	26	45650	41419	1106	377	1483	90.7	3.6
	Govt. of India	4	8500	11089	311	81	392	130.5	3.5
	Total All India	67	124730	108859	5527	1008	6535	87.3	6

[English]

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Sir, the shortage of fertilizers in several agricultural pockets is a cause for concern, especially since the *kharif* season is round the corner. The scarcity is due to the Government's inaction. I would like to know from the hon. Minister what is the estimated requirement of DAP for the *kharif* season and whether the Government has negotiated price for Phosphoric Acid which is crucial for DAP supply; if not, why not. What steps are taken by the Government in this regard?

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Sir, 33.45 lakh tonnes of DAP fertilizers was required for the *kharif* crop. Its availability was 36.81 lakh tonnes and 25.17 lakh tonnes was sold. So approximately 11 lakh tonnes of DAP was left after the sale during the *kharif* crop. While for *Rabi* crop 44.61 lakh tonnes was required against which 38.80 lakh tonnes of DAP has been made available upto 15.2.2006. Right now we have 15.2 lakh tonnes in our stock.

[English]

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Sir, my supplementary was regarding shortage of fertilizer in some key pockets. Anyway, I would like to know whether the government has ever reviewed the demand estimates to make mid-course corrections and has defined policy parameters.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Sir, I think the hon'ble Member has not specified his question, however, as far as I understand his question is regarding complaints of shortage from certain areas despite the availability of fertilizers. It is true that the State Governments convene meetings and send us the requirement. First they decide their district wise requirement for the consumption of urea, DAP, MOP and complex fertilizers. The assessment of the State Government is based on the reports received from the districts, thereafter they send their reports to the agriculture department of the centre after which zonal conference is held. Zonal Conference is held before the kharif crop and the rabi crop is sown and it is decided that what kind of fertilizer is to be delivered by which company, alongwith the placewise quantum the date of fertilizers to be delivered in each State and also whether it has to be sent through rail racks or through road and finally, its distribution becomes the responsibility of the State Government.

We get a whole list of requirement of fertilizer and we normally give five per cent more than the requirement. I have also asked them to keep the buffer stock ready. Supposing, if the supply of fertilizer reaches Pune but it does not reach Nasik, so whose responsibility is going to be fixed. For this purpose we have appointed a Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri B.K. Sinha and have asked them to submit their annual report. The previous Government decontrolled urea by 50 per cent, the control was as per the Essential Commodity Act as a result the company would sell the decontrolled fertilizer, in the near by state, if the production is in Punjab, then it would sell off in Haryana, why it would go to Bihar. Consequently, the freight rate of the subsidized commodity is Rs. 100 less than that of the decontrolled commodity, it does not go to the remote villages, so for this purpose we have set up committee which would inquire into the quantum of fertilizer which was to be distributed by each company be it public undertaking or private company? We have also asked them to furnish information regarding destination, date and mode of transport of urea whether through rakes or road and if the commodity has reached its destination. We have also done away with the practice of producing certificate, which had been very much prevalent at certain places particularly in Bihar where the

remaining subsidy was given only after the production of urea certificate. We maintain that subsidy would be given on the sack despatch so that the farmer may not face any problem. It is true that our consumption has increased substantially. If we look at urea, our existing total capacity is 205 lakh tonnes whereas our current production is 194 lakh tonnes. I am glad that I was on a tour to Oman and the production of 16.5 lakh tones urea commenced on the 15th July 2005 i.e. stipulated date fixed therefor. Our production capacity is in consonance with our demand. However, at times the demand increases owing to good monsoon. We are taking corrective measures, but this is true that the supply is not timely as and when and as per the requirement of farmer owing to the paucity of distribution and the manure keeps lying in the adjacent district while the farmers come up raising hue and cry and staging demonstrations on roads.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: He has given a very exhaustive answer.

DR. CHINTA MOHAN: Sir, the time has now come to define as to who is an actual farmer. There is a category of farmer who sits in the cities owning acres of land and who can afford to spray insecticides through helicopters and yet such category of farmers are taking benefits meant for farmers. On the other side there is a category of farmers who are in the villages having five to ten acres of land and they are not able to take the benefits from the Government meant for them. At this point I would like to ask the hon. Minister, what measures does the Government propose to take to help the poor and marginal farmers? There is an acute shortage of urea in the State of Andhra Pradesh. How does the Government propose to solve this problem.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as submitted by me earlier, we have set up a grievance cell under an officer of Deputy Secretary rank. As per orders, he is required to contact every state obtain daily status of shortages and stock position. Wherever there is complaint of shortage we try to meet that shortage, however, at times the stock gets piled up at a place whereas it does not reach the other place. It implies that the State Governments are not as vigilant as they are supposed to be.

SHRI BHANWAR SINGH DANGAWAS: The shortage of fertilizer has been reported in certain pockets just now be it any manner in any State. My question is very simple. I would like to ask the hon. Minister that whether the Government are likely to provide any grant for the

production of bio-fertilizer by promoting it so that the farmer could prepare this fertilizer in their fields itself.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we propose to promote the use of fertilizer. I agree that only urea or compost or MoP or DAP fertilizer is not sufficient for the field rather other types of fertilizers are equally vital, since different types of fertilizer is required for cultivating different crops. That is why the earlier subsidy on SSP fertilizer has been increased from Rs. 650 to Rs. 975. The Government are making similar efforts to promote bio-fertilizer.

SHRI BHANWAR SINGH DANGAWAS: Will the Government provide grant for bio-fertilizer or not?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: He has noted your request.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Prabhunath Singh you may make your submission now. You will not get a chance at noon.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: I have to question the Government even at 12 o'clock.

MR. SPEAKER: Please ask your question.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker Sir, hon. Minister has given a very good reply. I would like to make a submission.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: It does not affect me so long as you keep to the time.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: As submitted by hon. Minister that some irregularities are committed at the time of distribution. I would like to narrate the situation in Bihar. There used to be a Bisco Mann depot at block level for distributing fertilizer. Recently, the distribution used to be carried out through licensed depots. However, when the farmers are in need, a situation of scarcity is deliberately created. In rural areas urea is mixed with salt which reduces the fecundity of the soil. If a system on the lines of cooperative Bisco Mann could be

developed so as to facilitate timely and proper quantum of fertilizer to farmers.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we want to restore the same system by doing away with the present one, wherein everything is going haywire the urea is lifted from the rack, placed somewhere else, it is lying on the station but there are no stock yards, if there are any, they are all located here and there, how will the stock reach the villages. As a result the rural farmer either visits a block or a dealer. So we convened the meeting of all the manufactures and public undertakings. The committee to which I referred is pretty serious. We take stringent action against the faltering company be it any Public Undertaking or a private one. We have zero tolerance for excuses that an issue is under the State Government's purview or distribution and the like is only under State Government. Subsidies are increasing day by day. People who take subsidies from us should be made accountable. When they get average money they should make it available at village level. They should revamp their system be it a dealer to make the money available at village level. We want the distribution to spread in so many areas so that the person may purchase it from where he wants. We want to evolve such a system and the Government will make all possible efforts in that direction.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: It means the hon. Railway Minister is not taking security measures.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: No supplementary to supplementary.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: It is not so. Though the Railway Minister has quoted the rates, but what is the use of it since companies have not allotted urea?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Ministers may not respond to supplementaries to supplementaries.

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: It is true that Bihar is adjacent to Nepal and artificial shortage of urea is created

in Bihar and fertilizer is smuggled to Nepal in a big way. During the last session, I wrote a letter to the hon. Minister and the hon. Minister took action and alerted the people. But after one week, again same things have started.* since the beginning, the biggest smuggler of Champaran is. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Do not take names. No names should be taken. That will be deleted.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: And he creates artificial shortage in Bihar. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Names will not go on record.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Our job is to see whether a company sends the quantity of fertilizer assigned to it to be sent or not. If the company does not send it, Government would take action against it. Earlier, there was a system of giving certificate to the company. We are aware that smuggling takes place across the border. I feel it is beyond our Government or for that matter our department to check it. When hon. Member has mentioned the name of a certain company, let him give it in writing. I would write to the concerned department or Ministry and action will be taken against that.

Child Labour

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*23. KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH:
SHRI RASHEED MASOOD:

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

(a) the number of child labour in the country as per the latest census, State-wise;

(b) whether the Union Government has asked the State Governments to furnish details of the works undertaken under the Child Labour Welfare Projects;

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

(d) whether the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986 has succeeded in eliminating child labour from the country;

(e) if so, the extent thereof;

(f) if not, the factors attributed thereto;

(g) the details of employers, convicted or punished otherwise, for violating the above Act during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise; and

(h) the time by which a complete ban on child labour is likely to be accomplished?

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SEKHAR RAO): (a) to (h) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) As per the Census 2001, the number of working children in the country is 1.2 crore. The State-wise data of number of children is given in Annexure-I.

(b) and (c) Government of India is implementing the National Child Labour Project (NCLP) Scheme in 250 endemic districts spread over 22 States of the country for the elimination of the child labour. Government is regularly obtaining reports from the State Governments as well as the identified districts on the progress of the implementation of the Scheme and providing necessary guidelines to these districts for the effective implementation.

(d) to (f) As child labour is a socio economic problem, which is a result of poverty and illiteracy, a multi-pronged approach is required to tackle this problem. Therefore, in addition to enforcement of the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, the Government is taking various proactive measures in convergence with other social schemes, like Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) and various poverty alleviation programmes to make a dent in its root cause. In this direction, Government is implementing the NCLP Scheme in child labour endemic districts under which the working children are withdrawn from work and

*Not recorded.

are put into Special Schools to be finally mainstreamed into regular education system. Government's efforts in this direction have made a positive impact as evident from reduction in the magnitude of child labour in the States having a substantial coverage under NCLP Scheme. The coverage under the Scheme has been substantially enlarged from 100 districts during the 9th Plan to 250 districts during the 10th Plan.

(g) The details of prosecutions and convictions based on the reports received from the State Governments are given in Annexure-II & III.

(h) Government is committed to the elimination of all forms of child labour. It is, however, following a gradual and sequential approach beginning with those engaged in most hazardous occupations and processes first.

Annexure I

State-wise Distribution of Working Children according to 2001 Census in the age group 5-14 years

Sl. No.	Name of the State/UT	2001
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1363339
2.	Assam	351416
3.	Bihar	1117500
4.	Gujarat	485530
5.	Haryana	253491
6.	Himachal Pradesh	107774
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	175630
8.	Karnataka	822615
9.	Kerala	26156
10.	Madhya Pradesh	1065259
11.	Maharashtra	764075
12.	Chhattisgarh	364572

1	2	3
13.	Manipur	28836
14.	Meghalaya	53940
15.	Jharkhand	407200
16.	Uttaranchal	70183
17.	Nagaland	45874
18.	Orissa	377594
19.	Punjab	177268
20.	Rajasthan	1262570
21.	Sikkim	16457
22.	Tamil Nadu	418801
23.	Tripura	21756
24.	Uttar Pradesh	1927997
25.	West Bengal	857087
26.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	1960
27.	Arunachal Pradesh	18482
28.	Chandigarh	3779
29.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	4274
30.	Delhi	41899
31.	Daman and Diu	729
32.	Goa	4138
33.	Lakshadweep	27
34.	Mizoram	26265
35.	Pondicherry	1904
Total		12666377

**Includes marginal workers also.

*Annexure II**Prosecutions during the last three years*

Name of State/UT	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
1	2	3	4
1. Andaman & Nico. Islands U.T.	0	0	0
2. Andhra Pradesh	563	4870	1212
3. Arunachal Pradesh	0	24	•
4. Assam	0	12	0
5. Bihar	354	385	259
6. Chandigarh U.T.	0	0	0
7. Chhattisgarh	104	1	•
8. Dadra & Nagar Haveli U.T.	0	0	0
9. Daman & Diu U.T.	0	0	0
10. Delhi U.T.	36	66	•
11. Goa	0	0	0
12. Gujarat	7	29	106
13. Haryana	11	38	13
14. Himachal Pradesh	3	1	•
15. Jammu & Kashmir		17	•
16. Jharkhand	42	76	•
17. Karnataka	300	0	•
18. Kerala	1	0	•
19. Lakshadweep U.T.	0	0	0
20. Madhya Pradesh	35	28	54
21. Maharashtra	0	17	32
22. Manipur	0	0	0
23. Meghalaya	0	0	•
24. Mizoram	0	0	0
25. Nagaland	0	0	0
26. Orissa	1	3	•

	1	2	3	4
27. Pondicherry U.T.		0	0	0
28. Punjab		0	35	2
29. Rajasthan		55	0	7
30. Sikkim		0	0	*
31. Tamil Nadu		808	385	*
32. Tripura		0	0	*
33. Uttar Pradesh		321	399	31
34. Uttaranchal		3	0	0
35. West Bengal		6	0	0
Total		2650	6386	1716

*Information is awaited from the State Governments.

Annexure III

Convictions during the last three years

Name of State/UT		2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
1		2	3	4
1.	Andaman & Nico. Islands U.T.	0	0	0
2.	Andhra Pradesh	0	2158	1109
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	*
4.	Assam	0	0	*
5.	Bihar	0	0	0
6.	Chandigarh U.T.	0	0	0
7.	Chhattisgarh	0	0	*
8.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli U.T.	0	0	0
9.	Daman & Diu U.T.	0	0	0
10.	Delhi U.T.	0	0	0
11.	Goa	4	0	0
12.	Gujarat	3	0	0
13.	Haryana	23	18	3

	1	2	3	4
14. Himachal Pradesh		3	1	*
15. Jammu & Kashmir		0	1	*
16. Jharkhand		7	1	*
17. Karnataka		56	0	*
18. Kerala		1	0	*
19. Lakshadweep U.T.		0	0	0
20. Madhya Pradesh		17	66	16
21. Maharashtra		0	8	4
22. Manipur		0	0	0
23. Meghalaya		0	0	*
24. Mizoram		0	0	0
25. Nagaland		0	0	0
26. Orissa		0	0	0
27. Pondicherry U.T.		0	1	0
28. Punjab		0	23	5
29. Rajasthan		57	1501	15
30. Sikkim		0	0	0
31. Tamil Nadu		127	132	*
32. Tripura		0	0	*
33. Uttar Pradesh		23	0	10
34. Uttaranchal		4	0	0
35. West Bengal		0	0	0
Total		325	3910	1162

*Information is awaited from the State Governments.

[Translation]

KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH: I do not agree to the reply given by the Ministry in this regard and I feel the House, too, won't agree to it. In the reply, it has been stated that in order to remove the root cause the Union Government are taking pro-active steps in convergence with other social schemes such as Sarv

Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) and various poverty alleviation programmes. The Government are implementing NCLP schemes in the labour intensive States under which working children are withdrawn from work.

I would like to tell the hon. Speaker that on 1st of August, a newspaper has reported that in spite of taking various measures, making legal provisions and launching,

schemes and projects to eliminate child labour, it is very ironical that the number of child-labourers keeps on increasing day by day. It is sad that the Government are not paying any special attention to it. As reported by the newspaper, poverty and illiteracy are attributed to the two main causes of child labour.

Further, as you, Sir, belong to Kolkata I would like to bring to your notice, a story reported by the *Rashtriya Sahara* on Kolkata. The newspaper has reported that there 88 percent child-labourers suffer from malnutrition. 88 per cent child labourers who live in the slums of the Kolkata metro suffer from anaemia, malnutrition and other diseases. This fact has come to light after a team of doctors of Kolkata Medical community and All India Institute of Public Health and Hygiene reviewed the condition prevailing over there. After all what happened in Uttar Pradesh.

MR. SPEAKER: You ask question.

KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH: Sir, I am asking the question, as this all is related to the question.

MR. SPEAKER: That much can not be covered in the said question. The Question Hour is not being properly utilized.

KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH: The State Government of Uttar Pradesh has been criticized over its laxity in enforcing labour laws despite orders of the Supreme Court. A school was selected under the National Child Labour Project. But, the State Government of Uttar Pradesh has not been able to comply with the orders of the Supreme Court, wherein, the hon. Court had asked the Government to withdraw child labourers engaged in hazardous industries and pen a school for teaching them. Further. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: What is your Question.

[Translation]

KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH: The question is that the children withdrawn from work return to work because no arrangements are made to meet their daily needs. Their situation is deteriorating due to it.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I will go to the next Question. You must know how to put a question.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I agree to the views of the hon'ble Member that child-labour is a national problem. All of us shall work collectively to tackle this problem. Maximum attention has been paid in the tenth plan towards National Child Labour Project so as to improve the condition of child labourers and budgetary allocations of Rs. 602 crore has been made for this purpose. Our UPA Government propose to work vigorously in this direction. The hon'ble Member is aware that recently Rural Employment Guarantee Bill has been passed. The problem of child labour is related to their integrated development. Ministry of HRD, Women and Child Development and Health should collectively pay attention towards this programme, because this problem is not a problem of Labour Department only. The Labour Department has brought a legislation at the Central level. But States should also pay more attention in this regard, because it is they who are the implementing agency.

Besides, District level Collectors are the Chairmen of NCLP Project. The hon'ble Member has raised the issue of Uttar Pradesh I agree with him. The problem of Uttar Pradesh is very grave. Therefore, maximum number of districts under NCLP have been covered in Uttar Pradesh and extra attention is being paid to them.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, I compliment you.

[Translation]

KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH: In response to the hon'ble Minister's reply in regard to Uttar Pradesh, I would like to tell him that many cases of imposition of fine amounting to Rs. 728 crore are under consideration with the Ministry of Labour, Uttar Pradesh. This has been reported by the daily '*Rashtriya Sahara*'. But we are not aware of the action taken by the Government to settle these cases. Besides that, I would like to ask the hon'ble Minister as the families of children employed in industries are very poor. Four children of a family earn their livelihood and when they are withdrawn from work. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You shall speak on Motion of Thanks.

KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH: I would like to know whether the Government or State Governments will implement schemes where under education, economic support through scholarship and food and nutrition will be given to them? Whether the Government are having any such scheme so as to prevent the rescued child labourers from returning to work.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, please do not match his length.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU: I have already said that it is an integrated programme, it is not the responsibility of the Ministry of Labour because only it has been observed that many a time, when we withdraw child labourers from work and try to get them admitted to schools, their parents protest. It causes more resentment because of poverty. I have already said that Rural Employment Guarantee Act has been implemented in 200 districts. It will prove effective. I have also got figures in regard to violation of orders of the Supreme Court by the Uttar Pradesh Government. I will send them personally, to the hon'ble Member.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I am ready to allow a full discussion on this issue provided notice is given at the appropriate time. These are issues we should discuss.

[Translation]

SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I alongwith Manvendraj do not agree to the reply as also not satisfied with what has been stated by the hon'ble Minister in it. The issue of UP has been raised, therefore, I would like to tell that 19 lakh cases have been reported in U.P., whereas 10 lakh cases have been reported in Andhra Pradesh through the population of UP is four times the population of Andhra Pradesh. Therefore, no prejudice should be shown in discussion on UP, but it should be held with an open mind. If figures given in the statement are correct, one crore 26 lakh children in the country are engaged in the industry, but only 1700 persons have been prosecuted. If percentage is calculated on these terms, then the rate of presentation comes to .00001 percent only out of which 50 percent people thus

prosecuted have been convicted. The Government is aware of the children who are working and the places of their work. Why all the employers of these one crore 26 lakh children have not been prosecuted? The first question is what steps are likely to be taken by the Government in this regard and second, the hon'ble Minister himself has agreed that the root cause of it is unemployment.

Will the unemployment allowance of Rs. 100 being paid to the parents of the Child Labourer is adequate to free them from the bondage as it can't be without money. Part 'C' of my question is. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: No 'C' sorry.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU: I was already telling this and I do agree with the spirit of the Hon'ble Member, as child labour is a national problem.

[English]

Our Government is fully committed to this and to eliminate child labour from this country.

[Translation]

It was targeted to be achieved during the Tenth Five Year Plan. The Government is committed to eliminate child labour in hazardous industries by 2007. So far as the issue of UP, which has been raised by the hon'ble Member, is concerned, maximum number of districts from UP have been covered under the NCLP Project and the Indo-US Project. A total of Rs. 602, and Rs. 65 crore on Indo-US Project, is being spent on it. Thus, now the Government are spending Rs. 667 crores on the said project. I would like to say that the State Governments are mostly responsible for its implementation. There is no dearth of funds and programmes, but the work will have to be done by the State Governments because the District Collector acts as Chairman of the project. States, which are implementing it properly, like Kerala, where literacy is highest, can achieve total elimination. This issue is related to the integrated rural development scheme.

SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Mr. Speaker, Sir, but I had asked about unemployment allowance. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This is not to be recorded.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, it is very good. Very well done by you.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: The number of Child labourers is on the increase in the country. Since the UPA Government assumed office, Rs. 200 crore have been allocated for it. My point is that though Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act exists, yet, many educated parents send their children for work to a company or a hotel for quite a meager wage. I would like to know whether the Government propose to ensure strict compliance of the provisions of the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act and to take stringent action against its violators? And whether the Government propose to hike the provision of Rs. 200 crore to Rs. 1000 crore in this budget itself?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You have to wait till 28th February.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU: Mr. Speaker, Sir, a provision for the Tenth Five Year Plan has already been made and after it, my Ministry would take up the matter of raising it further. So far as the question of the hon'ble Member regarding the Act is concerned, I would like to inform him that it is a Central Act and the Government is considering to amend it and make it more stringent.

[English]

SHRIMATI P. SATHEEDEVI: The hon. Minister in his reply has stated that the Government is committed to the elimination of all forms of child labour. Begging in public places is not considered as a job and no action can be taken under the Child Labour (Prohibition) Act for making use of children for begging in public places.

*Not recorded.

Nowadays, this is becoming a profitable business and there are some rackets working in using the children for begging purpose and making huge profits. So, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether any step is being taken by the Ministry to enable prosecution against those people who are making use of children for the begging purpose.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU: A law exists for this purpose. The issue of begging comes under the Ministry of Social Justice. However, my Ministry will pay attention to the issue raised by the hon. Member.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Very good. Thank you.

SHRI B. MAHTAB: The Government has replied in the answer sheet that in the country around 1.2 crore children are working. They have been termed as child labours during the census of 2001. The number of working children in the country is 1.2 crore. When the population of the children between the age-group of 6 and 11 is around 19.43 crore or 20 crore approximately, when the school-going children between the age-group of 6 and 11 are only 11 crore. When it is presumed that the children who are not going to school, are engaged otherwise should be treated as child labour, how can the Government say that it is only 1.2 crore who are child labours when there is a gap of more than 8 crore? Is it true? How is the Government going to tackle this situation?

SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU: We believe that the rightful place of the child is the school and not a place of work.

MR. SPEAKER: That is right.

SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU: I do agree with the hon. Member. We go by the Census Report 2001 that has come and accordingly our Labour Department is doing some work. We are planning accordingly to eliminate this child labour at least from the hazardous occupations by the end of this Tenth Five Year Plan. I would definitely just welcome the suggestions of the hon. Members because this will help to formulate this plan in the coming years.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to ask the Minister of Labour as to how the owners of factories, industries, hotels or shops, where children are found to be working as labourers, are prosecuted? And how the said children are rehabilitated? Where the funds, recovered during prosecution as penalty from the defaulting employers are kept? Whether it is utilized for the welfare of the Child Labourer freed from the said units, if so, the details of welfare measures taken by the Government so far, from the said funds.

SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU: Sir, the fine is recovered by the State Government and the money recovered is spent on the welfare of the said children.

SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH: What welfare measures the Government takes so that the said children do not return to the same job? How the money recovered is spent? Also, please tell the details of the total funds received and the amount spent out of that for their welfare.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: He is going to invite you.

SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU: Sir, I will give the details to the hon. Member.

SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH: Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: That is what I said.

*[Translation]***Prices of Pulses**

*24. +
SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:
SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the pulses are sold in the market at prices three times higher than their support prices resulting in huge profits to the traders;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for conceding lesser support price to the farmers alongwith 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) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) The prices of pulses have registered an increasing trend in the recent months. A comparison of Minimum Support Prices and month-end wholesale prices during January-December, 2005 in some of the pulse producing States is given below.

MSP and Month-end Wholesale Prices

(Rs. per quintal)

Pulse	MSP for 2005-06	Centre	Minimum	Maximum	Average
1	2	3	4	5	6
Arhar	1400	Morena (UP)	1650	1900	1750
		Chalissaon (Mah.)	1300	1750	1589
		Kanpur (UP)	1720	1820	1760
Moong	1520	Morena (UP)	2200	3300	2058
		Kanpur (UP)	1620	2500	2017

1	2	3	4	5	6
		Chennai (TN)	2300	3200	2716
		Bhatinda (Pb.)	2110	3120	2556
Urad	1520				
		Kanpur (UP)	1600	2410	1956
		Chennai (TN)	2101	3000	2484
		Bhatinda (Pb.)	1985	3495	2344
Masur (Lentil)	1535				
		Kanpur (UP)	1600	1840	1723
		Hapur (UP)	1425	1900	1615
		Kolkata (WB)	1950	2350	2123
Gram	1435				
		Jaipur (Raj.)	1325	1850	1565
		Kanpur (UP)	1380	1800	1615
		Rohtak (Hy.)	1425	1900	1676

Since the domestic production of pulses is less than the requirement, the market generally offers higher price than the MSP to the farmers.

(c) During the last five years, the MSP of pulses has been increased in the range of Rs. 200 to Rs. 335 as shown below:

(Rs. per quintal)

Pulse	MSP for the Year		Increase over 2000-01
	2000-01	2005-06	
Arhar (Tur)	1200	1400	200
Moong	1200	1520	320
Urad	1200	1520	320
Masur (Lentil)	1200	1535	335
Gram	1100	1435	335

It may be stated that the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP), while formulating its recommendations on price policy considers a number of important factors which include cost of production, changes in input prices, input/output price parity, trends in market

prices, demand and supply situation, inter-crop price parity, effect on industrial cost structure, effect on general price level, effect on cost of living, international market price situation and parity between prices paid and prices received by the farmers.

The cost of cultivation/production taken into account includes all paid out costs, such as, those incurred on account of hired human labour, bullock labour/machine labour (both hired and owned) and rent paid for leased in land besides cash and kind expenses on use of material inputs like seeds, fertilizers, manures, irrigation charges including cost of diesel/electricity for operation of pump sets, etc. Besides, cost of production includes imputed value of wages of family labour and rent for owned land. The cost also covers depreciation of farm machinery and buildings. As such, the cost of production covers not only actual expenses in cash and kind but also imputed value of owned assets including land and family labour.

SHRI V.K. THUMMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is stated in the statement laid on the Table by the Hon'ble Minister that pulses are sold in the market at prices much higher than that of the Minimum Support Price. It means the Government have fixed less MSP. Farmers are never paid desired MSP. And consequently they are forced to commit suicide. A small shop owner builds his own bungalow, whereas a farmer who works hard round the year is not provided appropriate MSP. I have asked in the part (c) of the question about the reasons for conceding lesser support price to the farmers? Since traders get so much money, why farmers should not get? I would like to know what the Government, the hon'ble Minister propose to do in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): Mr. Speaker, Sir, if we look at the comparative figures of the MSP in respect of all agro-products for the last 2-3 years, we would note that the Government have raised MSP every year. The MSP of Arhar during 2000-01 was Rs. 1200 per quintal, which was raised to Rs. 1400 per quintal last year, i.e. an increase of Rs. 200. Similarly, the MSP of Moong was hiked by Rs. 320 a quintal and of Urad by Rs. 320 a quintal; MSP of Masoor was raised by Rs. 335 a quintal and of gram by Rs. 335 per quintal. Several factors are taken into account while fixing the MSP. These points are kept in view in the recommendations made for this purpose;

[English]

Changes in input prices, input/output price parity, trends in market prices, demand and supply situation, inter-crop price parity, effect on industrial cost structure,

effect on general price level, effect on cost of living, international market price situation and parity between prices paid and prices received by the farmers.

[Translation]

The Government of India takes final decision on the basis of the recommendations made while keeping the above factors in mind.

12.00 hrs.

It is true that there is a shortage of pulses in the country. The production is less than the demand. This factor affects its prices. Domestic requirement of pulses in 2004-05 was 17.38 million tonnes against production of 13 million tonnes. There was a shortfall. And shortfall of any commodity leads to a spurt in its prices which compels the Government to resort to its imports. On many an occasions farmers derive gains from the uprising in prices and it is not that only traders always gain from it. The Government have evolved a special programme for increasing production of pulses which would help in meeting its shortage.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Coconut Plantations

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

(a) whether a large number of coconut plantations have been uprooted due to the recent floods in South India;

(b) if so, whether any efforts have been made to supply coconut seedlings and financial assistance to farmers for replantation;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the acreage of the said coconut land that has been replanted recently with Government's help; and

(e) the steps proposed to expedite replanting of coconut trees?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (e) Incidence of large scale uprooting of coconut plantations has not been reported from the major coconut growing States of Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh & U.T. of A&N, Lakshadweep and Pondicherry Islands of South India. However, an area of 92.30 ha. was affected in Tamil Nadu State. The State Government of Tamil Nadu have sanctioned a sum of Rs. 12,000 per ha. (₹Rs. 68.50 per tree for 175 trees per ha.) for re-plantation in 92.30 ha. of affected land. The relief assistance is being disbursed to the affected farmers. The District Collectors and District Joint Directors of Agriculture have been asked to follow up the disbursement of relief assistance and help the farmers in replanting their lands.

Drug Industry

*26. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a wide range of drugs and formulations are being exported to various countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the foreign exchange earned therefrom during each of the last three years;

(c) whether Indian drug industry is in a position to meet the entire demand of the drug formulations meant for export;

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

(e) the steps taken by the Government to increase export of Indian drugs?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (e) Exports of large number of Indian drugs are destined to more than 200 Countries around the globe including highly regulated markets of US, Europe, Japan, Germany, Russia, U.K., Canada, China, Brazil, Australia etc. Total export figures of Drugs, Pharmaceuticals and fine chemicals for the last three years are as under:

Values in US \$ Millions

	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005
Export of Drugs, Pharmaceuticals & Fine Chemicals	2650.28	3310.73	3712.57

Indian drug manufacturing companies have developed capacity and capability to cater to most of the Export demand in the last few years. Now, India has the highest number of US FDA approved plants outside USA.

The Government of India takes a number of measures for export promotion under the Foreign Trade Policy, which, *inter alia*, include the following:

- (1) Assistance to States for developing Export Infrastructure and Allied Activities (ASIDE).
- (2) Market Access Initiative (MAI).
- (3) Market Development Assistance (MDA).
- (4) Meeting expenses for trade related matters.
- (5) Reorganization of Towns of Export Excellence and assistance to exporters.
- (6) Brand Promotion and Quality.
- (7) Modernization and upgradation of Test Houses.
- (8) Setting up Special Economic Zones in the country (SEZs).
- (9) Formation of Pharmaceutical Export Promotion Council (Pharmexcil).

Further, Department of Commerce has set up Pharmaceutical Export Promotion Council (Pharmexcil) on 12.5.2004 for pharma export's promotion. PHARMEXCIL will be the only designated agency for issue of Registration and Membership Certificates for pharmaceutical exports dealing with product/services pertaining to Pharmaceuticals.

This Department has drafted the National Pharmaceutical Policy, 2006 (Part-A), containing issues other than statutory price control, which has been circulated to various stakeholders seeking their comments. Based on the comments received, the Government is likely to finalize the new Policy shortly. The draft policy also includes measures such as creation of SEZs for Pharma Industry, greater thrust on Pharma exports etc. for promotion of Pharmaceutical Exports.

Chinese Imports Hit Bulk Drugs Market

*27. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether cheaper bulk drugs imports from China are crippling domestic industry as reported in *The Times of India* dated January 4, 2006;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some domestic drug manufacturing companies are on the verge of closure as a result thereof; and

(d) if so, the steps taken or being taken by the Government to save the domestic companies from closures?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (d) The Bulk Drug Manufacturers Association (India) and Pharmaceuticals Export Promotion Council (PHARMEXCIL) have informed that especially because of low value imports of drugs from China, Indian manufacturers of drugs like Paracetamol, Analgin, Ciprofloxacin (groups), Metronidazole and Diclofenac Sodium etc. have been seriously affected. Besides this, one of the reasons of closure of the Public Sector Plant of M/s. IDPL at Rishikesh Manufacturing Penicillin G, Ampicillin, Amoxycillin, Tetracycline and Oxytetracycline and their Hyderabad Plant manufacturing Vitamin B1, Vitamin B2, Folic Acid, Chloroquine Phosphate and Alpha Methyl Dopa is cheaper bulk drug imports from China. The Public Sector Plant of M/s. Hindustan Antibiotics Ltd. manufacturing Penicillin has also been closed because of the same reason.

The Chinese bulk drugs are cheaper when compared to Indian products because of economies of scale, tariffs of power and tax structure etc.

The Government of India has been giving some protection by levying Anti-dumping/related duties. The Directorate General Anti Dumping under Ministry of Commerce & Industry, initiates proceedings wherever complaints are received by them of such dumping and if proved, levy anti-dumping duties. Besides this, registration for all imports of bulk drugs is compulsory with Drug Controller General (India) under the Foreign Trade Policy. Further, the Government is contemplating to revive IDPL and HAL.

[*Translation*]

Funds for Environment Conservation

*28. SHRIMATI KALPNA RAMESH NARHIRE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the extent of external assistance received for implementation of programmes meant for the conservation of environment in the country during each of the last three years;

(b) the funds allocated to various States out of the above, State-wise;

(c) whether the States have utilized the funds properly; and

(d) if not, the steps taken for proper utilization of the assistance by the States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) The breakup of external assistance received for implementation of programmes meant for the conservation of environment in the country during each of the last three years:

	(Rs. in crores)		
	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005
Loan	435.74	412.24	309.89
Grant	35.71	70.63	43.82
Total	471.45	482.87	353.71

Out of the above the following external assistance has been routed through Ministry of Environment and Forests.

	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005
Loan	165.148	14.485	8.456
Grant	3.24	1.00	1.00
Total	168.388	15.485	9.456

State-wise allocation of loan in respect of external assistance being routed through Ministry of Environment & Forests is given below:

Name of States	Amount Allocated to States (Rs. in crores)		
	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
1	2	3	4
West Bengal	2.173	1.862	0.101
Gujarat	9.415	2.727	2.539

1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
Karnataka	15.543	1.006	0.694	Uttar Pradesh	24.54	2.50	1.00
Jharkhand	2.523	1.958	-	Haryana	0.00	0.00	0.50
Madhya Pradesh	6.602	1.463	1.700	Andhra Pradesh	3.23	-	-
Rajasthan	6.019	2.966	0.021	Chhattisgarh	1.59	-	-
Delhi	91.85	0.00	1.90	Total	163.485	14.482	8.455

State-wise allocation of grants in respect of external assistance being routed through Ministry of Environment

& Forests is given below:

Sl.No.	Name of the Project	Name of States	Amount Allocated to States (Rs. in crores)		
			2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
1.	"Strengthening Natural Resource Management and Farmers' Livelihood in Nagaland"	Nagaland	0.240		

The overall funds allocated to various States, loan and grant wise, is given below:

(i) External Assistance-Loans

(Rs. in crores)

Sl.No.	Source of funding	Name of the Project	Name of States	Amount of External Assistance (loans) received		
				2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Japan	Lake Bhopal Conservation & Management.	Madhya Pradesh	27.383	31.888	55.765
		Afforestation of Aravalli Hills	Multi-state		-0.227	
		Rajasthan Forestry Development.	Rajasthan	0.928		
		Industrial Pollution Control (WB)	West Bengal	19.514	2.719	
		Attappady Wasteland Comprehensive Environment	Kerala	10.353	11.720	16.615

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
		Gujarat Afforestation & Development Project	Gujarat	20.575	13.793	
		Eastern Karnataka Afforestation Project	Karnataka	84.507	71.351	28.808
		Tamil Nadu Afforestation Program	Tamil Nadu	71.313	73.046	19.659
		Punjab Afforestation Project	Punjab	37.414		
		Punjab Afforestation Project (II)	Punjab		56.700	44.275
		Rajasthan Forestry & Biodiversity Project	Rajasthan		20.683	62.485
2.	IDA	Forestry Research Education & Extn.	Multi-states	0.029		
		Industrial Pollution Prevention	Multi-states	40.163	0.092	
		Eco-development Project	Multi-states	21.915	11.451	2.341
		U.P. Forestry Project	Uttar Pradesh	52.405	12.018	-1.214
		Kerala Forestry Project	Kerala	35.420	24.653	-4.890
		AP Community Forest Management	Andhra Pradesh	13.820	82.650	86.045
Total				435.744	412.249	309.893

(ii) External Assistance—Grant

(Rs. in crores)

Sl.No.	Source of funding	Name of the Project	Name of States	Amount of External Assistance (loans) received		
				2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	E.E.C.	Haryana Community Forestry Project	Haryana	11.351	13.511	17.195
2.	Netherlands	Ganga Action Plan Support Project	Multi-states	10.567	6.733	3.956
		Green Hyderabad Environment Programme	Andhra Pradesh	13.152	49.152	8.956

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
3.	United Kingdom	Western Ghats Forestry Project 1992.	Multi-states	0.058		
		Calcutta Environmental Improvement Project	West Bengal		0.729	8.763
		Himachal Pradesh Forest Sector Reform Project.	Himachal Pradesh		0.505	3.723
4.	Norway	Indo-Norwegian Environment Programme.	Multi-states	0.245		1.225
5.	UNDP	Green Rating of Indian Industry Capacity Building in Environmental Programmes		0.30		
			Multi-states	0.04		
Total				35.715	70.632	43.820

(c) and (d) Utilization of the sanctioned foreign assistance for any project is a continuous process spread over its implementation period. As a result, there would be some unutilized amount at any point of time; these amounts will be utilized as the project implementation progresses. Moreover, the project implementation authorities like the Central Line Ministries/Departments, State Governments or the Public Sector Units (PSUs) work under diverse constraints. Some of the steps taken by the Government to improve aid utilization are ensuring adequate provisioning for externally aided projects in the budgets of State and Central Government, streamlining of procurement procedures, disintermediation of the flow of external aid to Central Public Sector Undertakings, strengthening of Project Monitoring Units in some States and Central Ministries, appointment of Nodal Officers for the States and regular review of project etc.

[English]

Suicide by Farmers

*29. SHRI ANANT GUDHE:
SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the farmers, particularly cotton growers of Maharashtra have been forced to take the extreme steps of committing suicide and selling their kidneys and children due to excessive burden of debt and failure of crops;

(b) if so, the details of such cases recorded during the last and the current year, separately, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government proposes to write off the debt of the farmers;

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

(e) the other steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to mitigate the problems of the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) The State Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra,

Kerala, Punjab, Gujarat and Orissa have reported suicide by farmers. Several causes have been attributed for suicide by farmers which, *inter alia*, include excessive burden of debt and failure of crops. Though there have been media reports of the incident of selling of kidneys

and children by the farmers but State Governments have not officially reported any such cases.

(b) State-wise details of suicide cases are as under:

Name of State	Period	Number (Based on the figures reported by State Government)
Andhra Pradesh	2003-04 (upto 13.5.2004)	254
	2004-05 (from 14.5.2005 to 11.11.2005)	1068
Karnataka	2004-05	271
	2005-06 (upto 23.8.2005)	52
Maharashtra	2004	524
	2005 (upto 31.12.2005)	142
Punjab	2004-05	Nil
	2005-06 (Upto 30.6.2005)	Nil
Kerala	2003	40
	2004	96
Orissa	2004-05 (upto 28.2.2005)	Nil
	2005-06 (1.3.2005 to 30.9.2005)	5
Gujarat	2004	4
	2005	1

(c) and (d) In order to mitigate debt related stress of farmers, the Government of India has announced a comprehensive credit policy package on 18th June, 2004. The policy, *inter alia*, provides for Special One Time Settlement Scheme for settling the old and chronic loan accounts of small and marginal farmers with discretion to the banks for partially writing off the debts of the farmers. An amount of Rs. 756.83 crores and Rs. 373.77 crores have been provided as debt relief to the farmers under the Scheme during the year 2004-05 and 2005-06 (April to December 2005) respectively.

(e) Other measures taken by the Government for mitigating the debt related problems of farmers, *inter alia*, include:

- The banks have been directed to restructure the debts of farmers in distress and farmers in arrears providing for rescheduling of outstanding loans over a period of five years including moratorium of two years, thereby making all farmers eligible for fresh credit.
- Banks have been allowed to finance for redeeming the loans taken by farmers from private money lenders.
- Implementation of the National Agriculture Insurance Scheme (Rashtriya Krishi Bima Yojna) to compensate crop loss of farmers due to occurrence of natural calamities.
- Credit flow to agriculture sector to increase by 30% per year.

- Commercial Banks to finance 100 farmers/branch and 50 lakh new farmers to be financed by the banks in a year.
- New investments in agriculture and allied activities for 2 to 3 projects/branch.
- Refinements in Kisan Credit Cards (KCCs) and fixation of scale of finance.
- During the year 2004-05 (1st April, 2004 to 31st March, 2005), against the targeted credit flow of Rs. 1,05,000 crores, the achievement was Rs. 1,15,242.81 crore which is a 32% growth in credit flow over the disbursement of Rs. 86,981 crore during the year 2003-04. During the year 2005-06 (1st April to 31st December, 2005), as per the available data, the credit flow has been Rs. 1,19,114.41 crore forming 84.48% of the annual target of Rs. 1,41,000 crore.

Quality of Foodgrain Stocks

*30. SARDAR SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA:
SHRI SHISHUPAL PATLE:

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

(a) whether stocks of sub-standard quality of wheat and rice have been stored in the godowns of Food Corporation of India (FCI) in various parts of the country, particularly in Punjab;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether raids and searches have been carried out by the Central Bureau of Investigation at various godowns of FCI in this regard;

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

(e) the follow-up action taken against the officials held responsible?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) As per the information received from FCI, a total quantity of wheat 8034 MTs and rice 136887 MTs of substandard quality comprising damaged and upgradable is stored in the godowns of FCI in various parts of the country including Punjab, the details of which are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Joint surprise checks had been conducted by CBI along with FCI in September, 2005 at 12 FCI Centres in Punjab Region in FCI district Bhatinda, Ferozepur, Faridkot and Sangrur. During the joint surprise checks, 451 samples of Rice Grade A pertaining to crop year 2004-05 were drawn and got analysed at Central Grain Analysis Laboratory, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi. Only 13 of these samples were found to be within prescribed specifications while the remaining 438 samples were found exceeding the limit of uniform specifications, of which 91 samples were beyond Prevention of Food Adulteration Act (PFA) Limits i.e. unfit for human consumption.

(e) Three cases i.e. RCCHG 2006 A 0001, RCCHG 2006 A 0002 and RCCHG 2006 A 0003 all dated 7.1.2006 have been registered by CBI, Chandigarh against 83 FCI officials/officers including one IAS officer and 330 Private Rice Millers. Searches were also conducted on 9.1.2006 at the premises of nine FCI officers/officials.

Statement

Sub-Standard wheat & rice stored in FCI Godown as on 1.1.2006

(Figures in MTs)

Sl.No.	State	Wheat			Rice		
		Damaged	Upgradable	Total	Damaged	Upgradable	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Bihar	57	0	57	182	5463	5645
2.	Jharkhand	0	0	0	10	0	10
3.	Orissa	0	0	0	1147	0	1147

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
4.	West Bengal	209	0	209	368	1625	1993
5.	Assam/Arunachal Pradesh	28	0	28	1392	1805	3197
6.	NEF (Meghalaya/Mizoram/Tripura)	10	0	10	294	1554	1848
7.	Nagaland & Manipur	6	0	6	210	0	210
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	0	0	0	1	202	203
9.	Punjab	666	123	789	39464	70024	109488*
10.	Rajasthan	122	0	122	3	0	3
11.	Uttar Pradesh	35	0	35	15	0	15
12.	Uttaranchal	207	0	207	0	0	0
13.	Andhra Pradesh	3	0	3	546	0	546
14.	Kerala	9	0	9	744	0	744
15.	Karnataka	9	0	9	229	0	229
16.	Tamil Nadu	0	0	0	104	0	104
17.	Gujarat	526	0	526	60	0	60
18.	Maharashtra	5818	13	5831	2713	4127	6840
19.	Madhya Pradesh	175	0	175	4164	0	4164
20.	Chhattisgarh	18	0	18	20	421	441
Total		7898	136	8034	51866	85221	136887

*The position for Punjab is as on 1.2.2006.

Growth Rate in Agriculture

*31. SHRI HITEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of investment required in agriculture sector to achieve 8 per cent national growth rate during the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government for achieving the targeted growth rate in agriculture; and

(c) the steps the Government proposes to take to generate employment in agricultural sector?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) According to the Tenth Plan document of the Planning Commission, the amount of investment required in the agriculture sector during Tenth Five Year Plan is Rs. 219.6 thousand crores at 2001-02 prices out of which public sector investment is Rs 132.2 thousand crores (i.e. 60.2 per cent). The overall GDP growth was envisaged at 8.1% during the 10th Plan.

(b) and (c) A series of initiatives through various schemes have been taken by the Government in the areas of increased credit coverage, irrigation expansion,

crop diversification, marketing infrastructure, horticulture, extension services and storage facilities. Efforts are on to enhance production and productivity to 4% and to encourage farming as a remunerative profession. This process is being strengthened through farm mechanization, agri-clinics and agri-business centres. The areas for high investment include micro-irrigation comprising drip and sprinkler irrigation, National Horticulture Mission, having end-to-end approach. These initiatives are expected to generate employment in the sector apart from accelerating growth and productivity.

Closure of Sponge Iron Units

*32. SHRI UDAY SINGH:
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether several sponge iron units in the country are on the verge of closure due to rise in price of iron ore and crisis in the supply of coal;

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

(c) whether the Union Government proposes to take any concrete step to save such sponge iron units from closure; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) Of the 110 sponge iron units reporting their production data to Joint Plant Committee, 8 units have reported nil production from December 2005 onwards. Various associations of sponge iron units have reported that the industry has been affected by the general downward trend in sponge iron prices. As prices of iron ore and coal have not moved in tandem, the financial viability of sponge iron unit in general has been affected. Shortfall in supplies of coal viz-a-viz requirement of the industry has also been reported.

(c) and (d) Iron and steel sector has been de-regulated since 1991-92. Decisions on setting up and operating these units are to be taken by entrepreneurs based on their commercial judgment. In its role as a facilitator, Government accords priority to sponge iron industry with regard to supply of coal from public sector coal producing companies and allocation of captive coal

blocks to meet their coal requirements. As regards iron ore, coal based sponge iron units are mostly getting iron ore supplies from private iron ore miners of Orissa and Karnataka, prices of which are determined by market forces. National Mineral Development Corporation is mostly meeting iron ore requirement of gas based sponge iron units on mutually agreed prices.

[Translation]

Export of Iron Ore

*33. SHRI SURENDRA PRAKASH GOYAL:
DR. RAJESH MISHRA:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has set up an expert group to review guidelines on iron ore mining and its exports;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the expert group has recommended total ban on export of iron ore;

(d) if so, the details of the recommendations with special reference to exports;

(e) whether private domestic steel industry has also requested a ban on export of iron ore;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Steel constituted an "Expert Group", on 20th April, 2005, for formulating guidelines for preferential grant of mining leases, for iron ore, manganese ore and chrome ore by State Governments. The composition of the "Expert Group" and its terms of references are given in the enclosed statement. The "Expert Group" has submitted its report to the Ministry of Steel on 26.8.2005.

(c) and (d) Exports of iron ore did not form a part of the terms of reference of the "Expert Group" and hence no specific recommendation has been made in the report of the "Expert Group" for total ban on iron ore exports.

(e) and (f) Some steel producers and associations representing various sections of the steel industry have represented for placing curbs on export of iron ore.

(g) The present Foreign Trade Policy, for the period 2004-09, already prescribes canalization through MMTC of export of iron ore of +64% Fe content from all sectors except ore of Goan and Redi origin. Besides, quantitative ceilings on export of high grade iron ore from the Bailadila sector have also been prescribed. While reviewing the export policy, Government takes into account views of all stake holders including steel producers and their associations.

Statement

A. Composition of Expert Group Constituted for formulating National guidelines on Iron ore, Manganese Ore and Chrome Ore Mining

1. Shri R.K. Dang, Ex-Secretary, Government of India, Ministry of Mines-Chairman
2. Director General, Indian Bureau of Mines-Member
3. Managing Director, Tata Iron & Steel Co.-Member
4. Chairman, Steel Authority of India Ltd.-Member
5. Executive Director, Sponge Iron Manufacturers Association-Member
6. CMD, National Mineral Development Corporation Limited-Member
7. Director General, NEERI-Member
8. Secretary General, Federation of Indian Mineral Industries-Member
9. Principal Secretary, (Mines), Govt. of Karnataka-Member
10. Principal Secretary, (Mines), Govt. of Orissa-Member
11. Joint Secretary, Ministry of Mines-Member
12. President, Indian Steel Alliance-Member
13. Shri Ajoy Kumar, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Steel-Member Convener

B. Terms of Reference of the Expert Group

"To formulate guidelines pertaining to Iron ore, Manganese Ore and Chrome Ore regarding giving preferential mining rights to certain persons by the State Governments under Section 11(5) of MMDR Act, 1957."

(English)

CAD and Water Management Programmes

*34. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:
SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the restructured Command Area Development (CAD) and Water Management programmes have not achieved the desired results;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the area in which the work has been completed so far under the said programmes; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to achieve the targets fixed under the said programmes?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) No Sir. The progress under restructured Command Area Development and Water Management Programme has been satisfactory except for the new components of correction of system deficiencies up to distributaries of 150 cusec capacity and the renovation of Minor Irrigation Tanks. The States are in a transition phase to implement these new components.

(b) For implementation of new components of correction of system deficiencies up to distributaries of 150 cusec capacity and the renovation of Minor Irrigation Tanks, formation of legalized Water Users' Associations is a pre-requisite, which is taking time as the State have to enact a new Participatory Irrigation Management Act or make amendments in the existing Irrigation Act of facilitate formation of Water Users' Associations and signing of Memorandum of Understanding with them. Once, the transition phase is over, the progress under these activities will pick up.

(c) Under the restructured Command Area Development & Water Management Programme, against the target of 0.23 million ha each for construction of field channels during 2004-05 and 2005-06, the achievement respectively is 0.375 million ha and 0.152 million ha (up to September, 2005).

(d) The Programme implementation is being monitored and reviewed periodically to ensure achievement of the targets.

Interest Rate on EPF

*35. SHRI L. GANESAN:
SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN:

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

(a) whether the Employees Provident Fund interest rate for the year 2005-06 has been notified;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether various trade unions in the country have been demanding for retention of the interest rate at 9.5 per cent; and

(d) if so, the Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SEKHAR RAO): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Central Government, under Para 60(1) of the Employees Provident Fund Scheme, 1952, have since notified the rate of interest @8.5% for the year 2005-06.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The earnings of Employees Provident Fund Organisation cannot sustain the demand of 9.5% rate of interest for the year 2005-06.

Drug Prices Control Mechanism

*36. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has no effective price control mechanism in place for drugs which are patented and imported as reported in *The Times of India* dated January 13, 2006;

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

(c) whether the Government has examined the recommendations of the Task Force on drug prices;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken/being taken to implement the said recommendations; and

(e) the time by which new pharmaceutical policy is likely to be announced?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (e) As per the present Pharma Pricing Policy, the 74 bulk drugs specified in the First Schedule of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 (DPCO, 95) and the formulations based thereon are under price control and their prices are fixed/revised by the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) in accordance with the provisions of the DPCO, 95. These provisions are applicable to all Scheduled formulations irrespective of whether they are imported or patented unless otherwise exempted.

Prices of non-Schedule formulations are fixed by the manufacturers themselves keeping in view the various factors like cost of production, marketing expenses, R&D expenses, trade commission, market competition, product innovation, product quality etc., The NPPA monitors the prices of medicines as per monthly Retail Audit Reports of ORG-IMS Research Pvt. Ltd. The Government takes corrective measures where the public interest is found to be adversely affected.

Prices of Scheduled imported formulations are fixed as per para 7 of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order 1995, by the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA). Para 7 provides that the landed cost shall form the basis for fixing its price alongwith such margin to cover selling and distribution expenses including interest and importer's profit which shall not exceed fifty percent of the landed cost. Importers of non-Scheduled formulations fix their price on their own as per cost of import and prevailing market competition etc. NPPA regularly examines the movement in prices of non-Scheduled formulations (including imported formulations) on the basis of information available to it from various sources.

Based on the recommendations of the Committee under the Chairmanship of Joint Secretary

(Pharmaceuticals) and the Task Force under the Chairmanship of Dr. Pronab Sen, Principal Advisor, Planning Commission and feedback from other stakeholders Government have formulated to draft National Pharmaceutical Policy, 2006 (Part-A—excluding pricing) wherein it has been recommended, *inter alia*, that the patented drugs (formulations under product patent) that are launched in India after 1st January, 2005 would be subjected to price negotiations before granting them marketing approval. The Draft National Pharmaceutical Policy 2006 (Part A excluding pricing) has been circulated to various stakeholders. Based on the comments received the Government is likely to finalize the new policy shortly.

[*Translation*]

Assistance for Bee-keeping, Fisheries and Poultry

*37. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has provided financial assistance to the rural people for the bee-keeping, fisheries and poultry activities;

(b) if so, the funds allocated for the purpose during each of the last three years; State-wise;

(c) the number of the people benefited therefrom during the said period, State-wise;

(d) whether the Government provides subsidy for the purpose; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (c) The Government implements various schemes for the development of bee-keeping, fisheries and poultry activities through the State Governments. The State-wise allocation of funds made in the last three years, i.e. from 2002-03 to 2004-05 is given in the enclosed Statement-I, II and III. The financial assistance is provided on need basis and no area-wise allocations are made.

(d) and (e) Following is the element of subsidy provided in various schemes:

Bee Keeping:

During the period 2002-03 to 2004-05, 25% of the cost of the colony limited to Rs. 125 per colony and Rs. 175 per hive for a maximum of 20 colonies and hives per beneficiary. With effect from 2005-06, the financial assistance provided has been increased to 50% of the cost of the colony subject to a maximum of Rs. 350 per colony and Rs. 450 per hive. Financial assistance of Rs. 2.50 lakhs per bee breeder is also made available to the registered bee breeders.

Fisheries:

(a) Development of Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture

The Scheme has six components such as development of freshwater, brackishwater, coldwater fisheries comprising of various activities, including construction/renovation of ponds, cost of inputs, seed hatching, training, etc. for which subsidy varying from 20%-25% is made available, which is shared by the Centre and the concerned State on 75:25 basis.

(B) Development of Marine Fisheries, Infrastructure and Post-harvest operations

(I) Development of Coastal Fisheries

(a) Introduction of inter-mediate crafts of improved design—Subsidy given is 10% of the cost subject to maximum of Rs. 4.00 lakh.

(b) Motorisation of traditional crafts—Subsidy given is Rs. 20000 per unit, which is shared by the Centre and States on 50 : 50 basis.

(c) Fishermen development rebate on HSD Oil—Subsidy given is Rs. 1.50 per litre of HSD oil used by mechanised fishing vessels below 20M length and is shared by Centre and States on 80 : 20 basis.

(d) Safety of fishermen at sea—Subsidy provided is 20% subject to a maximum of Rs. 30,000 per unit for installing Global Positioning System (GPS) through the NCDC.

(II) Development of deep water sea fishing

Back-ended subsidy up to 50% of the cost subject to a maximum of Rs. 15.00 lakh per vessel.

(iii) Development of Infrastructure facilities

Subsidy provided is 50% of the cost of the coastal State Governments and 100% to the Union Territories & Port Trusts and fishermen associations. A subsidy of 50% is also provided for construction of minor fishing harbours and fresh landing construction on Build, operate and transfer (BOT) basis.

(iv) Development of post-harvest infrastructure

The subsidy provided is (i) 100% grant (limited to Rs. 1.00 crore) to Govt. Undertakings/Corporations/Federations; (ii) 75% grant (limited to Rs. 0.75 crore) to NGOs/Cooperatives/Joint Sector/Group of fisher-women in NE Region/Hilly/Tribal areas; and (iii) 50% grant (limited to Rs. 0.40 crore) to Assisted/Private Sector in NE Region/Hilly/Tribal areas and 25% grant (limited to 0.25 crore) in general areas.

(C) Welfare Programme for Fishermen**(i) Development of Model Fishermen Villages**

The subsidy provided is: Construction of fishermen house Rs. 40000, community hall Rs. 175000, tube well Rs. 30,000 (Rs. 35,000 in the NER). The subsidy is shared by the Centre and States on 50 : 50 basis.

(ii) Group Accident Insurance Scheme for Active Fishermen

The annual premium of Rs. 14 per fisherman is shared by the Centre and States on a 50 : 50 basis.

(iii) Saving-cum-Relief Scheme

In case of marine fisher Rs. 75 per month for 8 months, inland fisher Rs. 50 per month for 9 months. These are shared by the Centre and States on a 50 : 50 basis.

(iv) Fisheries Training and Extension

The subsidy provided consists of various components i.e. stipend of Rs. 100 per day, setting up of Fish Farmers training centre (Rs. 45.00 lakh) organization of workshop (Rs. 10 lakh), construction of awareness centre (Rs. 15 lakh) etc. The cost is shared by the Centre and States on a 80 : 20 basis.

Poultry:

There is no element of subsidy in any of the schemes implemented during the period 2002-03 to 2004-05.

Statement I**Financial assistance provided for Bee-Keeping**

(Rs. in lakhs)

State	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh		1.90	7.25
Bihar	12.6	14.88	
Chhattisgarh	2.00		
Goa			
Gujarat			
Haryana	4.00		12.10
Himachal Pradesh	11.56	18.00	
Jammu & Kashmir		20.71	
Jharkhand			
Karnataka			
Kerala	23.50	13.80	42.50
Madhya Pradesh	23.20	3.70	
Maharashtra		2.50	
Manipur			
Meghalaya			
Mizoram	6.4	4.60	11.35
Nagaland			
Orissa			
Punjab			
Rajasthan	8.00	9.78	1.50
Sikkim			
Tamil Nadu		2.50	

1	2	3	4
Tripura			
Uttar Pradesh	38.50	14.00	43.00
Uttamachal		5.50	
West Bengal	33.00	26.45	22.50
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0.50		0.97
Daman & Diu			

1	2	3	4
Delhi	2.00	2.00	2.00
Lakshadweep			
Chandigarh			
Andman & Nicobar			5.00
Pondicherry			
Total	165.26	140.32	148.17

Statement II

Financial assistance provided under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes for the Development of Fisheries during last three years

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	States/UTs	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	375.43	267.59	506.57
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	29.72	38	98.26
3.	Aseam	4	12.3	98.18
4.	Bihar	34.1	0	118.89
5.	Goa	14.6	15	70.73
6.	Guajrat	10.26	179.44	1293.2
7.	Haryana	108.29	101.7	149.89
8.	Himachal Pradesh	54.21	22.23	90.49
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	48.68	20.3	244.76
10.	Karnataka	323.57	164.96	1071.07
11.	Kerala	485.49	352.5	377.14
12.	Madhya Pradesh	38.87	52.55	354.14
13.	Maharashtra	91.67	3.6	698.26
14.	Manipur			96.37

1	2	3	4	5
15.	Meghalaya	0	50	14.02
16.	Mizoram	63	7.6	38.53
17.	Nagaland	102	147.56	241.31
18.	Orissa	284.6	326.48	482.99
19.	Punjab	60	0	13.8
20.	Rajasthan	4.25	1.85	34.1
21.	Sikkim	10	0	4.5
22.	Tamil Nadu	876.2	784.73	126.61
23.	Tripura	72.39	88	124.15
24.	Uttar Pradesh	134.26	258	597.85
25.	West Bengal	433.18	229.31	1179.89
26.	A&N Islands	170.24	100	7.02
27.	Daman & Diu	0	0	127
28.	Lakshadweep	0	0	20
29.	Pondicherry	138.49	130	308.76
30.	Chhattisgarh	15.17	100.71	116.03
31.	Uttaranchal	0	12	93.3
32.	Jharkhand	20	121.85	149.38
33.	FISHCOPFED			90.65
34.	Others (Pl. specify)			18.05
35.	Others (CIFRI)			107.8
36.	CMFRI			62.13
37.	FSI			73.22
38.	NCDC			90.42
39.	Mumbai Post Trust			21
Total		4002.7	3588.26	10749.46

Statement III*Financial Assistance provided under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Assistance to State Poultry/Duck Farms"*

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	State	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005
1.	Andhra Pradesh	—	—	47.92
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	74.50	132.50
3.	Assam	170.00	—	—
4.	Chhattisgarh	68.00	—	—
5.	Goa	—	—	68.00
6.	Gujarat	—	22.38	90.37
7.	Himachal Pradesh	59.87	27.40	25.00
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	—	42.50	204.00
9.	Jharkhand	25.48	—	—
10.	Karnataka	—	—	55.00
11.	Kerala	85.00	—	—
12.	Madhya Pradesh	68.00	48.93	64.00
13.	Maharashtra	—	—	150.00
14.	Manipur	—	—	—
15.	Meghalaya	85.00	—	40.00
16.	Mizoram	70.00	57.00	128.00
17.	Nagaland	—	42.50	252.50
18.	Orissa	68.00	15.00	—
19.	Rajasthan	77.79	—	—
20.	Sikkim	—	42.50	—
21.	Tamil Nadu	—	—	99.756
22.	Tripura	85.00	82.50	—
23.	Uttar Pradesh	68.00	17.09	—
24.	Uttaranchal	68.00	—	—
25.	West Bengal	68.00	33.20	80.00
Total		1066.14	505.50	1437.046

*[English]***Crops Affected due to Cold Wave**

*38. SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether freezing temperatures and cold wave in many parts of Northern India have severely affected most of the crops;

(b) if so, the details of loss and the damage to the crops and the farmers, State-wise;

(c) whether most of the affected farmers are not covered under the National Agricultural Insurance Scheme;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the steps taken by the Government to protect the interests of the farmers and to ensure adequate supply of agricultural commodities;

(f) whether any precautionary instructions have been issued to the State Governments to help farmers adopt the latest technology to protect the crops in such weather; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) The very low minimum temperature which prevailed for a few days in the second week of January 2006 is reported to have caused damage to some crops like mustard, gram, potato etc. at some places in Northern part of the country.

(b) The State of Haryana has reported the damage due to very low minimum temperature and cold wave to the crops of mustard and gram to the extent of 50% and 30%, respectively. Information on crop damage from other States is being collected.

(c) and (d) The National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) is under implementation in 23 States and 2 UTs including Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Uttamachal and Rajasthan. Under the scheme, assistance is provided to insured farmers in case their yield falls short of specified threshold levels. The scheme is available for loanee and non loanee farmers. Farmers availing of crop loan are covered under NAIS.

(e) The Government of India is implementing various crop production schemes through which assistance is provided to farmers on critical inputs including input subsidy, training of farmers and dissemination of improved crop production technologies.

(f) and (g) Advisories are issued regularly to farmers through the agencies of Government of India to take necessary precautions and field operations. Keeping in view the prevailing temperature of early January, the farmers were advised through electronic media to protect their crop from frost by resorting to immediate irrigation of fields as well as by creating smoke screen by burning agricultural residual wastes.

Degradation of Coastline

*39. SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT "BACHDA": Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a continuous degradation of the coastline in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to check and repair the damage to the coastline?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) As per the information available in Coastal Erosion Directorate of Central Water Commission, sea erosion has affected coastline at many areas in the country in varying magnitude. The details of State-wise areas affected by sea erosion are given below:

State	Locations affected by sea erosion
1	2
Andhra Pradesh	Uppeda and nearby villages near Kakinada and some places in West Godavari and Krishna Districts.
Goa	Coastal areas in Pernam, Bardez, Salcete, Canacona, Tiswadi Talukas.

1	2
Gujarat	Coastal areas in Valsad, Navsar, Surat and Bharuch Districts.
Karnataka	Coastal areas in Mangalore, Udupi and Kundapur Talukas in Dakshina Kannada District and Bhatkal, Honnavar, Kunta, Ankola and Karwar Talukas in Uttara Kannada District.
Kerala	Coastal areas in Thiruvnanthapuram, Kollam, Alappuzha, Emakulam, Thrissur, Manjeri, Kozhikode, Thalessery, Kasaragode Divisions.
Maharashtra	Coastal areas in Mumbai, Mumbai Suburban, Thane, Raigad, Ratnagiri and Sindhudurg Districts.
Orissa	Coastal areas in Ganjam, Puri, Kendrapara, Balasore, Jagatsinghpur and Bhadrak.
Pondicherry	Coastal areas in Pondicherry.
Tamil Nadu	Coastal areas in Chennai North, Kancheepuram, Cuddalore, Nagapattinam, Thoothukudi, Tirunelveli and Kanyakumari Districts.
West Bengal	Coastal areas in 24 Parganas (South), 24 Parganas (North) and Digha.
Lakshadweep	Coastal areas in islands of Agatti, Amini, Andrott, Bitra, Chetlat, Kadmat, Kalpani, Kavaratti, Kiltan and Minicoy.

(c) Planning, investigation and execution of schemes to check sea erosion are the responsibility of the State/UT Governments. These are funded by the State Governments from the Annual Plan funds provided to the States by the Planning Commission under Flood Control. However, in order to tide over the immediate fund constraints faced by the States in implementing anti-sea erosion works on the critical reaches, a Centrally

sponsored Scheme (now shifted to State Sector) "Critical Anti Erosion Works in Coastal and other than Ganga Basin States" is implemented by Central Water Commission for protection of critical coastal areas of maritime States/UTs. Further, Ministry has formulated a National Coastal Protection Project to arrange external funding for protection of coastal areas of Maritime States/UTs from sea erosion.

In addition, the Government has taken several other steps including the following:

- (i) Central Government has issued the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Notification, 1991 under Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 to regulate all developmental activities in the CRZ area for protection of the coastal environment.
- (ii) The ecological damages that have taken place due to the recent tsunami have been got assessed by the Ministry of Environment and Forests through nine scientific institutions. The concerned State Governments and Union Territories have taken up control measures which include mangrove afforestation and development of bio shields.
- (iii) Under the Coastal Ocean Monitoring the Prediction System (COMAPS) Programme of Department of Ocean Development, the quality of sea water is regularly monitored at 72 earmarked Stations along the coastline.
- (iv) Schemes have been launched by Coastal Erosion Directorate, Ministry of Water Resources to take up measures for protection of coastal areas of maritime States/Union Territories.

[*Translation*]

Amendment in Labour Laws

*40. SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE:
SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to amend the Labour Laws in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether most of the Labour organizations of the country protest this proposal; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SEKHAR RAO): (a) to (d) Amendment in labour laws is a continuous process in order to bring them in tune with the emerging needs. Presently, Bills to amend the Factories Act, 1948 and the Labour Laws (Exemption from Furnishing Returns and Maintaining Registers by certain Establishments) Act, 1988 have been introduced in the Parliament.

With a view to making labour markets flexible, a "Discussion Paper" has been circulated among various stakeholders for eliciting their views. These, *inter-alia*, include:

- (i) amendment in the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970 by placing certain activities in a separate schedule so that provisions of Section 10 may not apply to them, and by replacing the term "emergency" with the term "public interest" in Section 31 of the Act; and
- (ii) amendment in the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 by raising the number filter from 100 to 300 for applicability of chapter VB and raising the compensation ceiling payable to workers on retrenchment, and on closure of the establishment, from 15 days' average pay to 45 days' average pay for every completed year of continuous service or any part thereof in excess of six months subject to the condition that such retrenchment compensation shall not be less than 90 days of average wages and by extending the powers of exemptions in the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 under Section 36 B to include any Government Undertaking.

Central Trade Unions and Employers Organizations have expressed divergent views on the suggestions, which have been taken cognizance of by the Government.

[English]

Subsidy on Fertilizers

*41. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the total fertilizers subsidy provided during 2005-06;

(b) whether the Government proposes to increase subsidy on fertilizers in the coming year; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (c) A provision of Rs. 16253.90 crore for subsidy/concession on urea and decontrolled phosphatic and potassic fertilizers has been made in the Budget estimates for 2005-06. In addition to this, a sum of Rs. 1000 crore has been provided for subsidy/concession on fertilizers in the 2nd Batch of Supplementary Demands for Grants. There is no proposal to increase the rate of subsidy on fertilizers. The actual quantum of funds requirement for subsidy depends upon various factors viz. total consumption and the prices of feedstock/raw materials/intermediates used in the manufacture of fertilizers. It is likely that the requirement would exceed the existing provision for which the Department is taking necessary action in consultation with the Ministry of Finance.

Subsidised Foodgrains

96. SHRI MILIND DEORA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of subsidy provided on food at present;

(b) the percentage at which it has been increasing during the last three years;

(c) the percentage of the subsidised foodgrains issued from Central Pool which does not reach the poor; and

(d) the reasons therefor and the results of the steps taken so far to check its misuse?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) The food subsidy allocated for 2005-06 (Revised Estimates) is Rs. 23071.64 crore.

(b) The amount of food subsidy released during the last three years and percentage increase is as under:

Year	Subsidy released (Rs. in crore)	%increase
2002-03	24176.45	-
2003-04	25160.00	4.07
2004-05	25746.45	2.33
2005-06	23071.64	(-10.39)

(c) An evaluation study of Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) conducted by the Planning Commission covering eighteen major States has observed that out of the subsidized foodgrains under the TPDS there is leakage of about 19.71 percent at Fair Price Shops (FPS) level and about 16.67 per cent of the foodgrains is diverted through ghost cards. In addition, the TPDS suffers from diversion of subsidized grains to unintended beneficiaries (above poverty line (APL) households) because of errors of inclusion. However, the report is based on old primary data of 2001-2002. As several changes like introduction of Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY), change in the scale of issue, etc. have taken place since then, it is difficult to totally rely on this report.

(d) Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) is operated under the joint responsibility of the Central and the State Governments. The operational responsibilities including distribution of foodgrains within the State,

identification of families below poverty line, issue of ration cards, supervision and monitoring the functioning of Fair Price Shops rest with the State Governments. For smooth functioning of TPDS and to improve its efficiency, accountability and effectiveness, the Central Government has issued the PDS (Control) Order, 2001. Besides this, guidelines have been issued to all States/Union Territories to constitute Vigilance Committees at all levels, and for involvement of Panchayati Raj Institutions.

Cultivation of Bt. Cotton Seed

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

(a) whether Bt. Cotton seed has been found suited for cultivation in Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and other States;

(b) if so, the extent and the acreage under cultivation of this cotton seed in different States, during the last three years and the current year; and

(c) the extent to which the cotton yield per acre has increased thereby in different 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 KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) As per information provided by different States, Bt. cotton seed has been found suitable for cultivation in the States.

(b) The acreage under Bt. cotton in last three years and current year has been as under:

States	(Area in acres)			
	Kharif-2002	Kharif-2003	Kharif-2004	Kharif-2005 (estimated)
Andhra Pradesh	9,404	13,500	1,76,000	2,23,422
Madhya Pradesh	3,676	33,000	2,12,798	3,36,597
Gujarat	22,577	1,03,000	3,11,157	3,68,812
Maharashtra	30,699	54,000	3,99,000	12,56,961
Karnataka	5,401	7,500	84,764	72,510
Tamilnadu	925	19,000	29,640	42,048
Punjab	—	—	—	1,74,024
Haryana	—	—	—	26,606
Rajasthan	—	—	—	5,703
Total	72,682	2,30,000	12,13,359	25,06,683

(c) An increase in the yield of Bt. Cotton varieties from 15-30% has been reported by different Bt. Cotton growing States.

National Deep Sea Fishing Policy

98. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the long pending demand for the formation of a National Deep Sea Fishing Policy; and

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government thereon and the time by which it is likely to be formulated?

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

(b) The Government has already formulated and announced a Comprehensive Marine Fishing Policy in November, 2004 which covers policy for deep sea fishing in the Indian Exclusive Economic zone (EEZ) also. The Policy's objective are: (1) to augment marine fish production of the country up to the sustainable level in a responsible manner so as to boost export of sea food from the country and also to increase per capita fish protein intake of the masses, (2) to ensure socio-economic security of the artisanal fishermen whose livelihood solely depends on this vocation, (3) to ensure sustainable development of marine fisheries with due concern for ecological integrity and bio-diversity.

[Translation]

Population of Ghariyals

99. SHRI ASHOK ARGAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of ghariyals killed during the last two years;

(b) the number of ghariyals at present in 'Chambal Ghariyal Punarvas Kendra';

(c) whether sand is being taken away illegally from the Chambal river which is reserved for ghariyals;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the action taken/likely to be taken against the guilty persons in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO CHARAIN MEENA): (a) As reported by State Governments of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh, no ghariyal has been killed during the last two years.

(b) At present, there are 181 ghariyal hatchlings in Deori Ghariyal Rearing Centre, Madhya Pradesh and 455 ghariyals in Kukrail Ghariyal Centre, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh. No such Centre has been reported in Rajasthan.

(c) Yes, Sir. Incidences of illegal sand mining are sometimes detected at the places protected for conservation of ghariyals.

(d) Sand is an important building material which is available in river beds. Due to its high demand unscrupulous elements indulge in illegal sand mining. Shortage of enforcement staff is a limiting factor.

(e) Strict vigil is kept by the field staff to apprehend the culprits and legal action is taken against the offenders under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 as well as the respective State Forest Acts.

[English]

Shortage of Surgery Drugs

100. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to take over the control of intoxicating drugs in their hands by subordinating the Drug Controller of India due to warning issued by Interpol;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the drugs like Fortwin and Diazepam and some other drugs effective in surgery cases are missing from the market;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government has taken any steps to check the black-marketing of these drugs and to make them available in the market at reasonable rates; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) The Office of Drug Controller General (India) is not aware of any proposal by the Government to take over the control of intoxicating drugs due to warning issued by the Interpol.

(b) In view of reply given to part (a) above, does not arise.

(c) The Office of Drug Controller General (India) has informed that there is no report/complaint about shortage of drugs like Forwin and Diazepam.

(d) to (f) In view of reply given to part (c) above, does not arise.

Supply of Fodder and Drugs for Animals

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

(a) whether some State Governments have approached the Union Government to supply fodder and drugs for animals;

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

(c) the reaction of 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 TASLIMUDDIN): (a) No proposal from the State Governments has been received to supply fodder and drugs for animals.

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

Production/Export of Iron Ore

102. SHRI DHANUSKODI R. ATHITHAN: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state the projected consumption and export of iron ore during the next three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (DR. AKHILESH DAS): Government has not made any projection for iron ore consumption and export covering the next 3 years. However, long term projections have been made in the National Steel Policy. As per the National Steel Policy total domestic demand for iron ore is estimated at 190 million tonnes by 2019-2020. Exports are estimated at 100 million tonnes by the same year. However the Government will estimate projections for consumption/availability and export of iron ore for next five years plan period.

World Bank fund in Water Sector

103. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have sought hefty funding from the World Bank for water sector, including restoration of water bodies;

(b) if so, whether the proposals to be financed with World Bank aid include building of a sea wall along the coast line lately hit by Tsunami; and

(c) if so, the details of the aid sought and the Bank's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) The following 6 projects related to Ministry of Water Resources are being implemented with the World Bank assistance:

Sl.No.	Name of Projects	State	Assistance amount in Million Donor Currency
1	2	3	4
1.	A.P. Economic Restructuring Project (Irrigation component) Ln-4360-IN	Andhra Pradesh	US\$ 170
2.	Karnataka Community Based Tank Management Project-Cr. 3635-IN	Karnataka	SDR 80

1	2	3	4
3.	Madhya Pradesh Water Sector Restructuring Project-LN.4750-IN	Madhya Pradesh	US\$ 394
4.	Maharashtra Water Sector Improvement Project-LN 4796-IN	Maharashtra	US\$ 325
5.	Rajasthan Water Sector Restructuring Project Cr. 3603-IN	Rajasthan	SDR 110
6.	Uttar Pradesh Water Sector Restructuring Project-Cr. 3602-IN	Uttar Pradesh	SDR 117

Agreement has also been signed with the World Bank for loan assistance of US \$105 million for Hydrology Project-Phase II on 19.1.2006. Further, the Department of Economic Affairs has forwarded the proposal for Tamil Nadu Water Resources Consolidation Project-II (Estimated Cost Rs. 3902 Crore) and Dam Safety Assurance & Rehabilitation project (Estimated Cost Rs. 917 crore) to the World Bank. Both the projects are in the process of appraisal by the World Bank.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Import of Cereals

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

(a) whether the Government has to import large quantity of cereals from other countries to increase the net availability of cereals in the country;

(b) if so, whether reduction in per capita pulse availability may adversely affect protein intake;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the measures are being taken by the Government to increase the production of pulse consistent with the needs of a growing population?

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 country is a net exporter of cereals. The

position of imports and exports of cereals during 2003-04 and 2004-05 is given below:

(000 tonnes)			
Year	Imports	Exports	Net Exports
2003-04	2.53	4021.30	4018.77
2004-05	8.13	7923.30	7915.17

(b) and (c) During 2003, the per capita net availability of pulses was 29.1 grams per day which increased to 35.9 grams per day in 2004. To meet the gap between demand and supply, imports of pulses is resorted to. During 2003-04 and 2004-05, 1723.33 thousand tonnes and 1296.46 thousand tonnes of pulses were imported, respectively.

(d) Government of India is implementing a Centrally Sponsored "Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oilpalm and Maize" (ISOPOM) in 14 major pulses growing States with a view to increase the production and productivity of pulses. Under the scheme assistance is provided to farmers for purchase of breeder seed, production of foundation seed, production and distribution of certified seed, distribution of seed minikits, plant protection chemicals and equipments, weedicides, supply of rhizobium culture/phosphate solubilising bacteria, distribution of gypsum/pyrite/liming/dolomite, sprinkler sets and water carrying pipes, to encourage farmers to grow pulses on a large scale.

[Translation]

Bt. Cotton Seeds

105. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production of cotton by using of Bt. Cotton seeds has not increased up to the expected level and the farmers in many States of Southern India have suffered heavy losses;

(b) if so, whether any survey has been conducted to know the reasons of decreasing production of cotton by using improved seeds of Bt. Cotton; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the corrective steps taken or proposed to be taken to compensate 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) As per the information provided by different States, the production of Bt. cotton is higher by 15% to 30% as compared to non-Bt. cotton. However, the Government of Andhra Pradesh has informed that farmers had suffered losses on account of Bt. cotton hybrid seeds supplied by M/s Maharashtra Hybrid Seeds Company (Mahyco) Ltd., in certain districts of the State.

(b) and (c) The surveys conducted by some States reveal that Bt. Cotton hybrids are more susceptible to physiological disorder (New Wilt), specially when sown in the summer season. Further, Bt. Cotton crop does not seem to be suitable for growing in light and shallow soils. The other reasons for the low productivity of Bt. Cotton are non-compliance with instructions regarding cultural practices, and lack of training and awareness. The Government of Andhra Pradesh has sought compensation from the company and the matter is pending in the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) Committee of the State Government.

[English]

Welfare Schemes for unorganized and Small Farmers

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

(a) whether the Government has any plans to formulate schemes for helping unorganized and small farmers for marketability of their agricultural produce with respect of standardization and grading;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has received any specific proposals by Government of Karnataka in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Ministry of Agriculture is implementing a Central Sector Scheme for "Development/Strengthening of Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure, Grading and Standardization" in the country with effect from 20.10.2004. The aim of the Scheme is to encourage rapid development of marketing infrastructure in agriculture and allied sectors, to cater to the post harvest requirements of production and marketable surplus of various farm products.

Under this Scheme, credit linked back ended subsidy is provided on the capital cost of general or commodity specific infrastructure for marketing of agricultural commodities including for grading, standardization and certification of agricultural produce and for strengthening and modernization of existing agricultural markets. The rate of subsidy is 25% of the capital cost of the project. In case of North Eastern States, hilly and tribal areas and to entrepreneurs belonging to Schedule Caste/Scheduled Tribes, the rate of subsidy is, however, 33.33%. The scheme is reform linked, to be implemented in those States that amend the Agricultural Produce Marketing (Regulation) Act (APMC Act), wherever required, to allow direct marketing and contract farming and to permit setting up of markets in private and cooperative sectors. Individuals, group of farmers, growers and consumers etc. are eligible to receive assistance under the scheme.

(c) The State Government of Karnataka has not submitted any proposal for providing assistance under the scheme.

(d) Question does not arise.

Construction Schemes

107. SHRI RAGHUVVEER SINGH KOSHAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether sanction has been accorded for construction of By-Pass bridge on the Chambal river in Kota, Rajasthan on the National Highway-76 of East-West Corridor; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) This proposal has been examined by the Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife on 20.1.2006 and the Committee has recommended the proposal for clearance subject to compliance of certain stipulations including permission from Supreme Court.

[Translation]

Study on Rivers in Himachal Pradesh

108. SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether studies have been carried out by various institutions on certain rivers in Himachal Pradesh under the National River Action Plan;

(b) the number of proposals for allocation of funds pending with the Union Government in this regard and the time since when the proposals are pending;

(c) the reasons for non-allocation of funds so far in this regard; and

(d) the time by which funds will be allocated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (d) Studies on rivers Beas, Satluj, Ravi, Yamuna, Parvati, Langi and Sira are being regularly carried out by the Central Pollution Control Board with the State Pollution Control Board for monitoring the water quality of these rivers in Himachal Pradesh.

Under the National River Conservation Plan (NRCP), proposals were received from the Government of Himachal Pradesh for assessment of pollution load in river Satluj in 1994 and for pollution abatement in 11 towns along river Beas in the year 2000. The proposal for river Satluj was not taken up as the water quality of the river stretch in Himachal Pradesh was within the prescribed standards. For river Beas, the Government of Himachal Pradesh have been asked to prepare Detailed Project Reports

with firm costs and following an integrated approach with 70 : 30 cost sharing between the Central and State Government. A proposal for inclusion of Paonta Sahib along river Yamuna and four towns along river Beas (which were also a part of the earlier proposal of 11 towns received in the year 2000) under NRCP was also received from the Government of Himachal Pradesh in the year 2003 in the context of preparation of Plan by IIT, Roorkee for coverage of important water bodies in addition to the schemes already approved under NRCP. Due to acute shortage of funds in the X Plan under NRCP, it has not been possible to take them up for implementation. Subsequently, on taking up the matter again by the State Government, they have been informed in December, 2005 that the proposal for Paonta Sahib could be considered for inclusion under NRCP during the X Plan, subject to necessary clearances, due to its religious importance and the fact that river pollution abatement works in various towns downstream of Paonta Sahib are already being funded under the ongoing NRCP.

Schemes for Poor Families by Department of Animal Husbandry

109. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the schemes introduced by the Department of Animal Husbandry for the poor families living Below Poverty Line (BPL) in the country;

(b) the amount provided by the Government for training in dairying, animal husbandry etc., under each of the above schemes, State-wise; and

(c) the details of proposals related to the above schemes lying pending with the Union Government and the action being taken thereon, 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) The schemes implemented by the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries are mainly focused on strengthening the infrastructure of the State Governments for the development of animal husbandry, dairy and fisheries sectors. Most of these schemes are primarily oriented towards the weaker sections of the society. However, there is no specific scheme for the poor families living Below Poverty Line (BPL) in the country.

(b) and (c) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

[*English*]

Majauli Island

110. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the implementation status of the Master Plan on erosion protection of Majauli Island alongwith allocation, progress of work and target fixed against each sector, phase-wise and scheme-wise; and

(b) the status of First and Second phase of the Model study in Majauli alongwith reasons for delay?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) The scheme for protection of Majuli

Island from flood and erosion prepared on the basis of recommendation of Master Plan of Majuli Island amounting to Rs. 86.56 crore was technically cleared by Central Water Commission. Phase-I works of the scheme amounting to Rs. 41.28 crore approved by Government of India in January, 2005 is under execution by Brahmaputra Board during X plan period. Works for Rs. 22.75 crore are presently under execution. The balance works are under different stages of processing. The works for Phase-II & III are to be taken up after completion of phase-I.

The details about progress of different works are given in the enclosed statement.

(b) Collection of field data for Model Studies has been completed. Laying of Model is in progress. However, there has been some delay due to delay in construction of shed for the modelling area (Hanger).

Statement

Works undertaken under phase-I progress

Sl. No.	Name of work	Progress achieved up to January, 2006	Remarks
1.	Repair and construction of nose portion of check dam at Kandullmari	10.70%	Works in progress
2.	Repair and construction of nose portion of check dam No. 2 at Sonowal Kachari	1.75%	Works in progress
3.	Raising and strengthening of embankment (Upstream of Kamalabari)	20.81%	Works in progress
4.	Embankment (Downstream of Kamalabari)	18.73%	Works in progress
5.	RCC Porcupine work upstream of Aphalamukh towards Sonowal Kachari	Completed	
6.	RCC Porcupine work upstream of Aphalamukh towards Ukhalchuk	60.50%	Works in progress
7.	Construction RCC Porcupine along Malual-Malapindha dyke on Luit Suti	Completed	
8.	Topographic & Hydrographic survey of Majuli Island	Completed	

Rate of Interest on Special Deposit Scheme

111. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering to increase the rate of interest on the Special Deposit Scheme (SDS) that was created in the seventies to provide a better rate of interest on PF to workers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether under the scheme the Government has secured over one lakh crore rupees from EPF deposits;

(d) if so, whether the Government is considering for marginal increase in the rate of interest on SDS which can ensure 9.5 per cent interest in EPF; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) The total outstanding balance under SDS, 1975 is estimated at Rs. 1,19,748.13 crore as per Revised Estimates 2004-05. Since the corpus of the scheme is frozen, no accretions are estimated during 2005-06.

(d) and (e) There is no proposal under consideration to increase the rate of interest on SDS, 1975, which has been fixed after due consideration.

Tax Exemption to Cancer related Drugs

112. SHRI K.C. SINGH "BABA": Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to exempt anti-cancer drugs from all taxes;

(b) if so, the details of such drugs;

(c) whether any efforts have been made to persuade the manufacturers of these drugs to reduce their margin and make these drugs affordable;

(d) if so, the drugs whose cost have been reduced due to reduction in margin by the manufacturers; and

(e) if not, the reasons given by the manufacturers for not reducing their margin of profit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. This Ministry has recommended to Department of Revenue for custom and excise duty exemption for certain anti-cancer drugs.

(c) The Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals conducted a meeting on 13.12.2005 which was attended by some of the leading manufacturers of cancer medicines, representatives of the cancer hospitals and NGOs involved with treatment of cancer in India. In this meeting, it was emphasized that the prices of most of the anti cancer drugs are quite high and, therefore, the manufacturers may voluntarily take the necessary steps to bring down prices of such drugs.

(d) and (e) Prices of Scheduled drugs and formulations based thereon are fixed by the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) in accordance with the provisions of para 7 of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 (DPCO, 95). A price of a Scheduled formulation is fixed by allowing Maximum Allowable Post Manufacturing Expenses (MAPE) of 100% on ex-factory cost for indigenously manufactured Scheduled formulations and upto 50% of the landed cost for imported Scheduled formulations. The trade margin to retailers in respect of Scheduled formulations is fixed at 16%.

Prices of non-Scheduled medicines are fixed by the manufactures themselves keeping in view various factors like cost of production, marketing/selling expenses, R&D expenses, trade commission, market competition, product innovation, product quality etc. The Government takes corrective measures where the public interest is found to be adversely affected.

Recently the Government constituted a Committee under the Chairmanship of Joint Secretary (Pharma) to examine the issue of span of price control (including trade margin). Subsequently, a Task Force under the Chairmanship of Dr. Pronab Sen, Principal Advisor, Planning Commission was also constituted to explore options other than price control to make available life saving drugs at reasonable prices.

Based on the recommendations of the Committee under the Chairmanship of Joint Secretary (Pharmaceuticals) and the Task Force under the Chairmanship of Dr. Pronab Sen, Principal Advisor,

Planning Commission and feedback from other stakeholders. Government have formulated a draft National Pharmaceutical Policy, 2006 (Part-A—excluding pricing) which has been circulated to various stakeholders seeking their comments. Based on the comments received the Government is likely to finalize the new Policy shortly.

Coastal Protection Programme

113. SHRI A.V. BELLARMIN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is envisaging a Coastal Protection Programme to be implemented in the country to overcome beach erosion;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to establish a Regional Office of Central Water Commission at Kanyakumari to oversee the programme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) No Sir, the National Coastal Protection Project (NCP) has not been finalized.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

Expenditure on Foodgrain Distribution

114. SHRI SHRINIWAS DADASAHEB PATIL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the expenditure on maintenance of stocks of foodgrains is more than that of the subsidy on foodgrains for distribution to Below Poverty Line and Above Poverty Line families through Public Distribution System;

(b) if so, the break up thereof during the last three years separately;

(c) whether the Government proposes to increase the subsidy on foodgrains; 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 (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The details of expenditure incurred on maintenance of stocks of foodgrains and subsidy incurred on distribution of foodgrains to below poverty line (BPL) and above poverty line (APL) population by the Food Corporation of India (FCI) during the last three years are as under:

(Rs. in crore)			
Expenditure Incurred on	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05 (Provisional)
Storage	1286.57	1190.58	1499.00
Interest	3444.94	2427.97	2831.00
Total	4731.51	3618.55	4130.00
Subsidy incurred on	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05 (Provisional)
BPL	5994.08	8069.58	10469.00
APL	919.63	1406.26	3001.00
Total	6913.71	9475.84	13470.00

(c) and (d) Food subsidy comprises of the difference between the economic cost and issue price of foodgrains. Any change in the economic cost or issue price has an impact on the food subsidy.

[*Translation*]

Increase in Brown Rust Disease

115. DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:
SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether brown rust disease and unbalanced use of fertilizers by the farmers in the country are increasing rapidly;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the remedial steps taken by the Government in this regard and success achieved by the Government as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE

MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The reports received from the State Governments and field offices of the Central Government (Central Integrated Pest Management Centres) across the country do not indicate any increasing trend of brown rust disease in the country. The Indian Agriculture Research Institute has further reported that while no epidemic of brown rust disease has been recorded in the country for several years, the infestation has declined due to cultivation of disease resistant varieties.

Intensive cultivation and inadequate use of required plant nutrients has resulted in unbalanced use of fertilizers in the country. The NPK ratio in fertilizer consumption has widened from 5.9:2.4:1 during 1991-92 to 6.9:2.6:1 during 2003-04 though the said ratio has since improved to 5.7:2.2:1 during 2004-05.

(c) To check the spread of plant diseases, Government of India issues advisories to State Governments, from time to time to constitute survey teams for pest surveillance/monitoring so that timely control measures could be taken by the farmers. Also, CIPMCs located across the country are conducting field surveys for pest monitoring and submit their survey result/reports to State Department of Agriculture to enable them to take timely control measures.

Besides, Central Government as well as State Department of Agriculture have been engaged in organizing Farmers Fields Schools (FFSs) to impart training on Integrated Pest Management (IPM) technology to the farmers and Agriculture Extension Officers for control of pests and diseases on various crops including brown rust disease in wheat crop. The package of IPM practices for management of pest/diseases have been developed for 77 crops in collaboration with ICAR, SAUs & State Department of Agriculture, and have been made available to all States/UTs and are also available on website www.Dacnet.nic.in/ppin for use by all concerned.

A number of brown rust resistant high yielding varieties have been identified and released by the Central Wheat Research Centre (CWRC) such as VL Gehun 829, VL Gehun 804, VL Gehun 832 for the hills of different States.

Further, to check the unbalanced use of fertilizers, the Government of India has also been promoting Integrated Nutrient Management (INM) which emphasizes

balanced use of nutrients in agriculture and soil test based judicious use of chemical fertilizers in conjunction with organic manures and bio-fertilizers like farm yard manure, compost, green manure, vermin compost, etc.

New Base Depots

116. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Food Corporation of India has any plan to set up more base depots in the country, especially in Uttar Pradesh;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) Keeping in view the current utilization of storage capacity, it has been decided that the FCI will take up construction of new godowns only in the North-Eastern States including Sikkim and Jammu & Kashmir from 2005-06 onwards. However, ongoing godowns construction projects will be completed during the year. There is no proposal to construct more godowns in the State of Uttar Pradesh by the FCI.

(b) For the year 2006-07, the Government has allocated a total of Rs. 12.75 crore for the construction of storage godowns by FCI under the Plan Scheme. The details of the centres/States where godowns are proposed to be constructed are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) Does not arise.

Statement

The details of the godowns to be constructed by the Food Corporation of India (FCI) during the year (2006-07) are as under:

Name of the Centre/State	Capacity (in tonnes)
1	2
Buaipul (Mizoram)	5000
Chandrapur (Tripura)	5000

1	2
Senchowa (Assam)	1670
Badarpurghat (Assam)	5000
Chaulkhowa (Assam)	4170
Total	20840

[English]

Allocation of Kerosene

117. DR. K. DHANARAJU: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of kerosene oil allocated per family under Public Distribution System (PDS);

(b) whether the said quantity is sufficient to meet the requirements of the beneficiaries of PDS; and

(c) if not, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to increase this quantity?

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) Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas makes allocation of SKO to States/UTs on a historical basis for further distribution to beneficiaries under the Public Distribution System (PDS) network. The quantity of PDS SKO for distribution per card holder is decided by the concerned State Govt./UT and the same varies from State to State.

With a view to assessing the genuine demand requirement of kerosene in different States/UTs, the Government commissioned in December 2004 the first-ever comprehensive study of the subject through the National Council for Applied Economic Research (NCAER). NCAER have submitted their report in October 2005. On 2nd October 2005, the Government has launched the Scheme of 'Jan Kerosene Pariyojana' as a pilot project in 417 blocks covering 23 States and one Union Territory for a period of six months with a view to streamlining the infrastructure for kerosene distribution, so as to ensure that entitled beneficiaries actually receive their entitlement and diversion for adulteration and black-marketing is capped, reversed and eventually eliminated.

Restructuring of FACT

118. SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has finally accepted a comprehensive scheme for restructuring of the Fertilizers and Chemicals Travancore Limited (FACT) in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The financial restructuring proposals of Fertilizers and Chemicals Travancore Ltd. has been considered by the Board for Reconstruction of Public Sector Enterprises and the time frame for implementation will depend on the decision of the competent authority in the Government on the recommendations of the Board.

Environmental Clearance to Velligonda Project

119. SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal of Andhra Pradesh Government to construct Velligonda project is pending with the Ministry for site clearance; and

(b) if so, the time by which the clearance is likely to be accorded?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) No, Sir. Site clearance has already been accorded to Velligonda project on 28.12.2005.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Prices of Medicines under Scheduled Drugs List

120. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to bring down the prices of medicines brought under scheduled drugs list; and

(b) if so, the efforts being made by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) and (b) The 74 bulk drugs specified in the First Schedule of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 (DPCO, 95) and the formulations based thereon are under price control and their prices are fixed/revised by the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) in accordance with the provisions of the DPCO, 95. The formula for calculation of retail price of formulations under para 7 of DPCO, 1995.

Prices of non-scheduled formulations are fixed by the manufacturers themselves keeping in view the various factors like cost of production, marketing/selling expenses, R&D expenses, trade commission, market competition, product innovation, product quality etc. The Government takes corrective measures where the public interest is found to be adversely affected.

Recently the Government constituted a Committee under the Chairmanship of Joint Secretary (Pharma) to examine the issue of span of price control (including trade margin). Subsequently, a Task Force under the Chairmanship of Dr. Pronab Sen, Principal Advisor, Planning Commission was also constituted to explore options other than price control to make available life saving drugs at reasonable prices.

Based on the recommendations of the Committee under the Chairmanship of Joint Secretary (Pharmaceuticals) and the Task Force under the Chairmanship of Dr. Pronab Sen, Principal Advisor, Planning Commission and feedback from other stakeholders Government have formulated a draft National Pharmaceutical Policy, 2006 (Part-A—excluding pricing) which has been circulated to various stakeholders seeking their comments. Based on the comments received the Government is likely to finalize the new Policy shortly.

Renovation of Canals in Rajasthan

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

(a) whether the proposal of the Government of Rajasthan for strengthening and renovation of canals under Chambal project is pending with the Union Government for approval;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any scheme for biodrainage works in Indira Gandhi Canal Project is under the consideration of the Government; and

(d) if so, the time by which the scheme is likely to be given approval?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) A proposal for pilot project for bio-drainage in proto-type area of Indira Gandhi Canal Project command was received from the Government of Rajasthan in May, 2005. The same was examined and the Government of Rajasthan was advised to revise the proposal.

[English]

Death of Fishes due to River Pollutants

122. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether shoal of fishes are dying in several rivers of the country due to increasing toxic emissions and discharge of untreated effluents;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the remedial measures being taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to save fishes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (c) No authentic reports are available on mortality of fishes due to increasing toxic emissions and discharge of untreated effluents. To restore the river water quality, industries discharging untreated water into rivers have been directed to set up adequate pollution control facilities in their respective units to comply with the discharge standards notified under Environment Protection Act, 1986 before disposal. Apart from Central Pollution

Control Board (CPCB), the State Pollution Control Boards are also monitoring water quality of receiving bodies for their designated best use.

[Translation]

**Delay in Implementation of
Agricultural Schemes**

123. SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE PATIL:
SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has analysed the reasons for delay in implementation of agriculture development work and agricultural schemes; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) A number of steps have been taken to ensure timely and proper implementation of the schemes for enhancement of agricultural production and productivity in the country through a close monitoring mechanism which, *inter alia*, includes:

- (i) Area Officers at the level of Joint Secretaries and officers of equivalent rank have been allotted specified States with the responsibility of continuously monitoring the programmes and schemes for agriculture in these States;
- (ii) A comprehensive review is undertaken twice a year to assess preparedness of States for undertaking Rabi and Kharif operations alongwith a stock-taking of all the developmental initiatives including utilization of funds;
- (iii) Crop Directorates of the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation dealing with various crops help and guide the State Governments in formulation, implementation and monitoring of production programmes as also the implementation of schemes by the States;
- (iv) There is a standing arrangement to periodically review the performance of schemes at the Secretary level.

[English]

Import of Pulses

124. SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a huge quantity of various pulses is being imported from abroad with the result that prices of pulses have shot up sharply in the domestic market;

(b) if so, the details thereof, item-wise, during each of the last three years and the countries from whom these are imported;

(c) whether the indigenous production of pulses is not sufficient to meet the domestic demand; and

(d) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to bring more areas under pulses cultivation?

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) Imports are necessitated to meet the gap in the domestic demand and supply of pulses and to stabilize prices in the domestic market. The total import of pulses in the country during the year 2002-03 was 19.92 lakh tonnes, during the year 2003-04 was 17.23 lakh tonnes and during the year 2004-05 was 12.96 lakh tonnes. Country-wise import data for the relevant period is enclosed as statement.

(d) To promote production of pulses and crop diversification, the Government is implementing Centrally Sponsored Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM). Under the Scheme, the assistance is provided for purchase of breeder seed, production of foundation seed, production and distribution of certified seed, distribution of minikits, infrastructure development block demonstrations on improved technology, Polythene Mulch Technology and Integrated Pest Management Technology, distribution of Plant Protection Chemicals, Plant protection equipments, weedicides, supply of Rhizobium culture/phosphate Solubilising Bacteria, distribution of gypsum/pyrite/liming/dolomite, distribution of sprinkler sets, farmers training, staff & contingencies, pipes for carrying water from water source to the field, officers' training and publicity, etc. to

encourage farmers to cultivate pulses in large scale. Besides, to transfer improved technologies among the

farmers, front line demonstrations in pulses are also conducted through Indian Council of Agricultural Research.

Statement

Import of Pulses

Qty. in Tonne : Value in Rs. Lakhs

Countries	2002-03		2003-04		2004-05(P)	
	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Afghanistan Tis					40	6.84
Australia	124842	16401.16	130837	17012.74	73817	9057.6
Azerbaijan	1051	160.36				
Baharin	14	2.1				
Bhutan	69	10.03				
Bulgaria	1269	199.75	2369	282.65		
Cameroon			115	24.71		
Canada	416897	48608.15	441433	49996.19	466555	51086.48
Chile			118	23.33		
Taiwan	7044	1235.1	115	17.19		
China PRP	71615	13744.61	47064	8311.49	24509	4462.78
Denmark	14191	1384.37			760	145.97
Djibouti	105	16.64			110	20.77
Egypt ARP					64	12.13
Ethiopia	6902	1128.56	5089	797.46	4288	649.71
France	278766	29439.69	146405	14478.16	72297	8426.31
Germany	33717	3401.9				
Hongkong	107	19.25				
Indonesia	814	146.71	1676	300.88	135	24.2
Iran	87464	14585.18	46056	8188.51	76297	12779.36
Iraq					236	40.16
Japan	21.	7.21			1	0.1

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Kenya	15187	2717	8588	1347.92	520	75.58
Korea RP	27	4.55	0	0.02	9760	1455.96
Malawi	4987	651.78	9884	1525.99	1188	162.19
Malaysia	453	71.15	2203	266.12		
Mali			772	101.73		
Mauritius	290	46.33	100	13.5		
Myanmar	696748	104462.66	702764	95699.2	459765	65153.82
Mexico	8136	1844.82	745	223.71		
Morocco	115	13.97	69	6.57		
Mozambique	1525	181.25	3812	553.91	7000	1041.96
Nepal	19450	4544.1	13037	3199.44	15225	3538.93
Netherland	3	0.34				
New Calendonia					22	7.54
New Zealand	2171	315.91	364	50.12	593	82.2
Nigeria	490	60.62	1008	66.02		
Pakistan IR	28522	5387.05	55449	8785.65	9707	1631.35
Panama Republic	4437	955.2	4373	797.34		
Papuangna			239	33.05		
Peru	87	21.49	85	31.29	66	23.07
Romania	60	8.15	100	13.66	180	17.12
Russia	40467	4359.61	10253	1245.31	4175	523.93
Saudiarab	18	449				
Singapore	1711	247.48			66	15.5
Slovenia	115	16.65				
South Africa	366	31.07	500	61.48		
Switzerland	66	22.82	2386	439.83	577	121.42
Syria	4519	752.79	90	15.84		
Tanzania Rep	38944	5921.54	42003	6407.44	27925	4571.17
Thailand	5802	961.64	1289	229.65	277	38.81

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Turkey	14396	2419.13	23335	4849.59	18995	4125.23
U Arab EMTS	1084	187.33	144	21.98	350	84.56
UK	2000	243.72	77	9.86	22	2.79
Ukraine	37854	3834.64	3804	457.3	14875	1531.21
USA	8871	1286.19	4045	739.01	4356	639.39
Uzbekistan	8233	1493.91	10197	1798.64	1707	308.3
Unspecified	830	148.83	337	62.26		
Total	1992852	273708.98	1723328	228486.7	1296460	171864.4

P: Provisional Figures.

Pendency of Consumer Cases

125. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA:
SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH:

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

(a) whether there is any stipulation of time for disposal of cases by consumer courts;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for delay in disposal of cases beyond the stipulated period;

(d) whether such delay has led to huge pendency of consumer cases and consequent harassment of consumers by the unscrupulous manufacturers/traders; and

(e) if so, the steps being taken by the Government for speedy disposal of consumer cases?

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 Section 13 (3A) of Consumer Protection Act, 1986 (as amended from time to time), every complaint shall be heard as expeditiously as possible and endeavour shall be made to decide the complaint within a period of three months from the date of receipt of notice by

opposite party where the complaint does not require analysis or testing of commodities, and within five months, if it requires analysis or testing of commodities.

(c) The Consumer Fora are attempting as far as possible to adhere to the time limit as prescribed by the Act. There may be delays due to non-functioning of certain District Fora on account of vacancies of Presidents/ Members, inadequate infrastructure facilities, non establishment of additional District Fora where deemed necessary, inadequate funds and inadequate staff.

(d) The National Commission, State Commissions and District Fora have disposed of 80.97%, 69.95% & 89.95% respectively of cases filed before them. Thus, it cannot be concluded that such delay has led to huge pendency of Consumer cases and consequent harassment of consumers by the unscrupulous manufacturers/traders.

(e) Following are some of the important steps taken by the Government for speedy disposal of cases:

(i) A project for computerization and computer networking of consumer fora throughout the country has been launched in March, 2005 which is expected to increase the efficiency of the Consumer Fora.

(ii) The Consumer Protection Act, 1986 was amended in 2002 mainly to facilitate quicker disposal of cases.

(iii) Central Government and the NCDRC have been suggesting various remedial measures to the

State Governments and also requesting them from time to time, not to allow the consumer fora to remain non-functional as also to provide adequate facilities to the consumer fora, facilitate setting up of additional benches of State Commissions and additional District Fora where deemed necessary.

- (iv) NCDRC as well as Department of Consumer Affairs hold regular meetings/Conferences with Presidents of State Commissions and Secretaries in charge of Consumer Affairs of States/UTs to monitor and review the functioning of Consumer Fora in the country.
- (v) The National Commission, with the approval of the Central Govt. has notified the Consumer Protection Regulations, 2005 to streamline the procedure for day to day functioning of the consumer fora.

[Translation]

Development of Arable Land

126. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:
SHRI SHISHUPAL PATLE:
SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT:
SHRI KAILASH NATH SINGH YADAV:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has extended all possible help to the tribals living in the remote areas of Car Nicobar Island in Andaman for development of arable land;

(b) if so, the names of produces being cultivated in these areas;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the total area of land in hectares that have been developed as arable land till-date;

(e) whether all the affected tribals have been provided with the arable land for agricultural purposes; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE

MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Coconut, Arecanut, Tuber Crops, Banana, Papaya, Pandanus, and now recently vegetables after tsunami.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Total cultivable arable land in pre-Tsunami mostly with Coconut and Arecanut was 10173 ha. Affected area due to Tsunami is 969.35 ha and till date 587.87 ha of land have been reclaimed.

(e) All the land belong to Tribals. No Revenue/Forest land is available in the tribal area.

(f) Does not arise.

[English]

Land Purchased by SAIL

127. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the total acreage of land taken on lease/purchased by the Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) and its subsidiaries from the local farmers/landlords and others for opening/establishing of the steel plants;

(b) whether the SAIL and its subsidiaries failed to upgrade and modernize the plants within their stipulated period;

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

(d) the corrective steps taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (DR. AKHILESH DAS): (a) SAIL Plants/Units were established on land either acquired by State Govt. or land owned by Govt. SAIL was not involved for acquisition of such land, except 4136 acres of land which was directly purchased from land owners.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

*[Translation]***Pending Irrigation Projects of Jharkhand**

128. SHRI TEK LAL MAHTO:
SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO:
DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of irrigation projects are lying incomplete in Jharkhand in absence of requisite financial assistance;

(b) if so, the details of such pending irrigation projects alongwith cost escalation;

(c) whether any special financial assistance is being provided to State Government to complete these projects on priority basis;

(d) if so, the amount out of this utilized by the State Government during 1996-97 and the progress achieved in regard to additional irrigation facilities generated thereby; and

(e) the details of assistance provided to the State Government during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) and (b) 5 major and 19 medium irrigation projects, which have spilled over from IX Plan to X Plan, are under execution in the State of Jharkhand. The physical and financial details of these projects are given in the enclosed statement-I.

(c) and (d) Irrigation being a State subject, the projects are planned, funded and executed by the State Government as per their own requirements and priority of works. However, Central Government launched the Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) during 1996-97 with a view to provide Central Loan Assistance (CLA) to Major, Medium and ERM irrigation projects of the country so as to complete them expeditiously. Details of CLA released and potential created through ongoing irrigation projects of Jharkhand State under AIBP are given in the enclosed statement-II.

(e) The proposals from the State Government in this regard have not been received in the Ministry during current year.

Statement I**Ongoing Irrigation projects of Jharkhand State during Tenth Five Year Plan**

(Amount in Rs. Crore/Potential in Th. ha.)

Sl.No.	Name of projects	Estimated cost		Cum. Exp. Upto 3/2005	Ulti. Pot.	Cum. Pot. created upto 3/2005
		Original	Latest			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
A. Major Projects						
1.	Ajoy Barrage	115.00	351.85	230.44	40.13	6.00
2.	Subemarekha (I.S. with W.B. & Orissa)	1428.00	2869.76	1087.51	236.85	0.61
3.	Auranga	125.40	914.24	45.07	55.40	0.00
4.	Konar	93.61	348.38	123.75	62.80	0.00
5.	Punasi	185.82	185.82	89.25	24.00	0.00
Sub total (A)		1947.83	4670.05	1576.02	419.18	6.61

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
B. Medium Projects						
1.	Torai	2.96	62.57	24.63	8.00	0.00
2.	Kans	1.37	44.18	18.84	3.73	0.00
3.	Jharjhara	4.47	49.87	2.47	4.05	0.00
4.	Sonua	8.92	79.24	66.13	8.01	0.00
5.	Suru	3.12	36.00	11.77	3.97	0.00
6.	Bhairwa Res.	20.19	67.27	25.82	4.00	0.00
7.	Keso Res.	16.14	48.61	9.54	3.80	0.00
8.	Panchkhero Res.	9.55	54.73	23.78	2.80	0.00
9.	Nakti Res.	0.71	35.16	15.93	2.32	0.00
10.	Sarangji Res.	2.15	57.42	37.60	2.60	0.00
11.	Kansjore Res.	8.66	52.97	41.04	6.28	4.50
12.	Ramrekha Res.	-	53.87	5.75	4.39	0.00
13.	Upper Shankh Res.	9.19	105.44	60.44	7.07	0.00
14.	Dhansinghtoli Res.	-	29.52	25.03	2.99	2.99
15.	Katri Res.	-	51.08	46.73	4.97	5.82
16.	Salaiya Res.	-	36.56	2.79	4.64	0.00
17.	Satpotka Res.	-	33.45	2.60	2.35	0.00
18.	Basuki Res.	-	55.00	8.15	5.67	0.00
19.	Gumani	3.84	125.00	81.02	16.20	0.00
	Sub total (B)	91.27	1077.94	510.06	97.84	13.31
	Total (A+B)	2039.10	5747.99	2086.08	517.02	19.92

Statement II*Details of CLA Released and potential created under AIBP for irrigation projects for the State of Jharkhand*

(Amount in Rs. crore/Potential in Th. ha.)

Sl. No.	Name of Project	CLA Released									Total pot.	
		96-97	97-98	98-99	99-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	Total CLA released upto 03/2005 under AIBP	Created upto 03/2005
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1.	Gumani	-	3.000	2.440	10.000	0.000	6.500	4.000	0.00	0.000	25.940	0.000
2.	Torai*	-	2.500	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.00	0.000	2.500	0.000

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
3.	Latrati*	-	0.670	1.000	0.340	0.120	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	2.130	6.100
4.	Kansjore	-	1.850	3.250	2.130	2.330	0.000	1.000	0.000	0.000	10.560	4.500
5.	Sonua	-	0.420	3.500	0.000	1.535	2.020	2.335	1.833	5.995	17.638	0.000
6.	Surangi	-	0.200	1.300	1.760	1.730	2.300	2.335	0.000	2.525	12.150	0.000
7.	Tapkara Res.*	-	0.250	0.150	0.115	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.515	1.520
8.	Upper Sankh Reservoir	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8.270	8.270	0.000
9.	Panch Khero Reservoir	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4.495	4.495	0.000
Total		0.000	8.890	11.640	14.345	5.715	10.820	9.670	1.833	21.285	84.198	12.120

*The Project is not under AIBP now.

*Project completed under AIBP.

[English]

Flood and Erosion Control in Assam

129. SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL:
DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the tripartite talk on Assam accord, the Government has accepted the principle of recognizing the flood and erosion problem in Assam as a national problem;

(b) if so, the measure taken by the Government so far to combat the flood and erosion problem in Assam; and

(c) the amount of relief/assistance asked for, amount declared by the Union Government, and the amount actually released including the assistance from other sources?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) Hon'ble Prime Minister has stated in tripartite meeting that the State Governments receive assistance from Central Government for tackling flood situation in their States; as such this is a National Problem.

(b) and (c) Govt. of Assam takes up flood management schemes as per funds received from Government of India under various heads apart from those from their own resources. Government of Assam has informed that during 2005-06 they have received Rs. 21.82 crore as central assistance and Rs. 2.00 crore from North Eastern Council.

Government of India has been extending Central Loan Assistance (CLA) to Government of Assam from 1974-75 to 1999-2000. An amount of Rs. 390.94 crore has been released to the State Government of Assam as loan and Rs. 10.05 crore as grant-in-aid till March 2000. Brahmaputra Board has taken up/executed some important schemes like protection of Majuli Island from flood and erosion, Avulsion of Brahmaputra at Dholia Hatighuli etc. Government of India has approved a scheme amounting to Rs. 150 crore for funding to Assam and other North Eastern States including Sikkim and West Bengal (North Bengal), for taking up critical flood management/anti erosion works. Ministry of DoNER provides assistance under Non Lapsable Central Pool of Resources (NLCPR) and Planning Commission provides Additional Central Assistance (ACA). Ministry of DoNER has so far sanctioned 25 Anti erosion Schemes and 5 Flood Control Schemes in the State of Assam under NLCPR. Planning Commission provided funds to the tune of Rs. 27 crore under "Flood Control" Sector during the year 2005-06. Relief assistance to State Governments is extended under Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) and National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF).

**Restructuring of Bengal Chemicals and
Pharmaceuticals Limited**

130. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the status of proposal which was approved for restructuring of Bengal Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals Limited (BCPL) during 2004;

(b) whether the Government has prepared modified revised proposal for restructuring of BCPL;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which it is likely to be implemented and the amount sanctioned for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (d) The Board for Industrial & Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) sanctioned the Modified Draft Rehabilitation Scheme (MDRS) for Bengal Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals Limited (BCPL) on 14.1.2004. The revised MDRS has been modified to meet the requirement of the Company and placed before the Board for Reconstruction of Public Sector Enterprises (BRPSE) for their consideration/recommendations.

Food Security

131. SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether erosion and narrowing of the base of India's plant and animal genetic resources in the last few decades has affected the food security in the country;

(b) if so, the details of areas and breeds affected as a result thereof, State-wise and

(c) the steps being taken to check this dangerous trend?

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 high yielding crop varieties have replaced traditional varieties from major areas of commercial cultivation leading to increased food production and food

security. As regards the livestock sector, some of the defined breeds have reduced in their respective breeding tracts. In fisheries, there has been no visible erosion of fish bio-diversity, in spite of significant increase in fish production through aquaculture in the recent years.

(b) and (c) In order to conserve genetic resources, the Government of India has established four bureaus as under:

- (i) National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources (BGPGR) at New Delhi for crops, fruits and vegetables.
- (ii) National Bureau of Animal Genetic Resources (NBAGR) at Karnal for the livestock.
- (iii) National Bureau of Fish Genetic Resources (BGFGR) at Lucknow for marine and inland fisheries.
- (iv) National Bureau of Agriculturally Important Micro-organisms (NBAIM) at Mau Nath Bhanjan.

The traditional crop varieties and land races are being collected from various parts of the country and are being conserved in the National Genebank, at NBPGR. The NBAGR has already initiated the programme on conservation (in-situ & ex-situ) and is creating awareness for conservation and improvement of indigenous breeds in different states of the country. Already, nine Brain Storming Sessions have been conducted in UP, Rajasthan, Orissa, Karnataka, Maharashtra, West Bengal, Nagaland, Uttaranchal and Jharkhand states in this context. To safeguard the indigenous breeds of livestock, NBAGR has created Semen, DNA and Somatic Cell Banks in the Bureau. Similarly, NBFGR has been carrying out fish genetic conservation, with milt cryopreservation of important fish species.

[Translation]

Consumer Courts

132. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:
SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:
SHRI M. APPADURAI:
SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI:

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

(a) the number of consumer courts functioning in the country as on date, State-wise;

(b) the features and functions of the said courts;

(c) the steps taken by the Government for popularizing these courts among the masses particularly in rural areas;

(d) the number of posts of Chairman and Members of various consumer fora lying vacant as on date; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to fill up these vacancies?

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) At present, there exist 600 District Fora, 35 State Commissions and the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (NCDRC), as the apex Consumer Forum in the Country. State-wise details of functional consumer fora are given in the enclosed statement-I.

(b) To provide speedy, inexpensive and simple redressal to consumer disputes/grievances a three-tier quasi-judicial machinery is set up under the provisions of Consumer Protection Act, 1986 at each District, State and National levels called District Forum, State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission and National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission respectively.

The District Fora are headed by a person who is or has been or is eligible to be appointed as a District Judge and the State Commissions are headed by a

person who is or has been a Judge of High Court. The National Commission, which is the apex body is headed by a sitting or retired Judge of the Supreme Court of India.

The provisions of this Act cover all goods and 'Services'. Accordingly, a written complaint can be filed before the District Forum (for claims up to Rs. 20 lakhs), State Commission (for claims above Rs. 20 lakhs and upto Rs. 1 crore), National Commission (for claims above Rs. 1 crore) against any defect in the goods or deficiencies in the services availed other than for commercial purposes. The Consumer Fora are required to follow the principles of natural justice. Proceedings are summary in nature and endeavour is made to grant relief in a time bound manner.

(c) In order to ensure that the message of consumer protection reaches every citizen of the country, the Department has been undertaking multi media publicity programmes.

(d) The State-wise position of number of posts of Presidents and Members of various consumer fora lying vacant as on date is given in the enclosed Statement-II.

(e) The State/UT Governments are responsible for the selection and appointment of President/Members of the State Commissions and District Fora. The issue regarding filling up of vacant posts of President/Members in the consumer fora in the States/UTs is reviewed by this Department with the State/UT Governments. All State Governments have been requested to give highest priority to filling up of vacancies and maintain a panel for immediate appointment.

Statement I

Information regarding functional/non-functional (District Forums)

Dated: 15.2.2006

Sl.No.	States	No. of District Fora	Functional	Non-functional	As on
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	29	29	0	31.12.2005
2.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	2	2	0	30.6.2004
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	15	15	0	30.11.2005

1	2	3	4	5	6
4.	Assam	23	23	0	30.9.2004
5.	Bihar	37	37	0	31.10.2005
6.	Chandigarh	2	2	0	30.9.2005
7.	Chhattisgarh	16	16	0	30.6.2005
8.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu	2	2	0	31.12.2004
9.	Delhi	10	10	0	30.9.2005
10.	Goa	2	2	0	31.12.2005
11.	Gujarat	26	19	7	30.9.2005
12.	Haryana	19	19	0	31.12.2005
13.	Himachal Pradesh	12	12	0	30.11.2005
14.	Jammu & Kashmir	2	2	0	31.12.2003
15.	Jharkhand	22	22	0	30.6.2005
16.	Karnataka	30	30	0	30.11.2005
17.	Kerala	14	13	1	30.9.2005
18.	Lakshadweep	1	1	0	31.12.2005
19.	Madhya Pradesh	45	43	2	30.9.2005
20.	Maharashtra	34	34	0	30.9.2005
21.	Manipur	8	8	0	30.6.2000
22.	Meghalaya	7	7	0	30.6.2005
23.	Mizoram	8	8	0	30.6.2004
24.	Nagaland	11	8	3	30.6.2005
25.	Orissa	31	31	0	30.6.2005
26.	Pondicherry	1	1	0	30.11.2005
27.	Punjab	17	17	0	31.12.2005
28.	Rajasthan	33	33	0	31.10.2005
29.	Sikkim	4	4	0	30.6.2005
30.	Tamilnadu	30	30	0	31.10.2005
31.	Tripura	3	3	0	30.11.2005
32.	Uttar Pradesh	70	70	0	31.10.2005
33.	Uttaranchal	13	12	1	31.12.2005
34.	West Bengal	21	21	0	30.6.2005
	Total	600	586	14	

Statement II*Information regarding vacancy position in the State Commissions and District Forums*

Dated : 15.2.2006

Sl.No.	States	State Commission	District President	Forum Member	As on
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2 Member	2	0	31.12.2005
2.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	No Vacancy	0	0	30.6.2004
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	1 Member	0	6	31.10.2005
4.	Assam	No Vacancy	0	14	30.9.2004
5.	Bihar	No Vacancy	0	12	30.11.2005
6.	Chandigarh	No Vacancy	0	0	30.9.2005
7.	Chhattisgarh	No Vacancy	0	9	30.11.2005
8.	D&N Haveli	No Vacancy	0	0	31.12.2004
9.	Daman & Diu	No Vacancy	0	0	31.12.2004
10.	Delhi	No Vacancy	1	0	30.11.2005
11.	Goa	No Vacancy	0	1	31.12.2005
12.	Gujarat	1 Member	9	20	30.11.2005
13.	Haryana	No Vacancy	4	28	31.12.2005
14.	Himachal Pradesh	No Vacancy	1	0	30.11.2005
15.	Jammu & Kashmir	1 President, 1 Member	0	0	31.8.2005
16.	Jharkhand	No Vacancy	0	1	30.6.2005
17.	Karnataka	No Vacancy	2	1	30.11.2005
18.	Kerala	1 Member	5	6	30.11.2005
19.	Lakshadweep	1 Member	0	1	31.12.2005
20.	Madhya Pradesh	1 Member	1	34	30.9.2005
21.	Maharashtra	No Vacancy	0	8	30.9.2005
22.	Manipur	All vacant			31.1.2003
23.	Meghalaya	President	0	0	30.6.2005
24.	Mizoram	President	0	0	30.6.2004

1	2	3	4	5	6
25.	Nagaland	No Vacancy	0	0	30.6.2005
26.	Orissa	No Vacancy	1	2	30.6.2005
27.	Pondicherry	No Vacancy	0	0	30.11.2005
28.	Punjab	No Vacancy	1	3	31.12.2005
29.	Rajasthan	No Vacancy	0	9	30.11.2005
30.	Sikkim	No Vacancy	0	0	30.6.2005
31.	Tamilnadu	No Vacancy	0	17	30.11.2005
32.	Tripura	No Vacancy	0	0	30.9.2005
33.	Uttar Pradesh	No Vacancy	13	24	30.11.2005
34.	Uttaranchal	No Vacancy	0	4	30.9.2005
35.	West Bengal	1 Member Lady	0	3	30.11.2005
Total		4 Pres. 11 Mem.	40	203	

[English]

Independent Consumer product testing mechanism

133. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:
SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:

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

(a) whether the Government has decided to institute an independent consumer product testing mechanism similar to the "Charter Mark system" in United Kingdom for ensuring quality standards for Government Organizations;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be notified by the Bureau of Indian Standards; and

(c) the extent to which it is likely to benefit the consumers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) to (c)

A model for conceptualizing and implementing a mechanism for recognizing and evaluating excellence in the implementation of Citizens' Charter and to develop a rating system for grievance redress mechanism and service delivery has been developed. The three components of this scheme are: (i) Assessment and recognition of excellence in the implementation of Citizens' Charter; (ii) Public Grievance Redress Mechanism Rating Model, and (iii) Assessment of institutions for Excellence in service Delivery. The standards on the model have already been developed and published by the Bureau of Indian Standards in December, 2005 in consultation with the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances and other organisation. The model is proposed to be implemented in identified Ministries/Departments and organisations of Government of India having large public interface. On introduction, the scheme is expected to improve quality of service delivery by Ministries/Departments/Organizations under Government of India.

[Translation]

Acquisition of Overseas Coal Mines

134. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether a delegation of Steel Authority of India Limited visited Poland, Russia and Australia recently;

(b) if so, the composition of above mentioned delegation;

(c) whether this delegation has negotiated for acquisition of coal mines in these countries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (DR. AKHILESH DAS): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Each delegation which visited these countries comprised two senior officials from SAIL.

(c) and (d) The purpose of the visit of these delegations was to: (i) explore the possibilities of acquisition of equity stake in coking coal mines in these countries; (ii) making an assessment of the suitability of the coals for use in SAIL plants; (iii) issues pertaining to development of mines and investments required; and (iv) transportation of coal from these countries to India. Currently, an assessment of quality aspects of the coals is being made. As such, no negotiations for acquisition of equity stake have yet been initiated.

[English]

Import of Wheat

135. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to import wheat during the current year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the old stocks of wheat in Food Corporation of India godowns are being sold at throw away prices; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government has allowed STC

to import 5 lakh MTs of wheat at the Southern ports only. This wheat is expected to arrive between end March, 2006 to mid May, 2006.

(b) The above decision was taken keeping in view the reduced wheat stocks in the Central pool, the need to keep a check on the open market prices of wheat as well as to augment the domestic availability of wheat and since the Government is fully committed not to compromise in the matter of food security.

(c) No Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Polluting Units of Delhi

136. SHRI SAJJAN KUMAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any direction has been issued by Union Government to Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi to reduce pollution and check the release of water contaminated with chemicals in the Yamuna river by industrial units of Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Delhi Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) The Government, through its Notification dated January 29, 1998 had constituted the Environment Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority for monitoring the Action Plan of the Government for de-polluting Yamuna. The Action Plan inter-alia, includes improvement of water quality of river Yamuna by utilizing existing capacity of sewage treatment plants (STPs) and constructing additional sewage treatment facilities for treating sewage generated in Delhi. An Action Plan has also been prepared for setting up of Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETPs) for treating industrial wastes. In addition, the Government of India, through Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and the Government of Delhi, through Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) regularly monitor discharge of industrial units of Delhi into river Yamuna. However, no specific direction has been issued.

(c) The Delhi Jal Board (DJB), which is responsible for sewage management in Delhi, has already set up 17 STPs and has a plan to set up 5 more STPs by 2008 for tackling municipal wastewater of Delhi. Similarly, construction work of 11 CETPs have been completed and construction of 2 CETPs is under progress for tackling industrial pollution.

[English]

Revival of IDPL and HAL

137. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has finalized the proposal to revive the Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited (IDPL) and Hindustan Antibiotics Limited (HAL);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which said companies are likely to be revived;

(d) whether the Government has taken steps to help affected workers of the two companies; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQU): (a) to (e) Government is contemplating to revive Indian Drugs & Pharmaceuticals Limited (IDPL) and Hindustan Antibiotics Limited (HAL). Details in this regard are being finalised.

Project for Management of Root Wilt disease for Coconut Trees

138. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has, in principle, approved a project for management of root wilt disease for coconut trees and for increasing productivity of coconut;

(b) if so, the details of the project, funding pattern and the stage of final approval and release of funds;

(c) whether the Government has sought any clarification from the Government of Kerala in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Planning Commission's approval or involvement has been sought or pending;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) the stage of root wilt disease in coconut trees in each affected State; and

(h) the action taken/being taken to prevent the disease in the coconut trees?

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. Government of India have conveyed in-principle approval for the project for management of root wilt disease for coconut trees and for increasing productivity of coconuts in Kerala State vide memorandum Q-11019/3/2003-Agri. Dated 18.2.2005 subject to certain observations.

(b) The project envisages cutting and removal of disease advanced trees which yield less than 10 nuts per annum, removal of disease infected juvenile palm, establishment of serological laboratory for early detection of disease infestation and large-scale production of disease tolerant seedlings, replanting and adoption of integrated farming with the adoption of INM & IPM packages for improving the productivity of mildly effected palms and farm level income in the severely affected districts of Kerala.

This project is expected to be implemented over a period of 7 years with a central assistance of Rs. 279.45 crores.

Funding pattern proposed in the project is:

Share of Government of India	Rs. 279.456 crores
Share of State Government	Rs. 52.2345 crores
Farmers contribution	Rs. 190.7984 crores
Bank loan	Rs. 1402.1870 crores
Total	Rs. 1924.6755 crores

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India has communicated some

observations and sought clarifications from the Government of Kerala on certain issues.

The observations which have been communicated are:

- (i) There is a need to reassess the level of credit for the component 'Integrated Management' of the disease affected coconut gardens.
- (ii) The programme should be undertaken under close guidance by the Department of Agriculture, Kerala with full involvement of Panchayats.

Further, clarification that have been sought from the Government of Kerala are:

- (i) whether the contribution from the farmer is in the form of cash or kind/or both.
- (ii) The extent of similar ongoing initiatives either on the part of the State Govt. under the existing programmes or under the programmes of Coconut Development Board.

(e) and (f) The Planning Commission has conveyed the approval of the project stating that "the source of funds for the programme from the Centre may be identified by the DAC budget or any other source". In view of the limited budgetary provisions available with the Coconut Development Board, the Ministry of Agriculture has again taken up the matter with the Planning Commission for allocation of additional funds for the purpose.

(g) and (h) The intensity of the disease is the highest in Kerala, especially Kottayam (75.6%) and Alappuzha (70.7%) and within Kerala, it is the lowest in Thrissur (2.6%) and Thiruvananthapuram (1.5%) districts. Occurrence of root (wilt) disease has been reported from Tamil Nadu in Districts adjoining the state of Kerala viz. Theni, Kanyakumari, Thirunelveli, Virudhunagar, Dindigul and Coimbatore districts.

In Karnataka the disease has been reported from Bantwal and Sulyl taluks of Dakshin Kannada Districts and Sampaje area of Kodagu District.

The Coconut Development Board has been implementing various programmes for promoting the adoption of management practices recommended for arresting the spread of the disease and increasing the productivity of the palms in Kerala.

[Translation]

Certification for Manufactured Products

139. SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD NISHAD: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to make it mandatory for every manufactured and finished consumer good/item to bear ISI-mark 9001 before they are launched into the market for maintaining the quality of goods;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has fixed any norms to be followed by the companies while advertising their finished products; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Recovery of Overcharging of Drug Prices

140. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN:
SHRI MUNAWAR HASSAN:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of items and companies against whom liabilities for overcharging for drugs have been assessed under Drug (Price Control) Order, 1995 (DPCO, 95);

(b) the criteria laid down for finding the liabilities;

(c) the details of the cases settled and the amount record so far; and

(d) the details of cases pending with the Drug Price Liability Review Committee (DPLRC)?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (c) Since the inception of NPPA in August 1997 upto January 2006 a demand of Rs. 693.940 crores has been raised in 331

cases as overcharged amount for drugs. Of these, around Rs. 98.76 crores has been recovered amount for drugs. Of these, around Rs. 98.76 crores has been recovered upto January 2006 which includes part recovery in cases under litigation as per Court Order.

(d) The details of cases pending with Drug Prices Liabilities Review Committee (DPLRC) are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Details of the Cases pending with Drug Prices Liabilities Review Committee (DPLRC)

Sl.No.	Name of the Company	Name of the Bulk Drug
1	2	3
1.	M/s. Hoechst (I) Ltd. (Now Hoechst Marrion Roussel Ltd.)	Baralgan Ketone etc.
2.	M/s. Rhone Poulenc. Ltd.	Metronidazole
3.	M/s. Alembic Chemical Works	Ampicillin Trihydrate
4.	M/s. Cipla Ltd.	Amoxycillin Trihydrate
5.	M/s. Dey's Medical Stores (Mfg) Ltd.	Trimethoprim & Sulphamethoxazole
6.	M/s. Parke Devis (I) Ltd.	Chloramphenicol Powder
7.	M/s. Dey's Medical Stores (Mfg.) Ltd.	Chloramphenicol Powder Palmitate
8.	M/s. Cipla Ltd.	Sulphamethoxazole & Trimethoprim
9.	M/s. Unichem Labs Ltd.	Metronidazole
10.	M/s. Dey's Medical Stores (Mfg.) Ltd.	Ampicillin Trihydrate
11.	M/s. John Wyeth (I) Ltd.	Amoxycillin Trihydrate
12.	M.s. Cadila Chemicals Pvt. Ltd.	Trimethoprim Sulphamethoxazole
13.	M/s. Pfizer Ltd.	Protinex formulations
14.	M/s. Dey's Medical Stores (Mfg.) Ltd.	Chloramphenicol & Palmitate
15.	M/s. Themis Chemical Ltd.	Trimethoprim Sulphamethoxazole
16.	M/s. Parke Davis (I) Ltd.	Multi Vitamins
17.	M/s. Biochem Pharma Industries Ltd.	Ampicillin Trihydrate
18.	M/s. Infar (India) Ltd.	Dexatorpic cream
19.	M/s. Khandelwal Labs Ltd.	Amoxycillin Trihydrate

1	2	3
20.	M/s. Aristo Pharmaceutical Ltd.	Doxycycline
21.	M/s. Nicholas Piramal Industries Ltd.	Gentamycin
22.	M/s. Cadila Labs Ltd.	Dexamethasone
23.	M/s. Burroughs Wellcome (I) Ltd.	Piperazine
24.	M/s. Biochem Pharmaceuticals	Gentamycin Sulphate
25.	M/s. Russel Pharmaceuticals (I) Ltd.	Dexamethasone

Modern Mechanical Corporate Farming

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

(a) whether there is a move to encourage and augment Modern Mechanical Corporate (MMC) farming in place of labour intensive traditional cultivation;

(b) if so, whether MMC farming is aimed at cornering the present subsidies;

(c) whether agricultural subsidies are more in the developed countries than in developing countries including India;

(d) if so, whether the Government proposes to study and consider these patterns available in various countries in India also; 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 (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Irregularities in Procurement in Uttar Pradesh

142. SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to procure wheat for Central pool in Uttar Pradesh through the Food Corporation of India directly in view of the alleged irregularities committed by the State wheat procuring agencies;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the other remedial steps proposed to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (c) No report regarding irregularities committed by the State wheat procuring agencies in Uttar Pradesh has been received in the Department of Food & Public Distribution. However, in view of the need to increase procurement of wheat in Uttar Pradesh, Food Corporation of India has been directed to open procurement centers in Uttar Pradesh in addition to the agencies of the State Government.

[Translation]

Production of Cereals

143. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cereals being produced in the country are sufficient to meet the domestic requirement;

(b) if so, the details of production recorded during the last two years, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government has taken steps to increase the production of the cereals in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Based on the National Sample Survey Organisation's latest Consumer Expenditure Survey, the requirement of cereals for the country, including seed, feed and wastage, is given in the following table along with their production:

	(Million Tonnes)	
Cereals	2003-04	2004-05*
Production	198.52	191.23
Consumption Requirement	165.53	168.07

*4th advance estimates.

As may be seen from the above table, production of cereals is more than the consumption requirement during the year 2003-04 and 2004-05. The State-wise details of production recorded during the last two years are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) and (d) For increasing the production of cereals, the Integrated Cereal Development Programme for cropping system based areas (Rice, Wheat and Coarse Cereals) which has since been subsumed under Micro Management Programme since 4.10.2000 is implemented in different states of the country. Under the Scheme, the assistance is provided for demonstration on improved package of practices including Integrated Pest Management (IPM), distribution of quality seeds for improved varieties/hybrids, farm implements and water having devices like sprinkler irrigation system. Besides, frontier crop production and protection technologies and newly released promising varieties and hybrids are also popularized through front line demonstrations at farmers field under direct funded component of Micro Management Programme.

Further, a new scheme on Enhancing Sustainability of Dryland Rainfed Farming System is being formulated to address the problems of dryland areas. Under the proposed scheme, it has been envisaged to provide

assistance to the farmers for on farm water harvesting and conservation, institute moisture conservation, on farm production and use of organic manures, moisture saving devices like drip and sprinkler systems of irrigation and alternate/composite farming systems.

Statement

State-wise production of Cereals

	(Million Tonnes)	
State/UT	2003-04	2004-05
Andhra Pradesh	12.48	12.11
Assam	3.97	3.72
Bihar	10.65	9.48
Chhattisgarh	5.75	4.66
Gujarat	5.95	4.98
Haryana	13.08	13.05
Himachal Pradesh	1.39	1.63
Jammu and Kashmir	1.36	1.70
Jharkhand	2.77	2.12
Karnataka	6.08	8.90
Kerala	0.63	0.60
Madhya Pradesh	12.30	10.68
Maharashtra	8.90	9.10
Orissa	6.95	6.64
Punjab	24.69	25.81
Rajasthan	15.71	10.58
Tamil Nadu	4.26	6.44
Uttar Pradesh	41.85	39.10
Uttaranchal	1.70	1.73
West Bengal	15.77	16.04
Others	2.31	2.19
All India	198.52	191.23

Construction of New Godowns

144. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of present capacity of Food Corporation of India (FCI) godowns in different parts of the country alongwith the financial allocation made during 2005-06;

(b) the storage capacity added during 2005-06;

(c) the number of godowns proposed to be constructed in the country during the year 2006-07 and financial allocation made therefor, State-wise; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) As on 31st December, 2005, the Food Corporation of India (FCI) has a total storage capacity of 248.22 lakh tonnes (owned and hired and covered/CAP) in different parts of the country. The State-wise details are given in the enclosed statement I. During the year 2005-06, the Government has allocated a total of Rs. 21.08 crore for the construction of storage godowns by FCI under the Plan Scheme.

(b) During the year 2005-06, against the physical target of 39,580 MTs the FCI has added 19,170 MTs of storage capacity (till January, 2006).

(c) and (d) Keeping in view the current utilization of storage capacity, it has been decided that the FCI will take up construction of new godowns only in the North-Eastern States including Sikkim and Jammu & Kashmir from 2005-06 onwards. However, ongoing godown construction projects will be completed during the year.

For the year 2006-07, the Government has allocated a total of Rs. 12.75 crore for the construction of storage godowns by FCI under the Plan Scheme. The details of the centres where godowns are proposed to be constructed are given in the enclosed statement-II.

Statement I

The details of the storage capacity (owned and hired and covered/CAP) available with FCI

(As on 31st December, 2005
Capacity in lakh MT)

Sl.No.	State	Storage Capacity (Covered & CAP Owned and Hired)
1	2	3
1.	Bihar	5.17
2.	Jharkhand	1.19
3.	Orissa	5.77
4.	West Bengal	10.08
5.	Sikkim	0.11
6.	Assam	2.56
7.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.18
8.	Meghalaya	0.29
9.	Mizoram	0.18
10.	Tripura	0.34
11.	Manipur	0.18
12.	Nagaland	0.29
13.	Delhi	3.70
14.	Haryana	22.64
15.	Himachal Pradesh	0.26
16.	Jammu and Kashmir	1.14
17.	Punjab	66.71
18.	Chandigarh	1.10
19.	Rajasthan	9.10
20.	Uttar Pradesh	25.36
21.	Uttaranchal	1.81
22.	Andhra Pradesh	34.06
23.	Kerala	5.33

1	2	3
24.	Karnataka	6.01
25.	Tamil Nadu	7.28
26.	Podnciherry	0.50
27.	Gujarat	5.59
28.	Maharashtra	15.61
29.	Goa	0.15
30.	Madhya Pradesh	5.49
31.	Chhattisgarh	10.04
Total		248.22

Statement II

The details of the godowns to be constructed by the Food Corporation of India (FCI) during the year (2006-07) are as under

Name of the Centre/State	Capacity (in tonnes)	Financial Target - (Rs. in lakhs)
Bualpui (Mizoram)	5000	100
Chandrapur (Tripura)	5000	70
Senchowa (Assam)	1670	15
Badarpurghat (Assam)	5000	80
Chaulkhowa (Assam)	4170	70
Total	20840	335

**Secret Ballot for Ground Categories
of Employees of Air India**

145. SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has appointed Returning Officer to conduct the election through secret ballot for ground categories of employees of Air India;

(b) if so, when this appointment has been made;

(c) whether the Returning Officer has worked out the modalities for conducting elections;

(d) if so, the schedule of the elections; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The appointment of Returning Officer was made on 13.4.2004.

(c) to (e) The Returning Officer fixed the date of Secret Ballot Election for 27.4.2005. The date for counting of votes was 30.4.2005. The election could not be held and the matter is presently sub-judice.

Supply of Foodgrains to W.B. under PDS

146. SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received complaints regarding supply of inferior quality foodgrains by Food Corporation of India to West Bengal for distribution under Public Distribution System during the last three years and thereafter;

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

(c) the remedial steps being taken to check such irregularities?

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. Government has not received any complaint from Government of West Bengal regarding supply of inferior quality foodgrains by Food Corporation of India to West Bengal for distribution under Public Distribution System (PDS) during the last three years and thereafter.

(b) and (c) Does not arise. However, to ensure that only good quality foodgrains are issued to State Governments/UT Administrations for distribution under PDS, following steps have been taken by the Government.

(i) Ample opportunities are provided to the officials of the State Governments/UT Administrations

to inspect the stocks prior to lifting from the Food Corporation of India (FCI) godowns.

- (ii) Instructions have been issued to all the State Governments/UT Administrations that an officer not below the rank of Inspector should be deputed to check the quality of foodgrains before lifting from the FCI godowns.
- (iii) The samples of foodgrains are to be jointly drawn and sealed by the officers of the State Governments/UT Administrations and the FCI from the stocks for display at the counters of Fair Price Shops (FPSs) for the benefit of consumers.
- (iv) The officers of the State Governments and the Ministry pay surprise checks to the FPSs, to oversee the quality of foodgrains being distributed through TPDS.
- (v) The officers of the Department designated as 'Area Officer' for monitoring the TPDS work in the respective States also undertake visits to the storage depots and the FPSs, during their visit to the States to check the quality of foodgrains being issued.

[Translation]

Promotion of Production of Mushroom

147. SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the total production of mushroom recorded in the country during the last three years and the current years;
- (b) the concrete steps taken by the Government to promote production of mushroom in the country;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to set up mushroom procurement centres in each State to procure mushroom; 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) The production of mushroom is estimated at 40,000 MT per annum approximately.

(b) Under the Technology Mission for Horticulture Development in North Eastern States, the Government is implementing various schemes for promotion of horticultural crops including Mushrooms. The National Research Centre for Mushroom provides pure culture and quality spawn of different edible mushroom besides extending technical support and training to mushroom farmers.

(c) and (d) No proposal has been received so far from any of the State.

[English]

Steep Fall in Prices of Onion

148. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether onion prices have fallen steeply in the country;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (d) whether there is no Minimum Support Price mechanism for onion;
- (e) if so, the steps proposed to be taken in this direction;
- (f) the total production of onion in Maharashtra during the last three years and the rates of procurement, year-wise;
- (g) whether the Government proposes to announce Market Intervention Scheme for Maharashtra and other States; and
- (h) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) Yes, Sir. The wholesale prices of onion have declined in major markets in the country. For example, the wholesale prices of onion at two selected Market Centres during the period November 2005 to February 2006, indicate a steep fall in prices as shown below:

*Wholesale Prices of Onion**

(Rs. per quintal)

State/Centres	Nov. 17, 2005	Dec. 19, 2005	Jan. 19, 2006	Feb. 16, 2006
Maharashtra Nasik	900	451	290	225
Delhi Azadpur	1000	660	578	400

*Modal prices.

The price of onion measured in terms of wholesale price index has also shown a steep decline from 296.5 in November 2005 to 184.3 in January 2006.

(b) The production of Onion in the country during the current year 2005-06 is expected to touch 60 lakh MTs (provisional) as against the normal production of around 55 lakh MTs. Owing to favourable weather condition at the time of sowing and harvesting of Kharif Onion in Maharashtra, Gujarat and other major producing States, the quality of bulbs is good and the arrivals have increased considerably resulting in fall in market prices.

(c) to (e) Onion is not covered under the Minimum Support Price mechanism. However, onion is covered under the Market Intervention Scheme (MIS). Under the Scheme, the State Governments send specific proposals as and when price of the concerned commodity falls below remunerative levels. The Government intervenes in the market and purchase specific quantity at prices mutually agreed with the concerned State. The losses, if any, in operation, are shared on 50 : 50 basis.

(f) The production of onion in Maharashtra during the last three years was as under:

Year	Production (000 ton)
2003-04	1535.00
2004-05	1670.00
2005-06	1661.00

(Source: National Horticulture Research & Development Foundation, Nasik).

Under the MIS the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Limited (NAFED) has not

purchased onion from Maharashtra during the last three years.

(g) and (h) No proposal from the Government of Maharashtra has been received for implementing MIS for onion in the current year.

Irregularities in Utilization of Funds

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

(a) whether the Union Government has made any verification with regard to the utilization of drought relief funds allotted to the States;

(b) if so, whether the Government has found irregularities in the utilization of the funds; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) Ministry of Home Affairs is concerned with matters relating to utilization of relief assistance provided under Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) and National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) in the wake of natural calamities including drought and they have been requested to supply necessary information.

[*Translation*]

Revision of Secondary Freight Rate of Urea

150. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering to bring urea under the category of decontrolled fertilizers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to revise the existing secondary freight rate of urea; and

(d) if so, the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) and (b) No, Sir. There is no proposal at present to bring urea under the category of decontrolled fertilizers.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. There is no proposal at present to revise the existing secondary freight rates of urea.

Research and Development for Agriculture

151. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether world class research facility are required to be developed in the country in the field of Biotechnology; and

(b) if so, the fresh initiatives taken by the Government in this regard and the achievements made as a result thereof during the last and current year?

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

(b) The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has taken several initiatives for developing research facilities like infrastructure, equipment and training, in its different institutes and the State Agricultural Universities for enhancing the productivity and production of crops, livestock and fish through biotechnological intervention. Development of human resource through training in specific areas in the world class national and international laboratories, international collaborations, identification of priorities and action plan through meetings/workshops etc., development of network programmes are already being

undertaken. In addition to the biotechnological work being undertaken at various ICAR institutes, a National Research Centre for Plant Biotechnology, New Delhi and a National Research Centre on DNA Fingerprinting, New Delhi are already working on the aspect. Recently, action has been initiated to develop Indo-US collaborative research programmes focusing biotechnology as major field of research collaboration. A scheme 'National Fund for Basic and Strategic Research' has also been sanctioned.

Major achievement in the area of agricultural biotechnology are:

- Molecular detection techniques developed for testing of transgenic crops.
- DNA fingerprinting of 31 crop species done.
- DNA vaccine against brucellosis of goat developed.
- Gene for blast resistance in rice tagged.
- Three bacterial leaf blight resistance genes for multiple resistance pyramided.
- Molecular genetic studies using DNA marker system has been established in different species of livestock using micro satellite and RFLP methods as a prelude to practicing marker assisted selection.
- Isolated, cloned and sequenced many economically important genes of indigenous livestock species.
- Standardized embryo technology in buffalo, cattle and goat and put into practical use.
- Developed Poly Chain Reactions (PCR) based and monoclonal based diagnostics for major infections of livestock.
- Developed a recombinant vaccines against anthrax and sold to private entrepreneur.
- Developed molecular diagnostic kit for early diagnosis of white muscle syndrome in giant freshwater prawn.
- A diagnostic PCR kit for identification of dreaded White Spot Syndrome Virus (WSSV) in shrimp has been developed and has been commercialized.

- Technology for in-vitro pearl production in the Indian pearl oyster, *Pinctada fucata* and the *Haliotis varia* through tissue culture method has been developed.

[English]

Production of Tomato

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

- whether there has been an increase in the production of tomato this year in the country;
- if so, the production of tomato recorded during the current year, State-wise;
- whether huge production of said crop has led to sharp fall in prices;
- if so, the details thereof; and
- the action taken/being taken to help the farmers in crisis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The production of tomato is estimated to have increased significantly over the last year. The State-wise production of tomato is placed at enclosed statement.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. The prices of tomato registered a decline for a short period due to increase in production of tomato in the country. To address the issue and to protect the farmers from distress selling of their produce, Ministry of Agriculture is implementing a market Intervention Scheme (MIS) for procurement of horticultural commodities on the request of a State/UT Government in the event of glut in the market due to bumper crop. However, no specific proposal has been received from any of the State Government for market intervention for tomato. Besides, Ministry of Agriculture is also implementing National Horticulture Mission. The programme under horticultural development addresses the issue of the marketing, post harvest management and processing of horticultural produce. These programmes will help the farmers in getting remunerative price for their produce.

Statement

State-wise area and production of Tomato in India during 2003-04

State/UTs	Tomato		
	Area (000 ha)	Production (000 MT)	Productivity (T/ha)
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	77.1	924.9	12.00
Assam	13.97	326.199	23.35
Bihar	45.3	588.4	13.00
Chhattisgarh	20.2	302.3	15.00
Delhi	1.7	33.6	19.49
Gujarat	18.8	321.4	17.13
Haryana	14.0	222.8	15.87
Himachal Pradesh	9.0	246.0	27.30
Jammu & Kashmir	3.1	56.8	18.31
Jharkhand	9.7	116.4	12.00

1	2	3	4
Karnataka	37.0	1025.0	27.71
Madhya Pradesh	18.7	281.1	15.00
Maharashtra	32.1	866.1	27.00
Manipur	1.1	9.7	8.80
Meghalaya	1.7	22.3	13.24
Mizoram	0.2	0.5	2.31
Orissa	100.2	1329.9	13.28
Punjab	7.4	179.1	24.26
Rajasthan	14.2	53.4	3.76
Tamil Nadu	22.2	225.4	10.15
Uttaranchal	2.5	26.9	10.73
Uttar Pradesh	4.7	185.6	39.33
West Bengal	47.6	748.6	15.72
Andaman Nicobar	0.2	0.8	4.00
Pondicherry	0.1	2.7	27.00
Total	502.7	8095.8	16.10

Source: National Horticulture Board Database 2004.

[Translation]

Violation of Labour Laws

153. SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO:
SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:

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

(a) whether the Government has noticed that some organizations and factories are violating labour laws and as such the labourers are being exploited;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last two years, State-wise;

(c) the names of the organizations and factories against whom action has been taken during the above period, State-wise; and

(d) The nature of the action taken in each of the cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Bio-Diversity Action Plan Report

154. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received the final technical report of the National Bio-diversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP);

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

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (c) The technical report of the "National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP)" was prepared under a project funded by the United Nations Development Programme—Global Environment Facility. The report contains compilation of inputs from various stakeholders on conservation of biodiversity, its sustainable use and equity in various aspects relating to conservation and use. The document is compilation of 71 reports prepared at local, state, eco-regional and thematic level. Pursuant to the completion of the project tenure and submission of the draft report, a "Group of Experts" was constituted by the Ministry of Environment & Forests to scrutinize the draft Report and rectify the discrepancies and inconsistencies which were noticed in the draft Report. The report has since been duly corrected by the "Group of Experts". This corrected and revised report is going to act as an input for the draft National Action Plan (NAP) which is to be prepared, harmonizing it with the provisions of the draft Environment Policy of the Ministry.

[Translation]

National Livestock Policy

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to formulate National Livestock Policy; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be announced and 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 TASLIMUDDIN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) National Livestock Policy is being formulated to attain qualitative and quantitative improvement in livestock, livestock products, feed and fodder resources. It aims to provide for a better interface between modern technologies and management practices regarding breeding, nutrition and health care and also through Animal Husbandry Extension Programmes. The policy also aims to guide the future programmes in the said areas. Formulation of

National Livestock Policy is a time consuming exercise, as it involves consultation with various experts on the sector as well as the State Governments to obtain their views before finalising the Policy. Accordingly, the National Livestock Policy is currently at the stage of finalisation.

[English]

MoU Signed by Indian Dairy Association

156. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Dairy Association (IDA) has signed any Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Eastern and South African Dairy Association (ESADA);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the benefits likely to be accrued by IDA and ESADA therefrom; and

(d) the extent to which the Indian farmers are likely to be benefited 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 TASLIMUDDIN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Indian Dairy Association (IDA) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Eastern and Southern African Dairy Association (ESADA) at Bangalore on 25th November, 2005.

(c) The major benefits that are expected to accrue to IDA are as under:

(i) Under the proposed MoU, ESADA shall provide to IDA members, its member directory, technical support, targeted supply inquires for dairy machinery and product manufacturers and market information.

(ii) Promote activities of IDA in ESADA member countries including events, conferences, trade promotions, etc. by way of advertising, presentation, listing.

(iii) Support IDA's policy efforts targeted at increased trade with Africa including Most Favoured Nation (MFN) and Free Trade Agreement (FTA) agreements within the overall frame of the

national policies and also support IDA position on global dairy platform that are consistent with principles of fair trade including elimination of subsidies, market access, etc. wherever possible, subject to the bye-laws of ESADA.

The benefits likely to accrue to ESADA are as under:

- (i) Facilitate technology and knowledge transfer from India to ESADA member countries by way of trade in equipment and inputs, project consultancy including training, investment etc.
 - (ii) Support ESADA position on global dairy platform that is consistent with principles of fair trade including elimination of subsidies, market access etc. within the overall frame of the national policies. Grant ESADA members, wherever possible, subject to the bye-laws of IDA, the member privileges of IDA, including discounted rates on conference registrations, advertising in IDA publications and listing on IDA directions on a reciprocal basis.
 - (iii) Invite ESADA to key IDA international events, meeting and trade fairs.
- (d) The objectives set out in MoU are likely to benefit all the stakeholders of IDA including Indian farmers.

Dry Farming in Punjab

157. SHRIMATI PARAMJIT KAUR GULSHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether many districts of Punjab adjoining Rajasthan are slowly turning into desert due to the over utilization of the scarce water resources on water intensive crops like paddy and wheat;
- (b) if so, whether the Government is taking steps to introduce dry farming in the region;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether some incentives are given to the farmers who opt for diversification of crops;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) The continuous cultivation of rice and wheat has resulted in reduction in ground water table in some districts of Punjab.

(d) to (f) The States have been advised to promote crop diversification from cereal centric and rice-wheat cropping system to more remunerative high value and less water demanding crops. For promotion of oilseeds, pulses and maize, Integrated Scheme on Oilseeds, Pulses, Oilpalm and Maize (ISOPOM) is under implementation in different States including Punjab. The National Horticulture Mission has also been launched during 2005-06 to promote horticultural crops in the country.

Death of Seagulls

158. SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH:
SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI:

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

- (a) whether a large number of seagulls have died recently in Jamnagar's Lakhota lake in Gujarat;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the lake has now turned into a graveyard for migratory birds;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As reported by the Government of Gujarat, death of sea gulls had occurred in the Lakhota lake as a result of food poisoning.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The question does not arise.

(e) Awareness campaigns have been launched with success, to make the people stop feeding the birds with human food. Efforts have also been stepped up to clean

the environment of the lake in coordination with the district agencies.

Decline In Sale of HMT Watches

159. SHRI NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the sale of HMT watches have declined drastically during the last few years;

(b) if so, the factors attributed thereto; and

(c) the steps being taken to step up the sales?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEAVY INDUSTRY, MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir, the sale of HMT Watches have declined during the last five years.

(b) The production of watches could not be scaled up due to working capital constraints and lack of technology upgradation which resulted in reduction in sales of watches.

(c) The following steps have been taken by HMT Watches Ltd. to step up the sales:

- It has been tied up with M/s. Godrej & Boyce, Prime Division for Distributorship on pan-India basis.
- It has launched new series of watches.
- Further, the Company has been asked to formulate a Revival plan which would inter-alia, also address these issues.

Setting up of Groundnut Oil Production Centre

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

(a) whether National Dairy Development Board (NDDDB) propose to set up groundnut oil production centre at Gujarat; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be set up?

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

(b) Question does not arise in view of (a) above.

Clearance for Construction of Malls

161. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 684 on November 28, 2005 regarding Environmental Clearance to Construction Projects and state:

(a) whether the information has since been collected;

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

(c) if not, the reasons for delay?

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

Irrigation Projects In Andhra Pradesh

162. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested the Union Government for Central assistance for implementation of irrigation projects; and

(b) if so, the response of the Government thereto and the assistance likely to be released to the State Government for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Central Government is providing Central Assistance under the Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) since 1996-97 for such approved major/medium irrigation projects proposed by the States which are in an advanced stage of construction and beyond the resources capability of the States that can be completed in four financial years. Grant component has been introduced under the programme since 2004-

05. The central assistance is provided subject to the ceiling fixed by the Planning Commission. The loan portion of the central assistance is to be raised by the State Government.

Agricultural Marketing Reforms

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

(a) whether the Government has urged the states to accelerate and urgently complete agricultural marketing reforms to ensure a legitimate share to the farmers in the final value of their produce;

(b) if so, the guidelines issued by the Government to the States in this regard;

(c) whether the Government has also urged the States to amend the Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee Act to ease the position; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the States in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (d) Agriculture sector needs well functioning markets to drive growth, employment and economic prosperity in rural areas of the country. Large investments are required for the development of post harvest and cold chain infrastructure nearer to the farmers' field. A major portion of this investment is expected from the private sector, for which an appropriate regulatory and policy environment is necessary. Alongside, enabling policies need to be put in place to encourage procurement of agriculture commodities directly from farmers' field and to establish effective linkage between the farm production and the retail chain and food processing industries. State Governments have accordingly been advised to promote cooperative agricultural markets in private and cooperative sectors, direct marketing and contract farming programmes by amending the State Agricultural Produce Marketing Regulation Acts (APMC Act). The Ministry of Agriculture has formulated a model law on agricultural marketing for guidance and adoption by the States.

All States have in general agreed to bring changes in the APMC Act accordingly. The States of Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab,

Sikkim, Rajasthan and Nagaland have already amended their APMC Act and implemented the suggested reforms.

Huge Margins on Control Free Branded Medicines

164. SHRI MILIND DEORA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has assessed the profit margins being charged by wholesalers and retailers on control free branded medicines;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) a drug price watch dog has suggested some trade margins;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken to curb the huge margins in respect of control free drugs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (e) Prices of Scheduled drugs and formulations based thereon are fixed by the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) in accordance with the provisions of para 7 of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 (DPCO, 95). A price of a Scheduled formulation is fixed by allowing Maximum Allowable Post Manufacturing Expenses (MAPE) @ of 100% on ex-factory cost for indigenously manufactured Scheduled formulations and upto 50% of the landed cost for imported Scheduled formulations. The trade margin to retailers in respect of Scheduled formulations is fixed at 16%.

Prices of non-Scheduled medicines are fixed by the manufactures themselves keeping in view various factors like cost of production, marketing/selling expenses, R&D expenses, trade commission, market competition, product innovation, product quality etc. The Government takes corrective measures where the public interest is found to be adversely affected.

Recently the Government constituted a Committee under the Chairmanship Joint Secretary (Pharma) to examine the issue of span of price control (including trade margin). Subsequently, a Task Force under the

Chairmanship of Dr. Pronab Sen, Principal Advisor, Planning Commission was also constituted to explore options other than price control to make available life saving drugs at reasonable prices.

Based on the recommendations of the Committee under the Chairmanship of Joint Secretary (Pharmaceuticals) and the Task Force under the Chairmanship of Dr. Pronab Sen, Principal Advisor, Planning Commission and feedback from other stakeholders Government have formulated a draft National Pharmaceutical Policy, 2006 (Part-A—excluding pricing) which has been circulated to various stakeholders seeking their comments. Based on the comments received the Government is likely to finalize the new Policy shortly.

[*Translation*]

Irrigation Schemes of Uttar Pradesh

165. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of irrigation schemes approved for Uttar Pradesh

(b) the details of funds released by the Union and State Government separately during the last three years, scheme-wise; and

(c) the number of schemes completed within scheduled time limit and the number of schemes which are still pending?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) 29 Major and Medium irrigation schemes of Uttar Pradesh been approved by Planning Commission from April 1990 to January, 2006.

(b) Scheme-wise details of expenditure are given in the enclosed Statement-I.

Central Government launched the Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP) during 1996-97 with a view to provide Central Loan Assistance (CLA) to Major, Medium & ERM projects of the country so as to complete them expeditiously. Eight Major/ERM schemes of Uttar Pradesh are receiving CLA under AIBP. Details of CLA released during last 3 years are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

(c) There are 57 Major, 40 Medium and 20 ERM projects completed upto end of IX Plan in Uttar Pradesh. 9 Major and 5 ERM schemes which have spilled over from IX Plan to X Plan are under execution in the State of Uttar Pradesh.

Statement I

Status of ongoing major, medium & ERM irrigation projects of Uttar Pradesh as on 01.04.2004

(Amount in Rs. crore)

Sl.No.	Name of the Project	Latest estimated cost	Cumulative expenditure Upto IX Plan	Expenditure during 2002-03	Likely expenditure during 2003-04	Likely expenditure upto 3/2004.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
A. Major Projects						
1.	Eastern Ganga	579.00	336.59	27.48	51.54	415.61
2.	Kanhar Irrigation	475.19	57.57	5.71	1.25	64.53
3.	Rajghat Dam	150.00	133.08	0.00	0.00	133.08
4.	Rajghat Canal (UP)	457.13	269.64	53.72	33.64	357.00
5.	Saryu Nahar	3453.00	1151.09	194.75	183.32	1529.16

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
6.	Providing Kharif Channel in Hindon Krishni Doab	136.99	96.32	17.76	14.74	128.82
7.	Tehri Dam (Irrg Share)	1180.98	748.29	135.00	131.64	1014.93
8.	Jarauli Pump Canal	52.35	31.49	5.64	4.72	41.85
9.	Bansagar Canal (UP)	761.85	203.90	63.83	71.35	339.08
	—Bansagar Dam (UP Share)	287.85	223.33	0.00	0.00	223.33
	Sub total (A)	7534.32	3251.30	503.89	492.20	4247.39
B.	Medium Projects					
C.	ERM Projects					
1.	Upper Ganga Irri. Mod. Projects	869.450	831.000	40.340	7.890	879.330
2.	Dev. of Irri. Management of Sarda Canal System	136.000	93.740	8.470	5.150	107.360
3.	Mod. of Agra Canal	89.840	14.240	2.040	14.150	30.430
4.	Mod. of Lachura H/Works	102.000	4.020	2.880	3.700	10.600
5.	Lining of Channels in Bundelkhand and Bhagelkhand areas	97.000	7.500	0.660	0.000	8.160
	Sub total (C)	1294.290	950.600	54.390	30.890	1035.880
	Total (A+B+C)	8838.610	4201.900	558.280	523.090	5263.270

Statement II*Details of CLA released during the last three years under AIBP for Irrigation Projects in Uttar Pradesh*

(Amount in Rs. Crore)

Sl.No.	Name of Project	CLA Released			
		2002-03	2003-04	2004-05 (including grant)	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Saryu Nehar	110.000	101.210	54.060	265.27
2.	Bansagar Canal	49.550	40.865	30.390	120.81
3.	Tehri Dam	113.730	64.000	35.000	212.73

1	2	3	4	5	6
4.	Eastern Ganga Canal	14.000	25.700	36.000	75.70
5.	Rajghat Canal	20.000	14.670	0.000	34.67
6.	Mod. of Agra Canal	2.000	10.680	11.200	23.88
7.	Jarauli Pump Canal	—	5.060	0.000	5.06
8.	Providing Khariff Channel in HK Doab	10.000	8.000	9.270	27.27
Total		319.28	270.19	175.920	765.39

Assistance to Rajasthan for Irrigation Projects

166. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Rajasthan has requested the Union Government to sanction an additional amount of Rs. 2000 crores to complete its irrigation projects; and

(b) if so, the response of the Government thereto and the time by which the amount is likely to be given to the State Government?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) and (b) No proposal from the Government of Rajasthan has been received in the Ministry of Water Resources to sanction an additional amount of Rs. 2000 crore to complete its irrigation projects. However, proposals amounting to Rs. 321.026 crore for providing central assistance under the Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) for ongoing irrigation projects have been received against the ceiling of Rs. 400 crore fixed for the year 2005-06 and Rs. 33.2475 crore has already been released as first instalment of grant.

[English]

Production of Commercial Vehicles

167. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken any steps to boost the production of commercial vehicles in the country;

(b) if so, the production of each type of commercial automobiles including two wheelers and four wheelers alongwith cost during the last three years; and

(c) the growth recorded in this sector during the said period; and

(d) the employment generated in the automobiles sector as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEAVY INDUSTRY, MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. The rationalization of fiscal structure by the Government, emphasis on improvement of infrastructure including roads and highways and easy availability of finance have led to the remarkable growth of the automotive industry including Commercial Vehicles in the country during the past few years.

(b) and (c) As per information received from Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM), the production of all types of commercial vehicles including those of two wheelers and four wheelers during the last three years alongwith their percentage growth recorded during the said period are as under:-

Category	Production (in nos)		
	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Passenger Car	557410	782562	960505
Multi Utility Vehicle	165920	206998	249149
Commercial Vehicles	203697	275040	350033
Two Wheelers	5076221	5622741	6526547
Three Wheelers	276719	356223	374414
Total	6279967	7243564	8460648
Percentage Growth	18.60	15.34	16.80

SIAM has reported that the value of sales including export of all kinds of vehicles during 2002-03 was of Rs. 7347134 lakh, during 2003-04 of Rs. 9366806 lakh and during 2004-2005 of Rs. 11213427 lakh.

(d) It is estimated that the automobile industry employs 4.5 lakh people directly and about one crore people indirectly.

[Translation]

Cultivation Area of Paddy

168. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total area in the country including Chhattisgarh where paddy crop is cultivated;

(b) whether the cultivation area under paddy crop in the country has declined during the last three years;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to enhance the paddy cultivation area and encourage the production of paddy in the country particularly in Chhattisgarh?

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 normal area (average of 5 years from 1999-2000 to 2003-04) under rice cultivation is 43.69 million hectares out of which 3.77 million hectares are in Chhattisgarh.

(b) and (c) The following table shows the cultivation area under paddy crop in the country for the years 2002-03 to 2004-05:

Year	Area (Million Hectares)
2002-03	41.18
2003-04	42.50
2004-05	42.14*

*4th Advance Estimate.

It could be seen from the above table, that the area under paddy cultivation was around 41 million hectares

in 2002-03, the year which was affected by drought. However, area under paddy increased to more than 42 million hectares in 2003-04 and 2004-05 due to better monsoon rainfall.

(d) The Central Government has been implementing Cereals Development Programme in Rice Based Cropping Systems Areas (ICDP-Rice) with a view to promote rice cultivation in the country including Chhattisgarh. The scheme has been subsumed under Macro management Mode of Agriculture with effect from October, 2000. This scheme is being implemented on 90:10 sharing basis between Government of India (GOI) and the States. Under the scheme, assistance is provided for propagation of improved production technology, hybrid rice production technology, integrated pest management through field demonstrations; training of farmers including women; transfer of technology through electronic media and published literature; farm implements; installation of sprinkler irrigation system; varietal replacement and production of certified seeds, as per the Work Plan of the State Governments. Besides, Frontline Demonstrations are also organized by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) on farmer's fields on 100 percent GOI assistance. Under Macro Management Mode of Agriculture, States have been provided flexibility to choose any scheme or its components as per their specific need.

[English]

Naphtha based Fertilizer Plants

169. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Naphtha based fertilizer plants functioning in the country at present;

(b) whether the said fertilizer plants are on the verge of closure due to high price of Naphtha; and

(c) the measures being taken by the Government to save these plants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (c) There are 9 naphtha based urea plants in the country functioning at present. These are: Indian Farmers Fertilizers Cooperative Limited (IFFCO)-Phulpur-I, IFFCO-Phulpur-II,

Mangalore Chemicals & Fertilizers Limited (MFL)-Mangalore, Madras Fertilizers Limited (MFL)-Chennai, Shriram Fertilizers & Chemicals Limited (SFC)—Kota, Southern Petrochemicals Industries Corporation Limited (SPIC)—Tuticorin, Zuari Industries Limited (ZIL)—Goa, Duncans Industries Limited (DIL)—Kanpur and Chambal Fertilizers & Chemicals Limited (CFCL)—Gadepan-II. Since the prices of feedstock including naphtha are a pass through under the New Pricing Scheme for urea units subject to pre-set specific energy consumption norms *i.e.* the cost of feedstock is reimbursed to the urea units, the variations in the prices of feedstock do not affect the operations of urea units including naphtha based units.

Recognizing the efficacy, efficiency and environment friendliness of natural gas over naphtha and FO/LSHS, the Government has already, in January, 2004 formulated a policy for conversion of existing naphtha/FO/LSHS based units to natural gas/LNG as feedstock.

Consequent to the policy announcement, naphtha based urea units situated in the vicinity of HBJ pipeline have already started taking steps for conversion to natural gas/R-LNG. IFFCO has already signed a firm contract for supply of R-LNG for both its units located at Phulpur to the extent of its feed/fuel requirement. The work on the conversion and laying of the pipeline is in progress, which is expected to be completed in mid 2006. The Gadepan-II unit, which was fully using naphtha till March, 2005, of Chambal Chemicals & Fertilizers Limited, has started using R-LNG to the extent available.

Production of Paddy

170. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated paddy production during 2005-06, State-wise;

(b) whether the prices of paddy are not even compatible with the cost of its production;

(c) if so, the details and the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to safeguard the interests of farmers by providing them adequate remunerative prices of paddy?

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 1st advance estimates for 2005-06, the production of kharif paddy is placed at 110.75 million tonnes. The State-wise details are given in the enclosed Statement-I. No estimates are available for the rabi paddy production during 2005-06 as of now.

(b) and (c) The State-wise cost of production (C_2) and minimum wholesale prices of paddy are given in the enclosed Statement-II. It may be seen from the statement, although the wholesale prices of paddy vary from state to state, the minimum price in all the states is much higher than the cost of production.

(d) The Government's price policy for agricultural commodities seeks to ensure remunerative prices to the growers for their produce with a view to encourage higher investment and production, and to safeguard the interest of consumers by making available supplies at reasonable prices. The price policy also seeks to evolve a balanced and integrated price structure in the perspective of the overall needs of the economy. Towards this end, the Government announces such season Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for major agricultural commodities and organizes purchase operations through public and cooperative agencies. The designated central nodal agencies intervene in the market for undertaking procurement operations with the objective that the market prices do not fall below the MSPs fixed by the Government.

Statement I

State-wise Production of Khariff Paddy during 2005-06

State	Production of Khariff Paddy ('000 Tonnes)
1	2
Andhra Pradesh	9593
Assam	4535
Bihar	5255
Chhattisgarh	5420
Gujarat	1391
Haryana	4481

1	2	1	2
Himachal Pradesh	197	Punjab	14273
Jammu and Kashmir	647	Rajasthan	285
Jharkhand	2486	Tamil Nadu	8285
Karnataka	3492	Uttar Pradesh	16509
Kerala	873	Uttaranchal	923
Madhya Pradesh	1914	West Bengal	16200
Maharashtra	3536	Others	2486
Orissa	7980	All-India	110754

Statement II

State	2001-02		2002-03	
	Cost of Production (C ₂) (Rs./Qtl)	Minimum Whole Sale Prices (Rs./Qtl)	Cost of Production (C ₂) (Rs./Qtl)	Minimum Whole Sale Prices (Rs./Qtl)
Andhra Pradesh	538.35	750.00	543.71	775.00
Assam	495.29	780.00	504.98	800.00
Bihar	406.54	700.00	484.08	675.00
Haryana	596.03	850.00	682.86	800.00
Karnataka	590.41	810.00	603.57	730.00
Kerala	597.91	1065.00	630.19	1070.00
Madhya Pradesh	592.74	850.00	690.26	825.00
Orissa	433.05	680.00	539.53	630.00
Punjab	392.91	900.00	498.12	900.00
Tamil Nadu	567.74	850.00	615.1	850.00
Uttar Pradesh	447.37	650.00	528.88	650.00
West Bengal	499.67	900.00	549.06	900.00

New Foodgrain Procurement System

171. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:
SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:

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

(a) whether there is any proposal to introduce a new system for foodgrain procurement to ensure rationalization of food subsidies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal to provide support to small and marginal farmers and to create buffer stocks with the foodgrains so procured to maintain price stability; and

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

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Under the existing Minimum Support Price Policy farmers, including small and marginal farmers, are already assured of a remunerative price for their produce.

[Translation]

Inclusion of Horticulture in Cooperative Sector

172. KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to include horticulture in the cooperative sector;

(b) if so, whether the Government has issued any guidelines to the State Governments in this regard; 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) The Horticulture is already included in the cooperative sector. The Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture has launched a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on "National Horticulture Mission (NHM)" during the Xth Plan with effect from 2005-06, with a total outlay of Rs. 2300.00 crores, for holistic development of horticulture sector, duly ensuring end to end approach having backward and forward linkages, covering production, post harvest management and marketing, with the active participation of all stake-holders at National and State level. The scheme of NHM would be implemented, inter-alia, through cooperative societies. The guidelines for the scheme were issued to the State Governments in June 2005. The Scheme also envisages to promote National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) model of cooperatives to ensure support and adequate return to farmers.

The National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) implements schemes for development of horticulture, particularly in the sectors of storage/cold storage and processing of horticultural commodities, through cooperatives.

The Ministry of Agriculture is also implementing Market Intervention Scheme (MIS), on the request of a State Government for procurement of horticultural commodities wherever their prices fall below the economic level. This scheme is implemented through National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED) as Central agency and State Cooperative Marketing Federations/Commodity Federations.

Production of Foodgrains

173. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN":
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production of foodgrains is likely to be higher during 2005-06 as compared to that in the previous year;

(b) if so, the estimated increase therein;

(c) the extent of additional area of land in which sowing has been undertaken this year in comparison to the previous year; and

(d) the area of that land in which sowing could not be undertaken this year too?

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) As per the 1st Advance Estimates for 2005-06, the kharif foodgrains production is estimated at 105.25 million tonnes which is about 2 million tonnes more than the kharif foodgrains production of 103.32 million tonnes for 2004-05 (4th Advance Estimates). As per the reports received from the states, as on 13.02.2006 the area under rabi foodgrains is higher than last year. Thus there is likely to be increase in foodgrains production this year as compared to last year if weather conditions remain favourable.

(c) and (d) The area under kharif foodgrains during 2005-06 (1st Advance Estimates) is estimated at 701.20 lakh hectares as compared to 708.44 lakh hectares during 2004-05 (4th Advance Estimates). As per the reports received from the states, as on 13.02.2006 the area under rabi foodgrains this year is 490.34 lakh hectares as against 477.68 lakh hectares last year. Thus, additional area under foodgrains this year is expected to be higher by about 5.42 lakh hectares as compared to last year.

[English]

Plantation/Protection of Mangroves

174. SHRI DHANUSKODI R. ATHITHAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has identified certain locations in the country for planting mangroves;

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

(c) whether the Government has any scheme for protecting the existing mangroves; 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) Yes, Sir. Mangroves require an appropriate mixture of saline & freshwater, and soft

substrate like mudflats to be able to grow and perpetuate. On a nation-wide basis, 38 sites have been identified as appropriate for planting of mangroves, and their conservation of management. The State-wise is enclosed as Statement.

Under the scheme on Conservation and Management of Wetlands and Mangroves, 100% Central Assistance is given to coastal States and Union Territories for implementing the approved Management Action Plans in the identified sites for components like survey & demarcation, mangrove planting, restoration & regeneration, livelihood supports for supplementary and alternate occupations, protection & surveillance measures, and education & awareness.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. At present, the mangroves are protected through a range of regulatory measures like Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, 1991; Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) studies under the EIA Notification, 1994 for specialized industries, and monitoring of compliance, of conditions imposed while according Environmental Clearance by Regional Offices of the Ministry and State Pollution Control Boards; and enforcement of emission and effluent standards by industries and other entities. Mangroves located within the notified forest areas are also covered by the provisions of the Indian Forest Act, 1927 and Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

Statement

State/Union Territories	Mangrove areas
1	2
West Bengal	1. Sunderbans
Orisas	2. Bhaitarkanika
	3. Mahanadi
	4. Subernarekha
	5. Devi
	6. Dhamra
	7. Mangrove Genetic Resources Centre
	8. Chilka

1	2
Andhra Pradesh	9. Coringa
	10. East Godavari
	11. Krishna
Tamil Nadu	12. Pichavaram
	13. Muthupet
	14. Ramnad
	15. Pulicat
	16. Kazhuveli
Andaman & Nicobar	17. North Andamans
	18. Nicobar
Kerala	19. Vembanad
	20. Kannur (Northern Kerala)
Karnataka	21. Coondapur
	22. Dakshin Kannada/Honnar
	23. Karwar
	24. Mangalore Forest Division
Goa	25. Goa
Maharashtra	26. Achra-Ratnagiri
	27. Devgarh-Vijay Durg
	28. Veldur
	29. Kundalika-Revdanda
	30. Mumbra-Diva
	31. Vikroli
	32. Shreevardhan
	33. Vaitarna
	34. Vasai-Manori
	35. Malvan
Gujarat	36. Gulf of Kutchh
	37. Gulf of Khambhat
	38. Dumas-Ubhrat

Specific Area Crop Varieties

175. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated any scheme to promote 'Specific area' crop varieties in various States of the country;

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

(c) the financial assistance made available to each State for implementation of this scheme during the last three years and current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) Sir, there is no scheme on 'Specific Area' crop varieties as such. However, assistance for distribution of quality seeds of improved varieties/hybrids relevant to the requirement of the farmers is provided to farmers under crop production oriented schemes under Macro Management Programme. Besides, the Technology Mission on Cotton and Integrated Scheme on Oilseeds, Pulses, Oilpalm and Maize (ISOPOM) is also under implementation for the promotion of various production technologies including high yielding varieties/hybrids.

Small Farms Agri-Business Consortium

176. SHRI ANANT GUDHE:
CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH:
SHRI K.C. PALANISAMY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Sector Scheme, namely the setting up of Small Farms Agri-Business Consortium (SFAC) is being implemented in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether most of the States have since formed State level SFACs;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps being taken to ensure that all the States form State level SFACs?

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 central sector scheme for setting up of Small Farmers' Agribusiness Consortium (SFAC) was implemented by Ministry of Agriculture during VIIIth and IXth Plan. Under the scheme national level SFAC was established at New Delhi and corpus funds were also made available to those State Governments which came forward with matching corpus for establishing State level SFACs as counter part agencies. An amount of Rs. 7.75 crore has been released by SFAC for setting up of 18 State level SFACs in the country.

(c) and (d) So far 18 States have established Small Farmers Agribusiness Consortium at State level. The States are Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Kerala, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Punjab, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttaranchal and Uttar Pradesh. Action for setting up of State level SFAC is to be taken by the concerned State Governments.

(e) The central sector scheme has been revised during Xth Plan period (2005-06) with the objective of promoting agribusiness project development in the country through venture capital assistance and assistance for preparation of detailed project reports (DPR). State Government can avail assistance provided under the scheme for strengthening of State level SFACs.

Potato Crops Damaged in Punjab

177. SARDAR SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA:
DR. RATTAN SINGH AJNALA:
SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether potato crops have been severely damaged due to cold and dipping temperature in many parts of the Punjab recently;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government has received any report from Government of Punjab in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith estimated loss of the crop;

(d) whether Government of Punjab has sought any sort of assistance for the farmers whose crops have been damaged;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. As per the information given by the Government of Punjab, the loss due to the cold and dipping temperature has been estimated at Rs. 34653 lakhs. As per National Horticultural Research and Development Foundation estimates, total area under potato crop in Punjab is 75,000 ha of which 70,000 ha is affected by cold wave. The potato production, which was estimated to be around 14.00 lakhs MT, will now be reduced to around 11.00 lakh MT due to cold wave damage.

(d) to (f) No proposal has been received from Government of Punjab for assistance to the potato farmers.

Promotion of Bamboo

178. SHRI HITEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain State Governments have sent project proposals regarding promotion of bamboo and its growth to the Union Government for clearance during the last three years and the current financial year;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the location to be covered thereunder, State-wise; and

(c) the action taken by the Government in this regard alongwith funds allocated for the same, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The areas selected for Bamboo Development Activities are spread throughout the various forest divisions of the States.

(c) Ministry of Agriculture is the Nodal Ministry for National Bamboo Mission. However, project proposals

received from the State Governments have been forwarded to the Planning Commission for funding, as there is no scheme in the Ministry of Environment and Forests under which the proposed projects could be funded. State Governments have further been advised to include the components of their projects in the respective Forest Development Agency (FDA) projects for central funding under the National Afforestation Programme of the Ministry.

Production Capacity of SAIL

179. SHRI UDAY SINGH:
SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) proposes to upgrade and increase the production capacity of some of its plants in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the SAIL is contemplating to set up two pellet plants and develop two major mechanized iron ore mines;

(d) the benefits likely to accrue therefrom;

(e) whether the investments likely to be made in such plants have been worked out;

(f) if so, the plans of SAIL to mobilize such funds; and

(g) the time by which such plants are likely to be upgraded?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (DR. AKHILESH DAS): (a) and (b) SAIL has prepared its Corporate plan up to 2011-12 which aims at reaching a production level of 22.6 MT of Hot Metal, including production by IISCO by 2012 from the present level of 13.2 MT in 2004-05. This plan aims at exploiting fully the potential of available and services, profitability by excellence in operation and cost reduction and leveraging skill and knowledge base of the Company's human resources.

The unit-wise planned capacity expansion is as follows:—

Plant	Hot Metal ('000 T)	
	2004-05 (Actual)	2011-12 (Plan)
Bhilai Steel Plant	4511	7000
Durgapur Steel Plant	2017	3202
Rourkela Steel Plant	1691	2988
Bokaro Steel Plant	4132	6500
IISCO	684	2550
VISL	168	334
Total Hot Metal	13203	22574

The capacity of Alloy Steels plant will be increased to 500,000 T of liquid steel from a level of 150,000 T in 04-05 and that of Salem Steel Plant to 358,000 T of saleable steel from a level of 149,000 T in 2004-05.

(c) and (d) To meet the enhanced requirement of iron ore for Hot Metal growth, new mines have been planned to be developed over and above augmentation of existing mines. Two major mechanized mines to be developed are Chiria Mines in Jharkhand state and Rowghat mines in Chhattisgarh state. SAIL is in the process of obtaining necessary clearances from the respective authorities for development of the same.

SAIL, in its Corporate plan has envisaged to install two pellet plants, one to supply to DSP, RSP & BSL and another to BSP. With the installation of the pellet plant the dependency on the iron ore lump will come down whose availability is lower than the Iron ore fines. Moreover due to high iron content and more uniform chemical composition because of fine grinding and upgrading during ore dressing, the flux and fuel requirement in the furnace will come down and slag volume will reduce which in turn will improve the productivity of Blast furnaces.

(e) to (g) The unit-wise investments have been worked out which are as follows:-

Plant	Total investment upto 2011-12 (Rs. in Crs.)
1	2
Bhilai Steel Plant	9000
Durgapur Steel Plant	2840

1	2
Rourkela Steel Plant	4590
Bokaro Steel Plant	6340
Alloy Steel Plant	460
VISL	299
Salem Steel Plant	1266
IISCO	8017
RMD	2170
Total Investment	34982

The financing of investments has been planned primarily from internal resources. Borrowing also will be resorted to if required keeping the overall debt to equity ratio within 1:1.

All the schemes and projects in SAIL Plants are scheduled to be completed by 2011-12 in a phased manner.

[Translation]

Low Cost Chinese Ginger in Indian Market

180. SHRI SURENDRA PRAKASH GOYAL:
SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID:
SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA:
DR. RAJESH MISHRA:
SHRI ARJUN SETHI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the availability of Chinese ginger at a lower cost in the Indian market is adversely affecting the ginger production in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the impact on the sale of indigenous ginger; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to safeguard the interests of ginger growers 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) to (c) No, Sir. The domestic prices of ginger are ruling high as indicated from the table given below:

Monthly average price of ginger in Kochi market during 2005 (Rupees/quintal)

Month	Price
January	8000
February	9500
March	12000
April	10000
May	12000
June	9700
July	9000
August	9000
September	9000
October	9000
November	10917
December	11833

As the quantity imported from China is comparatively low, no impact on the domestic prices is reflected in the domestic prices of ginger.

(d) The Government of India is implementing various promotional schemes for increasing production and productivity of horticultural crops including ginger, under the National Horticulture Mission launched recently and the Technology Mission on Development of Horticulture in North Eastern States.

Assistance to States for Irrigation Projects

181. SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT:
SHRI KAILASH NATH SINGH YADAV:
PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:
SHRI SHISHUPAL PATLE:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has sanctioned or proposes to sanction Rs. 850 crore for minor irrigation

projects to expand the area under cultivation as reported in 'Rashtriya Sahara' dated December 30, 2005;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the total number of minor and major irrigation projects completed or likely to be completed with the amount allocated during the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(c) whether the amount allocated during 2004-05 has been spent on such projects; and

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

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) and (b) Government of India launched a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on "Micro Irrigation" during the year 2005-06. The scheme was formulated by Ministry of Agriculture for implementation during 10th Five Year Plan with a total outlay of Rs. 2092 crore including Rs. 850 crore as Government of India share. The scheme proposes to increase the area of coverage under Drip and Sprinkler Irrigation in the country and does not relate to Minor and Major Irrigation Projects. The scheme envisages of 6.2 lakh ha. (3.8 lakh ha. Drip irrigation and 2.4 lakh ha. Sprinkler irrigation) during the Plan period.

(c) and (d) Since the scheme was approved in December, 2005, allocation of fund during 2004-05 does not arise.

Foot and Mouth Disease in Animals

182. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of animals have died due to foot and mouth disease in several States during the last three years;

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

(c) whether the Government is conducting any research regarding the said disease; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) and (b) Foot and mouth disease occurs sporadically throughout the country. The State-wise figures of animals that were affected and have died due to foot and mouth disease during the last three years are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Research on Foot and Mouth Disease is being carried out by the Project Directorate on Foot & Mouth Disease (PD-FMD), located at Mukteswar in Nainital district of Uttaranchal. The project Directorate has eight regional centers and 15 network units spread over 23 states and Union Territories of the country. The project has done research on molecular epidemiology of different strains of virus, diagnosis, antigenic relevance of vaccine strains used in the country, molecular genetic studies etc. Project Directorate was also standardized the indigenously different ELISA kits for detection of viral antigen and antibodies. Research on FMD vaccine production related activities is carried out at the Bangalore campus of Indian Veterinary Research Institute.

Statement

Animals affected and died (State-wise) due to Foot and Mouth Disease in India during 2003, 2004 & 2005

Sl.No.	Name of the State	Species	2003		2004		2005	
			Animals affected	Animals died	Animals affected	Animals died	Animals affected	Animals died
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Andhra Pradesh	bov	18843	192	1802	95	12459	226
		buf	—	—	20	0	—	—
		ovi/cap.	958	245	11	2	1204	29
		sui	20	1	—	—	—	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	bov	1663	22	3200	33	638	0
		buf	—	—	—	—	2	0
		ovi/cap	—	—	1	0	40	—
		sui	7	0	94	0	2	0
3.	Assam	bov	—	—	0	0	—	—
4.	Bihar	bov	—	—	—	—	—	—
5.	Chhattisgarh	bov	—	—	—	—	—	—
6.	Goa	bov	—	—	—	—	—	—
7.	Gujarat	bov	1076	24	291	0	126	8
		buf	473	13	208	10	63	0
		ovi/cap.	18	7	—	—	16	0
8.	Haryana	bov	13537	648	114	6	102	18
		buf	5112	2	579	10	—	—
		ovi/cap.	—	—	15	0	—	—
		sui	7	0	—	—	—	—
9.	Himachal Pradesh	bov	3874	117	—	—	372	11
		ovi/cap.	3570	105	—	—	68	0
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	bov	42540	538	876	0	8492	9
		ov/cap.	266	0	—	—	—	—
11.	Jharkhand	bov	—	—	—	—	—	—
12.	Karnataka	bov	4128	27	3189	42	15384	151
		buf	958	11	1232	12	5916	14
		ovi/cap.	259	3	447	16	10529	293
		sui	—	—	—	—	—	—
13.	Kerala	bov	—	—	—	—	73	3
		sui	—	—	—	—	320	59
14.	Madhya Pradesh	bov	—	—	681	1	—	—
15.	Maharashtra	bov	1294	15	—	—	—	—
16.	Manipur	bov	52	4	86	0	722	10

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
		buf	—	—	—	—	18	0
		ovi/cap.	—	—	—	—	7	0
		sui	—	—	—	—	18	0
17.	Meghalaya	bov	—	—	—	—	—	—
18.	Mizoram	bov	27	0	116	1	14	0
		sui	9	2	82	22	23	6
19.	Nagaland	bov	—	—	20	1	—	—
20.	Orissa	bov	11064	154	83	1	56	0
		ovi/cap.	127	34	—	—	—	—
21.	Punjab	bov	184	27	14	5	—	—
		buf	242	65	—	—	—	—
22.	Rajasthan	bov	4404	83	4799	36	720	7
		buf	267	2	11	5	1337	47
		ovi/cap.	213	0	6	0	1725	75
		sui	—	—	—	—	5	1
23.	Sikkim	bov	—	—	—	—	—	—
24.	Tamil Nadu	bov	336	12	35	2	31	7
25.	Tripura	bov	80	4	20	4	—	—
		sui	40	8	—	—	—	—
26.	Uttar Pradesh	bov	—	—	—	—	—	—
27.	Uttaranchal	bov	855	103	—	—	—	—
		buf	88	17	—	—	—	—
		ovi/cap.	36	0	—	—	—	—
28.	West Bengal	bov	13626	18	6566	0	9042	24
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	bov	—	—	—	—	—	—
30.	Chandigarh	bov	—	—	—	—	—	—
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	bov	—	—	—	—	—	—
32.	Daman and Diu	bov	—	—	—	—	—	—
33.	Delhi	bov	73	0	—	—	—	—
		ovi/cap	1	0	1	0	—	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
34.	Lakshadweep	bov	6	0	—	—	—	—
		ovi/cap.	—	—	—	—	—	—
35.	Pondicherry	bov	182	0	96	0	—	—
		ovi/cap.	35	0	—	—	—	—
		sui	—	—	6	0	—	—
Total		bov	116420	1956	21988	227	48231	474
		buf	7140	110	2050	27	7336	61
		ovi/cap	5488	378	501	18	13553	397
		sui	82	11	182	22	368	66

[English]

Generation of Agricultural Surplus

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

(a) whether agriculture sector has to generate surpluses for financing the economic growth in the country; and

(b) if so, the details regarding the policies being formulated by the Government for achieving the target?

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) For economic growth in the country, every sector including Agriculture plays a complementary role. For a sustainable growth in agriculture sector, a number of policies have been formulated. Major thrust of these policies is to broad base capital investment in agriculture and allied sectors. A series of policy initiatives have been taken in vital areas like credit, irrigation facilities, crop diversification, marketing infrastructure, horticulture and extension service. This process is being further strengthened through farm mechanization, agri-clinics and agri-business centres and extension services. Other areas for higher investment include micro-irrigation comprising drip and sprinkler irrigation, National Horticulture Mission having end-to-end approach with backward and forward

linkages covering research, production, post harvest management, processing and marketing, under one umbrella, in a integrated manner.

A number of capital-intensive schemes in agriculture including allied sectors of forestry, logging and fishing are being implemented with public-private partnership. Some of the major schemes/policy initiatives are as under:-

- Gramin Bhandaran Yojana
- Development/Strengthening of Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure, Grading and Standardization.
- 'Development of Marine Fisheries, Infrastructure and Post-Harvest Operations'.
- National Project for Cattle and Buffalo Breeding.

Losses in NAFED

184. DR. K. DHANARAJU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the NAFED is incurring losses every year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether a large number of employees are sitting idle and cause a heavy loss to the Government on account of salary bills;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps the Government proposes to take to offer VRS to such employees and cut the heavy salary bills?

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) NAFED suffered loss of Rs. 493.40 lakh during 1998-99 due to abnormal unavoidable market situation in the domestic and international market. NAFED has been earning profit since the year 1999-2000 as given below:

Year	Amount (Rs. in lacs)
1999-2000	199.64
2000-2001	481.25
2001-2002	354.11
2002-2003	414.30
2002-2004	318.85
2004-2005	1148.65

(c) and (d) NAFED is a National Level cooperative Marketing Federation registered under Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act, 2002. NAFED meets its administrative expenses including salary of its employees from its own resources. Government does not provide any grant or budgetary support to NAFED to meet its expenses on salary of its employees or other administrative expenses. It has been reported by NAFED that its employees and officials are fully engaged in various activities of the Federation relating to its own commercial operations and Minimum Support Price (MSP) undertaken on behalf of Government of India. NAFED is paid service charges on the procurement cost of oil seeds and pulses procured under Price Support Scheme at the rate of 1.5% for non perishable commodities and 2.5% for perishable commodities.

(e) NAFED, being an autonomous cooperative institution, has its own on going Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS). As the Government does not provide any financial support to NAFED for payment of salary to its employees, therefore, the question of VRS by the Government does not arise.

Home for Gir Loans

185. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:
SHRI ANANT NAYAK:

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

(a) whether there has been a difference of opinion between Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh on the issue of a second home for Gir Lions;

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

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Union Government to resolve the issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (c) No difference of opinion has been conveyed by the States of Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh to this Ministry. The State Government of Gujarat has been requested to provide a viable population of lions for reintroducing in the Kuno-Palpur Sanctuary of Madhya Pradesh, highlighting the imperative for an alternate home to ensure a safe future for endangered lions.

[Translation]

Stocks of Foodgrains

186. DR. CHINTA MOHAN:
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

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

(a) the total quantum of foodgrains stored and sold by the Food Corporation of India during the period between April to December during the years 2004-05 and 2005-06;

(b) whether the storage and sale of foodgrains has been less than the quantity estimated by the Food Corporation of India during the 2005-06; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD

SINGH): (a) The total quantum of foodgrains (Rice and Wheat) stored and sold by Food Corporation of India (FCI) from the Central Pool during period between April to December in the years 2004-05 and 2005-06 is given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) No, Sir. No such estimation is being done by FCI for storage of foodgrains and FCI is stocking foodgrains depending upon the procurement of foodgrains (Wheat & Rice) during the Rabi & Kharif marketing seasons. As regards quantity sold, FCI is selling foodgrains (wheat & rice) to the State Governments or their nominees as per the allocations made by Government under Targetted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and Other Welfare Schemes.

(c) Does not arise.

Statement

2004-05		(In lakh Tonnes)
(April, 2004 to Dec. 2004)	Total stocks of foodgrains (Rice & Wheat) in Central Pool stored by FCI	Total foodgrains (Rice & Wheat) sold by FCI from Central Pool
1	2	3
April, 2004	200.00	28.73
May, 2004	317.55	30.14
June, 2004	316.41	34.77
July, 2004	299.15	35.72
August, 2004	265.25	34.50
September, 2004	229.16	37.06
October, 2004	203.15	32.36
November, 2004	236.35	30.98
December, 2004	217.98	33.65
2005-06		
(April, 2005-Dec. 2005)		
April, 2005	174.07	34.25
May, 2005	280.83	33.15
June, 2005	277.26	42.35

1	2	3
July, 2005	245.25	36.19
August, 2005	209.71	34.36
September, 2005	179.94	34.80
October, 2005	151.39	26.80
November, 2005	193.90	23.79
December, 2005	187.61	32.13

[English]

Spurious Pesticides

187. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA:
PROF. VIJAY KUMR MALHOTRA:
SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR:
SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR:
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the availability of fake fertilizers is costing farmers in the country Rs. 50,000 crore as reported in Statesman dated 16th January, 2006;

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

(c) whether the Government has any check on the firms manufacturing fake fertilizers; and

(d) if so, the details 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 question refers to news-item which appeared in the 'Statesman' in its issue dated 16.01.2006. The said news-item relates to spurious pesticides and not fake fertilizers. Therefore, the reply, presuming the issue as relating to spurious pesticide is given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

(a) and (b) No such estimates are available with the Government.

(c) and (d) With the objective of having stringent check on the quality of pesticides being manufactured and sold in the country, Government of India enacted the Insecticides Act, 1968 and framed rules thereunder. The Act provides for the mandatory requirement of manufacturing license by each manufacturer/dealer of pesticides to be issued by the State Government concerned, in addition to the grant of registration by the Registration Committee. Registration is granted by the Registration Committee to any pesticide only after satisfying itself regarding the efficacy and safety thereof.

The enforcement of the various provision of the Act mainly rests with the State Governments. The Act provides for four important functionaries for this purpose *viz.* Licensing Officer, Insecticides Inspector and Insecticides Analyst and Appellate Authority.

Insecticide Inspector is responsible for drawal of pesticide samples from manufacturers and dealers. These samples are analysed in Pesticide Testing Laboratories (SPTLs/RPTLs) by the analysts. Failing samples are the basis for initiation of prosecution proceedings against offenders.

For testing of samples, 19 States/UT have set up 46 State Pesticides Testing Laboratories (SPTLs). Central Government have also set up Regional Pesticides Testing Laboratories (RPTLs) for augmenting the effort of the States on analysis of pesticides samples as also the Central Insecticides Laboratory perform the statutory function of referral analysis for prosecution cases.

Adequate penal provisions also exist under the Insecticides Act, 1968 for punishment to manufacturer/sellers of misbranded/spurious pesticides.

Total number of pesticides samples analysed and found sub-standard in State Pesticides Testing Laboratories (SPTLs) during last three years are as under:

Year	Samples analysed	Found sub-standard
2002-03	43595	1558
2003-04	40174	1446
2004-05	40617	1441

Further, the number of samples of pesticides analysed and found sub-standard in Regional Pesticides Testing laboratories during last three years are as under:

Year	Samples analysed	Found sub-standard
2002-03	1783	397
2003-04	1926	306
2004-05	2281	314

As per information received from State/UT Governments, the action taken against the manufacturers/dealers of misbranded samples during the said period are as under:

Year	Prosecution		License		Convicted
	Launched	Judgement Obtained	Suspended	Cancelled	
2002-03	731	205	232	497	19
2003-04	591	115	160	70	26
2004-05	739	235	241	617	116

Further, the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, Government of India has also constituted a Task Force to monitor the quality of pesticides being manufactured and sold in the country through deployment of Central Insecticides Inspectors for drawing samples of pesticides from manufacturer/dealers, etc. against whom specific complaints regarding supply of misbranded and spurious pesticides have been received.

[*Translation*]

Review of NAIS

188. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR:
SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS:
SHRI P.C. THOMAS:
SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has examined the recommendations of Joint Group constituted to study the improvement required in the existing National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) and to include more crops in NAIS;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which these are likely to be implemented;

(c) whether the Government has made any study regarding the benefits of NAIS or review of said scheme;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government proposes to take any steps to reimburse in case of personal loss or accidents of farmers; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (f) Yes, Sir. The Government of India constituted a Joint Group to study the improvements required in the existing Crop Insurance Schemes. The Joint Group has submitted its report and has given number of recommendations which *inter-alia* include reducing the Unit Area of insurance; improving the basis of calculation of threshold yield; higher level of indemnity; coverage of pre-sowing risk; post harvest losses and perennial horticultural crops for making improvement in the existing National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS). Besides, personal accident insurance cover was also recommended by the Group. Based on these recommendations the process of reviewing NAIS has already been initiated.

[English]

Introducing Tigers in Sariska Reserve

189. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE:
SHRI BHUPENDRASINH SOLANKI:
SHRI MAHESH KANODIA:

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

(a) whether the Government of Rajasthan has sent any project proposal to the Union Government for reintroduction of tigers in Sariska Reserve;

(b) if so, whether the Government has taken any action in this regard so far;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) to (d) Action has been initiated for providing Central Assistance to the State for relocation of villages from the core area of Sariska Tiger Reserve. This is an essential prerequisite for providing undisturbed habitat prior to tiger reintroduction, which is based on the assessment of tiger status in Sariska by the Wildlife Institute of India.

Fortification of Processed Food Products

190. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the majority of the processed food products are not fortified;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government proposes to make it mandatory to fortify products like biscuits, vegetable oil, bread, infant milk food, etc;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government proposes to organize workshops, conferences and awareness programmes to educate the manufacturers about the need to fortify processed products; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) and (b) Food Processing Industries are both in organized and unorganized sectors. It is also a de-licensed sector. Data on the basis for fortified characteristic of food is not centrally maintained.

(c) and (d) Use of vitamin-A is mandatory in Hydrogenated Vegetable Oil (vanaspati).

(e) and (f) The Ministry assists in organizing workshops, conferences in association with concerned organizations to popularize the concept of fortified foods and at the same time orient food industry into adopting fortification as a part of their production plan.

*[Translation]***ILO's Report on Child Labour**

191. SHRI SHISHUPAL PATLE:
 PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:
 SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT:

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

(a) whether the International Labour Organization (ILO) has expressed its concern regarding the condition of child labourers working in various industries in India as reported in the 'Rashtriya Sahara' dated January 18, 2006;

(b) if so, whether the Government has conducted any survey regarding security, prevalence of diseases and increasing cases of disability of such child labourers;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether proper health care is being provided by these industries to such child labourers; and

(e) if not, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) No, Sir. ILO has not published or is aware of any such report.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) and (e) The Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986 prohibits employment of children below the age of 14 years in 13 Occupations and 57 Processes which includes Beedi making, sericulture, manufacturing of glass, leather and brass goods, etc., as mentioned in the said article. The Union Government closely monitors the implementation of the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986 through the periodical reports submitted by the State Governments. The Children withdrawn from work are put in the special schools being run under the Scheme of National Child Labour Projects (NCLP) where these children are provided with education, vocational training, stipend, nutrition and health check-up.

Drought Affected States

192. SHRI TEK LAL MAHTO:
 SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some districts of Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand and certain other States are in the grip of worst drought this year;

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

(c) whether any Central team has visited the States to assess the drought situation there;

(d) if so, the findings thereof; and

(e) the relief measures extended to the affected States so far, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) During 2005-06, while Andhra Pradesh reported continuance of drought in 644 mandals, Jharkhand reported drought in all 22 districts and Rajasthan reported drought in 21 districts in the respective States.

(c) to (e) In response to the Memoranda for Drought Relief Assistance submitted by Jharkhand and Rajasthan, Inter-Ministerial Central Teams visited the States for assessment of the situation. The recommendations of the Central Team and subsequently by the Inter-Ministerial Group (IMG) was considered by the High Level committee (HLC), headed by the Union Agriculture Minister, in its meeting held on 6th February, 2006, and the HLC approved assistance as indicated below:

State	NCCF* (Rs. in crores)	Foodgrains for Relief Employment (Lakh MTs)
Jharkhand	107.37	0.20
Rajasthan	146.50	2.00

*Subject to adjustment of balances in the Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) of State concerned.

The allocation of foodgrains for Jharkhand is *ad-hoc*. For Rajasthan it is for March & April, 2006 and subject to review.

[English]

Assam Agriculture University

193. SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any scheme under the consideration of the Government for upgrading Assam Agriculture University, Jorhat;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has sanctioned any funds for this purpose and also under other centrally sponsored schemes in agriculture sector; and

(d) if so, the details thereof during the last three years and the current year, scheme-wise?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No funds have been sanctioned for upgrading Assam Agricultural University, Jorhat. However, funds have been sanctioned to the Assam Agricultural University under the various centrally sponsored schemes in agriculture sector including the scheme relating to Strengthening and Development of Agricultural Education.

(d) A statement showing the details of the funds sanctioned during the last three years and current year scheme-wise is enclosed.

Statement

The sanction amount under various schemes to Assam Agricultural University, Jorhat, during the last three years and current financial year 2005-06

Sl.No.	Name of the Scheme	Location of Centre	Total Three years 2002-03 to 2004-05 (Rs. in lakhs)	2005-06 (Rs. in lakhs)
1	2	3	4	5
A.	Crop Science Division			
1.	All India Coordinated Research Project, Rice	Jorhat	99.80	33.11
2.	All India Coordinated Research Project, Rice	Karimganj	5.81	3.50
3.	All India Coordinated Research Project, Wheat	Shillongani	30.20	13.15
4.	All India Coordinated Research Project Maize	Jorhat	26.09	8.27
5.	All India Coordinated Research project, Forage	Jorhat	55.43	23.29
6.	All India Network Project on Jute and Allied Fibres	Nawgaon	54.02	21.94
7.	All India Coordinated Research Project on Sugarcane	Burlikson	32.93	10.40
8.	All India Coordinated Research Project on Honey Bee	Jorhat	27.40	9.80
9.	All India Coordinated Research Project on Biological Control	Jorhat	33.80	11.70

1	2	3	4	5
10.	All India Coordinated Research Project on Rodent Control	Jorhat	22.50	8.10
11.	All India Coordinated Research Project on Nematodes	Jorhat	55.17	19.15
12.	All India Coordinated Research Project on White Grubs	Jorhat	13.98	5.75
13.	Role of vascular arbuscular Mycorrhizal fungi in the management of root knot nematode <i>Meloidogyne incognita</i> on pulse crops	Jorhat	8.10	2.18
14.	Compatibility and persistence of <i>Pasteuria penetrans</i> in a sequential crop eco-system	Jorhat	8.17	3.89
15.	Investigation of <i>Pasteuria penetrans</i> a bacterial parasite of <i>Meloidogyne incognita</i> infecting pulse crops	Jorhat	2.44	0.00
16.	All India Coordinated Research Project on Soybean	Jorhat	18.75	8.06
17.	All India Coordinated Research Project on Rapeseed and Mustard	Shillongani	30.13	12.00
18.	All India Coordinated Research Project on Mullarp	Shillongani	42.04	10.51
19.	All India Coordinated Research Project on Chickpea	Shillongani	22.89	5.28
B.	Agriculture Extension Division			
1.	Krishi Vigyan Kendras	Jorhat	662.60	446.20
C.	Engineering Division			
1.	All India Coordinated Research Project on Farm Implements & Machinery	Jorhat	21.65	7.00
2.	All India Coordinated Research Project on Renewable Energy Sources	Jorhat	14.79	8.39
3.	All India Coordinated Research Project on Utilisation of Animal Energy	Jorhat	36.97	18.54
4.	All India Coordinated Research Project on Post Harvest & Technology	Jorhat	99.33	55.00
D.	Horticulture Division			
1.	Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticultural in NEH State	Jorhat	271.00	23.70
E.	Education Division			
1.	Development Grant	Jorhat	158.61	708.50
2.	RAWE	Jorhat	0.00	41.50
F.	Natural Resource Management Division			
	All India Coordinated Research Projects			
1.	Agrometeorology	Jorhat	20.09	10.00

1	2	3	4	5
2.	Weed Control	Jorhat	75.36	17.00
3.	Cropping System Research	Jorhat	105.52	31.71
4.	Dryland Agriculture	Jorhat	39.87	35.00
5.	Water Management	Jorhat	64.31	27.50
6.	Agroforestry	Jorhat	35.82	15.32
7.	Net Work on Biofertilizer	Jorhat	9.71	5.90
Ad hoc Schemes AAU, Jorhat				
1.	Recycling and management of crop residue in rice based cropping system under high rainfall situation in acidic soil of Assam	Jorhat	10.83	2.40
2.	Systematic study on weed seeds of India	Jorhat	15.91	3.17
3.	Integrated land use planning of Char areas of Assam using remote sensing and GIS techniques	Jorhat	0.00	8.09
4.	Sulphur fertilization for increased yield and quality of rapeseed rice Assam	Jorhat	5.63	0.00
5.	Soil characterization and resource management of acid soil regions for increasing productivity	Jorhat	4.94	1.06
G. NATP*				
1.	Production System Research (PSR)	Jorhat	434.24	
2.	Technology Assessment and Refinement through IVLP (TAR-IVLP)	Jorhat	41.22	
3.	Mission Mode Sub-projects—AAU Jorhat			
	Agricultural Faculty	Jorhat	122.90	
	Animal Science Faculty	Jorhat	61.20	
	Fish Faculty	Jorhat	15.05	
	Agricultural Engineering	Jorhat	32.50	
4.	Under O&M Component	Jorhat	91.00	
5.	Under CGP sub-projects	Jorhat	465.22	
H. Animal Science Division				
1.	All India Coordinated Research Project on Pig, AAU	Khanapara	73.97	21.1
2.	Network Project on Buffalo	Khanapara	67.50	15.75

*No scheme sanctioned to Assam Agricultural University (AAU), Assam under NATP during the current financial year 2005-06

1	2	3	4	5
3.	All India Coordinated Research Project on Improvement of Feed Resource and Nutrient Utilization in Raising Animal Production	Khanapara	70.58	7.50
4.	All India Coordinated Research Project on FMD	Khanapara	39.18	16.00
5.	Network Programme on Hemorrhagic Septicaemia	Khanapara	18.40	6.90
Under Ad-hoc Schemes				
1.	Development of Recombinant monoculture for fermented dairy products	Jorhat	11.58	0.00
2.	Production of raw-dried carabeef sausage	Jorhat	9.92	0.00
3.	Use of starter culture for extended storage of communicated chevon	Jorhat	4.54	0.00
4.	Studies on type characterization of Nageshwari duck of Assam	Khanapara	5.95	0.00
5.	Studies on seminal attributes in Assam local beetal and crossbred bucks and evolving technology for improving the quality of frozen semen	Khanapara	7.87	0.00
6.	Physical and biochemical studies on teman—a hybrid of mithun and bala (local cattle)	Khanapara	7.88	2.88
7.	Studies on hydatidosis cystercocosis of different animals of north eastern region	Jorhat	33.46	0.00
8.	Epidemiology pathology and host immune response of rota virus infection in pig	Jorhat	11.09	0.00
9.	Filarial dermatitis in cattle and buffalo in Assam with special reference to epidemiology and control of humpsore	Jorhat	12.79	0.00
10.	Epidemiology pathology and Treatment of canine prevovirus infection in Assam	Jorhat	18.30	0.00
11.	Effect of probiotics and enzymes on the intestinal mucosa of poultry	Jorhat	6.19	0.00

Declaration of Onion as Essential Commodity

194. SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to declare onion as an essential commodity under the provisions of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955; 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 TASLIMUDDIN): (a) and (b) "Onion" was declared as essential commodity *vide* Central Notification dated 29.06.1999 and subsequently removed from the list of essential commodities *vide* Central Notification dated 25.11.2004. The decision to remove "Onion" from the list of essential commodities was taken as part of the policy evolved by the Committee

comprising of some Union Ministers and Chief Ministers constituted during the Conference of Chief Ministers on "WTO and Agriculture" held on 21st May, 2001. The said Committee had decided to dismantle all unnecessary and redundant controls on movement and distribution, particularly of agricultural commodities, under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

Forward Integration of Alloy Steel Plant

195. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to provide forward integration for Durgapur Alloy Steel Plant;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the fund allocated to Durgapur Steel Plant in the year 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 for its revival?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (DR. AKHILESH DAS): (a) and (b) Towards forward integration schemes for Alloy Steel Plant (ASP), Durgapur an amount of Rs. 281 crore (approx.) has been identified in Steel Authority of India's Corporate Plan for implementation based on techno-economic feasibility. The details are given below:

		(Rs. in crore)
	Forward Integration Schemes	Amount (approx.)
(i)	Bloom/Round Caster	100
(ii)	Blooming & Billet Mill Revamping	75
(iii)	Heat Treatment facilities	25
(iv)	Conditioning Shop	35
(v)	Forge Shop	46
Total		281

(c) does not arise.

(d) During the period 2003-2004 to '2005-2006 (April 2005-January 2006), Rs. 19.53 crore has been allocated to Alloy Steel Plant for funding its capital expenditure as detailed below:

(Rs. in crores)

Year	Amount
2003-04	1.36
2004-05	8.11
2005-06 (April' 05—January'06)	10.06

Grazing Land

196. SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total area of grazing land available for animal feed and fodder in the country at present, State-wise; and

(b) the steps proposed to be taken to increase the area under grazing land 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 TASLIMUDDIN): (a) The total area under permanent pastures and other grazing lands, Statewise, is given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) This Department is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Fodder Development Scheme under which 100% Central grant is provided for Grassland Development including Grass reserves (one unit of 10 ha. @ Rs. 10 lakhs) to the Department of Animal Husbandry/Department of Forest of the States. The State Governments make available the Central funds to the implementing agencies such as Village Panchayats/self help groups/NGOs, etc. to develop grassland in common property resources. The monitoring of implementation of the scheme is done by the State Government.

Statement

Area under permanent pastures and other grazing lands—1999-2000 (State-wise)*

Sl.No.	States/UTs	Area (000 ha.)
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	682
2.	Assam	167

1	2	3
3.	Bihar	105
4.	Goa	1
5.	Gujarat	849
6.	Haryana	22
7.	Himachal Pradesh	1472
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	126
9.	Karnataka	979
10.	Kerala	⊙
11.	Madhya Pradesh	2524
12.	Maharashtra	1341
13.	Manipur	—
14.	Mizoram	23
15.	Orissa	534
16.	Punjab	4
17.	Rajasthan	1714
18.	Sikkim	69
19.	Tamil Nadu	123
20.	Uttar Pradesh	296
21.	West Bengal	5
22.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	4
23.	Chandigarh	—
24.	Dadra and Nagar Havell	1
25.	Daman and Diu	⊙
26.	Delhi	⊙
27.	Lakshadweep	—
28.	Pondicherry	⊙
All India		11041

* Provisional

⊙ Below 500 ha.

*[Translation]***Development of Pulses**

197. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:
SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any remarkable contribution has been made by the scientific institutions/organizations in development of new varieties of pulses; and

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years and the current year?

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

(b) During the period, following 6 varieties of chickpea, 5 varieties each of pigeonpea and mungbean, 1 variety of urdbean, 2 varieties of lentil, 3 varieties of fieldpea and 1 variety of rajmash have been developed by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research:

Crop	Varieties
Chickpea	Haryana Kabuli Chana 3 (HK 98-155), Anvita (RSG 931), Aadhar (RSG 963), BGM 547, Phule G, 9425-9 and BGD 128
Pigeonpea	GAUT 001E, GTH 1, CORG 9701, MAL 13 (Malaviya Chamatkar) and NDA 98-1
Mungbean	HUM 16, NDM 97-1, COGG 912, TM 99-37 and IPM 99-125 (Meha)
Urdbean	KU 96-3
Lentil	VL Masur 507 and HUL 57
Fieldpea	IPFD 1-10, IPFD-99-13 and IPF 99-25
Rajmash	IPR 98-5

*[English]***Reforms in Agriculture**

198. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:
SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to undertake reforms in the agriculture sector by amending relevant laws including one to allow farmers to store their produce in warehouses and sell it at an appropriate time;

(b) if so, whether accredited agricultural godowns would be set for the purpose; and

(c) if so, the time by which such reforms are likely to be undertaken?

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. With a view to introduce a negotiable warehouse receipt system in the country for agricultural commodities, Department of Food and Public Distribution has drafted a Warehousing (Development and Regulation) Bill, 2005 in consultation with all the stakeholders, and concerned Ministries/Departments. The Bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 7th December, 2005 and has been referred to Standing Committee on Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution for its examination.

Take Over of Fertilizer Plant

199. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Krishak Bharati Cooperative Limited (KRIBHCO) has finalized an agreement with Oswal Groups of Company to take over their fertilizer plant;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith terms and conditions of the agreement;

(c) whether proper formalities and established norms were not followed in the said agreement;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether KRIBHCO has already paid Rs. 400 crores to the Oswal Groups against this agreement; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) Krishak Bharati Cooperative Limited (KRIBHCO) through M/s. KRIBHCO Shyam Fertilizers Ltd. (KSFL) has taken over the Shahjahanpur plant of Oswal Chemicals and Fertilizers Ltd. (OCFL).

(b) The details and terms and conditions of the agreement are given below:

- The acquisition has been done through a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) at a consideration of Rs. 1900 crore.
- A new joint venture company named KSFL was incorporated on December 8, 2005
- KRIBHCO will have 60% of the equity in the KSFL and will have all the Management control.
- KRIBHCO will have the entire marketing rights of all the products of the KSFL.
- As per the Agreement to Sell, the assets of Shahjahanpur plant are to be transferred by OCFL free from all encumbrances in favour of KSFL.
- All the liabilities till the date of transfer shall be the responsibility of OCFL.

(c) and (d) The approval of the Board and General Body for the acquisition of the assets of Shahjahanpur plant and formation of a subsidiary company by the name of KSFL were taken by KRIBHCO as per the provisions of the Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act, 2002.

(e) and (f) As per information provided by KRIBHCO, out of a total equity of Rs. 700 crore of KSFL, KRIBHCO has paid Rs. 420 crore as its share of equity in KSFL and the balance amount of Rs. 280 crore has been contributed by the other Joint Venture Partner. For the remaining amount, loans have already been arranged.

Cultivation of World Level Quality Cotton

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

(a) the details of efforts being made by the Government to encourage the cultivation of world level quality cotton in the country;

(b) whether the union Government proposes to establish a Cotton Research Centre in the country; and

(c) if so, the time by which this Cotton Research Centre is likely to be established?

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 order to increase production, productivity and improve quality of cotton, Technology Mission on Cotton (TMC) is under implementation since 2000-01 in 13 States *viz.* Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. Technology Mission on Cotton has four mini Missions. Mini Mission-I deals with the research and Development of technologies and is implemented by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research. Mini Mission-II deals with the development programmes for increasing production and productivity of cotton. It is implemented by the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation. Mini Mission-III deals with development of marketing infrastructure by undertaking activities like construction of market yards, auction centres, grading facilities, laboratories for testing of quality cotton etc. The upgradation and modernization of ginning and pressing factories to improve quality of cotton is undertaken under Mini Mission-IV. Mini Mission-III & IV are implemented by the Ministry of Textiles.

(b) For research on cotton the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has already established Central institute for Cotton Research (CICR) at Nagpur with regional stations at Sirsa (Haryana and Coimbatore (Tamil Nadu). The cotton research is also conducted through the Centres of All India coordinated Cotton Improvement Project located at different State Agricultural Universities in the country.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Inclusion of Local Taxes In Maximum Retail Price of Drugs

201. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to include local taxes in the maximum retail price of the drugs in order to curb arbitrariness of drug sellers; and

(b) if so, the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Based on the recommendations of the Committee under the Chairmanship of Joint Secretary (Pharmaceuticals) and the Task Force under the Chairmanship of Dr. Pronab Sen, Principal Advisor, Planning Commission as well as feedback received from other stakeholders the Government have formulated a Draft National Pharmaceutical Policy, 2006 (Part-A—excluding pricing) which has been circulated to various departments/stakeholders seeking their comments (including inclusion of local taxes in maximum retail price of drugs). Based on the comments received the Government is likely to finalize the new Policy shortly.

[English]

Rehabilitation of Animals

202. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has launched any scheme for the rehabilitation of animals like lion, tigers etc. which are banned in shows as more circus owners start surrendering their animals to the Central Zoo Authority;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to protect the rare wild animals which lacks proper care and attention?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The Ministry of Environment and Forests through the Central Zoo Authority established five Rescue Centres at Vandalur (Chennai), Tamil Nadu; Bannerghatta, (Bangalore), Karnataka; Nahargarh (Jaipur), Rajasthan; Visakhapatnam & Tirupati in Andhra Pradesh for rehabilitating lions, tigers, etc. banned in shows of circuses. Till date 313 lions and 82 tigers, 10 bears, 20 monkeys and 4 panthers have been rehabilitated in these rescue centres. Two more rescue centres at South Khairabari (Cooch Behar) West Bengal and Van Vihar Zoo (Bhopal) are coming up to accommodate around 48 lions and tigers which are still in possession with the circuses.

(c) The Central Zoo Authority provides financial assistance on 100% basis to the major recognized public sector zoos for improvement of housing and healthcare facilities, so that proper care and welfare of the rare wild animals are met in captivity, thereby ensuring their long term survival.

State Seed Certification Agencies

203. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Bill for bringing the State Seed Certification Agencies under one umbrella is under consideration of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the objectives behind the move and progress made towards clearance of the Bill; and

(d) the response received from various State Governments and the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) There is a provision to establish State Seed Certification Agency for the State as well as accreditation for organization/individuals to carryout the functions of the seed certification under the proposed Seeds Bill, 2004.

(c) and (d) The objective of the Seeds Bill, 2004 is to regulate the quality of seeds for sale, import and export

and to facilitate production and supply of quality seeds and matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. State Governments by and large have supported the Bill. The Bills is under the consideration of the Parliament Standing Committee on Agriculture.

[Translation]

Unemployed Engineering and Medical Graduates

204. SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE:
SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE:
SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:

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

(a) whether the number of unemployed medical and engineering graduates is increasing continuously during the recent past;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of unemployed medical and engineering graduates in the country, State-wise; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to remove unemployment among the youths of this category?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) to (c) Estimates of employment and unemployment in the country are obtained through labour force surveys conducted by National Sample Survey Organisation. Last such survey for which results are available pertains to the year 1999-2000. As per these surveys, unemployment rate among educated youth (Age Group 15-29 years) with technical education (those having additional diplomas or certificates in Agriculture, Engineering/Technology, Medicine, crafts and other subjects) on usual status basis has marginally gone down from around 27.3% in 1993-94 to 23.7% in 1999-2000. State-wise details are not available.

(d) With the economy expected to grow at around 8% per annum and the Government emphasis on development of infrastructure, better health services, emphasis to IT and communication sectors etc., substantial employment opportunities for engineers and medical graduates are likely to be created in the economy.

*[English]***Fertilizer Producing Units**

205 SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the condition of most of the fertilizer producing units in the country is not healthy;

(b) if so, the names of the units in which operation had been suspended/discontinued during 2004-05 and 2005-06 till date alongwith the reason therefor; and

(c) the quantity of fertilizers produced by functional fertilizer units during the above period against their installed capacity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) Capacity utilization of operational plants was 94.0% of nitrogen & 71.9% of phosphate during 2004-05 and 96.7% of nitrogen & 90.3% of phosphate during 2005-06 till January, 2006 which is highest ever so far.

(b) Two urea units suspended production during 2004-05 and 2005-06 namely RCF-Trombay-V due to shortage of natural gas and DIL-Kanpur due to financial constraints.

(c) the quantity of fertilizers produced by major fertilizers units during 2004-05 and 2005-06 till date alongwith installed capacity in nutrient terms is given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Unit-wise installed capacity and production of major fertilizer units in nutrient terms during 2004-05 and 2005-06 till January, 2006

('000' MT)

Name of Company/ Plant	Annual Installed Capacity (1-04-05)	Production	
		2004-05	2005-06 April, 05-January, 06
1	2	3	4
Nitrogen			
Public Sector:			
NFL: Nangal-II	220.1	227.2	206.2
NFL: Bhatinda	235.5	246.8	211.2
NFL: Panipat	235.3	244.4	198.8
NFL: Vijaipur	397.7	426.2	367.0
NFL: Vijaipur Expn.	397.7	432.2	381.0
BVFCL: Namrup-II	110.4	0.0	7.6
BVFCL: Namrup-III	144.9	94.8	75.3
FACT: Udyogamandal	77.0	62.3	51.1
FACT: Cochin-II	97.0	94.7	97.0
RCF: Trombay	45.0	52.5	51.7

1	2	3	4
RCF: Trombay-IV	75.1	46.4	35.9
RCF: Trombay-V	151.8	0.0	0.0
RCF: Thal	785.1	823.4	677.7
MFL: Chennai	366.7	270.9	161.6
Cooperative Sector			
IFFCO: Kandla	351.5	362.5	298.7
IFFCO: Kalol	250.5	255.1	209.4
IFFCO: Phulpur-I	353.5	260.0	212.6
IFFCO: Phulpur-II	397.7	397.8	361.8
IFFCO: Aonla-I	397.7	397.7	321.6
IFFCO: Aonla-II	397.7	398.0	349.0
KRIBHCO: Hazira	795.4	830.6	688.4
Private Sector			
GSFC: Vadodara	248.1	235.4	200.7
GSFC: Sikka-I	105.8	51.5	43.0
GSFC: Sikka-II	71.3	50.3	43.1
CFL: Vizag	124.0	164.9	165.2
SFC: Kota	174.3	174.3	154.3
DIL: Kanpur	332.1	0.0	17.1
ZIL: Goa	288.7	307.6	356.6
SPIC: Tuticorin	370.7	385.7	356.6
MCF: Mangalore	207.2	192.5	187.6
CFL: Ennore	41.2	44.9	36.2
GNFC: Bharuch	356.7	371.9	314.2
TAC: Tuticorin	16.0	18.8	17.3
TCL: Haldia	121.5	78.1	83.3
GFCL: Kakinada	120.6	146.4	139.2
IGCL: Jagdishpur	397.7	453.2	377.5
Hindalco Inds. Ltd.: Dahej	72.0	51.5	32.0

1	2	3	4
DFPCL: Taloja	52.9	20.6	9.5
NFCL: Kakinada-I	274.8	302.2	266.4
NFCL: Kakinada-II	274.8	338.2	256.3
CFCL: Gadepan-I	397.7	442.2	385.5
CFCL: Gadepan-II	397.7	411.4	369.1
TCL: Babrala	397.7	445.4	384.3
OCF: Shahjahanpur	397.7	396.1	340.3
OCF: Paradeep	325.2	114.6	48.0
PPL: Paradeep	129.6	184.3	184.0
Phosphate			
Public Sector:			
FACT: Udyogamandal	29.7	20.2	22.7
FACT: Cochin-II	97.0	94.7	97.0
RCF: Trombay	45.0	52.5	51.7
RCF: Trombay-IV	75.1	46.4	35.9
MFL: Chennai	142.8	52.5	28.0
Cooperative Sector			
IFFCO: Kandla	910.0	938.3	777.9
Private Sector			
GSFC: Vadodara	75.9	62.1	71.2
GSFC: Sikka-I	270.5	131.7	110.2
GSFC: Sikka-II	182.2	128.8	110.8
CFL: Vizag	166.0	216.2	197.8
ZIL: Goa	197.4	178.0	174.4
SPIC: Tuticorin	218.5	176.9	164.8
MCF: Mangalore	82.8	84.3	64.6
CFL: Ennore	48.0	49.6	42.1
GNFC: Bharuch	28.5	35.9	33.1

1	2	3	4
TCL: Haldia	310.5	220.6	230.4
GFCL: Kakinada	308.2	373.9	357.8
Hindalco: Dahej	184.0	131.7	81.7
DFPCL: Taloja	52.9	20.6	9.5
OCF: Paradeep	802.8	282.7	73.8
PPL: Paradeep	331.2	407.3	412.3

Clearance of Project Report under NRAP

206. SHRI TUKARAM GANGADHAR GADAKH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Maharashtra has submitted a project proposal for environmental clearance under the National River Action Plan;

(b) if so, the details of the project proposals and cost thereof;

(c) the stage at which clearance of the different projects stands at present; and

(d) the time by which the different projects are likely to be cleared by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (c) No project proposal has been received from the Government of Maharashtra in this Ministry for environmental clearance under the National River Conservation Plan. However, the Government of Maharashtra has submitted river pollution abatement project reports for Kolhapur town along river Panchganga (costing Rs. 49.74 crore), Wai town along river Krishna (costing Rs. 53.83 crore), Pandharpur town along river Bhima (costing Rs. 26.57 crore), Prakasha town along river Tapi (costing Rs. 4.62 crore), Paithan town along river Godavari (costing Rs. 15.72 crore) and Nawapur town along river Rangawali (costing Rs. 4.55 crore) for approval under the National River Conservation Plan during the Tenth Five year Plan. These projects could not be considered for approval as the outlay available under the Tenth Five Year Plan is less than the

sanctioned cost of projects already approved under the National River Conservation Plan. However, it was suggested that the State Government may undertake these projects out of the State Plan provisions by seeking necessary funds from the Planning Commission including exploring the possibility of initiating the projects with public-private partnership. Subsequently, on seeking the comments on project reports related to the towns of Pandharpur, Prakasha and Paithan by the Planning Commission, these were examined in the Ministry and found to be lacking in important details and requisite information. Accordingly, the Government of Maharashtra has been intimated to revise these project reports.

(d) Does not arise.

Cutting of Sundarbans Forest

207. SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of people are entering the protected forests of Sundarbans every day and are cutting and burning trees in order to get wild honey; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed/taken to check this trend?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) The State has informed that honey collection is a seasonal activity in the Sundarbans Tiger Reserve, and only authorised permit holders are allowed to collect honey from the buffer area of the reserve during the period from April to June months.

(b) The safeguards taken by the State to check authorised honey collection are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

- (i) All fishing permits are suspended during the honey collection period to ensure that no illegal smuggling of honey out of Sunderbans forest taken place.
- (ii) All protection camps under Sunderbans Tiger Reserve intensify patrolling activity to check smuggling of honey and entry of unauthorised persons.
- (iii) Special patrolling teams are also formed and placed at strategic locations to check entries of unauthorised person inside the forest area.

[*Translation*]

Employment in Bokaro Steel Plant

208. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of displaced persons given employment in Bokaro Steel Plant after 1992;
- (b) the number of applicants yet to be provided with employment; and
- (c) the time by which all the displaced persons are likely to be given jobs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (DR. AKHILESH DAS): (a) 1304 displaced persons have been given employment in Bokaro Steel Plant (BSL) from 01.01.1992.

(b) and (c) The employment to displaced persons in Bokaro Steel Plant is being given in a regulated manner as per the norm given by Hon'ble High Court, Jharkhand. Bokaro Steel Plant has provided employment to 195 displaced persons out of the list of 207 Category-I displaced persons verified by the Director Project Land & Rehabilitation (DPLR), Government of Jharkhand. The remaining 12 displaced persons do not conform to the suitability criteria due to various reasons like family member already employed in BSL, death of the candidate, Panchat change, medically unfit for the post, etc.

A list of approximately 970 Category-II displaced persons has been sent to DPLR for verification. On receiving the relevant information and requisite details

from DPLR, the process for employment as per the Court orders would be started.

Revival of Sugar Mills

209. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any proposal with the Government for the review of sugar policy in view of availability of surplus sugar in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the progress made therein; and
- (c) the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Supply of Poor Quality Rice

210. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether sub-standard quality of rice has been supplied to the Southern States from the godowns of Food Corporation of India (FCI) in Punjab;
- (b) if so, the details of officers and rice mills held responsible therefor;
- (c) the action taken by the Government against the guilty officers and rice mills to compensate the losses suffered;
- (d) the number of incidents of irregularities committed by FCI officials and merchants reported during the last three years; and
- (e) the steps being taken by the Government to check such cases in the future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE

MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) Against the total quantity of 39.91 lakh MTs of rice dispatched during November, 2004 to October, 2005 to the Southern States from Punjab, quality complaints were received for a total quantity of 3,52,208 MTs. Out of this quantity, for which quality complaints were received, a quantity of 3,06,401 MTs has been issued and only 45807 MTs remains to be under quality complaint, which comes to 1.15% against total dispatch of 39.91 lakhs MTs.

(b) As informed by FCI, 11 Category-I and 71 Category-II/III officials have been identified responsible for acceptance/dispatch of sub-standard (BRL/beyond PFA limit) rice. CBI has also registered three FIRs bearing No. RCCHG 2006, A0001, 0002 and 0003 dated 7.1.2006 against 83 officers/officials of the FCI including the then SRM, Punjab and 330 Rice Millers identified by them for acceptance dispatch/delivery of sub standard rice during KMS 2004-05.

(c) As per the information received from FCI, of the 11 Category-I and 71 Category-II/III officers, penalty of dismissal from the services and forfeiture of gratuity, to partially off set the losses suffered by the Corporation have already been imposed upon one Category-I Officer. Business dealing with 88 Rice Millers for the delivery of poor quality rice has been banned. Various other Rice Millers identified for delivery of poor quality of rice have given unqualified undertaking for replacement of such stocks with the stocks conforming to specifications and replacement by them is in progress. Therefore ban against them was revoked by General Manager (Pb.)

(d) As informed by FCI in all 1481 chargesheets have been issued to the officers/officials of FCI for acceptance/dispatch of sub-standard stocks during the last three years.

(e) To avoid the recurrence of such incidence, following steps have been taken:

- (i) A large number of officers/officials who were found responsible for acceptance of BRL/beyond PFA limit stocks were either placed under suspension or transferred out of region or banned for acceptance of rice besides regular disciplinary action against them, by FCI.
- (ii) Some procedural charges have also been made by the FCI during the KMS 2005-06 and teams

for Regional Office/District Office constituted for collection/drawal of samples of rice stocks being accepted for analysis in the concerned Labs and immediate action is taken on detection of BRL stocks.

- (iii) Notorious Centers and millers have been identified and Area Managers/Assistant General Managers (QC) have been instructed by FCI to keep a strict vigil on them in order to ensure that no sub standard rice is delivered by unscrupulous millers in connivance with the staff/officers of the FCI.
- (iv) The inspection reports of concerned officers of FCI relating to procurement of rice are being closely monitored in the Regional/Zonal offices.
- (v) Frequent checking of procurement centers including rice procurement by various squads including vigilance squads and joint teams of officers of FCI and the Ministry have been ensured.
- (vi) As a result of above steps, no destination quality complaint against stocks of rice procured/dispached ex Punjab region, during the month of October, November and December, 2005 during KMS 2005-06 have been received.

(English)

Diversion of Foodgrains Meant for A.P.L. Families

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

- (a) whether the subsidy given on foodgrains has risen much faster for Above Poverty Line (APL) category as compared to Below Poverty Line (BPL) category;
- (b) if so, the break-up thereof during the last three years;
- (c) whether the Government is considering any proposal for excluding APL families from Public Distribution System (PDS);
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether most of the foodgrains meant for APL families are sold in black market; and

(f) if so, the number of fair price shops in Delhi booked for black marketing PDS foodgrain 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 (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) The details of food subsidy released during the last three years for foodgrains distributed to families above poverty line (APL) and for the families below poverty line (BPL) and increase over the previous year is as under:

Year	Subsidy released (Rs. in crore)		Increase over previous year (Rs. in crore)	
	BPL	APL	BPL	APL
2002-03	6280.80	949.15	—	—
2003-04	9950.05	1655.18	3669.25	706.03
2004-05	12580.26	2791.79	2630.21	1136.61

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f) An evaluation study of Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) conducted by the Planning Commission covering eighteen major States has observed that out of the subsidized foodgrains under the TPDS there is leakage of about 19.71 percent at Fair Price Shops (FPS) level and about 16.67 per cent of the foodgrains is diverted through ghost cards. In addition, the TPDS suffers from diversion of subsidized grains to unintended beneficiaries (above poverty line (APL) households) because of errors of inclusion. However, the report is based on old primary data of 2001-2002. As several changes like introduction of Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY), change in the scale of issue, etc. have taken place since then, it is difficult to totally rely on this report.

As informed by the Government of NCT of Delhi, the number of Fair Price Shops (FPS) booked in Delhi during the last three years are 75. In addition, departmental action has also been taken against 791 FPSs during the last three years.

Unemployment Rate

212. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the unemployment rate in the country has gone up in the recent years compared to 2000 figures;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the percentage of rural and urban unemployment and the reasons for this high percentage; and

(c) the fresh steps being taken by the Government to bring down the unemployment rate both in rural and urban areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) and (b) Reliable estimates of employment and unemployment are obtained through quinquennial labour force surveys conducted by National Sample Survey Organisation. Last such survey for which results are available pertains to the year 1999-2000. Therefore, reliable estimates beyond 2000 are not available.

(c) Besides the creation of employment opportunities in the normal growth process, Government is also implementing various employment generation and poverty alleviation programmes both in rural and urban areas of the country. Latest initiative taken by the Government in the rural areas is the launch of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme which aims at providing 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in a year to each rural household.

Drug Price

213. SHRI NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received representations from Pharma Industry regarding liberalizing of drug price;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (c) Representations from pharma industry on various issues relating to drug industry, including drug price control, are being received in this Department from time to time. Such

representations are examined and taken into consideration while taking a decision on any issue relating to drug industry.

Recently the Government constituted a Committee under the Chairmanship of Joint Secretary (Pharma) to examine the issue of span of price control (including trade margin). Subsequently, A Task Force under the Chairmanship of Dr. Pronab Sen, Principal Advisor, Planning Commission was also constituted to explore options other than price control to make available life saving drugs at reasonable prices.

Based on the recommendations of the Committee under the Chairmanship of Joint Secretary (Pharmaceuticals) and the Task Force under the Chairmanship of Dr. Pronab Sen, Principal Advisor, Planning Commission and feedback from other stakeholders Government have formulated a draft National Pharmaceutical Policy, 2006 (Part-A-excluding pricing) which has been circulated to various stakeholders seeking their comments. Based on the comments received the Government is likely to finalize the new Policy shortly.

Setting up of Production Centre of Safal

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

(a) whether the Union Government has received any proposal from the Government of Gujarat for setting up of production centre for Safal Joint Venture with Gujarat Agro Industries Corporation Limited;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be set up; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) and (c) Question does not arise in view of (a) above.

Assistance to Karnataka for Ground Water Recharge and Water Harvesting

215. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the amount provided for ground water recharge and water harvesting programmes to the Government of Karnataka under the Central Regional Scheme;

(b) the number of proposals received from the State Government under the said programmes alongwith costs involved therein; and

(c) the time by which the proposals are likely to be cleared and the amount provided therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) to (c) Presently, there is no approved scheme on ground water recharge and water harvesting in the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB)/ Ministry of Water Resources. However, under the Central Sector Scheme for "Study of Recharge to Ground Water" implemented during the VIII & IX Plans, an amount of Rs. 44.12 lakh and Rs. 43.30 lakh were spent respectively for this purpose by CGWB in the State of Karnataka. Besides, another amount of Rs. 56.11 lakh was provided by the Ministry of Water Resources to Government of Karnataka for construction of roof top rain water harvesting structures in five Government buildings during the Fresh Water Year 2003.

Policy on Employment Growth in Unorganised Sector

216. SHRI MILIND DEORA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has failed to announce the policy on Employment Growth in unorganised sector within the fixed timeframe;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be announced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) to (c) Tenth Plan gives strategies of employment generation through labour intensive unorganized sectors, like agriculture, horticulture, social forestry, animal husbandry, tourism, etc.

Clearance to Irrigation Project

217. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has asked the Andhra Pradesh Government to take the clearance from the Supreme Court for the A P Polvaram Irrigation Project on Godavari River before initiating it;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the State Government has taken clearance from the Union Government for the project in regard to Popikondala Wildlife Sanctuary situated at Polvaram upstream; and

(d) if so, the present position of the project as regards Environment Clearance?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Environment clearance under the EIA Notification, 1994 was accorded to the project on 25.10.2005. For considering the grant of necessary clearance in regard to Papikondala Wildlife Sanctuary, the Standing Committee of National Board of Wildlife in its meeting held on 20.01.06 has desired a joint inspection of the site by a Member of the Standing Committee and the Wildlife Division of the Ministry.

Setting up of Technical Consultancy Service

218. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has set up any technical consultancy service for promoting food processing and agro-processing industries in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has taken any effective steps for the promotion of food and agro-processing industries in the country during the current financial year; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Promotion of food processing industries is an ongoing process. Several measures have been taken by the Government for promotion of FPIs from time to time. Plan Schemes have been implemented to provide financial assistance for establishment and modernization of the food processing units, creation of infrastructure, support for R&D, human resource development besides other promotional measures to encourage development of food processing industries. Recently, in 2004-05 the Government has allowed under Income Tax Act, a deduction of 100% of profit for five years and 25% of profit for the next five years in case of new agro processing industries set up to process, preserve and package fruits and vegetables. Excise duty of 16% on dairy machinery has been fully waived for promotion of dairy processing industries. Excise duty on meat, poultry and fish products has been reduced from 16% to 8%. Excise duty on food grade hexane used in edible oil industry has been reduced from 32% to 16%. In the Budget of 2005-06 excise duty of Rs. 1.00 per kg on refined edible oil and Rs. 1.25 per kg on vanaspati was abolished. Customs duty on refrigerated vans was reduced from 20% to 10%.

[Translation]

Clearance to Irrigation Project

219. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Rajasthan has submitted a proposal to the Union Government seeking environmental approval for the construction of certain Lift Irrigation Projects; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the stage at which the matter stands at present?

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

(b) Does not arise.

*[English]***Increase in Price of Essential Commodities**

220. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:
 SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:
 DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:
 SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK:
 SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:
 SHRI RANEN BARMAN:
 SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:
 SHRI HEMMAL MURMU:
 SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:
 SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:
 SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN:
 SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:
 SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR:
 SHRI MOHAN SINGH:
 SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA:
 SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA:

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

(a) whether there has been an unprecedented rise in prices of essential commodities particularly wheat and wheat products in the recent past;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the factors attributed thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal to ban export of wheat to stabilize the prices;

(d) if not, the other steps taken by the Government to arrest the price-rise;

(e) whether the Government has recently released additional wheat in the open market;

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

(g) the details of monthly requirement of foodgrains for Public Distribution System and other welfare schemes in the country *vis-a-vis* the quantity being released, 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) The prices of essential commodities have generally remained steady during the recent past, except for wheat and wheat products such as atta. The increase in retail price of wheat at different centres has ranged from 50 paise per kg to Rs. 4.00 per kg during the last one year ended on 16th February, 2006. In the case of atta, the increase has been in the range of Rs. 1.00 per kg to Rs. 3.00 per kg, barring higher increase at Aizawl, during the same period. The increase in the prices of wheat can be attributed to a variety of reasons such as relatively lower level of stocks of wheat in the Central Pool, seasonal factors, etc.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The following steps have been taken to check the increase in prices:

- (i) Increased allocation of wheat under the Open Market Sale Scheme;
- (ii) Freeze on the Central Issue Prices under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) in order to encourage more off-take;
- (iii) Decision to import wheat for augmenting the availability in the Southern Zone;
- (iv) Ensuring adequate availability of wheat stocks for the TPDS and Welfare Schemes in all the States of the country;
- (v) Daily Monitoring of retail and wholesale prices of wheat.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) Government has released on 25.1.2006 additional allocations of wheat under Open Market Sale Scheme as under:

(in thousand tonnes)

State	Allocation
Delhi	20
Tamil Nadu	20
Karnataka	10
Kerala	3
West Bengal	10
Maharashtra	10

(g) Information relating to the State-wise allocation and off-take of rice and wheat under Targeted Public Distribution System is given in the enclosed Statement.

As regards information on State-wise allocation and off-take of rice and wheat under Welfare Schemes, it is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Statement

Fig. in "000" tonnes

	Monthly Allocation			Average Monthly Offtake		
	Rice	Wheat	Total	Rice	Wheat	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1. Andhra Pradesh	318.287	12.806	331.093	265.149	3.889	269.038
2. Arunachal Pradesh	7.847	0.815	8.462	5.561	0.592	6.153
3. Assam	124.177	22.128	146.305	77.817	22.711	100.528
4. Bihar	201.947	208.945	410.892	25.018	66.033	91.051
5. Chhattisgarh	122.049	30.737	152.786	38.273	12.184	50.457
6. Delhi	29.003	68.355	97.358	8.714	29.309	38.023
7. Goa	7.974	3.214	11.188	0.947	0.426	1.373
8. Gujarat	106.418	200.083	306.501	18.962	44.901	63.863
9. Haryana	31.075	80.823	111.898	2.063	20.096	22.159
10. Himachal Pradesh	26.918	17.068	43.986	2.651	12.786	15.437
11. Jammu and Kashmir	45.693	17.374	63.067	37.596	19.371	56.967
12. Jharkhand	65.023	36.793	101.816	24.987	29.884	54.871
13. Karnataka	225.659	56.414	282.073	145.561	29.764	175.326
14. Kerala	158.939	46.792	205.731	45.426	30.506	75.931
15. Madhya Pradesh	93.366	262.288	355.654	26.530	111.732	138.262
16. Maharashtra	228.363	392.069	620.432	78.336	132.519	210.854
17. Manipur	7.319	1.186	8.505	4.094	1.359	5.453
18. Meghalaya	9.509	0.648	10.157	7.788	0.513	8.301
19. Mizoram	4.836	1.01	5.846	5.380	0.558	5.938
20. Nagaland	7.855	2.727	10.582	7.622	5.738	13.360
21. Orissa	208.799	28.889	237.688	100.654	8.204	108.859
22. Punjab	40.992	98.156	139.148	0.189	6.696	6.884

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
23. Rajasthan		84.009	226.349	310.358	1.318	79.788	81.106
24. Sikkim		3.071	0.6	3.671	3.131	0.376	3.507
25. Tamil Nadu		475.863	10	485.863	265.829	6.159	271.988
26. Tripura		21.266	3.995	25.261	12.767	2.414	15.181
27. Uttaranchal		31.263	13.964	45.227	7.207	7.615	14.822
28. Uttar Pradesh		521.27	393.602	914.872	114.617	138.055	252.672
29. West Bengal		326.767	181.543	508.31	72.726	152.904	225.631
30. Andaman and Nicobar Islands		2.892	0.907	3.799	1.298	0.406	1.703
31. Chandigarh		2.226	4.87	7.096	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
32. Dadra and Nagar Haveli		0.902	0.253	1.155	0.132	0.036	0.168
33. Daman and Diu		0.796	0.129	0.925	0.040	0.011	0.051
34. Lakshadweep		0.306	0.019	0.325	0.313	0.003	0.317
35. Pondicherry		3.926	0.1	4.026	2.203	0.098	2.301
Total		3546.405	2425.651	5972.056	1421.822	977.635	2399.457

Source: Department of Food and Public Distribution.

Agreement with Sri Lanka on Water Management

(e) if so, the details thereof?

221. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:
SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS:
SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:
SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD:

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) to (e) A Memorandum of Agreement between India Council of Agricultural Research and the International Water Management Institute (an International Centre under the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research), Colombo was signed at New Delhi on 25th November, 1996 with the common objectives to improve irrigated agriculture production through scientific water management technologies by way of collaboration in research and training.

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has signed any agreement with International Water Management Institute of Colombo on Water Management;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the extent to which both the countries are likely to be benefited as a result thereof;

(c) the time by which such agreement will be implemented;

(d) whether there is any working methodology with the Ministry on water management; and

Each year, a workplan is developed and agreed to for implementation. The workplan for 2006-07 includes following areas for mutual cooperation.

- Multiple water use systems for smallholder farmers
- Understanding and improving water productivity
- Watershed management and water institutions

- Safe and sustainable use of low quality waters
- Drought assessment and management
- Potential of rainfed agriculture
- Knowledge sharing and management.

Under the Agreement, a Steering Committee consisting of representatives of International Water Management Institute, Colombo and Government of India is in existence to work out practical details for effective implementation of the mutual cooperation.

Contract Labourers under Medical Insurance Scheme

222. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to bring the contract labourers under the Medical Insurance Scheme; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) and (b) A proposal to formulate an insurance scheme providing for life-cum-accident cover, health insurance etc. to the unorganized sector workers, which may include contract labour, is under consideration of the Government.

Environmental Clearance to Outer Ring Road Project

223. SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Construction of Hyderabad Outer Ring Road Project Phase-I of Government of Andhra Pradesh to provide access to the proposed International Airport linking major National Highways, State Highways and growth Centres is pending with the Union Government for environmental clearance;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which the clearance is likely to be accorded?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) No, Sir. Ministry has already granted environmental clearance to the construction of Outer Ring Road Phase-I from Gachibowli to Shamshabad in Rangareddy district in Hyderabad Urban Area by M/s Hyderabad Urban Development Authority (HUDA) on 20th October, 2005.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Closure of BOGL

224. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Board for Reconstruction of Public Sector Enterprises has decided to close down Bharat Ophthalmic Glass Limited (BOG); and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the facilities being provided to the affected employees at the time of closure of unit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEAVY INDUSTRY, MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) and (b) Board for Reconstruction of Public Sector Enterprises (BRPSE) has recommended closure of BOGL by offering Voluntary Separation Scheme (VSS) to employees at a cost of Rs. 8 crores and thereafter winding up the company as decided by Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR). The existing employees will get the benefit under VSS in terms of guidelines of Department of Public Enterprises.

Bagasse Based Power Projects

225. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:
SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:

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

(a) whether the Government has urged the sugar industry to develop bagasse based power co-generation projects;

(b) if so, whether the Sugar Industry has sent any proposal to the Government in this regard;

(c) if so, whether the Government proposes to provide special grant to sugar mills for the said purpose;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Ministry has taken up this issue with the Ministry of Conventional Energy Sources;

(f) if so, the outcome thereof;

(g) whether the Government proposes to allow the sugar mills to sell Ethanol directly; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise. However, Sugar Development Fund Rules, 1983 provides for concessional loan to meet the shortfall in promoters' contribution from Sugar Development Fund (SDF) to sugar factories for bagasse based cogeneration of power projects at an interest rate of 2% below the Bank rate per annum, which at present works out to 4% per annum.

(e) and (f) Central Government (Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources) provides for central financial assistance in the form of interest subsidy varying from 1% to 6% depending on boiler configuration of the project for bagasse based co-generation of power. The Government also provides financial assistance for organizing business/interaction meetings, training programmes, etc.

(g) and (h) The public sector oil marketing companies have been procuring ethanol for blending with petrol directly from sugar mills that are manufacturing ethanol, through public tenders.

Foodgrain Supply to Assam

226. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Food Corporation of India has failed to deliver foodgrains allocated to Dhemaji and Lakhimpur Districts of Assam under Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana and National Food for Work Scheme;

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

(c) the time by which it is likely to be delivered?

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) Entire quantity of foodgrains allocated under Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) for the year 2004-05 has already been delivered. 6000 MT of foodgrains has been released to each of the Districts of Dhemaji and Lakhimpur against the allocations for the year 2005-06 and the balance of 6620 MT in respect of Dhemaji and 9980 MT in respect of Lakhimpur will be released by the end of March, 2006 under SGRY.

Under National Food for Work Scheme, a quantity of 35,138 MT of rice against the allocations for the year 2004-05 could not be delivered within the validity period of 31.01.2006 due to non-availability of sufficient stocks of rice.

No request of State Government for further extension has been received so far. If such request is received and the validity period is extended, the balance quantity will be delivered to these Districts.

Seizure of Shark Fins

227. SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Wildlife Department had made a seizure of shark fins worth Rs. 10 lakhs in Puri in 2001;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed/taken to prevent its recurrence?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As reported by Government of Orissa, 3 cases of seizure of shark fins/meat near the

sea-shore at Penthakata near Puri were registered by Khurda Forest Division on 8.02.2001. Since there is no legal trade in these products, the value of the seized fins/meat was not assessed at the time of seizure and burial. Details of the cases are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) Steps taken to prevent recurrence of such incidents are as follows:

- (i) Increased patrolling along the sea coast and in adjoining areas.

(ii) Strengthened information, communication network and surveillance of suspects.

(iii) The District Fisheries Officer, Puri has been alerted through the District Collector, Puri to take appropriate immediate action as per law with the help of local Police/Forest Officials to prevent fishing of sharks and rays.

(iv) All sharks are listed under Schedule-I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 affording maximum protection against hunting and trade.

Statement

Sl.No.	OR Case No. and date	Seized Produce	Name of Accused
1.	OR No. 44 of 2001/02 dated 8.12.2001	Shark fins—10 kg Shark meat—1 Quintal	Sri Jagannath Rao S/o Appa Rao Penthakata, Puri
2.	OR No. 45 of 2001/02 dated 8.12.2001	Shark fins—15 kg	Sri Chakya V. Raju S/o Kamraj Penthakata, Puri
3.	OR No. 44 of 2001/02 dated 8.12.2001	Shark fins—10 kg	Sri Rahatullah S/o Saula Henda Penthakata, Puri

[Translation]

Properties of Employees State Insurance Corporation

228. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a lot of immovable properties such as building and land are lying unused with Employees State Insurance Corporation (ESIC);

(b) if so, the details of such properties of ESIC and the properties that are lying vacant and the market value thereof, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government has formulated any scheme for its utilization; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) The ESI Corporation has identified certain lands and buildings lying as unused.

(b) Lists of such vacant plots and buildings are given in the enclosed Statements-I and II. Market value of such properties has not been assessed.

(c) and (d) The Construction Sub Committee formed by the ESI Corporation in its meeting held on 20.09.2005 had constituted a Task Force to consider and recommend disposal of fully un-utilized plots and grossly under-utilized properties. The Task Force Committee discussed and decided the utilization/disposal of vacant and under utilized properties. Task Force has directed all Regional Directors/ State Medical Commissioners to examine the feasibility of retaining/disposal of the vacant plots/buildings with legal opinion/no objection certificate from all concerned authorities.

Statement I**List of Totally Vacant Plots**

Sl.No.	Location of Plot	State	Area
1	2	3	4
1.	Gandhigram, D-Block, IDA, Vishakhapatnam	Andhra Pradesh	2943.05 Sq. Mtrs.
2.	Khairatabad, Hydria	Andhra Pradesh	1, Acre 34 Guntas
3.	I.D.A. Autonagar, Vishakhapatnam	Andhra Pradesh	346.01 Sq. mtrs.
4.	Kokar (Ranchi)	Jharkhand	1 acre
5.	Arjun Nagar	Jharkhand	1450 Sq. mtrs.
6.	Wadhawan City (Surendra Nagar)	Gujarat	3232.05 Sq. mtrs.
7.	Dharanagadhra (Surendra Nagar)	Gujarat	1023.59 Sq. mtrs.
8.	Corlim	Goa	864 Sq. mtrs.
9.	Mapusa	Goa	1044 Sq. mtrs.
10.	Kundaim	Goa	0.25 acres
11.	Murthal	Haryana	2006.64 Sq. mtrs.
12.	Sector-15-A, Faridabad	Haryana	3544 Sq. mtrs.
13.	Kamal	Haryana	2121.75 Sq. mtrs.
14.	Kadampnada	Kerala	2.5 Acres
15.	Koraty (Trichur)	Kerala	2.5 Acres
16.	Poruvazy (Quilon)	Kerala	1.25 acres
17.	Kollam	Kerala	3 cent
18.	Gokak	Karnataka	5075 Sq. ft.
19.	Hubli	Karnataka	3/4 acre & 27 Gunta
20.	Dange-Park (Davengere)	Karnataka	4108 Sq. mtrs.
21.	Gadag	Karnataka	1445.55 Sq. mtrs.
22.	Rajnandgaon	Madhya Pradesh	4850 Sq. mtrs.
23.	Vikhroli	Maharashtra	1221.62 Sq. mtrs.

1	2	3	4
24.	Meera Road	Maharashtra	
25.	Dombivali	Maharashtra	
26.	Indora Nagpur	Maharashtra	2 acres
27.	Dhule	Maharashtra	1152 Sq. mtrs.
28.	Jharsuguda	Orissa	2.63 acres
29.	Jaipur Road	Orissa	0.70 acres
30.	IDI Chemical, Rourkela	Orissa	2.00 acres
31.	Baripada	Orissa	0.65 acres
32.	Ganjam	Orissa	1.25 acres
33.	Jagatpur	Orissa	0.50 acres
34.	Ambabari, Jaipur	Rajasthan	3366.75 Sq. yds.
35.	Alwar	Rajasthan	21274 Sq. mtrs.
36.	Udaipur	Rajasthan	26000 Sq. mtrs.
37.	Behror	Rajasthan	4000 Sq. mtrs.
38.	Alwar Kunj	Rajasthan	2022.22 Sq. yds.
39.	Ranipet	Tamil Nadu	5.55 acres
40.	Tuticorin	Madurai	5.00 acres
41.	Irrugur	Coimbatore	1.25 acres
42.	Othakalmandam	Coimbatore	4600 sq. mtrs.
43.	Sankari	Tamil Nadu	1.75 acres
44.	Palladam	Coimbatore	1.74 acres
45.	Podanurs	Coimbatore	2.20
46.	Minjur	Coimbatore	1 acre
47.	Radiarpalayam	Pondichery	4250 Sq. mtrs.
48.	Ariankuppam	Pondichery	2000 Sq. mtrs.
49.	Shastri Nagar, Kanpur	Uttar Pradesh	803 Sq. mtrs.
50.	Benghabar, Kanpur	Uttar Pradesh	333.17 Sq. mtrs.
51.	Churk, Mirzapur	Uttar Pradesh	5290 Sq. mtrs.
52.	Sandila, Hardoi	Uttar Pradesh	5880.60 Sq. mtrs.
53.	Manicktola	West Bengal	535.31 Sq. mtrs.
54.	K.B. Sarani (Mounment Road) Dum-Dum	West Bengal	822 Sq. mtrs.

Statement II*List of totally vacant Buildings*

Sl.No.	Name of the Building with Place & Distt.	State	Approx. year of construction
1	2	3	4
1.	ESI Dispensary & Staff quarters, Renigunta	Andhra Pradesh	1968
2.	ESI Dispensary, I.E. Vishakhapatnam	Andhra Pradesh	1989
3.	ESI Dispensary, Monghyr Vasudev, Distt. Monghyr.	Bihar	1983
4.	ESI Dispensary, Katiyar Distt., Katihar	Bihar	1983
5.	ESI staff quarters at Tilak Vihar	Delhi	1992
6.	ESI staff quarters at Nand Nagri	Delhi	1991
7.	ESI staff quarters at Jawalपुरi	Delhi	1989
8.	D-23, ESIZS Madhubhai Mill Compound, Sehrkotda, Ahmedabad R.S. No. 135 of Sherkotda, Ahmedabad	Gujarat	1964
9.	L.O. Rakhial, ESIC, Babu Nagar, Char Rasta, Near Dispensary 20, Ahmedabad	Gujarat	1964
10.	160 Nos. Type-II staff quarters at Vasna, Ahmedabad	Gujarat	1988
11.	Naragund, Gadag Distt.	Karnataka	1974
12.	Dandeli North Canara Distt.	Karnataka	1967
13.	66 Type-II staff quarters at Kuttanellur, Trichur	Kerala	1998
14.	L.O. Desai Nagar, Ujjain	Madhya Pradesh	1979-80
15.	260 staff quarters at Vashi, Sector-IV, Plot No, 6 Navi Mumbai	Maharashtra	1985
16.	ESI Hospital, Bibvewadi, Plot No. 689.690	Maharashtra	1997
17.	ESI Dispensary & L.O., Plot No. 8, P-4, Trimbak Road, Satpur, Nasik	Maharashtra	1981
18.	ESI Hospital, CS No. 30-1, C.R.S. No. 206 & 207, Kolhapur	Maharashtra	1997

1	2	3	4
19.	ESI Dispensary at Cauvery Nagar, Pudukottai Distt.	Chennai	1966
20.	ESI staff quarters Railway Feeder Road, Tuticorin	Madurai	1994
21.	ESI staff quarters, Paravai, Madura Distt.	Madurai	1999
22.	ESI staff quarters, Dindigul Road, Palani, Dindigul	Madurai	1999

[English]

Legislation on Spurious/Adulterated Seeds

229. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the existing agricultural legislations are sufficient to deal with the producers of spurious/adulterated seeds;

(b) if not, the steps the Government proposes to take to protect the interest of farmers;

(c) whether the Indian Farmers are not getting full benefits of their produce;

(d) if so, whether the Government proposes to put in place any system to do away with the intermediaries to ensure full benefits to the farmers; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Government has introduced Seeds Bill, 2004 in Rajya Sabha in December, 2004, which seek to strengthen the seed quality regulation system. The Bill is now under the consideration of the Parliamentary Standing Committee. The Seeds Bill provides *inter-alia* for compulsory registration of varieties and compensation to the farmers.

(c) to (e) The Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices advises to the Government on the price policy of major agricultural commodities in the perspective of the

overall needs of the economy and with due regard to the interest of the producer/farmer and the consumer. The Commission recommends minimum support price for major agriculture commodities to be fixed by the Government and non-price measures having implication on overall price policy. While recommending minimum support price the Commission analyse a wide spectrum of data, covering the cost of cultivation, production, trends and spread of input use, production and productivity of crop concerned, market price, inter-crop parity, emerging supply-demand situation, procurement and distribution, terms of trade between agriculture and non-agriculture sectors. Besides, Government of India is also implementing market intervention scheme for the benefit of the farmers.

Incomplete Irrigation Projects of Karnataka

230. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of major irrigation projects pending in Karnataka and the amount released so far, project-wise;

(b) the reasons for non-completion of these projects for such a long time;

(c) the time frame within which the projects are going to be completed;

(d) whether there is any possibility of withdrawal of some of these projects; and

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

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) and (c) The State Government of Karnataka has reported that there are 14 ongoing major irrigation projects in Karnataka and the project-wise

amount released so far and other details of these projects including the schedule year of completion are given in the Statement enclosed.

(b) The reasons for non-completion of these projects are resource crunch of the State Government, thin spreading of resources, land acquisition problems,

resettlement & rehabilitation problems delay in obtaining clearances and famine for three continuous years (2000-2003).

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Statement

(Rs. in crore)

Sl.No.	Projects	Estimated cost	Amount released/Expdt. Upto (12/05)	Balance Cost	Probable year of completion
Krishna Basin					
1.	Bennithora	315.05	266.52	48.53	2006
2.	Bhima Lift	275.53	47.76	227.77	2007
3.	Dudhganga	124.00	81.68	42.32	2007
4.	Ghataprabha-III	1116.00	917.65	198.35	2006
5.	Hipparagi	1113.00	168.97	944.03	2007
6.	Malaprabha	934.00	801.53	132.47	2006
7.	U.K.P. Stage-I				2006
8.	U.K.P. Stage-II	9479.59	8477.33	1002.26	2006
9.	Markendeya	341.72	281.04	60.68	2007
10.	Ramthala Lift	218.00	0.13	217.87	2008
11.	Singatur	595.00	59.45	535.55	2010
12.	Upper Tunga	1644.11	563.63	1080.48	2010
Godavari Basin					
13.	Karanja	415.00	401.73	13.27	2006
Other Basin					
14.	Varahi	569.60	84.84	484.76	2010

Bt Cotton Seed

231. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:
 SHRI UDAY SINGH:
 SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN:
 SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:
 SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY:
 SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY:
 SHRI B. MAHTAB:

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

(a) whether the Monitoring and Evaluation Committee of Non-Governmental Organizations had demanded ban for all field trials of bollgard-II seed;

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

(c) whether there is no monitoring by the Government agency to witness the fields trials of bollgard-II seed;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to fix the accountability in case of crops failure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) The Ministry has received representations from NGOs requesting to cancel all field trials based on the reports of the Fact Finding team constituted by a consortium of NGOs.

(b) and (c) The Bollgard-II which is currently under field trials have been monitored by the Monitoring-cum-Evaluation Committee (MEC) constituted by the Review Committee on Genetic Manipulation (RCGM) under the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) as per the regulatory procedure prescribed under Rules 1989 of the Environmental Protection Act, 1986 as well as by the Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR) under the All India Coordinated Cotton Improvement Project (AICCIP). As of date the Ministry has not received any adverse report in respect of Bollgard-II on the basis of the above evaluations.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Bollgard-II is only under field trials and has not been approved for commercial cultivation. Therefore the

accountability due to crop failure does not arise at this stage.

Indo-US Agreement for Consumer Safety

232. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Government of United States to improve consumer safety;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the extent to which this would help Indian exporters gain greater acceptability in US market;

(d) whether any guidelines have been set under the said MoU regarding the consumer products being traded between the two countries; 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 TASLIMUDDIN): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed on 12.1.2006 at Washington D.C. by the Department of Consumer Affairs, on behalf of the Government of India with the US Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), on behalf of the Federal Government of the United States of America, for cooperation in the area of consumer product safety with the overall objective of protecting and promoting the interests of the consumers. The MoU provide for exchange of information and documents, development of training programs for officials and non-officials, exchange of officials, experts and professionals in the areas of consumer product safety, etc.

(c) The signing of the MoU underscores the commitment of both countries to improve safety of traded consumer products and provides the basis for undertaking cooperative endeavours with a view to enhance the quality and safety of consumer products. It is expected that it would ultimately benefit Indian exporters in gaining greater acceptability in the US market.

(d) No Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Farmers Living Below Poverty Line

233. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has conducted any survey to assess the number of farmers who are living below poverty line in the country;

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

(c) the details of the welfare schemes that are being implemented for the farmers;

(d) the details of the funds released by the Government during the last three years and the current year, Scheme-wise and State-wise; and

(e) the number of farmers benefited 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) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Government is implementing a number of schemes for development of the Agriculture, Horticulture and Livestock sectors. The strategies formulated by the Government for making the agriculture sector more vibrant and dynamic so as to increase its production and productivity with resultant increase in the income of farmers include (i) enhancing institutional credit flow to the farmers and strengthening of cooperative credit structure; (ii) ensuring the timely availability of quality inputs; (iii) promoting farmer friendly, demand driven agriculture extension system; (iv) accelerating diversification to high value crops including horticulture activities; (v) strengthening infrastructure and the supply chain; (vi) optimising the efficient utilization (v) available water resources through micro irrigation and enhancing the sustainability of dry-land/rainfed farming system; (vii) reforming agricultural markets, and widespread use of post harvest technology; and (viii) putting in place a broader spectrum of risk management apparatus for farmers.

(d) and (e) The scheme-wise details of the funds released/provided are enclosed as Statement. The schemes are oriented, *inter-alia*, towards improving production and productivity which directly or indirectly benefit the farmers.

Statement

(Rs in Crores)

Scheme	2002-03	2030-04*	2004-05*	2005-06
	Release/ Expenditure	Release/ Expenditure	Release/ Expenditure	Revised Expenditure (RE)
1	2	3	4	5
Technology Mission on Cotton-ICDP Cotton	9.33	32.13	44.96	50.00
On Farm Water Management for Increasing Crop Production in Eastern India	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Directorate of Commercial Crops	0.13			
Enhancing Sustainability of Dryland/Rainfed Farming system (CSS)				20.00
Post Harvest Technology on Oilseeds, Pulses & Maize (PHT)	11.48	13.69	12.31	0.00
National Oilseeds and Vegetable Oils Development Board (NOVOD) including Tree Borne Oilseeds and Bio-diesel (Jatropha Plantation).	3.75	5.90	16.00	16.00

1	2	3	4	5
Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM) (CSS)	116.44	134.30	246.48	260.00
Externally Aided Programme				
Accelerated Maize Development Programme under UNDP	0.55	1.00	0.80	
National Horticulture Board (including Cold Chain)	91.30	50.00	70.00	70.00
Coconut Development Board including Technology Mission Coconut	30.00	20.00	20.00	35.00
Integrated Development of Horticulture in Hilly/Tribal Areas	5.00	8.00	18.00	0.00
Technology Mission of Horticulture for NE Region including Sikkim Uttaranchal, HP and J&K (CSS)	91.00	118.39	178.72	184.90
Micro Irrigation (CSS)	0.00	0.00	0.00	280.49
National Mission on Bamboo Technology and Trade Development (CSS)	0.00	0.00	0.00	25.00
National Horticulture Mission (CSS)	0.00	0.00	0.00	690.00
Central Institute of Horticulture in Nagaland (New Scheme)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.10
Human Resources Development	0.75	0.44	0.78	0.00
National Project on Fertilizer Quality Control	2.26	3.72	3.28	2.10
National Project on Promotion of Organic Farming	0.00	0.00	4.00	20.78
Scheme for Implementation of Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmer's Rights' Act 2001	0.32	4.99	7.59	6.10
Loan to State Farms Corporation of India/National Seeds Corporation Ltd.				0.00
Restructured Scheme				
Restructuring of National Seed Corporation and State Farm Corporation of India (NSC & SFCI)	1.00	7.23	0.67	0.00
Development and Strengthening of Infrastructure Facilities for Production and Distribution of Quality Seeds	10.21	10.15	12.16	65.33
Pilot Scheme for Seed Crop Insurance	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01
Externally Aided Project				
Implementation of Global Plan of Action	0.00	0.00	0.09	0.15
Strengthening and Modernisation of Pest Management in Country	0.00	10.31	18.81	16.31
Strengthening and Modernisation of Plant Quarantine Facilities in India	14.67	5.77	7.72	16.51
Monitoring of Pesticide Residues at National Level	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.88

1	2	3	4	5
Promotion and Strengthening of Agricultural Mechanisation through Training, Testing and Demonstration	2.34	3.13	6.13	12.00
Watershed Development Council	1.06	0.87	0.73	1.05
All India Soil and Land Use Survey	5.49	6.11	6.42	8.00
National Land Use and Conservation Board	0.47	0.36	0.37	
Investment in Debenture of State Land Development Banks (SLDBs)	86.81	76.56	80.91	87.00
National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS)	254.99	637.93	350.00	750.95
Cooperative Education and Training	19.07	20.30	18.15	70.00
Assistance to NCDC for Development of Cooperatives	11.44	22.06	48.17	30.00
Extension Support to Central Institutes/Directorate of Extension (DOE)	0.00	0.00	10.91	13.31
Support to State Extension Programmes for Extension Reforms (CSS)	0.00	0.00	0.00	45.00
Agri-Clinics/Agri-Business Centres	5.98	9.50	8.69	4.25
Mass Media Support to Agriculture Extension	0.00	6.41	48.37	104.71
National Agricultural Extension Project (NAEP-I)	0.00	0.99	0.62	
Training of Women in Agriculture	0.44	1.55	0.00	
Strengthening of Agricultural Extension Services	1.86	2.47	1.07	
Human Resource Development/Training Support to Agriculture	9.02	6.95	0.00	
Information Support/Management Information System	3.52	4.38	0.66	
Externally Aided Project				
(i) ITD Component of NATP supported by the World Bank	24.95	19.94	14.41	1.85
(ii) UNDP Project on National Food Security	5.38	5.69	7.37	0.49
Studies in Agricultural Economic Policy & Development	17.16	20.72	23.21	31.21
Forecasting and Remote Sensing Application in Crop Husbandry	2.38	2.61	1.61	5.31
Improvement of Agricultural Statistics (CSS)	18.20	21.93	22.19	21.60
Forecasting Agricultural Output using Space, Agro-Meteorology and Land Based observation (FASAL) (New Scheme)	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.00
Agriculture Census (CSS)	8.98	8.60	13.48	14.00
Marketing Research Surveys and Information Network (MRIN)	2.08	5.56	10.95	10.00
Grant-in-aid to National Institute of Agricultural Marketing (NIAM)	2.75	3.30	3.49	3.50

1	2	3	4	5
Strengthening Agmark Grading and Export Quality Controls	0.63	0.44	0.50	2.00
Development of Market Infrastructure, Grading and Standardisation	0.00	0.00	25.00	13.00
Gramin Bhanadran Yojana	64.51	79.63	100.02	90.00
Small Farmers' Agri Business Consortium (SFAC)	10.00			10.00
Strengthening/Promoting Agricultural Information System	6.66	4.41	4.94	22.97
Capacity Building to Enhance Competitiveness of Indian Agriculture (New Scheme)	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.00
National Disaster Management	1.16	0.32	0.05	0.75
Secretariat Economic Service	5.63	2.89	3.44	8.34
Macro Management of Agriculture (MMA) Scheme (CSS)	595.63	648.06	1186.03	819.15
National Commission on Farmers	0.00	0.09	1.12	1.90
Sub-Total	1656.78	2050.77	2657.38	3890.00
State Plan Scheme				
Watershed Development in Shifting Cultivation Area in North Eastern States	20.00	20.00	19.35	30.00
Total	1676.78	2070.77	2676.73	3920.00

12.01 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Bureau of Indian Standards (Advisory Committees) Amendment Regulations, 2005 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 700 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 1st December, 2005, under section 39 of the Bureau of Indian Standards Act, 1986.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 3681/2006]

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the

Narmada Control Authority, Indore, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 3682/2006]

MR. SPEAKER: I compliment you once again.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): On behalf of Shri K. Chandra Shekhar Rao, I beg to lay on the Table:

- (1) A copy of the Consolidated Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 3683/2006]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:

- (1)
 - (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Warehousing Corporation, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts.
 - (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Warehousing Corporation, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 3684/2006]

12.02 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON RAILWAYS

Seventeenth Report

[*English*]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, I beg to present a copy of the Seventeenth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Railways—(2005-06) on 'Railways Production Units, Workshops and Maintenance of Rolling Stock.'

12.03 hrs.

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

- (i) **Status of Implementation of recommendations contained in the Fifth Report of Standing Committee on Labour on the Demands for Grants for 2005-06 of the Ministry of Labour and Employment**

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA

*Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 3685/06.

SEKHAR SAHU): Sir, on behalf of Shri K. Chandra Shekhar Rao, I am making this Statement on the status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Fifth Report of the Standing Committee on Labour, as per Direction issued by the hon. Speaker, Lok Sabha in pursuance of Rule 389 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, on 1st September 2004.

The Fifth Report of the Committee concern the Ministry of Labour and Employment, which were presented to the House on 25th April 2005. I would like to mention that the Ministry had submitted, to the Committee, the Action Taken Report on this Report on 8th August 2005 which has been taken note of by the Committee in their Seventh Report. Our Action Taken Report on the Seventh Report is being prepared.

The status of implementation of the recommendations of the Committee, contained in the Fifth Report, is indicated in the Annexure to my Statement, circulated among hon. Members. I would not like to take the valuable time of the House to read out all the contents of this Annexure. I would request that this might be considered as read.

12.04 hrs.

- (ii) **"Outbreak of Avian Influenza (H5)" In Navapur, District Nandurbar in Maharashtra**

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, the hon. Minister of Agriculture to make a statement on the bird flu situation.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): Sir, large scale death of poultry had been reported from Navapur Taluka of District Nandurbar, Maharashtra. Preliminary investigations had indicated the possibility of Newcastle (Ranikhet) disease. Samples were also sent to High Security Animal Disease Laboratory (HSADL), Bhopal, to test for Avian Influenza.

The samples have since been tested at HSADL, Bhopal. Test reports confirm that samples are positive

*Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 3686/06.

for H5N1 strain of Avian Influenza in poultry in Navapur, District Nandurbar, Maharashtra.

A series of strategic actions have been initiated immediately on confirmation of Avian Influenza. These actions include declaration of infected and surveillance areas, absolute ban on movement of poultry or its products in infected areas, closure of poultry and egg markets and shops, destruction of affected poultry followed by proper disposal etc.

The Government of India has rushed to Maharashtra vaccines for poultry, Tamiflu for humans and personal protective equipment. Rapid Response Teams of the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries and the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare have been rushed to the affected areas. The teams of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare are carrying out surveillance of human population in the area.

It is the policy of the Government to compensate for loss of poultry on account of culling and destruction of birds. The Government of India will share costs of compensation on 50:50 basis with the State Governments. The present outbreak is localized to a limited area in Navapur Taluka of Nandurbar district in Maharashtra. Containment operations will extend to cover some poultry in adjoining areas in Uchchhal Tehsil of Surat district in Gujarat State also. I would like to point out that as per WHO recommendations, poultry and poultry products can be safely consumed if cooked to 70° C in all parts of the food.

I would like to assure the House and the public that there is no cause for panic. The Government is keeping a close watch on the situation. Other States have also been alerted to remain vigilant.

MR. SPEAKER: The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare would also like to make a statement on the same subject.

12.06 hrs.

(iii) "Outbreak of Avian Influenza Virus (H5N1)"

*THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): Mr. Speaker,

Sir, first of all I would like to apologise for not bringing out the copy in Hindi. We shall do it later on.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has issued an alert that Bird Flu could spread to other countries including India after an outbreak of Avian Influenza Virus (H5N1) was first detected in the Republic of Korea in December, 2003.

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India took adequate measures to contain the human cases of Avian Influenza if it is to happen. A Joint Monitoring Group was set up on 27th January, 2004 under the chairmanship of the Director-General of Health Services, which is reviewing the situation regularly. A National Consultation Meeting on Pandemic preparedness was taken by me on 1st August 2005 with all stakeholders to discuss the Influenza Pandemic Preparedness and Response Plan and after subsequent reviews, decision was taken for instituting interventions in a phased manner.

The Chief Secretaries of all the States and Union Territories and Secretary, Department of Animal Husbandry were requested to keep a close watch on fatality among bird population, especially poultry and appearance of severe respiratory illness in the exposed human population and to inform any such occurrence to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. Other Ministries like Home, Shipping, External Affairs, Environment and Forests were also alerted.

A contingency plan to manage human cases of Avian Influenza was prepared and circulated to all States. A model State action plan was prepared and discussed with State Health Secretaries. The National Institute of Communicable Diseases (NICD) Delhi has been identified as the nodal agency to investigate any suspected cases or outbreak. National Institute of Virology (NIV), Pune was also identified for laboratory support. Rapid response teams were constituted and kept in readiness. Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) strengthened Influenza Surveillance network.

A Task Force under the chairmanship of the Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare was constituted to ensure availability of drugs and vaccines for management of Avian Influenza in the country. This task force decided to procure one lakh courses of Oseltamivir (Tamiflu). Sir, 50,000 courses of Oseltamivir and 10,000 personal protective equipments were stockpiled.

*Placed in Library, See No. LT 3687/06.

[Dr. Anbumani Ramadoss]

NICD trained State level rapid response teams and held sensitisation workshops for paramilitary forces. Information, Education and Communication (IEC) strategies have been finalised. This was about the preparedness.

Now, I come to the response part. Information was received from the Department of Animal Husbandry about large-scale mortality in poultry from Navapur taluk, Nandurbar District of Maharashtra on 15th February, 2006. Preliminary reports had revealed the possibility of New Castle disease. Further, the test reports of some samples from affected poultry were confirmed as positive for H5N1 strain of Avian Influenza on 18th February, 2006.

However, as a matter of abundant caution and without waiting for confirmation from High Security Animal Disease Laboratory (HSADL), Bhopal, Rapid Response Team (RRT) of NICD was deputed to Navapur, Maharashtra on 16th February, 2006 itself with all the necessary medicines and equipments. The team is presently surveying the area to identify the people who may have come in contact with the infected birds.

On 17th February, the RRT visited the local hospitals and observed that over the last 10 days there was no patient with common flu symptoms. However, subsequently six persons with symptoms of common cold were detected and are under observation.

None of these cases have any pneumonia. The teams are in the field and assisting the State health authorities in carrying out active surveillance (house to house search) to identify suspected cases among contacts of infected poultry. In order to make confirmatory tests, the RRT has obtained clinical samples randomly from the bird handlers and sent to NIV, Pune and NICD, Delhi. The samples are being tested as per protocols. Another RRT has been sent to Surat District, Gujarat on 19th February, 2006.

The Navapur sub-district hospital has been strengthened. Isolation beds have been created and dedicated staff identified for treating cases. Four ventilators have reached Navapur along with two anaesthetists.

On 19th February 2006 Department of Animal Husbandry has started culling of birds as per their contingency plan. The RRT sensitised the cullers on

proper use of personal protective equipment and self care. Health status of cullers are being monitored.

My Ministry has dispatched 11,000 doses of Tamiflu and 3,000 sets of Personal Protective Equipment to Maharashtra and Gujarat besides meeting the immediate requirement of Department of Animal Husbandry and is in constant touch with the State health authorities of Maharashtra, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh. Cabinet Secretary has also been reviewing the situation on regular basis.

Round the clock control room is functioning from Emergency Medical Relief Division, Directorate General of Health Services (Tel. No. 23061302; FAX: 23061457) and from National Institute of Communicable Diseases, 22, Sham Nath Marg (Tel. No. 23921401; FAX: 23913028).

As on date there is no confirmed case of human Avian Influenza. I would like to assure the House that the situation is being closely monitored and under control.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the situation is more grave than as has been described here. How come it happen even after issuance of a warning and was the Government sleeping over it.

[English]

It is a very serious matter. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have myself requested the Government to make a statement.

...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: There was a warning in 2003.

[Translation]

...*(Interruptions)* and how did it come to India?
...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: It cannot be replied like this. Please listen. This is very unfortunate.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please, for once you sit down. For Heaven's sake, please sit down. Because of the seriousness of the matter, I felt that as the Speaker I should direct the Government to make a statement. I was told that the Government itself was ready to make a statement. Therefore, the Government has made a statement at the earliest opportunity. I am not taking any credit for that. It is a serious matter to be discussed on a proper basis. If you want further discussion, you can have it later. This type of question-answer cannot be done now.

...(Interruptions)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: The failure of the Government must be highlighted. ...(Interruptions) How has the bird flu come to India? ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Even to establish the failure of the Government, you have to take certain actions. Please do it. Can you move a no-confidence motion against this?

Shri Prabhunath Singh.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (Ahmedabad): What steps have been taken? ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You have not listened to the statement. He has given an elaborate statement. If you are not satisfied, you can raise it in a proper manner. Please do it in a proper manner. I never said, 'no'. Why are you saying?

...(Interruptions)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Sir, we are not at all satisfied with it. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: If you are not satisfied, you have many opportunities to raise it.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Sir, I have nothing against the Government. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You may have something to do. I have nothing with that.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, the hon. Agriculture Minister has said that if you heat the meat at 70 degree, then nothing will happen. If that be so, then why has the Government of Maharashtra ordered for culling and killing about nine lakh birds. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: That is for food. 70 degree cooking is for food and not of the birds.

Now, Shri Prabhunath Singh. Only Shri Prabhunath Singh's observation will be taken on record.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I am not allowing this type of intervention. When I am allowing all discussions, you cannot interrupt the House. I will allow a discussion on this. You can raise all these issues at 2 o' clock when the debate on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address starts. Even then, *suo motu* the Government has made a statement. I will allow a full discussion on this.

Please take your seats.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT): I was there. I am coming from there only. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: There are competent Ministers who have already dealt with it.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ramdas Athawale, please take your seat.

Now, Shri Prabhunath Singh.

12.09 hrs.

RE: RULING GIVEN BY SUPREME COURT
ON THE DISSOLUTION OF PREVIOUS
BIHAR VIDHAN SABHA

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajanj, Bihar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I am raising a very important constitutional issue. You as well as the House and the

*Not recorded.

[Shri Prabhunath Singh]

entire country is aware that elections for Bihar Vidhan Sabha were held twice in a single year. First election was held in the month of February. Since, no party got a clear majority in that election, therefore, the Vidhan Sabha was on the recommendation of the Governor, placed under suspended animation and a 19th March comprehensive debate was held in the House on this issue during which the Minister of Home Affairs made a statement. He said that the parties should put their heads together to form the Government in the State and the Union Government should also extend its support to that. After he made his statement, the parties over their started conferring with each other exploring the possibilities of formation of a Government and when they reached a consensus on this issue....*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now this cannot go. No, I would not allow this. Show it to me.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. What are you doing?

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nobody has any interest in listening.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: A Cabinet meeting was convened at midnight...*

MR. SPEAKER: It is not proper to make such a comment.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Vidhan Sabha has been dissolved. After dissolution of Vidhan Sabha, MLAs of different parties petitioned the Supreme Court.
...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: What do you want to say?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: On the one hand, hearing of the case was being held in the Supreme Court.
...(Interruptions) Mr. Speaker, Sir, please listen to me.
...(Interruptions) On the one hand, hearing of the case was going on in the Supreme Court and on the other, the election process of Bihar Vidhan Sabha was in progress. The election is over. The Supreme Court ruling has also come. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Leave it. What are you doing?

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: It is a matter of history. He is repeating what has happened. Everybody in the world knows it.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: The Supreme Court gave its ruling in two parts. The judges who considered it wrong have also commented on it. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: No, what is your point? Judgement has been delivered. Fresh elections have been held. You tell me what you want.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am telling you that only. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You can not go on this.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, let me apprise you of the background. ... (Interruptions) I am telling you the background in the light of which the judgement was delivered. The judge, Shri Amarjit Pasayat has clearly stated in para 271 of his judgement, that the Government, which has appointed the Governor, is squarely responsible for having made a mockery of the office of Governor, which is a very important constitutional

post. Government to function in an impartial manner. But association inevitably breeds affinity. Their situation is the same. Therefore, I would like to say today that morality demands that. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please tell me what do you want.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: I am not saying that Shri Manmohan Singh should give Chief Ministership of Bihar to Shri Lalu ji or Ram Vilas Paswanji. They have assessed themselves in the State Elections. I want that if anybody from Congress Party becomes the Chief Minister, the dispute would be settled, once and for all and the dignity of country's constitution and morality would be safeguarded. Shri Manmohan Singh ji should resign immediately and the persons who have held elections. ...(*Interruptions*) The elections should be conducted over there. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Leave it.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: You go to your place. You must go to your place.

[*Translation*]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, that was unconstitutional. The Vidhan Sabha should be revived. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will be recorded without my permission.

...(*Interruptions*)*

MR. SPEAKER: I will not allow this type of unruly behaviour so long as I am here.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: You have made a demand for the resignation of the hon. Prime Minister.

...(*Interruptions*)

*Not recorded.

[*Translation*]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Is he speaking on the same issue? ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra, I will also give you a chance. You do not have to speak for him. The trouble is that everybody wants to dictate the Chair. I can assure you that the Chair will not be dictated.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Ferozabad): Mr. Speaker Sir, The five member bench of the Supreme Court. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: The issue of the resignation of the Governor has been raised. You may simply express your approval or disapproval of it.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker Sir, the Supreme Court has declared the decision of dissolution of the Bihar Legislative Assembly unconstitutional. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Harin Pathak ji, I have called him to speak, so how can I call you.

[*English*]

What is this? You are a very senior Member. You have been a Minister also. Once a matter is being raised, your Deputy Leader wants to speak and you want to speak even before him on another issue. Please tell me how it is possible. Let the House be not a matter of *Tamasha*. I have assured you that I would call you. Can you not wait for even two minutes?

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Supreme Court believed that the recommendation given by the Governor in the report was not based on facts. It is my submission that the Governor said that he only made a recommendation, which is a different issue, but

[Shri Ramjilal Suman]

the decision to dissolve the House had to be taken by the Central Government. If his recommendation was not right, the Centre could have sent it back....* referred to it. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You do not take name. No name will go in the record.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJILAL SUMAN: When Shri N.T. Rama Rao was the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh... *was the then Governor. He also made a similar recommendation, which was however, withdrawn. This is a serious issue. The Government of India must give an explanation in this regard. Since it is the collective responsibility of the Council of Ministers. Finally, the Government of India is responsible in this regard.

The manner in which the office of the Governor is being misused is not at all a healthy democratic convention. We would like that the Government must explain the veracity of the allegations levelled against it...* ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Do not record anything.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): You are the guardian of democracy. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: That is why I am giving everyone a chance to speak, but not for unlimited time. I cannot allow that.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR (Bareilly): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the issue raised by Shri Prabhunath Singh ji is actually a matter of great concern for democracy. The casual manner in which the Central Government decides these

issues overnight is really serious. ...*(Interruptions)* Taking consent of H.E. Mr. President and deciding the matter on phone at 12 o' clock Midnight is really very unfortunate. It is my request that discussion should be held on this issue and the hon. Prime Minister should resign from his office. This is my opinion. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing to be recorded. Kunwar Manvendra Singh, you are only creating a problem. I will have to name you. Enough is enough.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is a very important matter. The decision taken by the Union Government is a breach of the dignity of democracy. The manner in which H.E. Mr. President of India has been involved in this matter is really unfortunate. It is my request that the hon. Prime Minister should make a statement in this regard and immediately resign from his office.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Everybody should follow Shri Santosh Gangwar. This is how to cooperate with the Chair.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the issue raised by Shri Prabhunath Singhji is very important. Shri Buta Singh ji has resigned from the office of Governor. ...*(Interruptions)* The judgement of the Supreme Court is that the Council of Ministers at the Centre is as guilty as Shri Buta Singh ji. When Shri Buta Singh ji has tendered his resignation then the hon. Prime Minister should also resign. It is not proper to act like this by destroying the Constitutional provisions. That is why it is our demand that the hon. Prime Minister should take the onus and resign. It was highly unbecoming to call H.E. Mr. President to get his signatures in the midnight, so the Prime Minister must relinquish his office. ...*(Interruptions)*

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Only that hon. Member whose name is Harin Pathak will stand and speak. There is no other notice with me.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, his submission is regarding bomb blast. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I do not have your notice.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Prime Minister is not present in the House. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: I will come to your matter later on. Shri Harin Pathak has given a notice on an important matter. I am calling him. Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra, What is this?

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will be recorded.

...(*Interruptions*)*

[*Translation*]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir it is a constitutional matter and the Government is sitting silent on this matter.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Harin Pathak, I have called you. You are not being allowed. What can I do? You tell them.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will be recorded.

...(*Interruptions*)*

MR. SPEAKER: I will request you to please cooperate. These are very important matters. I am thankful to hon. Members who are alert enough to give notice on some important issues. Shri Harin Pathak has given a notice on an important matter. I will appeal to all his friends not to interrupt him.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (*Pur*): Sir, I have also given notice. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: I will see to it.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Sir, I have also given notice under Rule 184.

MR. SPEAKER: Those who have given notices for today, I have called them.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: I have given notice.

MR. SPEAKER: Sorry, that is not treated for this.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Is it not allowed under Rule 184?

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Tripathy, I will decide that. Please do not interrupt. You are a Leader of a Party. Shri Harin Pathak to speak now.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, what happened to the resignation?

MR. SPEAKER: You can take my resignation. I can give only my resignation.

...(*Interruptions*)

*Not recorded.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Only Shri Harin Pathak's statement will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, we need your ruling on this matter. You give a very fair ruling. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: When you have not raised point of order then there is no question of ruling.

...(Interruptions)

12.26 hrs.

SUBMISSIONS BY MEMBERS

(i) Re: Bomb blast at Ahmedabad Railway Station on 19.2.2006

[Translation]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (Ahmedabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister of Railways towards a very serious matter. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar): He should ask for the resignation of the Minister of Railways? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: I am asking for it. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: If the Prime Minister resigns, everybody else would be deemed to have resigned. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: All right, let's first compel the Minister of Railways to resign. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: It appears that they have reached an understanding.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (Puri): Sir, I want to speak on the same matter. I have given notice under Rule 184.

MR. SPEAKER: You have not given notice for today.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: I have given separate notice under Rule 184. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Notices under Rule 184 are not treated here today. Shri Tripathy, you must know by this time.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: I have given a notice on this issue under Rule 184. Will you not allow it under Rule 184?

MR. SPEAKER: I have never said so. I said, those are matters to be decided.

[Translation]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House towards the fact and hon'ble Minister of Railways would have also been aware that a big explosion in which RDX was used, occurred at the Ahmedabad railway station recently for this first time on the midnight of 18-19. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Sir, if you allow me, I will speak now. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You cannot get an undertaking from the Speaker. You cannot put a question to me. I have said when you raised that matter that it will be decided whether I shall admit it or not.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Sir, this is my request. ...*(Interruptions)* Sir, I am not interfering in your decision. You can take a decision on my notice. Since this is raised in 'Zero hour' and as already the matter has been raised, you should allow us. This is my request. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: If I need any advice I will take it from you.

...(Interruptions)

[*Translation*]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Mr. Speaker, Sir, thank you. Through you, I would again like to draw the attention of the hon'ble Minister of Railways. A very serious incident has taken place. A very big bomb explosion, in which RDX was used for the first time took place at the platform no. 2 of the Ahmedabad railway station on the midnight of 18-19, due to which, we people of Gujarat and the people of the entire country are very much worried, because daily 1.5 lakh people commute from that station. It was midnight and somebody has placed time bomb containing RDX, which exploded at 1.43 am. A massive explosion took place, as a result of which 25 people got injured. It was the grace of God and the luck of the commuters that the train running from Jodhpur to Bandra had left the station a short while ago. The explosion was so massive that even the roof of the platform no. 2 flew off. The people sitting in the hall of the station outside the platform no. 1 just 100 metres away from the site of the blast also got injured and four railway employees also got serious injuries. Besides, four vendors also got injured. As this station falls in my parliamentary constituency, I visited the blast site. This station is situated in the heart of the city. All the Iron pillars erected at the platform no. 2 got damaged and all glasses 50 meters away from the blast site also got broken. The glasses of the inquiry office also got damaged. The glasses of the Gujarat Police Post also got damaged. The glasses of the announcement cabin also got damaged. 19 people sitting outside the station also got injured. I would like to know from the Government that such a big incident occurred. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY (Sabarkantha): He should raise the matter with the Government of Gujarat.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Do not politicise the issue.

MR. SPEAKER: You ignore it and express your views.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Had the train running from Jodhpur to Bandra been late for half-an-hour, a very big accident could have occurred. It cannot be imagined. ...(*Interruptions*) Do not politicise the issue. I want that the Government should conduct inquiry in this regard. If one sees Aaj Tak and many other news channels one would come to know the real situation. ...(*Interruptions*) He wants that people may be got killed, the people may die in explosions, but I do not want to politicise the

issue. This incident has been covered by the newspapers and electronic media. Such a big explosion took place over there by using RDX for the first time. The train running from Jodhpur to Bandra had passed through that very platform a short while ago. I would like to tell Shri Mistry, had the train been late for half an hour, thousands of people might have got killed. He is politicising the issue, it is not appropriate. The hon'ble Minister of Railways should give a statement in this regard.

Besides that, I would also like to say that compensation of Rs. 500 has been paid to the injured. Paying Rs. 500 to the injured admitted in hospital appears to be a farce on the part of the railways. I would like to say that a probe should also be conducted in this regard. Rs. 25,000 should be paid as compensation to all the injured and Rs. 50,000 of compensation should be paid to those admitted in the hospital. The hon'ble Railway Minister should give a statement as to whether it was a time bomb or a RDX explosive was used and whether it was placed by a terrorist. All these issues should be probed by high-level committee.

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not repeat it.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: The security of the railway station from where 1.5 lakh people commute daily should be strengthened. ...(*Interruptions*) The people are dying over there; thousands of people could have died.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: I have given you full opportunity. This is not fair. Do not cast aspersions on the Chair.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: One thousand people would have died. The Government should take the seriousness of the blast.

MR. SPEAKER: Do not repeat.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: I would request the Railway Minister to please respond to it.

[*Translation*]

The Government should at least make people medical treatment available to those admitted in the hospital and should give a statement as to why this bomb explosion took place? ...(*Interruptions*)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Pathak, please listen.

[Translation]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: It appears that Minister of Railways is not aware that such a big explosion has occurred. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

He is not aware of the blast. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Can you go on interrogating like this? Can you compel anybody? You are a senior Member.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: I know that, but when the Railway Minister is present here, he should respond and tell the House as to what has actually happened, what is happening, what has happened. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: No, I will not allow.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: It is very unfortunate. You are misusing the opportunity.

Shri Basu Deb Acharia.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: When he is present in the House, he should respond. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing more of Shri Pathak is to be recorded.

...*(Interruptions)**

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, the Chief Minister of West Bengal made certain remarks against the US President, Mr. George W. Bush, in a rally in Kolkata. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I will not allow him to speak because he is not co-operating with me.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I will not allow him to speak now. This is not the way.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Sir, this is the only way because. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Such a big explosion occurred, he wants to reply.

MR. SPEAKER: Do you want to respond.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, the US envoy to India. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Railway Minister, do you want to respond?

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Sir, you are not allowing me to speak.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Pathak, this is very unfortunate. Please go through the records.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Everybody speaks on such a serious issue, such a big explosion occurred over there. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This is the way you are treating the Chair.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This is the way you are treating.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Sir, I have all the respect for the Chair.

MR. SPEAKER: I am requesting you to please sit down.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Sir, I am requesting the hon. Minister to respond on this issue. ...(*Interruptions*) The hon. Minister is present here. Let the House know what has happened in Ahmedabad. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: You are not adding to your glory.
...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: I am requesting you to direct the Hon. Railway Minister to make a statement as the hon. Minister is present here. It is a very important matter.

MR. SPEAKER: How have I not given importance to it?

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I will decide how the House will run. There were a number of notices, but it was said that one matter should be allowed first. I gave them my word, and I have allowed it. I have allowed those hon. Members.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not interrupt. We should give up this bad habit.

...(*Interruptions*)

AN HON. MEMBER: Yes.

MR. SPEAKER: I do not need your endorsement.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please see the agony of the Chair. I have allowed you because your matter is important. I have allowed you to raise it immediately as the number two matter. You have also taken some time, but when you started repeating yourself, then I asked you to please conclude. Now, in spite of my requests, you are insisting that I should immediately direct the hon. Minister to respond. There are ways of doing things. You are not a new Member.

Today, I myself directed the hon. Ministers to make statements.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: At least, this is not the way.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: I would request the hon. Minister to respond.

MR. SPEAKER: No, if you do that, then I would not allow him. He may be a Minister, but he cannot speak here without my permission.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Sir, I am requesting him, through you, to respond.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, he could do it provided he wants to do it. The arrangement between the Members and the Ministers does not bind me. But this is not the way and do not think that it will be repeated.

[*Translation*]

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have taken note of the information given by the hon'ble Member. I was informed of it. We are worried, as to who they were? I was not briefed of the incident in the sentimental way in which he has briefed the House because maintenance of law and orders on platforms is a responsibility of the State Government. We will conduct a probe in this regard and after the probe I will reply to the issue raised by him. I will give a statement in this regard at 12.00 hrs. tomorrow if you permit for the same.

[*English*]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Thank you, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: Do not record anything except the hon. Minister. Shri Basu Deb Acharia.

...(*Interruptions*)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, the US Ambassador to India. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I would have got you a better statement. I would have got you a much more comprehensive statement.

...(*Interruptions*)

*Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: I would have directed him to make a statement.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Sir, I did request you to do it. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: No, you did not request me. You did not request me.

12.36 hrs.

(II) Re: Situation arising out of reported remarks made by USA's Ambassador to India on the country's stand on some domestic and international issues particularly on the nuclear programme of Iran

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, the US Ambassador to India Mr. David C. Mulford is behaving in a way, which is unbecoming of a diplomat. He has written a letter to the Chief Minister of West Bengal reacting to what the Chief Minister of West Bengal said in a rally at Brigade Parade Ground in Kolkata where he made certain remarks against President Bush. The diplomat has reacted sharply to this. What has he stated and demanded?

"I ask you to reconsider your aggressive anti-American statements."

Sir, this is what Mr. David C. Mulford has written to the Chief Minister of West Bengal. ...(Interruptions) I would like to know from the Government whether an Ambassador or a diplomat can write. ...(Interruptions)

MD. SALIM (Calcutta—North East): Is he the American Ambassador or the Viceroy of India. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I cannot understand it.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur): How can you say that?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Will you allow your leader to speak or not? This is very strange. Your leader is making a statement with my permission.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: If you are not supporting him, then nothing is being recorded.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, the same thing happened when there was a bomb blast in Assam. He himself offered and wanted that the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) inquire this incident.

Again, on the eve of our Republic Day, he has outrageously crossed the line of diplomatic propriety. In his interview to the Press Trust of India.

MR. SPEAKER: After all, he is the representative of a friendly country. Let us not use such strong words. You have made your condemnation.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: He has stated that if the Government of India did not support the United States of America in case of Iran nuclear issue, then the United States of America would reconsider the nuclear agreement which was signed between the United States and India.

[Translation]

SHRI ILYAS AZMI (Shahabad): Whether it will interfere in our internal matter?

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: In his interview to the Press Trust of India, he has spotlighted the pitiful terms of bargain struck by the UPA Government with Washington under the signboard of civilian nuclear cooperation. This was a threat passed on to abandon any idea of voting independently on Iran nuclear issue. This is nothing but transgressing his line and his powers. He should be recalled. The Government of India has not taken up this issue seriously. So far, we have not seen any action taken by the Government of India. The Government of India should have taken it up seriously with the United States of America, and the Government of U.S.A., should be asked to recall the U.S. Ambassador

to India. They should be asked to recall him. I demand that the Government should make a statement on this issue. We want to know whether any diplomat, any Ambassador or any envoy can directly write to the Chief Minister of any State. I demand a response from the Government. This is a very serious issue.

MR. SPEAKER: It is a serious issue. Repetition will not make it more serious.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: It is nothing but intervening in the internal matter of our country. We cannot tolerate such interference as it is an internal matter of our country. Today, he wrote to the Chief Minister of West Bengal. He is interfering in the matter of our country. We cannot tolerate it. He should be recalled.

MR. SPEAKER: You have made your point. Let us wait and see. You have made your point.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV (Sambhal): The Government should give its reaction in this issue.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I cannot direct now. Those who have given notices, I will call them. Shri Gurudas Dasgupta, please be brief. Strong words break no bones.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA (Panskura): Mr. Speaker, Sir, you have rightly said that America is a friendly country.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I should also be given the opportunity to speak on this issue for a minute.

MR. SPEAKER: You have not given the notice.

[English]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: On this issue, we are all concerned about it.

MR. SPEAKER: Let him speak.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: I am not using harsh words. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Listen to me first. I am saying that you have raised an issue which, according to you, is important. But I am also saying that please do it in a manner which also maintains our dignity. Let us only match them in rhetorics.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (Puri): Where is the dignity?

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: The point is very simple.

MR. SPEAKER: I do not agree with you that this country has no dignity. Of course, this country has dignity.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: The country has dignity, but we are ashamed that the Government is silent on this issue.

MR. SPEAKER: Do not belittle your country or this House.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: We are proud of this country, but we are ashamed that such a statement was made by a foreign diplomat.

MR. SPEAKER: You are ashamed of the Government! You said, "Where is the dignity?"

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: India has to be dignified even while dealing with undignified persons of the world. We have to be dignified, I agree. The point is that the Ambassador, as the diplomatic representative of America, has a diplomatic obligation. The basic point is whether the present Ambassador of America has infringed upon his own rights as a diplomatic person. That is the basic question.

The second point is, he has been advising everybody in the world, in this country. Only a few days back he commented on the role of the Left parties in the country. He said that the Left parties' economic policy is against the interest of the country. Mr. Mulford is no guardian of Indian people. Indian people know what to do and what not to do. The Left is an independent political force in the country. The Government is running with our support. Therefore, the Left should not be advised by anybody, least of all by a person who is not an Indian citizen.

[Shri Gurudas Dasgupta]

You have been talking about Indian citizenship. He is not an Indian citizen. He has been advising everybody in the world. Please let me know under what diplomatic authority he could afford to write a letter to the Chief Minister of West Bengal. Under what diplomatic obligation he is free to advise the Indian Left that their economic policy or their attitude towards economic policy is wrong for the country? What is he to advise us?

MR. SPEAKER: Do not get so excited.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: It seems he believes that colonial rule still persists in India and he is the Viceroy of India. I demand that Mr. Mulford be declared *persona non grata*. President... is coming to India. We must make it clear... that this Ambassador is unfriendly to India. ...*(Interruptions)* This Ambassador should go back immediately with his bag and baggage.

The Government of India must show a little more courage. The Government of India must protect the dignity of the nation. May I know why the Government of India has not lodged any protest? You could not demand his recall but why could you not protest against the unmannerly behaviour of the American Ambassador in India thereby giving an impression that you are yielding to their pressure? If you are afraid of demanding a recall, at least you should have protested against his behaviour. We are very sorry about the behaviour of the Government of India.

MR. SPEAKER: May I make one observation?

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: We demand a categorical statement from the Government on this issue.

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat. This is not right. It will give a very bad impression.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Should not the Government respond to this? The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is sitting here. Should he not respond to this?

MR. SPEAKER: No, not without my permission.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: I seek your permission.

MR. SPEAKER: If you seek my permission, sit down.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: ...*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: This portion will be omitted because you have spoken without my permission.

The question is, this gives a bad impression. You spoke as if only Indian citizens can advise us. There are many people all over the world, well-meaning people, very close friends of this country, who are not Indian citizens but they have goodwill for us. Therefore, do not give an impression that we are so much concerned that only Indians can be good.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: He has been audacious. Advice is one thing; audacity is another thing.

MR. SPEAKER: I never justified it. I said only those who are accepted friends of India. Do not tell that every non-Indian is your enemy!

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: I have not said 'enemy'. I said 'unfriendly'.

MR. SPEAKER: You questioned as to how non-citizens can advise.

[Translation]

MOHD. SHAHID (Meerut): Mr. Speaker, Sir, in our country. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Your speech will not go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: What did you say?

MOHD. SHAHID: In the House everybody is saying that the ambassador of the United States has threatened us. ...*(Interruptions)* There should be a discussion in this regard. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: If you think this House is not being run properly, very well!

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This is not the way. No, I would not allow you to speak.

[Translation]

This is not a market place.

...(*Interruptions*)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is not a matter of being in favour or in opposition of somebody. But we do not find it appropriate that the ambassador of the United States should send a letter to any Chief Minister and suggest him that how he should express his views or he should not express his views. It is totally improper. This is highly objectionable. In this country everybody has the right to express his views. This is a democratic country. There are three objectionable points in this regard. First is that they threatened that if India would vote in favour of Iran the America will reconsider the agreement signed between the United States and India, second point that is more objectionable is that the Government succumbed before them and voted against Iran as per their wishes. Therefore, the ambassador of the United States. ...

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Member, you are only complicating the matter.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: The Government of India should clearly state to the ambassador of America that no ambassador has the right to interfere in the internal matters of India or to threaten us or to suggest that what views one should hold.

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is some dignity of a diplomat.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: My only prayer and request to all the hon. Members of this great House is that our response should be dignified. We should conduct ourselves in a manner that people can say that here is a considered response by the leaders of this country, not by shouting and counter-shouting.

[Translation]

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV: There is two very objectionable points in the speech of the American

ambassador. The first point is he directly threatened the Government of India that if India would not vote in favour of America and against Iran in the international atomic energy agency then the agreement signed by the Prime Minister in July regarding atomic energy would not be adhered to.

The second point which is more serious is that an ambassador writes a letter on the statement of a Chief Minister and in this letter he threatens him like a Jamindar of a village threatens or challenges anyone. It is a very serious matter. It is against the dignity, self-respect and honour of the country. The worst part is that despite all this, the Government of India is not reacting on this.

So, I demand that the Government of India should ask the US to recall its ambassador and formally record its objection by summoning the ambassador. With this demand, I associate myself with Shri Basu Deb Acharia.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This is what is expected.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Cooperate with the Chair; you will get the full opportunity. I want to make this absolutely certain, Those who are not cooperating will not be getting the opportunity.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the conduct of the American ambassador is unprecedented in the way he has given instruction and threatening, written letter to one of our Chief Ministers and whatever he has said regarding the Iran issue. I think it is a very serious matter because our country is a sovereign country. When any ambassador oversteps his limits, we request the concerned Government to recall him immediately and this tendency of ambassador should be checked forthwith. I feel the Government should immediately call the ambassador and instruct him diplomatically, because the conduct of the American ambassador is not only unprecedented but very serious and objectionable also. He has behaved like a Viceroy of the pre-independence India.

Our country has diplomatic dignity and he has violated that dignity. The ambassador of America has disrespected

[Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav]

our diplomatic dignity. ...*(Interruptions)* So he should immediately apologize for this. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ILYAS AZMI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my party is also slated to Speaker on this issue. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You have some patience, I will also call you. I have written your name in the list. If all the hon. Members will speak together then nothing will go on record.

[English]

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Hon. Speaker, Sir, we all have been shocked with the statement of this foreign dignitary. We want to respect him. He is the Ambassador of a country. He should not also show disrespect to the people of this country. It is further shocking that the Government is silent over this. The prolonged silence of this Government is further shocking. The entire country is shocked over the statement. But the Government is not reacting and remaining silent. How is this Government functioning in this country without reacting to it when the whole country is insulted? I want the Government to come forward with a statement. Such type of Ambassadors should be asked to go back immediately. The US Government should be asked that the Ambassador should respectfully quit this country. He should not make such types of statement. That is my demand. The Government should come forward with a statement.

[Translation]

SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA (Sangrur): Thank you Mr. Speaker. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon'ble Leader of a party is speaking. Please show some respect to him.

[Translation]

SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a very serious issue and you have seen its seriousness. All the Opposition and the ruling parties have expressed their concern the way America has challenged our sovereignty and demanded that some action should be taken against America. The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is present here. If he does not respond to this

issue now, he may fix some date. He must give some answer to apprise the House about what talks were held with them and what was the outcome and also what action is being taken by the Government thereon?

SHRI ILYAS AZMI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the issue raised by Shri Basu Deb Acharia is an issue of the prestige of this country. Mr. Mulford has not merely written a letter to the Chief Minister of West Bengal but has also used intimidating language, which is totally against the dignity of our country. It is a matter of regret that which ever Government is in power, before this NDA was in power, they also kowtowed before the super power....*now the UPA Government is in power. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You may ignore that.

SHRI ILYAS AZMI: Now, when the UPA Government is in power then...* Through you I demand that to uphold the dignity of our country before the arrival of...* Malford should be declared a *persona non-grata* and asked to leave the country. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Do not use that name or remark.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Please help me. I have a sour throat.

[English]

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY (Sriperumbudur): Sir, I strongly object this type of attitude of the American Ambassador. We have never heard, in the past, regarding an Ambassador threatening a Chief Minister by writing a letter. It will damage the sovereignty of our country. Therefore, to protect the sovereignty of the country, the American Ambassador should be asked to leave. There should be a statement from the Government of India.

[Translation]

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL (Buldhana): Mr. Speaker, Sir, both the issues raised by Shri Basu Deb Acharia regarding the Chief Minister of West Bengal and by Shri Malhotra on the issue of voting, in case of Iran are quite serious issues. This is the issue involving the

*Not recorded.

dignity of the country as well as that of the Chief Minister of West Bengal. He has called upon the Government to ask the ambassador to leave the country and I support him and also associate myself with him.

13.00 hrs.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the kind of letter the American Ambassador has written to the Chief Minister of West Bengal is totally unfair. As far as the issue of yielding to America is concerned, during the six year term of the NDA Government it was done many a times. We want that America should keep friendly relations with India but if America would keep on putting this kind of pressure on India, then, we, the Members of all the parties, oppose it. If the American Ambassador had to write a letter, he could have addressed it to the Government of India but he should not have addressed it to any Chief Minister. Writing this kind of letter to the Chief Minister of a State is very offending and unfair. Therefore, American Ambassador must be sent back if the President of America is arriving here, we all would try to persuade him to call back Ambassador and he must be called back.

SHRI RAJ BABBAR (Agra): Mr. Speaker, Sir, whatever has been mentioned about the American Ambassador is a very serious matter. The way Ambassadors are interfering in the affairs of the States is a very intriguing and dangerous. The Ambassadors of America and Israel stayed in Uttar Pradesh for 3 days, how did they interfere, what were their activities there, is evident from this fact that they came to attend the Agro-expo but did not attend it for even three seconds. I do not know if the Government of India is aware of all this? Uttar Pradesh is a very sensitive and a very important State. Few days back it was published in the news paper that. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Are you not speaking on this ongoing matter?

SHRI RAJ BABBAR: Yes Sir, I am speaking on this. I am speaking very much on this matter.

[*Translation*]

Just two days back, it was published in the news paper that a political person received Rs. 150 crores. I

am afraid, who is that political person since the amount of Rs. 150 crore which has been transacted, will that money be used for terrorism or for purchase of arms and weapons. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: For this, you have to give a specific notice.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAJ BABBAR: Why this Government is not providing information regarding visits made by the American and Israeli Ambassadors and then activities and regarding the undue pressure exerted by them and why the IT Department is not guiding in this matter? Who is that person, who received Rs. 150 crore? The way this person is acting as a middleman. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: No, this will not be allowed.

SHRI RAJ BABBAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this kind of information is very necessary since transaction of Rs. 150 crore has taken place in Uttar Pradesh. If such information is not provided it will be detrimental for the elections going to be conducted there in near future. For the terrorism in Uttar Pradesh. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Bring that to me. Hum dekhenge (I will see to it).

SHRI RAJ BABBAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I request the Government to respond to this matter as to who are those people, who are planning to carryout the terrorist activities.

MD. SALIM: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are proud of being Indian and that we have a culture, have a tradition and a democratic tradition. Whenever anybody from across the globe or from any country arrives in India, we honour him as our guest, may he be a politician or a common men but we cannot permit a person or an Ambassador to interfere in our Internal affairs. It does not happen in any part of the world, be it a small country. If they have some self respect then instructing an elected Chief Minister of that country to act as per their wish is not a fair practice. United States of America has also a dignity. If we visit America and make certain comments against the imperialism of America then we can take the responsibility that American democracy allow this.

[Md. Salim]

But in this country the American Ambassador will not allow that our Chief Minister.*....

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: No; that will not go on record.

[Translation]

MD. SALIM: Mr. Speaker, Sir, our Prime Minister and our Government should muster courage, to convey it to the Ambassador that he can't do like this. If it can't do so it should make a statement in this House. We understand that on Republic day he will say that if vote isn't correct regarding Iran, than it will lead to problem. Advice us on FDI that what leftists should do. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Leave it, those are not the matters here.

[Translation]

MD. SALIM: Mr. Speaker Sir, there is no need to seek permission from America regarding what CPI leaders are likely to speak in their rally. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: All right, Mr. Salim, now you are repeating the same thing. Please take your seat.

[Translation]

MD. SALIM: Mr. Speaker Sir, the Prime Minister will have to make it clear that America is not supposed to monitor as to what the Chief Minister of a State in the country should speak and what not. So, Government will have to muster courage and needs to make a statement in this regard and the Government should speak about recalling an Ambassador from this country".

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Do not bring us to that level, please.

MD. SALIM: It should not be treated like this.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Salim, it does not behove you to say like that.

SHRI VIJAYENDRA PAL SINGH (Bhilwara): I endorse the views expressed by most of the hon. Members here on this issue. Let me also put forth my views.

We have had very eminent Ambassadors from America. Today India and America are enjoying very good relations. What I want to say is that Ambassador Mulford must realise this. As an Ambassador, he is not an ordinary person or an ordinary American who is coming here. He is an Ambassador of a country; he must speak out what befits the relationship between India and America. What he has done is very wrong and we must really protest to the Government of America. This must be done by the Prime Minister and the External Affairs Minister. Thank you very much.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN (Indore): Mr. Speaker, Sir, we were discussing about different kind of self-respect. I would like to draw House's attention to another issue. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Is there any clarification from the Government? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: It depends on the Government. It is entirely for the Government to respond.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: This is a question of country's self respect. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMJILAL SUMAN: Government should make a statement. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: So far as the instantaneous response is concerned, it entirely depends on the Government to see whether they would like to respond to it now or later or not at all. But if you hold up the proceedings of the House, how does it help? It is entirely for the Government to respond.

...*(Interruptions)*

[*Translation*]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Government should make a statement on this. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, do you want to say something?

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: If he wants to say something, I will not stand in the way. I have only said that I cannot compel him.

...(*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): Sir, I have respectfully heard the concerns expressed by the distinguished hon. Members. Certainly, I can assure the House that I will convey the concerns to the hon. Prime Minister today. I can also tell that our Government and our nation—not in the past, nor now nor in future too—shall compromise on our national dignity, and honour and authority of the Parliament.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, it is not sufficient.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAMJILAL SUMAN: We boycott the House against this.

13.08 hrs.

[*Shri Ramjilal Suman and some other hon. Members then left the House*]

[*English*]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, we are not satisfied with the statement and we are walking out.

13.08¹/₄ hrs.

[*At this stage, Shri Basu Deb Acharia and some other hon. Members left the House.*]

[*Translation*]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: This is a very serious matter for House and the country. ...(*Interruptions*) We walk out from the House.

13.08¹/₂ hrs.

[*Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav and some other Hon. Members then left the House*]

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Do not take down anything now. Nothing should be recorded.

...(*Interruptions*)*

[*Translation*]

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: You should also go. Do not protect them. Do not protect them. ...(*Interruptions*)

13.08³/₄ hrs.

[*At this stage, Shri Gurudas Dasgupta and some other hon. Members left the House.*]

SHRI RAJ BABBAR: Income Tax Department of Govt. of India should trace out the name of that person, about whom it has been reported in the newspapers, so that it can be known that who is this person of brokerage nature. ...(*Interruptions*) Govt. of India is not understanding its responsibility, Hence I am walking out from House.

13.09 hrs.

[*Shri Raj Babbar then left the House*]

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, we are on another issue, I will be calling you by your turn. If your Name is in notice then you will also get an opportunity. Shrimati Sumitra Mahajan may please continue now.

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN (Indore): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to raise a sensitive issue before this House. Recently, when few days back, sentiment of a community was hurt by the cartoon, at that time I came to know that Government expressed its displeasure to Government of Denmark in writing. I am

*Not recorded.

[Shrimati Sumitra Mahajan]

of the opinion that it would be better if the Government could be a little bit more accommodating in showing the kind of sensitivity that it has shown in this matter. It would be better if Government can expand this sensitiveness a bit, because, one such case has been reported from the Greek city of Athens. There, one liquor company has depicted the goddess Durga on liquor bottles. I wish that Government to express its opposition and lodge its protest in this matter also.

Apart from this, I will draw Government's attention towards another matter, this is a very sensitive matter. In India also one painter continuously paints such paintings and apologise for the same. Recently, an incident has come into light that this painter has painted a nude painting of Indian goddess. May be he had apologized for the same. I would also like to tell that an institution named Action India Trust auctioned this painting for helping some earthquake affected areas and earned money from auction. Earlier it was said that this painting will not be auctioned. Later it came to be known that it was auctioned and money was earned from it. Will earthquake victims get relief from auctioning such painting. Firstly human's die from earthquake and thereafter money earned by such means is being used for feeding people, than public's humanity will die. Will public eat from money earned by such means? This is most dangerous trend in this country. I would like to know from Govt.—whether it has shown its unhappiness against such painting in Athens city. If unhappiness was not shown than why it has not been shown?

Secondly, I would like to say that will the Government take any action, if such paintings are painted by Indian painters? Thirdly, that nude painting of Indian goddess has been auctioned. Money has been earned from nude painting of Indian goddess. Will some action be taken on the same. ...*(Interruptions?)*

MR. SPEAKER: If you will speak in the middle then how her point will be heard.

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: I wish that Government will definitely give due attention to these sensitive matters.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Rewati Raman Singh, you have given a notice to raise the issue of bird flu on which a full statement has been made.

13.11 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till ten minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

14.12 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at twelve minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): Sir, I would like to make a submission. In the Leaders meeting, it was decided that the discussion on the Contempt of Courts (Amendment) Bill would be taken up tomorrow and now we would take up discussion on the Motion of Thanks.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I think the House agrees.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

14.13 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Matters under Rule 377 listed for the day may be treated as laid on the Table of the House.

- (1) **Need to take suitable steps to ameliorate the lot of farmers in Aurangabad Parliamentary Constituency, Bihar**

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR (Aurangabad): Agriculture is the mainstay of Bihar specially after Jharkhand was carved out of it. But farmers in the State face all kinds of problems. North Bihar, as is universally known, is ravaged but floods, which have become an annual hardship. Farmers are forced to shift from flooded areas to dry places and they remain there for extended periods. During this period they are unable to work in their fields.

*Not recorded.

Large areas in my Aurangabad Parliamentary Constituency depend upon rainfall for irrigation. For the last two years, it has been struck by drought due to monsoon failure. Nearly a fourth of its Panchayats have been so affected where farmers with their own tube wells cannot operate them due to shortage of power.

Therefore, it is important to help the farmers through procurement of their produce with enhanced quota.

Further, the FCI procured only 6611 mt of rice and that too not from the farmers directly but through Primary Agricultural Credit Cooperative Societies. This procurement through middlemen, even if they were cooperative societies, hurt the farmers who did not get the deserved price for their produce.

FCI should set up its godown in Aurangabad to store the procured foodgrains and the procurement should be done directly from the farmers and not through middlemen like Primary Agricultural Credit Societies.

I also request the Railway Ministry to allot a rake for Anugrah Narayan Road railway station to facilitate foodgrains buyers from outside the State to lift the desired quantity from the farmers of Aurangabad as was the practice till 2002-03. The Railways had then made a profit of Rs. 1 crore as transportation charges. The arrangement had benefited farmers and the Railways as well.

(ii) Need to ensure employment in respect of cases considered under compassionate grounds

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH (Karolbagh): Sir, there is need to seriously ponder over the need to ensure cent percent employment on the compassionate grounds and one of the members of the family of person who died in harness, should be given employment. If the ward of the person dying in harness is not a major at the time of such an incident, he or she should be given employment, once he attains the minimum age of getting employment because in its absence selection in all Government Deptts. is being done arbitrarily and such individual doesn't get employment, who actually needs employment, which increases corruption. If some lady's husband dies while in service, then employment must be given to her or her child, so that his source of livelihood could be maintained and shortfall in government service can also be fulfilled

because such vacancies arising out of the death of employees during their service tenure adds to the work burden and affects overall functioning. Number of Govt. employees has already decreased and population has increased by five times. Hence, common man feels problems in public dealing offices, because employees are less and work is more. Due to which public's work takes time. Hence, I demand from Government of India that appropriate and strong steps should be taken for employment on compassionate grounds.

(iii) Need to release funds from Central Road Fund for upgradation of Godoj-Ramachandrapura and Delhi-Alwar-Shahpura roads in Rajasthan

DR. KARAN SINGH YADAV (Alwar): Sir, the Government of Rajasthan has sent a representation to the Central Government to release the amount from Central Road fund (C.R.F.) for upgradation of some important inter-state roads and other roads of economic importance. In this representation, the Haryana Border-Godaj, Taseeng, Bahrod-Ramachandrapura road mentioned at Sl. No. 16 is a very important interstate road and Delhi-Alwar-Shahpura road mentioned at Sl. No. 17 is of economic importance. Both the above roads pass through my Constituency, Alwar and both are completely damaged. Upgradation and widening of these roads will serve the public interest.

Hence, I urge the Minister of State in the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways to release the funds for these roads on priority basis.

(iv) Need to clear the proposal of the Government of Andhra Pradesh for the development of Inland Waterways & Inland Water Transport

[English]

SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO (Guntur): Andhra Pradesh Government has requested for development of Inland Waterways and inland water transport in Andhra Pradesh. A proposal in this regard for development of Inland Waterways and Inland Water Transport in Andhra Pradesh by declaring River Godavari between Bhadrachalam and Rajahmundry, alongwith River Krishna between Wazirbad and Prakasam barrage, integrated with Kakinada Canal, Eluru Canal, Commamur Canal and Buckingham canal as National Waterways is under consideration of Government of India.

[Shri Rayapati Sambasiva Rao]

The Inland Waterways Authority of India, in its recent letter dated 23.8.2005 have informed that the above proposal has already been studied by IWAI and after it was found viable for development, proposal for declaration of the same as national Waterways is already under active consideration of Government of India; that after declaration of this waterway system as National Waterway, Government of India through IWAI will take up the development works through entire funding by Government of India, with proactive support of Government of Andhra Pradesh.

The approval of the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways and shipping is still awaited. I urge upon the Government to take necessary action at an early date which will be beneficial to the State of Andhra Pradesh.

(v) Need to review the functioning of Damodar Valley Corporation in Jharkhand

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR DUBEY (Dhanbad): Sir, the first Prime Minister of the country, Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru had the vision to set-up Damodar Valley Corporation as a public sector undertaking which he materialized by enacting a law to this effect in 1948.

The river Damodar which was known as the sorrow of Bengal was converted into a progressive project by Pandit Ji. Consequent upon the setting up of this corporation, industrial revolution could become a reality in the eastern region especially in West Bengal and the present State of Jharkhand.

Presently, the corporation is in a very bad state of affairs. The post of Chairman of the Corporation is vacant since October 2003. I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the irregularities prevailing in the Corporation, which have been highlighted in the weekly magazine, 'Outlook' dated 31 October 2005. An enquiry should be conducted by the CBI to ascertain the assets of the persons who were appointed as the Chairman of the Corporation on ad-hoc basis during the last two years.

I urge the Government to immediately appoint a hard-working professional as the Chairman of this Corporation and fill up all other posts which are lying vacant by immediately appointing efficient persons to these posts. In addition to that a comprehensive enquiry may be conducted by the CBI regarding all the aspects of irregularities committed.

(vi) Need to set up a Doordarshan Kendra at Beena, Madhya Pradesh

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR (Sagar): Sir, Beena is an important Junction in my constituency, Sagar (Madhya Pradesh). There is a big grain market there. Bharat Petroleum is setting up Beena Refinery here, whereby this town will become more important from commercial point of view, but in the absence of a Doordarshan Kendra here the local people have to face the highhandedness of the Cable operators. There has been a long pending demand of the citizens of Beena to open a Doordarshan Kendra there.

Hence, I urge upon the Government, that keeping in view the needs of Beena town, action may be taken to open Doordarshan Kendra there on priority basis.

(vii) Need to confer ownership rights on the tribals living on forest land in Gujarat

SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA (Bharuch): Sir, the tribal population is being evacuated from the forest area in entire Gujarat. These tribal people have been inhabiting in these forest areas since ages and surviving on the crops and other things grown in the forests. The forests and the Tribals are supplementary and complementary to each other and the tribals living in these forests are extremely poor, illiterate and belong to the Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes. The tribals are not responsible for the destruction of the forest but they preserve them since they regard the forest as their deity. The Government should initiate appropriate action against the forest mafias who are destroying the forests and the illiterate and innocent people should not be held responsible for the destruction of the forest.

Hence, I urge the Central Government, through this House, that the inhabitants of these forests should be given legal rights of ownership of the houses they are living in and the land they are cultivating. If there is any need to enact or amend any law then immediate action may be taken in this regard.

(viii) Need to upgrade Gwalior-Sheopurkalan railway section and extend it upto Kota city in Rajasthan

SHRI ASHOK ARGAL (Morena): Sir, Gwalior-Sheopurkalan narrow gauge line of North-Central Railways is the main rail line of Chambhal region which passes through the rural areas. Today, we are in the age of

Computerization, still the trains are running on the said line at the speed of 25 k.m. per hour. I urge the Government to extend this line upto Kota city of Rajasthan after the gauge conversion of the said track, the survey for which is being conducted by the Railways.

(ix) Need to ensure that adequate quantity of ration is supplied to the people living Below Poverty Line in the region

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Sir, there is a well known Nasirabad Cantonment area in my constituency, Ajmer, the developmental work of which is the responsibility of the Cantonment Board. The elections for Cantonment Board have not been conducted for many years. Due to this reason there is no one to mitigate the hardships being faced by the people living in that area. So much so that they have been deprived of the facilities, which are provided to the people living below poverty line by the Government of India and the Government of Rajasthan. The Civic bodies conducted a survey of the entire urban and rural areas in 2003 to ascertain the number of people living below poverty line, but no such survey was conducted in the cantonment board area and the people were even deprived of the facilities of foodgrains, sugar, kerosene oil at the cheaper rates through Public Distribution System being provided to the people living below poverty line. The poor people of Nasirabad are absolutely deprived of such facilities for the last 2-3 years.

I, therefore, request the Government to immediately hold the election for Cantonment Board and unless the board identifies the families living below poverty line and above poverty line by conducting a survey the State Government may be directed not to deprive the poor people living in the cantonment area of the rations and other facilities and they may be provided all facilities as before.

(x) Need to continue Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana upto the year 2009 with a view to develop selected districts in Madhya Pradesh

SHRI GAURISHANKER CHATURBHUIJ BISEN (Balaghat): Sir, the Government of India identified the most backward districts in the country for their development, and included 10 districts in Madhya Pradesh for this purpose in the first phase. This scheme was named as 'Rashtriya Samvikas Yojana'. The districts thus, identified were allocated Rs. 15 crore each, and as per

the guidelines and directives a Rs. 45 crore scheme was chalked out the results whereof are very encouraging. Important sectors such as education, health, transportation and water resources were included in this scheme. The first phase commenced in 2004. The present year i.e., 2006, is the last year of this scheme. The selected districts have not been developed fully. Therefore, this scheme should continue for another three years i.e., 2007, 2008 and 2009 for the districts identified initially and another package of Rs. 45 crore each be allocated under the Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana.

(xi) Need to withdraw the decision for enhancement of price and reduction of quantity of ration items under Targeted Public Distribution System in Kerala

[English]

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN (Kasargod): The Public Distribution System in Kerala has been functioning for a long time providing assistance to the common people. The Public Distribution System has assisted to control the prices of food grains in the State. The poor people are mostly depending on this PDS system. But now the Central Government has enhanced the price and reduced the scale of distribution of food grains under the TPDS. These will really weaken the rationing system in Kerala and poor people may find it difficult to purchase rice and wheat required by them. I would like to request the Government not to carry out the proposed enhancement of price and reduction of quantity of ration items under Targeted Public Distribution System in the State.

(xii) Need to take suitable measures to check the increase in prices of wheat

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA (Etawah): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister, through House, and submit that the prices of essential commodities used by the common man have increased by 25 to 50 percent during the past six months. With wheat prices shooting up by as much as 50 percent, the common man is facing immense hardships. The farmers, the poor and the helpless people are reeling under the impact of price rise. Importing wheat in order to check the price rise is not going to mitigate the problem. To overcome this, we should use modern technology to increase wheat production. Also, modern spacious godowns should be constructed for the storage of wheat, to overcome this problem.

(xiii) **Need to take over the work of Belharna Hydro Reservoir in Banka Parliamentary constituency, Bihar by the Central Government with a view to ensure its early completion**

SHRI GIRIDHARI YADAV (Banka): Sir, in my parliamentary constituency Banka, Bihar, the Belharna Hydro Reservoir in Belhar Block, is under construction since the past several years. Only 70 percent construction has been completed. But due to the paucity of fund with the Bihar Government, the reservoir remains incomplete even today. The equipment and machinery used therein is becoming redundant. This is a national loss. Belhar, Sangrampur, Tarapur, Bumbur etc. blocks would be benefited immensely from this reservoir. These blocks have a large population of Adivasis. With the irrigation facility, their life would undergo a sea change.

Through the House, I request the Government to take over the construction work of the reservoir and get it completed so that irrigation facility can be provided to the people.

(xiv) **Need to review the functioning of various Centrally sponsored programmes providing foodgrains to poor people in Uttar Pradesh and other parts of the country**

SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK (Unnao): Sir, wheat and rice worth thousands of crores of rupees allocated by the Central Government to provide relief to the poor and the unemployed through Antodaya scheme, Annapurna Scheme, mid-day meal scheme, Sampoorna Gramin Rajgar Yojana, and other related Central Government schemes to provide relief in drought and flood hit areas, is not being distributed efficiently in the country specially in Uttar Pradesh. After preparing BPL and distribution cards in various districts of Uttar Pradesh, the executing agencies are indulging in irregularities by showing distribution of foodgrains several times for the same work done under food for work programme and other central schemes.

It is my request to the Central Government, through the House, to take effective steps to check irregularities in the distribution of huge quantities of foodgrains allotted by the Central Government and its availability to the poor and needy.

(xv) **Need to set up a Diesel Homeshed and Wagon Carrier Workshop at Purna Junction, Parbhani Parliamentary Constituency, Maharashtra**

SHRI TUKARAM GANPATRAO RENGE PATIL (Parbhani): Sir, in my Parbhani Parliamentary Constituency in Maharashtra, before the Purna junction there was a locoshed which was shut-down after the use of diesel engine came into vogue. The locoshed still exists there. There is also a colony for its employees. Land and water too is available. After the locoshed was shut down, a diesel homeshed was not constructed. As a result, the railway is unable to make use of the facilities of locoshed at Purna junction. Lalguda workshop is 650 km, Rayal Padu workshop is 650 km, Matunga workshop is 700 km and hubli workshop is 600 km, away from Purna junction. From Purna junction diesel engine repair facility and wagon washing facility are located very far away. This entails huge financial loss to the railways, as the diesel homeshed with all its facility at Purna junction remains unused.

Therefore, it is my request to the Central Government, through the House, to set up a diesel homeshed and wagon carrier workshop at Purna junction for the benefit of the railway as well as the people.

(xvi) **Need to create a new Railway Division at Jharsuguda under the East Coast Railway**

[English]

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): East Coast Railway was made operational with effect from 1st April 2003 with Khurda Road, Sambalpur and Waltair Divisions. The operating ration of this railway zone has been excellent and even one of the lowest in Indian Railways.

However, expansion of jurisdiction of East Coast Railway has become a necessity in view of rapid industrialization in Orissa. I would urge upon the Ministry of Railways to extend the jurisdiction of Sambalpur division to include—

- (a) Jharsuguda—Barsuan—Kiriburu
- (b) Rourkela—Nuagaon
- (c) Jharsuguda—Himgiri

A separate new division may be created at Jharsuguda under the East Coast Railway.

Likewise, the jurisdiction of East Coast Railway be extended to include Bansapani to Padapahar section and Bhadrak-Laxmannath Road section in Khurda Road Division. This will help in the Operation of railways in that area.

I urge upon the Government to take immediate steps in this regard.

- (xvii) **Need to advise the Government of Karnataka to ensure that the job seekers from other States are not discriminated while seeking an employment in the State**

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN (Trichur): It has been reported that the employment seekers in Bangalore from outside Karnataka are asked to produce police verification certificates to prove that they are not involved in any criminal case.

The job seekers are provided job only if they produce such a certificate. This practically has led the denial of job to people from outside the State, which is unfortunate.

The House should express its concern over the policy. Even if the Govt. of Karnataka requires this certificate for security reasons, it is only fair that the applicants are admitted in the job first and then asked to produce such a verification certificate within reasonable time. I, therefore, urge upon the Govt. to take up the matter with the Karnataka State Government to ensure that the job seekers from other States are not discriminated against.

- (xviii) **Need to take steps for widening of Mumbai-Agra National Highway No. 3 at Nasik, Maharashtra with a view to ensure smooth flow of traffic in the region**

[Translation]

SHRI DEVIDAS PINGLE (Nasik): Sir, Mumbai-Agra national highway No. 3 passes through Nasik city. Traffic remains heavy on the Mumbai-Nasik highway resulting in several accidents during the past few years causing immense loss of life and property. The Government has merely announced its widening. But no action has been taken.

I request the Government to take prompt action to prevent the loss of life and to provide relief to the people.

- (xix) **Need to upgrade the existing State Highway between Sivakasi and Sattur to a National Highway and include it in four-laning plan between Virudhunagar and Sattur**

[English]

SHRI SIPPIPARAI RAVICHANDRAN (Sivakasi): Sivakasi in Virudhunagar district is one of the important industrial towns in Tamil Nadu having hundreds of fireworks, matches and printing industries. It has production worth more than 1000 crores and exports exceeding 100 crores through Tutucorin Port. The four laning of National Highways Road from Virudhunagar to Sattur has already started. Sivakasi is just 18 km away from Sattur and a State Highway Road connects Sivakasi with Sattur. If the Sivakasi-Sattur State Highway is upgraded to and it is included in the four laning plan as a lateral connectivity to NH 07, it will facilitate better connectivity to Tutucorin Port.

- (xx) **Need to ensure the sum allocated under special component plans for the benefit of SCs/STs is not spent on any other items of work**

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Sir, a large number of people are living below the poverty line and the number of people belonging to SC and ST is the largest among them. So, the need of the hour is that an amendment should be made in the Constitution so that the sum allocated under special component plans (SCP) for the upliftment of SCs and STs whose number is 50% of the population is not diverted to any other head. The need arisen because the then Prime Minister Late Mrs. Indira Gandhi ji launched SCP for SCs and TSP for STs in 1976, but it failed to achieve its objective as it was not binding. So, an amendment should be made in the Constitution to uplift the people living below poverty line by allocating sum according to the population of SCs/STs.

14.14 hrs.

MOTION OF THANKS ON PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now we will take up Item No. 10.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY (Sabarkantha): I beg to move:

"That an Address be presented to the President in the following terms:

"That the Members of the Lok Sabha assembled in this Session are deeply grateful to the President for the Address which he has been pleased to deliver to both Houses of Parliament assembled together on February 16, 2006."

[Translation]

Hon'ble Deputy Speaker, Sir, I express my gratitude to the Honourable President for delivering his Address to both the Houses of the Parliament. I rise to move a motion of thanks on the President's Address. If one goes through the President's Address, it becomes very clear what our Government plans to do in the coming days, what are her priorities and strategies. The President's Address clearly indicates the direction in which the country is to head.

Sir, I would like to submit that since this session has started, that is, the last two days of the last week and today, only two issues have been raised. The Hon. Leader of Opposition and other members of the NDA are burning their calories by making small issues or non-issues into big ones. It is a matter of regret. They are not able to appreciate the legislation, the Employment Guarantee Act, passed by the UPA Government mentioned in the President's Address. This is a historical piece of legislation. The whole country is pinning its hopes on this legislation and watching how we are enforcing it.

I feel that once the legislation is enforced, people living in villages throughout the country in 2000 districts will get employment and perhaps the circumstances will change for the better and nobody would die of hunger. People will have money, they will have increased purchasing power, and, thus, rural economy would be strengthened. It is but regrettable that when the legislation was being passed, the opposition had its doubts as to from which source the finances would be managed, and where this legislation would be enforced and also whether

the Government would be able to enforce it. But the UPA Government was committed and continues to be so. The legislation was passed and this time it is being implemented in 200 districts. Most probably, 200 districts more would be added this year. I am happy to remind him that the hon. Finance Minister and other Minister had assured this House that scarcity of funds would never let be felt in this scheme. The legislation is such that State Governments would formulate the schemes by themselves. NDA led and their allied Governments have shown less enthusiasm than was expected in the implementation of this legislation. The impression I have got is that they are not enthusiastic about its implementation.

The State I belong to got prepared for it just one week ago despite repeated reminders of rural development department of the Central Government, and may be, the Government of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and NDA's allied Governments have the same approach, the same attitude as Government of my State has because they are afraid for the success of this scheme of the Central Government. They are afraid that all the glory, all the credits may go to the Central Government with the enforcement of Employment Guarantee Act. This seems to mar their prospects for the ensuing elections. That is why my impression is that these Governments do not want to enforce it systematically.

I would like to say to say that if it happens in the House, it would be the highest level of disservice to the people of the country. I deplore the attitude being shown towards its enforcement to minimize its effect and I request the opposition to keep political differences aside and to think about the people who wish to work, to utilize the sum provided to State Governments by the Centre for the purpose, to enforce the legislation and to provide employment to the unemployed to allocate funds to villages so that the villager's purchasing power may be increased and their needs are fulfilled.

The UPA Government has said through President's Address that the Government is committed towards the welfare of the poor, the SCs, STs, OBCs, minorities and women and children of weaker sections. They do not want to compromise for any caste. I would repeat that my friends sitting in front of me want the country's attention diverted to other issues. They are making efforts for it for the last 2-3 days. I would like to tell them that this Government is committed to the welfare of SCs, STS, OBCs and tribals. This Government is making all out efforts to implement reservation in the private sector, in industries since employment potential is gradually decreasing.

There are about 8% of STs and more than 16% of SCs in the whole SC, ST class. Apart from this, the other poor class is the OBCs, who are landless. The source of their income is the work they do. The policy of the Government is that they get maximum work, now and for the times to come. The Government have undertaken a very comprehensive time bound programme named Bharat Nirman. The objective of Bharat Nirman programme is to provide telephone, road and electricity in every village, to provide houses and jobs to the people who live in the villages. The Government intends to spend more than Rs. 1,74,000 crore under this scheme in the coming years. I would like to outline the strategy behind the programme which is that, it intends to thoroughly regenerate the villages, utilize the rural manpower and their potential energy so that this energy may be used to generate work, money, wealth and moreover, the most neglected villages have been accorded highest priority by the UPA Government in President's address. When the Members of the opposition were sitting at this side, they used to talk of 'India Shining'. We, too, said and still say—

[English]

Yes, India is now shining but shining for all.

[Translation]

Millions of people who live in villages should be provided with best of facilities, their employment potentials should be increased, infrastructure of the villages should be improved, so that they get maximum facilities and they should be ones who progress most in the country. The Government has also paid attention to the urbanisation taking place in the country under the 'Bharat Nirman' programme. This has also been referred to in the hon'ble President' Address. How many States are there in the country where 34 to 35 percent people are living in the cities? At present what is plaguing the civil life in cities is the problem of shelter, basic services, basic amenities, infrastructure etc. and if the urban rate of growth would continue to increase unabated then it can lead to a crisis in cities.

The UPA Government has launched its Urban Renewal Mission in more than 65 cities in view of the increasing population and with a view to improve urban infrastructure, roads, transport and the like. The Urban renewal mission has been envisaged with a view to provide drinking water, electricity, health and transport

facilities in poor townships in the urban areas. Under this programme funds are being allocated to the State Government for those cities. There are several such cities in the country where 65 to 75 percent people are living in jhuggis. It poses a big challenge to us. A large number of such people do not even get ten by ten feet space. This is also true that crores of people are living on footpaths. It is my humble request to the Government that the land near major cities should be acquired its ownership rights should be given to the people living in jhuggi-clusters. Under the Indira Awas Yojana land is allotted free of cost to the landless agricultural labourers for residential purpose in the rural areas. I would like to request the UPA Government to provide land for residential purposes to crores of people living in jhuggi-jhopris by acquiring the land around the towns in order to address the problems of people living in jhuggi-jhopris.

Today, the condition of living is quite poor in cities. A person dies but the land of the house in which he resides throughout his life is not his own. The life of people living on a plot of land is totally uncertain. If a person gets a right to live in a city he would like to construct his own house on that land. He would also get back loan for that purpose so as to furnish his house with good facilities. This will also improve the quality of life in cities.

I would like to submit that the entire strategy has been discussed in the president's Address. It is about building up employment potential on the one hand which would fetch work to millions and on the other provide infrastructure in the villages so that the villagers could start their own work. This would improve the infrastructure and quality of life of people living in urban areas and improve the life style in cities across the country.

The hon'ble President has touched upon many issues in his Address. I will not say anything in regard to them since these will be taken up by my other colleagues. The hon'ble President has mentioned the development work undertaken for the women and children, the Jammu and Kashmir and in North East. He has also covered issues like National Rural Health Mission, unorganized sector, rural development, Food and Nutrition, Education etc, in his Address. He has reflected the Government's stance on these issues. These issues will be highlighted by my colleagues.

I would like to make another submission in regard to many historical works performed by this Government.

[Shri Madhusudan Mistry]

Legislation like right to property was passed in this House. The civil society of this country was talking of right to information for many years. That Act has been passed by this Government. I regretfully admit that either the Chhattisgarh Government or any other Government has passed such a law whereby any organization involved in unlawful activity can be declared so for carrying out such an activity. And whereby its entire property can be seized by the Government.

Sir, this is Freedom of speech, Freedom of Expression, Right to Organise. To add to the list are Fundamental Rights compounded with Right to Information Act. However, the States are adopting an approach so as to minimize its implementation and how to divulge minimum information to the public. This is a dichotomy. All the laws framed by the Union Government are historical and progressive in themselves but I find a huge gap in how to get these laws implemented by the State Governments. This is a historical law which provides for right to information to every citizen whereby he can make the Government accountable. However, the previous State Governments have struck an attitude of minimum implementation of such laws. I have no hesitation in saying that I find this attitude in States wherever NDA Government is in power.

The other day there was much uproar in the House regarding minorities in the army. Minorities are citizens of this country. Every citizen of this country should progress ahead and no particular section of society should limp and no particular section should surpass and leave others behind. The country will never prosper if there would be lop sided development.

Here, I would like to remind that we are so unfortunate that the Opposition blames us for appeasement of minorities and there we are hauled up for voting against Iran. On both the issues we are being criticized for favouring minorities. Had we been doing so would this have been the situation? Both these things are contradictory. I would like to reiterate that all the decisions taken and laws passed by this Government were in national interest. Are minorities not the citizens of this country? One can see as if the entire House would stand up against seeking a data for seeking some information. Tomorrow if the women's groups would seek data regard to their strengthen in the forces would they refuse them this information. Should not the women join the forces? Would not they considered under right to

equality? The entire attitude changes as soon as the question of minorities crops up. I know them. They have no other agenda for seeking vote except minorities. Only espouse feelings. The technique which was adopted in Germany, the kind of campaign which was launched by Hitler in Germany that minority is the only evil of all causes. The similar situation is being developed by the Opposition. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): The Commander-in-Chief. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Not to be recorded.

...*(Interruptions)**

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: When I am not yielding, then why is he speaking?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Swainji, that is not going to be recorded. Your speech is not going on record.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: Sir, I am not yielding. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your speech is not going on record.

[English]

You are speaking without my permission. That is not going to be recorded.

...*(Interruptions)**

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: I am not yielding. I am not supposed to answer him. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down. Speak when your turn comes.

*Not recorded.

[Translation]

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: They keep on harping on the same agenda. They are obsessed with the minority community. Recently, a huge fair was held in Dang, in Gujarat. Their contention is that conversions is being undertaken by the missionaries. Therefore, they should also be converted. Rare shrubs were cut down to organize that fair in Dang. All this was done under the patronage of the Gujarat Government. Their development agenda is only on paper to make a good show before the Press. Their hidden agenda has always been against minorities when two thousand people, mostly from minority community were killed in Gujarat, did any one of them, go to meet the widows to express sympathy with them? I know they have no answers to my charge. In the States ruled by them minorities are suppressed and there is a lot of vandalism on the St. Valentine's Day. The people of this country are very mature. They will not vote for them. They are yet to come to terms with the loss of power at the Centre. They will remain in the opposition. It is a decided fact. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Madhusudan Mistry, you are requested to address the Chair and not the individual Members.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: Sir, I am addressing you.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please proceed.

[Translation]

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: I cannot help it sometimes I happen to look at them. I repeat the sole guiding principle of this Government is national interest. We always keep in mind. Although they may try to make a mountain out of a molehill. But the people are fully aware. The work of the UPA Government speaks for itself. It will continue getting admiration.

I do not want to take more time. There are several other issues but I am leaving those for my colleagues. They will speak on those issues.

With these words, I move the motion of thanks on the President's Address.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now I would request Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia to second the Motion. You have to second the Motion.

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA (*Guna*): At the outset, I would like to thank you, Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, for giving me this opportunity.

I rise in favour of seconding the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address. We thank the President for delivering a visionary and inspiring Address. The country today is aware of how the President, year after year, is pushing us forward to push new frontiers, to break new barriers, to move faster and to raise the quality of growth in our country. I am sure that when our Government completes its full terms, Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, we would have moved very rapidly towards accomplishing those goals. ...*(Interruptions)*

The policy Statement as reflected in the mandate of the President's Address is a mandate that has been received by the Congress-led coalition. We are a welfare State where we cannot abdicate our responsibility towards the weaker sections. Our focus, therefore, is on the farmers, on the under-privileged, on the physically-handicapped, on the workers, on the women and children and on the marginalized people in our country. This reaffirms our slogan to be on the side of the common man, the teeming millions that constitute the rural India.

India today is moving very rapidly in place of taking its rightful place in the Comity of Nations. Over the last two years, the sense has risen by over 80 per cent but India's stock in the global fora has risen manifold. The spotlight is on us. We are the cynosure of all eyes and that is because India today is seen as a country of numerous opportunities and no longer perceived as a country of myriad problems.

This was also very evident in the recently held World Economic Forum in Davos where the consistent byline was 'India everywhere'. But the world is taking note of India today because we have consistently given and delivered high growth—greater than 7 per cent. What matters is not necessarily only a blip of high growth, whether it is in a quarter or in a particular year, but what matters is we have to discover the magic of compounding. I want to give you an example, Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir.

[Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia]

The US, which today is a world economic super power, over the last hundred years has grown only at 3 per cent. But it has compounded that growth which is why today it is an economic super power. The task of sustaining high growth is difficult and this is an example which my friends in the NDA know very well. Of the last six Budgets that they presented, almost all of them resulted in low growth. The NDA record is not one that any person in this country can be proud of. Agriculture grew at only 2.1 per cent, industry at only 5.4 per cent and GDP only at 5.5 per cent. There are only two periods in the country when GDP growth rate has been greater than 7 per cent on a sustainable basis and both periods were under Congress Government. The first was from 1988 to 1991, under the stewardship of Shri Rajiv Gandhiji. The second was from 1994 to 1997, when we delivered 7-1/2 per cent GDP growth under the able stewardship of both Dr. Manmohan Singh and Shri Chidambaram, who were Finance Ministers at that point of time. Therefore, the dream team has done it again. The growth, this time around, which is very reassuring, has been on the basis of high manufacturing rates. Normally, when there is an agricultural slowdown, it affects manufacturing not only in that year but in the next year as well. Therefore, this is evident that today the Indian economy has drought-proofed itself. Investment rates have grown by 500 basis points to almost 31 per cent. Savings rates have reached a new record of 29 per cent. Therefore, we are on the cusp of a new paradigm of growth, a cusp of growth that is fuelled by high investment rates and high savings rates. Therefore, the UPA Government has made the Indian economy more confident, more resilient and more strident. It is an economy that is confident, resilient and strident based on fundamentals and not a *Mayajaal*, not an illusion. But acceleration of growth is only a part of the story. What is important, which this Government is trying to do, is to make this growth more inclusive, to make sure that it reaches every part of our country. Under the NDA Government, the country witnessed and had to go through two huge gross inequities. The first, that growth was limited only to the high crust of society, and second, that you saw regional inequalities were on the rise. The UPA Government today is putting in place a slew of policies that will redress these imbalances. We require growth, but growth that takes everyone along. The centrality of focus is on the *aam aadmi* and, therefore, there are five pillars that buttress the centrality. The first is the right to employment, which is guaranteed through the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act. This re-affirms the

Congress' understanding that India will only shine when the dignity of every human being is present, and dignity is connected directly to work and employment. Jobless growth is the major issue today.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, employment and progress are two sides of the same coin. Both must move in tandem. Only this Government can make this possible.

[*English*]

A historical programme is in place today, one that is directed at instilling self-pride and confidence in the ordinary Indian, breaking the shackles of exploitation and of poverty. This is a programme, Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, that will not only result in greater employment but will also create sustainable durable assets.

I have no qualms in saying that the single credit for this programme, for this Yojana, goes to none other than Sonia Gandhi Ji, who had conceptualised it and made sure that it has been executed. This programme is one of the most significant legislations since Independence. It is a programme, that if it succeeds, it can bridge the gap between political equality and economic equality.

The second pillar is the right to education, which is guaranteed through the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan and the Mid-day Meal Scheme, which covers over 12 crore children. Education is a fundamental promise and through our increased allocations in education, we are hopeful that we would be able to secure a brighter tomorrow for the children of the future.

The third pillar is the opportunity to a better quality of life, that is guaranteed through the Bharat Nirman Programme and the Jawaharlal Nehru Urban Renewal Mission, which covers 63 cities. This is the first time in the history of the country that a visionary approach with bold and very clear cut targets for 2009 have been set out. This is the first time that the Panchayati Raj Institutions have been involved in this programme to translate Rajiv Gandhi's dream of grassroot empowerment to the people.

There are six facets to this programme. The first is the irrigation, bringing one crore hectares of land under irrigation through Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme, through the Restoration of Water Bodies Programme and the National Rainfed Area Authority.

The second aspect of this policy is connectivity for ensuring that every village of a thousand population has a road, making sure that Rs. 1,75,000 crore is devoted to the National Highways Programme, Rs. 20,000 crore to two new rail freight corridors, ensuring that Bangalore and Mumbai get metros, insuring that a new Civil Aviation Policy comes into place.

The third aspect of this policy is for ensuring drinking water to 74,000 habitation, electrification to 1.26 lakh villages that are still non-electrified. This is through the Rajiv Gandhi Gram Vidyutikaran Yojana.

[Translation]

This is not confined to transmission only. This Government will ensure distribution of electricity to the homes of the poor and also to the farmers.

[English]

Provision of telecom connectivity to the remaining 68,000 villages; and opportunity of better health care through the National Rural Health Mission with a budget allocation of Rs. 8,420 crore, that will take our primary health centres and community health centres upgrade them and provide quality medical attention according to local needs.

The UPA Government has accorded the highest priority to the rural areas and to the farmers. There have been reductions in the Central Plan Outlay in the past during NDA Government, for rural development, irrigation and agriculture close to 36 per cent. Public investment in agriculture has declined from 33 per cent to close to about 24 per cent in 2004. This has led to a widening of the gap between the urban and the rural areas. Sixty per cent of population gets sustenance from agriculture. Twenty-three per cent of our GDP comes from agriculture, yet public and private investment are close to only 1.3 per cent of the GDP. The country needs a third Green Revolution and this third Green Revolution has been thought of and executed by the UPA Government with five bold steps.

Rural credit has already been increased from Rs. 80,000 crore to Rs. 135,000 crore, namely, sixty per cent in two years. A National Horticulture Mission has been put in place with Rs. 2,300 crore that will give value addition to the farmers. A common market for agriculture produce has been thought of by bringing reforms in the

Essential Commodities Act and the Agriculture Produce Marketing Act, which would transform the lives of the rural farmers; crop insurance through the National Agriculture Insurance Scheme of Rs. 14,000 crore package for the cooperative sector. This will unleash millions of jobs in the rural sector.

It was late Indra Gandhi Ji that came up with the Green Revolution. We could hold our heads high in the World stage because of that Green Revolution and because of the sweat and toil of our *Annadata* in our *Khets*. Rajivji took that forward with a Technological Mission, that resulted, in 1989, the highest agricultural growth in the history of India at 16.3 per cent resulting in GDP growth of close to ten-and-a-half per cent.

Therefore, Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the farm sector is critical to our growth. No less daunting is the problem of implementation. Today, if we introspect and see as to what is the problem that is facing our country, it is the problem of execution, it is the problem of implementation. The previous Government announced numerous schemes but did precious little to ensure that they reach those whom they were intended to benefit. Therefore, we have attacked this problem frontally.

Talking about the issue of outcomes versus outlays, our Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh has developed a policy whereby we will reform the delivery mechanism, and reform the delivery process. The President in his Address has talked about not only the economic reforms but also reforms of the administrative system, reform of the judicial system and reform of the electoral system. This, along with the Right to Information Act, will transform and make our Government much more transparent and much more accountable. This is the first time that any Government has looked at reshaping the instrument of change and reforming the delivery system. If India wants to march ahead and get its place in the comity of nations, then we must bring the change from within. The Prime Minister has put in place those building blocks of change. The inequality that marks our society today cannot be removed from economic measures alone; we need social cohesiveness, social integration; we need to end all forms of social divisiveness, social discrimination or religious discrimination.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, 50 per cent of our country is made up of women. We need to involve women in our society and in our economy. We will only be able to do that if we educate our women, if we empower our women and if we imbue them with skills and the confidence that

[Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia]

they can lead a self-reliant life. We know from our experience that when women are empowered, they have the ability to transform society and transform the destiny of our country. We may look at the example of Annie Besant; we may look at the example of Sarojini Naidu; we may look at the example of Indiraji, or we may even look at our today's example of Sonia Gandhiji. There have been policies that have been put in place to make sure that we empower women, whether we look at the creation of a new Ministry of Women and Child Welfare which is also being administered by a lady, whether we look at the fact that the Hindu Succession Act has been changed to ensure that women get greater and fuller rights of inheritance of ancestral properties. We thought of creating more than a thousand Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalyayas in educationally backward districts for women. The fact is that our Party and our Government is still committed to 33 per cent reservation for women in Parliament and in the State Legislatures. A Bill has been passed historically for protection of women from domestic violence. A Bill is under consideration for prevention of sexual harassment and registration of marriages. Therefore, Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, our Government is committed to the cause of women and bringing them to participate in the society.

In addition, the Government is also committed to ensure that the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Backward Classes and minorities also form a part of our growth story. Therefore, it is imperative that each Indian feels as much stakeholder in the process to transfer our dream of an enlightened and empowered India. Look at the steps that we have taken. We have created a new Ministry of Minority Affairs. The historical Constitutional amendment was passed in the last Session where minorities, SCs, STs as well as backwards were given reservation in privately-aided educational institutions. There is a 15-Point Programme for minorities to empower them to increase their social development and to even fund them on entrepreneurship programmes. The Bill for prevention of communal violence will also take care of the rehabilitation of those victims. Let us contrast this, Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, with the track record of the past NDA Government. During that period, minorities were subjected to violence and to killings. In the NDA Government there was a concerted programme to ensure that they were treated as second-class citizens. The steps taken to accelerate our economic progress and to include every Indian in our vision will result in transforming this country into a socially cohesive, economic powerhouse in the world. The reality is that it is not 'India shining', it is

not 'feel good', it is 'India awakening'. The NDA Government by emphasising the 'India shining' slogan played an ironic joke on the poor, deprived and indebted people.

The UPA Government, Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, stands here today to right those wrongs, to redefine those priorities of growth and to lead India once again into a proud and determined future.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, Jawaharlal Nehruji used to keep a flag on his desk, which had engraved on it, etched on it the words of Robert Frost, and I take your permission to quote that.

"The woods are lovely, dark and deep.
But I have promises to keep,
and miles to go before I sleep,
and miles to go before I sleep."

This, Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, is exactly the President's mandate. Our pledge to the people is that we must be tireless in our efforts, committed in our resolve, unflinching in our aim and steadfast in our purpose. We should ensure that the India of our dreams come alive, her brightness and warmth radiates to the last hutment of every village. We must wipe every tear from every eye. That is our goal.

The mandate that this Government has been given is not different from what the world community expects from us. It is a mandate for economic growth but economic growth along with equity. It is a mandate for social harmony, our slogan of Unity in Diversity. It is a mandate for our age-old lesson that we give the world, a lesson of 'Vasudev Kutumbkam'. It is a mandate for communal harmony and peace. These are the solutions that the entire world is looking for today and these are the values and the principles that this country has espoused for thousands of years. It is a mandate for empowering every Indian, and when every Indian is on the move, this country will take its rightful place in the world stage.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Motion moved.

"That an Address be presented to the President in the following terms:—

"That the Members of the Lok Sabha assembled in this Session are deeply grateful to the President for the Address which he has been pleased to deliver

to both Houses of Parliament assembled together on February 16, 2006'."

Before I would request the next hon. Member, I would like to make an announcement.

Hon. Members whose amendments to the Motion of Thanks have been circulated may, if they desire to move their amendments, send slips to the Table within 15 minutes indicating the serial numbers of the amendments they would like to move. Those amendments will only be treated as moved.

A list showing the serial numbers of amendments treated as moved will be put up on the notice boards shortly thereafter. In case any Member finds any discrepancy in the list, he may kindly bring it to the notice of the Officer at the Table immediately.

Now, I would request Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra to speak.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the motion of thanks has just been moved. The President's Address is not written by the President himself but is prepared by the Cabinet. Therefore, its criticism does not tantamount to personal criticisms of the President. President's Address was full of false claims and hollow promises. It was so colourless, tasteless, odourless so boring that the Cabinet could not fully list its achievements properly. If I were to go into the details of the blunders, numerous gross mistakes, and several criminal acts committed by the Government and count the number of times it has gone against the country's interest and violated the constitution during the past one year then it would need a lot of time.

[English]

First, I charge this Government with jeopardizing the country's defence. Second, I charge this Government with weakening national security. I charge this Government with wilfully wrecking social harmony. I charge this Government with subverting the secular character of our educational system. I charge this Government with destroying probity in administration and in public life.

15.00 hrs.

"... I charge this Government with increasing unemployment. I charge this Government with causing

untold suffering to our kisans and to our khet mazdoors. I charge this Government with denigrating key institutions of parliamentary democracy. Finally, Mr. Speaker, Sir, I charge this Government with blatantly undermining the independence of our foreign policy. Our indictment is comprehensive, just as their failures are complete."

[Translation]

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, these are not my words. These lines are taken from the speech delivered by Shrimati Sonia Gandhiji last year and if the expression, the NDA Government is substituted with the UPA Government, then it becomes the most appropriate chargesheet against this Government. This time we are not fortunate enough to listen to her speech, even if it were a written one. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Silence please. This is not a meeting place. Please do not interrupt the hon. Member.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, when Advaniji remarked here that the Present Prime Minister was weakest the country has seen, so far, the Prime Minister was highly agitated. He remarked, 'judge me by my works'. He added that he should be assessed and judged on the basis of his work. The world will see whether he was a weak Prime Minister or not. The following lines of the 'Economist' magazine reflect a correct assessment of the Prime Minister.

[English]

"Shri Manmohan Singh is a Prime Minister who is in office not in power—someone to be pitied rather than admired."

[Translation]

We should pity him of his helplessness. It was written at that time. I would like to quote another newspapers.

[English]

"The most shocking moment in the second Press Conference held by Prime Minister on Wednesday

[Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra]

1st February, 2006, at Vigyan Bhavan in the capital stared on our face when a journalist in the full glare of the domestic and international media asked the most obvious question about the authority he was able to exercise as the Prime Minister of India. Although the Prime Minister tried to belittle the gravity of the question by trivial argument, the country has been debating the issue of Shri Manmohan Singh's political authority (or lack of it) in governance."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This is not to be recorded. Shri Jai Prakash, please take your seat. Nothing will go on record except the speech of Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Jai Prakashji your speech is not going on record.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing to be recorded, except the speech of Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Jai Prakashji, listen to me. I have not allowed any one from this side to speak.

[English]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: "No Prime Ministers in the history of independent India, including those who had come as stop-gap arrangement, namely S/Shri Chandrasekhar, Deve Gowda and Gujral, had to face such embarrassing question. It is a blot on the prestige of the Nation."

[Translation]

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, immediately after the press conference. 'Times Now' a TV channel telecast the letters issued by the PMO to all the Ministries. I am only quoting from two of the letters.

*Not recorded.

[English]

"While one letter written by the Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister, TKA Nair, to various Ministries narrated that "The Prime Minister has observed that occasionally important policy decisions are taken by ministries and departments without giving prior intimation to the PMO".

In the latest one, now written in November, 2005, the Cabinet Secretary is stated to have repeated the same complaint. ...(Interruptions)

Sir, I quote:

"The situation seems to have remained unchanged as far as the deplorable status of Prime Minister Manmohan Singh as head of this UPA Government is concerned. The nation is, therefore, becoming increasingly concerned whether the Prime Minister is being transgressed or ignored by the real power behind the thrown. Is he leading the Government without any authority?"

[Translation]

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as per the constitution, the Prime Minister wields the real power. But, who is controlling the Prime Minister? Last time Advaniji said that he was the invisible Prime Minister. One newspaper also made a similar comment. It was also mentioned that he was the weakest Prime Minister. Is he putting in a proxy for someone else like Bharat in Ramayan who put the slippers of Lord Rama on the throne and ran the Government in this name. After Lord Rama renounced his kingdom in favour of Bharat, he never looked back even once. But in this case 'Queen-bee' is presiding. She wields the real power. Whereas it is said that the Prime Minister functions independently. I was surprised at his anger when Advaniji made this remark. The 'Biggest' achievement of the Prime Minister is corruption.

Prime Minister's reply in this connection was that he does not know.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Addl. Solicitor General of our country takes pain to go to London for defreezing Quatarochi's account. It has never been witnessed in history of the world earlier that person against whom a 'red alert' has been sounded, who is wanted by the Interpol, for whose arrest the Government is making its

best efforts, Additional Solicitor General of the country goes to London and defreezes his account though the person himself had not asked for the money, crores of rupees are handed over to him from his account, and the Prime Minister says that he knows nothing in this regard. Can this Additional Solicitor General of the country go abroad without Prime Minister's permission? Invariably, he has to obtain the Prime Minister's permission. It is the height of corruption and the country suffered the losses, criminal for whom 'red alert' has been sounded, CBI have launched prosecution for his extradition, and even then his account is defreezed in London and the Prime Minister says that he does not know what has happened?

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the matter does not end here. The Prime Minister on the one hand declares that there is nothing to worry as we have foodgrains in plenty in our godowns which are over flowing, on the other hand, at that very moment the Agriculture Minister Shri Pawar declares that the Government is importing 5 lakhs MT of foodgrains. Does the Prime Minister not know that 5 lakhs MT of foodgrains are being imported? The extent of the import scam can be gauged from the fact that the speculators and wealthy traders purchased foodgrains at the rate of Rs. 668 per quintal, but sold it at the rate of Rs. 1200-1300 per Quintal in the market. Though, the Government did not procure foodgrains from the farmers, last year, yet they announced for an import of 5 lakh MT of wheat and the Prime Minister says that, he does not know and this is not in his knowledge.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, when the NDA Government was at the centre under the leadership of Shri Vajpayeeji, the buffer stock of wheat was 6 crores 45 lakh MT, which has not decreased to just 2 crores MT. This stock has further reduced to 45 lakhs MT as on 1.2.2006. The public distribution system needs 14 lakh MT of wheat per month whatever may be the circumstances. There was a time when a committee headed by my friend who is present here and he had said that we have produced much foodgrains that we have no place to keep them which should be thrown into the sea. Your Standing Committee had observed it. All the States were asked to take away the foodgrains free of cost and use it in food for work programme. Today, the situation is such that the foodgrains are being imported. The point I want to make is that the Prime Minister does not know how much foodgrains are being imported. The Governor of Goa, Jharkhand and Bihar have made a mockery of the

Constitution. They formed minority Governments, dissolved the Assembly, and behaved irresponsibly and in an unconstitutional manner. Even then, the Prime Minister said that he does not know what is going on that.

Volcker Committee, the enquiry Committee of the UNO has held Shri Natwar Singh and the Congress Party responsible for a huge corruption in the food for oil scheme but the Prime Minister kept on saying that he knows nothing, who went there and what happened there and what is the present status. The Prime Minister does not know but why he kept on saying that Shri Natwar Singh is not guilty, then why he is being called by the Directorate of Enforcement regularly and being questioned. At that point of time, too, the Prime Minister said that he did not know anything in this regard.

The most disturbing thing is that a survey has been conducted in the Army. I do not want to go into the detail as it has already been discussed yesterday. This survey of Muslims is being conducted to split the country, to jeopardize the unity and integrity of the country and to put the country's security at stakes. The Prime Minister's office have said that the Prime Minister is not aware of it. He has not asked for it. The Prime Minister says—'Mujhe nahin maloom', I don't know, he says in Punjabi—'Mainu ki patta'—he is such a Prime Minister who knows nothing and you are saying here that the whole business of the Government is being conducted according to him.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, this Government is in office for the last 18-20 months. Four ministers have been dismissed. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Mistry, please do not disturb the hon. Member when he is speaking.

[*Translation*]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Four Ministers had to go.

[*English*]

In this period four Ministers had to go.

[*Translation*]

First of all, Shibu Soren had to resign. The Prime Minister went on giving him the clean chits and for several

[Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra]

days the process of giving him clean chit continued but finally he was asked to resign. He was made a scape-goat. After that, Shri Natwar Singh had to resign, I have all the documents which show that the Prime Minister had said that he has full faith in Shri Natwar Singh, that he has not committed any mistake and he went on defending him. He also had to resign. Then, Shri Tytler ji resigned and thereafter Shri Jaiprakash Yadav and Shri Buta Singh. Four Minister and a Governor had to resign. The Prime Minister gave clean chits to all of them and it is not necessary to mention so many names to whom the Prime Minister gave clean chits all along. This Prime Minister is a clean Chit Prime Minister. He is Mr. Clean. He has given clean chits to one and all, and has blackened his own face. He must take care of it. He has given clean chit to every corrupt person. Every time he said publicly that there is nothing in it and tried to save till the very end. And when he felt that it is becoming a threat to his chair, he made all of them scape goats. He did all this to save the Chair.

My Friend Shri Scindia ji had just mentioned that this Government is working for the poor while the previous Government was working for the rich. He gave an example that the sensex was rising. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please do not disturb the hon. Member by giving running commentary.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: The Sensex of the poor is rising.

Sir, they are talking of poor, but the foreign capital is coming here non-stop. As a result, black money is being created and because of it, prices of property have soared. What benefit a poor gets if the property rates soar? Yes, the prices of cars and mobile phones have gone down. Nothing has become cheap for a poor person. If any one has some sympathy for the poor, one should see the extent of price rise. Everyday we see in the newspapers that "the steep hike in prices have torn the common man into pieces."

Sir, there has been a swift rise in prices during the last 3-4 months. Poor has suffered a lot in the 20 month rule of the UPA Government. Soaring prices have taken an ugly turn. The prices of wheat, rice, flour, pulses, oil,

ghee and jaqqery soared 30 to 40% in the rule of the UPA Government. The prices of some of the commodities have raised upto 200%. I would like to submit that wheat 'Doda' which was Rs. 660/- per quintal during the NDA Government rule is Rs. 990/- per quintal now. Flour which was Rs. 7.10 per kilo in our times is Rs. 13 per kilo now. Flour which is packed in bags is Rs. 13 per kilo. Sugar which was Rs. 1500 per sack is Rs. 2100 per sack now and it is selling at Rs. 23 per kilo in the retail market now. Urad was Rs. 1700 per quintal in our times but it is Rs. 4100 per quintal now. These figures are official. Pulse which was Rs. 1750 per quintal at that time is now selling at Rs. 4000 per quintal. Rajma was Rs. 2700 per quintal and it is Rs. 3200 per quintal now. The price of Basmati rice has increased by Rs. 300 per quintal. Has anybody noticed the spurt in cement prices? They claim that the Congress Party looks after the interests of rich people.

Sir, there was a time when people forgot to use their ration cards. Food items were so cheap in the open market that there was no need to use the ration card. It is not so that there was no rain as there was any other reason which might have resulted in price rise. There was adequate rain but it is the policies of the Congress Government which have caused the increase in prices. They imported sugar at Rs. 1200 per quintal and sold it at Rs. 2200 per quintal. In this way there is a scam of thousands of crore rupees. In the same way they have already paved the way for importing wheat. They are not ready to give Rs. 668 per quintal to their farmers but they will spend Rs. 1000 per quintal for importing wheat and then they say that Congress party is pro-poor.

Sir, the Congress is saying that they have passed the Employment Guarantee Bill. I would like to say that this bill was implemented 10 days before the commencement of this Session. I would like to submit that the amount which was kept for all schemes by the NDA Government has now been divided by this Government in various schemes and in our comparison, they have kept only 1/10th part for the Employment Guarantee Scheme. The unemployment scenario is quite conspicuous from the fact that thousands of factories have closed down. Small scale industries have closed down on a large scale. Retrenchments are being done by big industries. Today 1 crore people are unemployed in the country. And what is the Government doing. They are bringing FDI in retail. They are bringing multinationals in retail trading. 4 crore people are feared to be rendered unemployed due to this, and they will not provide

employment to even 50 lakhs people. Four crore people will stand unemployed in the country due to coming of multinational companies which will open their malls. This will increase unemployment.

Sir, they are saying that they have increased employment opportunities and have started the Employment Guarantee Scheme for which they are giving much credit to Sonia ji. I would like to ask the Government as to what is being done by them for the urban unemployed and the people living in slums. There is no law for them. There are a number of rickshaw pullers and people living in slums, there is no employment scheme for them. There was one earlier but the Government withdrew it and they have not covered them under this employment scheme. Do poor people not reside in cities? There is no scheme for them. No consideration has been done in this regard. That is why I have mentioned the problem of poverty before you.

The most dangerous thing which the Government is doing and it has been mentioned in the Presidential Address also for taking its credit and which is mentioned daily is about minoritism, appeasement of Muslims. I read in the newspapers that Sonia ji has written a letter to all the her office bearers and Chief Minister that Muslims are their natural allies. It should be kept in mind that Muslims are their natural allies. Are the Hindus enemies and the other minorities are not natural allies. What was the need to write this? You should see, this Government. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: This is totally distorting.

[*Translation*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please speak when your turn comes. Please do not disturb. I have not allowed him.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: This is for the first time after the formation of the UPA Government that a representative of the Muslims League has been made a Minister. Nehru ji, Indira ji, Rajiv Gandhiji and no other Congress Prime Minister has done so but for the first thing she has done this to give credibility to the Muslim League by making the people Minister and giving them a berth in the Cabinet who believed in two nation theory

and who are responsible for division of the country. Now they are taking credit for it that for the first time they have created a Ministry for the minorities. ...(*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): E. Ahmad Sahid is a Member of the Indian Union Muslim League, he is not a member of the Muslims League of Jinnah which believed in two nation theory.

[*English*]

I want this on record. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down. Not to be recorded.

...(*Interruptions*)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Only Mr. Malhotra's speech will be recorded.

[*Translation*]

I have not allowed.

...(*Interruptions*)*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the second thing which they have done is that they have made a Ministry for the minorities. Earlier this work was with Arjun Singh and though he was not doing so well and was also doing injustice in minorities but now a new Ministry for the minorities has been made. Was a department of some Ministry not enough for this? This is the second thing which they have done. Thirdly, they have announced to give constitutional status to the Minority Commission. There is no Minority Commission in any country of the world. Human Rights Commission is there but there is no minority commission, but it has been constituted, and now they will give it constitutional status. They will do what no other country among the 200 countries has done in the world. They have announced to give reservation in Aligarh Muslim University or in Andhra Pradesh. There is no need to go into deep details, but they have constituted a number of Committees in the name of minority. First, some committees were constituted. You can see how far they are going. One committee was constituted, for

*Not recorded.

[Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra]

[English]

socially and economically Backward Sections among Religious and Linguistic Minorities. Chief Justice Ranganath Mishra is the Chairman.

[Translation]

Shri Tahir Mohd., Shri Anil Wilson, Shri Mohinder Singh, Shri Sanjeev Khanna are its Members.

[English]

After constituting the Committee for Socially and Economically Backward Sections among Religious and Linguistic Minorities,

[Translation]

one more committee was constituted.

[English]

A High-Level Committee to Prepare a Report on Social, Economical and Educational Status of Muslims in India.

[Translation]

First they constituted a Committee for the minority for this purpose and out of that a separate Committee for Muslim too and the names of Dr. Rajender Sacchar, Sayyad Hameed, T.K. Oman, M.A. Baseeth, Rakesh Basant, Akhtar Mazeed and Aboo Saleh were included in that Committee.

They realized that people are not satisfied with that Committee so a third Committee namely National Monitoring Commission for Minority Education was constituted. The Minister of HRD is its Chairman. It has 45 members and it also has some members from Lok Sabha. First, Ranganath Mishra Committee than Sacchar Committee and thereafter, this Committee was constituted. Then, the fifth Committee namely National Commission on Minority Education was constituted, chairman of which is Justice M.S.A. Siddiqui. What this all is going to what extent they will go? In this mad rush five Committees were constituted in the name of minorities which will overlap the functioning of each other. Did the Government not have any faith in its Education or Human Resource Development Minister under whose supervision this work was being done that he will successfully complete this

task? Naturally, there is an effort to somehow get their votes. I don't need to say anything more regarding this policy of appeasement of the minorities.

What a vitiated atmosphere has been created today? Today such is the state of affairs as was prevailing in the pre-independence era when even drinking water at railway stations was sold on communal basis. Now, we are seeing separate schools, and other educational institutes and army for Hindus and Muslims. Efforts are being made to divide the country in the name of Hindu and Muslim. After all, in which direction we are heading for? One day the army will be identified as Hindu army and a Muslim army. They will cover this country into a country in which there will separate educational institutes and separate localities for Hindus and Muslims. Is this the symbol of the unity of this country? What was required to be done was to make efforts to provide equal opportunities to all on the basis of merit without any discrimination. But, how the merit was compromised.
...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Members, do not make running commentaries.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your party has been allotted time, you may speak during that time

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Time has been allotted to speak, when your turn comes.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Speak only when your turn comes, then he will not be allowed to speak.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You would definitely be called.

...(Interruptions)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: From where the role of the Rajendra Sacchar Committee started? Khalidi Sahib was born in Hyderabad and he later on shifted to U.S. He published his agenda in Jamat-e-Islami weekly. As he had written this to the Minister that is why all these things started. The agenda includes-

[English]

We need Muslim-majority districts for three reasons. First, concentrated areas provides security. Second, they provide an environment that is conducive to our cultural independence. Third, they provide a political base through which our people can be elected. He suggested a Deccan province by merging Hyderabad, Rangareddy and Gulbarga districts, an Urdu-speaking State covering Kishanganj, Katihar and Purnea districts in Bihar.

[Translation]

This was the agenda under which the Sacchar Committee was constituted. What type of conspiracy is taking place in the country under which around one and half crores of Bangladeshis have infiltrated into India. One and half crores Bangladeshi infiltrators have settled in this country and they are being allowed to stay here. Hon'ble Supreme Court held that this act is tantamount to the naked aggression and an attack on the country, no such permission should be given to anyone to stay illegally in our country. But what the Congress party has done in this regard—on the contrary it amended the Foreigners Act. The Hon'ble Supreme Court quashed the IMDT Act as it is mandatory to deport the Bangladeshi infiltrators. But they want them to stay here. We were demanding to scrap the IMDT Act and to bring this matter under the purview of the Foreigners Act in the entire country. They are, on the other hand, propose to amend the Foreigners Act itself to facilitate all prospective infiltrators to take shelter in this country and stay here permanently and all the basic amenities for their rehabilitation shall be provided here. To what extent they will go to divide this country. Whenever such issues are raised they hurt me. The Members in the House are demanding that a survey should be conducted as injustice has been done to the Muslims, and they are being massacred. The Muslims don't have any rights in this

country. They are driven away from everywhere. The first thing is that 59 years have passed since the independence of India. Out of these 59 years Congress ruled the country for 50 years. Shri Lalu ji ruled Bihar for 15 years but in other States Congress was in power, then why the Muslims are in such a miserable condition as is being stating. Why did the Congress not perform? They are laying the blame for this on the former Government.

I would like to state a very general thing that whenever people are massacred and subjected to injustice, they tend to flee that area. In 1951 the Muslim population in the country was around eight percent which has now increased to 13-14 percent. One and half crore people have infiltrated from Bangladesh. Around one lakh fifty thousand people came to India on visa from Pakistan and did not go back. Whether the people would like to come to a country where massacre takes place? Massacre have taken place in Bangladesh. There were around 30 percent Hindus in 1951 and their population has reduced to just 5 to 6 percent today. This is the result of mass massacre. At the time of partition the population of Hindus in Jammu and Kashmir was around 35 to 40 percent. Five lakh Kashmiri Pandits have been driven away from there. All the Pandits have been expelled from there. While, it is being stated here that injustice is being done to them. What type of injustice is this? ...(Interruptions)

[English]

I am not yielding.

[Translation]

I may be allowed to speak.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You speak, when the turn of your party comes.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna): They were in power for ten years. If one and half crore Muslims are staying here illegally then why did not they deport them? ...(Interruptions)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: We are deporting them. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except the speech of Prof. Malhotra.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: My point is this that by conducting such survey is it appropriate to defame and stigmatize our country at international level? Will Government go to such an extreme for the politics of vote bank? Around the world it is only in India where the minority may outstrip the majority. No country provide subsidy for Haj. Out of 200 countries there is no such country which provides subsidy for Haj, not even a Muslim country. If there is a country which provides subsidy, it is India. We have Minority Commission. ...*(Interruptions)* It is only in India that everyone is equal before the law.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Why are you speaking without my permission?

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, if they interrupt in this way, it would be difficult to continue. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You may speak when your turn comes up. Let him speak now.

...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: I was saying this because defaming the country and creating a situation which might create rift in the army, is unfair and wrong. I would like to mention one more thing. Besides other things a new tradition has been started here. Savarkarji's name has been removed wherever it was written. Likewise all the programmes in the name of Shri Din Dayal Upadhyaya have been wound up. The road projects and other projects etc, which were in the name of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, have been renamed. What is going on? The statues of Chaudhary Devi Lal are being removed;

the road and parks, which were in his name, are being rechristened. Merely an order was issued in this regard. Whether such things will take place in this country that each time a new Government comes to power it will change things at its will. Whether things will go on in this way? Let me read out the number of projects that have been started by them in the name Shri Rajiv Gandhi during the past one-year. During past two years around 20 projects have been started in the name of Shri Rajiv Gandhi. During these two years, all the old schemes being run in the name of Nehruji and Gandhiji have been wound up. Now 20 schemes are being implemented in the name of Shri Rajiv Gandhi only. I would like to say that a resolution must be passed that all the monuments should be dedicated to one family only. It may possibly appease the Congress party and enable them to take their sycophancy to new heights. I was quite astonished when Shri Scindia mentioned that they would soon introduce women's reservation Bill in the House. Two years have passed. It has been mentioned in the UPAs agenda also that they would introduce women's reservation bill. But no meeting is taking place on the issue of women's reservation bill because constituent parties of UPA do not let it take place. They do not allow any meeting to be held in this regard because when Shrimati Sonia Gandhi delivered a speech last time, she said that work could be done if there is will to do it. She said that if the NDA Government was willing, they could join hands for getting the bill passed without waiting for the consent of Laluji and Mulayamji. Now why do not they go ahead with this. If you wish I can quote it here but I would like to ask them what has come over them now? What prevented them from brining this bill during the last two years? We said that it should be passed. Why are they just doing lipservice in the name of bringing this bill?

It has been mentioned in the President's Address the "my Government has taken a number of steps to ensure that the National Common Minimum Programme commitments regarding full equality to women is honoured. Amendments have been carried out in the Hindu Succession Act, 1956 to give equal inheritance rights to women in property. Government is also contemplating amendments to the Guardians and Wards Act, 1890, the Hindu Adoption and Maintenance Act, 1956 and the Hindu Minority and Guardianship Act". I just want to ask that why they are just amending the Hindu laws? Whether the muslim women do not need any rights? They should also have rights of succession. Why this succession in

providing right of succession which will be applicable to Hindus only? Why do not they bring uniform laws for all? Why would they amend Hindu Act only? It has been said that it is a matter of justice and this Government has taken steps to ensure that commitment to attain equality for women is fulfilled and if some women get equal rights in property then why should other women be deprived of the same rights. If it is justice for hindu women then it becomes injustice towards muslim women if they are deprived of it. They do not want to do it for muslim women because they think that if it is done then like in the case of Shah Bano, demonstrations would take place all over the country and it would turn into a big issue. Therefore, it should not be done.

Therefore, I would like to state that they just want to show off that they want to bring this bill for women. Fatwas are issued against Muslim women, and incidents of rape take place and the Government keeps mum on all these issue. They never utter a word on all these issues and it is said that they have their own laws. India should not be governed with two parallel laws. If there can be a uniform criminal code then a uniform civil code can also be put in place and I would demand that there should be a common civil code for providing justice to all and to make everyone equal before law. It's a matter of great surprise and I would not like to go in details.
...(Interruptions)

SHRI SANDEEP DIKSHIT (East Delhi): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, what he is saying is. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Silence, please.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing would go on record except the speech of Prof. Malhotra.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Sandip Dikshit, whatever you are speaking is not going on record. Please, keep quiet.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Prof. Malhotra, please continue.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, recently a cartoon was published in a Danish newspaper and we clearly want to say that it was quite improper. Attempts should not be made to hurt ones religious sentiments. He was wrong, he apologized or whatever he said is a different issue but every one should respect others religious beliefs. I saw that Soniaji also wrote a letter in this regard and condemned it, it was a nice gesture, it should have been done. Our Government also condemned the incident and it was quite right. But on the other hand when similar things happen in this country, everyone keeps mum. The nude painting of Shri Durga and depiction of the lions tail in a very obscene manner, amounts to a blow on the faith of crores of people who worship Shri Durga...* has painted this picture and everyone defended him here. When some people tried to protest against it in the exhibition of...* then it was said that it's a matter of individuals freedom of expression. Similarly Goddess Sita was also depicted nude. Even Ravan did not attempt to remove Goddess Sita's clothes which was done here by...* He depicted Goddess Sita in a nude posture, made a nude painting of Bharat Mata, and they share a great rapport with such a person and say that everyone is equal before them; it shows to what extent they believe in the equality of all. The sculpture of "Bharat Mata", which was made by them was sold for Rs. 80 lakh and who did that work.
...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Names may be removed from proceedings.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Congress candidate who contested election against Mamata Banerjee...* sold that sculpture through her website and now, here she talks like this. Sonia Ji did not utter a word. She did not say word about the paintings of durga and Sita where they are shown to be nude. Here, Shri Arjun Singh ji called Sita-Ram as sister-brother and justified their marriage as marriage of sister-brother and allowed it to be displayed in exhibition, did not that hurt sentiments of Hindu's? Today, a Minister announces Rs. 51 crore for beheading of the maker of that offending cartoon of Hazrat Mohammed and every one tries to justify him and similar things happen here, and no one speaks against the offenders, the logic of viewing all with same eyes is not being applied here.

*Not recorded.

*Not recorded.

[Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra]

Conversions should be completely banned in this country. I would like to tell the difference between two. When conversion takes place in Gujarat then it is said that why is a voice being raised against it. On the other side, when earth-quake hit Jammu and Kashmir, then few Christian missionaries also went there for relief work, but the State Government banned them stating that they were doing conversion by distributing money. Hence they were arrested and case was initiated against them. If a Muslim is converted in Jammu and Kashmir then every effort is made to check it like a law is formulated to prevent it and arrests are also made but if religion conversions take place in Gujarat and protests are made against it, and 'Shabri Kumbh' is held there, then it is considered to be an act of igniting communal tension. It is not proper to convert the poor by paying them money. A law in this regard was enacted during Nehru's tenure in Madhya Pradesh and Orissa. Hence, we demand that conversion of religion should be banned in the whole nation. Similarly cow slaughter should also be banned in the whole nation by way of protecting them. Supreme Court has also given verdict that cow slaughter should be banned. It is legally correct and in tune with the Constitution. Therefore, ban on cow slaughter should be imposed immediately. Hon'ble President has not included the issue of Ram Mandir in his address. Ram Mandir should be constructed. It would be good if a decision in this regard is arrived at through negotiations and it would also be good if it is constructed following the Court's decision in this regard, but no power of world would be able to stop construction of Ram Mandir at that very place. Ram Mandir will be made. The earlier it is made, the better it is. ...*(Interruptions)*

I would like to say that whenever Congress comes to power, it brings price hike, corruption with it. I would like to ask them a question during last Lok Sabha elections. Sonia Ji said in all her speeches at every place that this Government was corrupt and completely engulfed in corruption and it should not be pardoned. Now this Government has completed two years, but whether they have been able to find a single case of corruptions? I would like to know about any single case which they have initiated against the previous Government? At that time, they said a number of things like this Government was involved in coffin scam and what not, but they have kept mum after elections. They should name a single Member of our party against whom charges of corruption have been proved. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing is to be recorded, except the speech of Prof. Malhotra.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Whenever Congress comes to power then, it brings price hike, and corruption in toe. In old times when a man was to be tortured, his hands and feet were tied to four hours and then the horses were made to be run in different directions till he was torn into pieces, this is the situation of the UPA Government. This Government is being run in the same way. The Communists and its other allies keep on applying hard brakes and foot brakes from time to time. It has yet not disintegrated. ...*(Interruptions)* It has yet not fragmented because horses are not moving in all four directions and if they start moving, then as I said in the beginning is the way this Government is functioning. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing except what Prof. Malhotra says will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, they have endangered India's security, they have increased corruption in India, they have added to the burden on the poor in the country and I feel that this Governments 20 months long tenure is shameful and the earlier it finishes, the better it will be. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your party has been allotted a lot of time.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

*Not recorded.

AMENDMENTS TO MOTION OF THANKS ON PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

[*Translation*]

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR (Bareilly): I beg to move:

1. That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about checking the increasing incident of infiltration and terrorism from across the border."

2. That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about taking up the issue of closing down of ISI terrorist training camps in neighbouring countries."

3. That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need to take proper steps to break the continuously increasing ISI network in the country."

4. That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need to solve the problem of illegal immigrants from Sri Lanka."

5. That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about any scheme to rehabilitate the people displaced from J&K."

6. That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about any scheme to check the increasing separatist and terrorist activities in the North-Eastern States."

7. That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about measures to reduce the increasing gap between the rich and the poor people."

8. That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about measures to check the brain drain and migration from rural areas."

9. That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about increasing the purchasing power of the consumers in the country."

10. That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about steps for increasing the agricultural production and for bringing more area under irrigation."

11. That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about a concrete plan to provide potable water to all in a stipulated time frame."

12. That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about any scheme to check the rapid commercialization of medical profession."

13. That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about any scheme to check the population growth."

14. That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about implementation of recommendations of the Sarkaria Commission."

[Shri Santosh Gangwar]

15. That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about making it obligatory for the multinational companies to make their correspondence with the Government in Hindi language."

16. That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about reviving the loss making PSUs."

17. That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about checking heavy losses being suffered by farmers due to floods and natural calamities and to provide relief to them."

18. That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about registering any protest by the government against showing national flag upside down in the neighbouring countries during sports events and other ceremonies."

19. That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about stopping the counting of Muslims in all the three organs of the armed forces."

20. That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about stopping the reservation on communal basis in various educational institutions of the country."

21. That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about any scheme to provide national identity cards to all the citizens in the country."

22. That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about any scheme to curb corruption by enacting the 'Lokpal' Bill and appointing 'Lokpals' under it."

23. That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about implementation of one rank, one pensions in the army."

24. That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about any scheme to curb the very increasing incidents of suicides by the farmers in the country as they are under heavy debt trap."

25. That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about any scheme to recommence the scheme of inter-linking of all the rivers of the country."

26. That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about raising the interest rate to 9.5 per cent on the small savings including the provident fund scheme."

27. That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about any time-bound programme to eradicate bonded labour 'particularly child labour' in the country."

28. That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about reducing the interest rate on the loans to the farmers from 9 per cent to 6 per cent."

29. That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the early completion of the golden quadrangle highway scheme going on in the country."

30. That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address to roll back decision to permit 51 per cent direct foreign investment in the retail sector by the Government in the interest of small traders."

31. That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about firm and effective implementation of the Rural Employment Guarantee scheme being implemented in the country so as to provide employment to the needy."

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY (Mandsour): I beg to move:

32. That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about any specific scheme to curb continuous uncontrolled increase in the prices of foodgrains and essential commodities in the country which is causing hardship to the common man."

856. That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about economic package from the Union Government to the backward State of Madhya Pradesh for various developmental schemes."

857. That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about implementation of the decision of NDA Government to set up hospitals on the lines of AIIMS in different States for providing uniform medical facilities in the country under which a hospital was to be set up in Madhya Pradesh also."

858. That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the implementation of the decision of the NDA Government to inter-link all the rivers of the country including the rivers of Madhya Pradesh."

859. That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about need to set up a adequate number of medical and ayurvedic colleges in the country to provide adequate medical facilities of diagnosis and treatment to all the people of the country and steps being taken to avoid delay in according approval to the setting up of such colleges in Madhya Pradesh."

860. That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address for any effective scheme to provide effective educational facilities in the tribal dominated areas for the nursery, primary and middle level education."

861. That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about any effective scheme to provide desired telecommunication services in the likely populated States of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh."

862. That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address for any scheme for an early construction of national highway connecting Nasirabad-Mahu which will connect Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh."

863. That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address for any effective scheme to provide employment in the rural and urban areas despite the Government's announcement."

[Dr. Laxminarayan Pandey]

864. That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address regarding any effective scheme for providing drinking water in tribal dominated backward areas of the country."

865. That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about any scheme to provide rail and road facilities in the backward areas of Madhya Pradesh."

866. That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address for creating basic infrastructure for the development of industries in the country keeping in view the probability of their development."

867. That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address for developing some airports in Madhya Pradesh with a view to connect them with other airports."

868. That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the provision of ample water and electricity to the States of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh."

869. That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about strengthening the security at the borders with neighbouring countries."

870. That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about making the country self-reliant in the matter of defence equipments."

871. That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address to reconsider the steps taken to root-out terrorism from the country for its speedier elimination."

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' (Almora): I beg to move:

33. That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the Constitution of a Middle Himalayan Region Development Council on the North-Eastern Council."

34. That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about providing mobile, wireless in local loop, basic and satellite telephone services in backward and remote rural areas of Hilly region."

35. That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about making special provisions to provide employment to unemployed youth of remote hilly areas especially from Uttaranchal State in industries, central services and armed forces."

36. That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about concrete steps to be taken to meet the heavy shortage of drinking water especially in hilly region of the country."

37. That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about opening of new educational institutions on the pattern of Navodaya Vidyalayas and Kendriya Vidyalayas specially in the Uttaranchal and Himalayan region by the Government."

38. That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about increasing the existing rate of interest on small savings and provident fund."

39. That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about taking up effective steps to end the cross border terrorism."

40. That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about making any efforts to set up an effective mechanism to check the price rise of petrol and petroleum products."

41. That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about making of Right to Work as Fundamental Right."

42. That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about providing reservation to the people of Uttaranchal State in Armed Forces."

43. That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about providing special financial package for the overall development of Uttaranchal State."

44. That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about starting a time-bound programme for providing housing facility to all."

45. That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about encouraging tourism in Uttaranchal State, where there are a lot of places of tourist interest."

46. That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about revival of loss making public sector undertakings."

47. That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about steps taken by the Government to check the non-productive expenditure."

48. That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need to check the incidences of increasing drug addiction and criminal activities among youth."

49. That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need to reduce the free of public schools, engineering colleges, management institutes and medical colleges."

50. That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the steps to be taken to abolish begging."

51. That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need to prepare a time-bound programme for abolition of bonded labour including child labour."

52. That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need to establish new industries with the help of central assistance."

53. That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about declaring the Dharchula and Muneyari areas in the district of Pithoragarh of Uttaranchal as tribal areas."

[Shri Bachi Singh Rawat]

54. That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about implementation of Uniform Civil Code in the country."

55. That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about starting of credit card scheme for providing loan facility to artisans/craftsmen for purchasing raw material, instruments and machinery."

56. That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about taking measures to meet out the future demand of power of the country."

57. That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about giving municipality status to Ranikhet Cantonment area in Uttaranchal."

58. That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about taking steps for starting air services by developing Naini-Saini Air Strip in Pithoragrah, Uttaranchal."

59. That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about providing full subsidy on LPG as alternative fuel after putting a ban on cutting to trees in Himalayan States especially in the State of Uttaranchal."

60. That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about taking steps to protect the people living near forest areas and their crops from wild animals."

61. That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about taking concrete steps to control the increasing population in the country."

62. That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about making constitutional provisions to prohibit religion based reservation, incentives and survey on the basis of religion in the country."

63. That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about putting effective check on religious conversion by way of fear and allurements in the country."

64. That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about omission of Article 370 of the Constitution which confers special status to Jammu and Kashmir State."

65. That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the plan of providing security to scientists, public institutions and scientific laboratories in the country."

66. That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about taking effective measures to stop atrocities and sex crimes on women Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and weaker sections of the country."

67. That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about taking concrete measures to stop rampant increase in the prices of essential consumer goods in the country."

68. That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the action plan of providing essential consumer goods sufficiently at low price by streamlining the public distribution system in the country."

69. That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about protection of production and sale of traditional products manufactured by artisans weavers and craftsmen in the country."

70. That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the time-bound programme to start ambitious scheme of inter-linking of all the rivers in the country."

[*English*]

SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA (Sangrur): I beg to move:

71. That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the reasons for the Government's decision to import wheat when sufficient stock is available in the country."

72. That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about any concrete time-bound programme to improve the plight of farmers."

73. That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about Government's desire to supply free water and electricity to farming community in the whole country."

74. That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about any remedial measures to be adopted by Government to prevent increasing incidents of suicides being committed by farmers in the country."

75. That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about Government's desire to provide interest free loans by Banks and other financial institutions to farmers whose crops are damaged by natural calamities."

76. That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about any plan of the Government for transfer of Chandigarh to Punjab."

77. That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the steps to be taken by the Government to increase the strength of minority Sikh community in the armed forces."

78. That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about Government's desire to hand over all the documents pertaining to Sikh history alleged to be in the possession to Shiromani Gurudwara Prabandhak Committee."

79. That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about Government's intention to follow up the matter relating to ban on wearing of Turban by Sikh students in France with Government of France."

80. That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about providing Indian citizenship to thousands of Indian born refugees whose parents migrated from Afghanistan and have been living in India since long."

[Shri Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa]

81. That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about any decision of the Government about granting of dual citizenship status of NRIs and people of Indian origin."

82. That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about any plan of the Government to improve the dilapidated condition of historical Sikh Gurudwara in Pakistan."

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): I beg to move:

120. That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about providing gainful employment to the youths of Orissa."

121. That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about any plan for expansion of women education in the country."

122. That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about waiving of the loan granted to Orissa Government."

123. That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about declaring Orissa as a Special Category State."

124. That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about strengthening the Health Services in Orissa."

125. That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about providing healthcare to all expectant mothers and newly born children in Orissa."

126. That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about providing adequate funds to Orissa for development of rural roads under Prime Minister Gram Sadak Yojana."

127. That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about increasing allocation of funds for Central Sponsored Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme in Orissa."

128. That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about inclusion of the remaining eleven districts of Orissa in the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme."

129. That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about increasing labour intensive projects employment to the rural poor in Orissa."

130. That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about increasing the irrigation potential in the State of Orissa."

131. That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about any plan to connect river Mahanadi with river Rishikulya in Orissa."

132. That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about any plan to connect river Bansadhara with river Rishikulya.

133. That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about opening of Indian Institute of Technology in Orissa."

134. That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about declaring University of Orissa as a Central University."

135. That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about opening of National Institute of Science in Bhubaneshwar."

136. That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about giving a special economic package for the overall development of Orissa."

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, in the last Lok Sabha elections people of our country voted for a change. The people of our country did not support any political formation. The people of our country wanted that there should be a change in the policy, outlook and in the attitude because of the experience of the people of our country during six years to NDA regime. During this NDA regime the agriculture of our country was ruined and there had been agrarian crisis. The crisis was accentuated and the marginal farmers became poorer and poorer. The number of agricultural workers was increased. The unemployment in rural areas was increased. Industries were closed and public sector undertakings were disinvested and sold at a throw away price. That is why the people of our country voted for a change and they voted for a secular Government. They prayed that

in future there should not be any incident like Gujarat or Manohar Pur in our country. *Rashtrapati Ji* also, in his Address to both the House of Parliament assembled together referred to this. I would like to quote him.

"This Government was voted to Office to effect this precise change. Only for change in the policy, outlook and attitude, the people of our country voted for this Government."

But what is our experience during these 20 months of this Government? *Rashtrapati Ji* has said a lot about the problems being faced by the agriculture and the programmes being launched by the UPA Government. I would like to quote him.

"My Government has given the highest priority to the welfare of our farmers and to the development of our rural economy. There has been 60 per cent increase in the credit to the agricultural sector. Long-term measures for the revival of cooperative credit institution, as recommended by the Vaidyanathan Committee, are being implemented."

What is our experience? The farmers of our country are committing suicide. Why are they committing suicide? Thousands and thousands of the farmers of Maharashtra, particularly Vidharbha area, Kamataka, Andhra Pradesh and even the farmers of your State, Punjab also are committing suicide. More than 30,000 farmers have committed suicide so far. During the last several years, the income of the farmers has come down. It is all because of the policy of liberalisation and globalisation. It has an adverse impact on the agrarian sector of our country. There has been reduction in the subsidy. If you see the prices of the fertilisers, during the last several years there has been steep rise in the prices of the fertilisers, during the last several years there has been steep rise in the prices of the fertilisers. They subsidy was being provided to keep the prices of fertilisers at a lower level. Now the subsidy has been reduced. With the result, the prices of fertilisers have increased. Due to the reforms in the power sector, the tariff for the agricultural sector has increased. Our market was opened up during the NDA regime. They had opened our doors and they had removed quantitative restrictions. Now there is no restriction and 1439 items can be imported from various countries. Moreover, the capital and public investment in agriculture has also been reducing gradually. It was 14 per cent during Eighties and it came down to only 07 per cent in Nineties and thereafter. As a result of this,

[Shri Basu Deb Acharia]

there has been stagnation in the agriculture sector and there is stagnation in the expansion of irrigated area also.

The institutional credit also has been reduced and now the farmers have to depend on the moneylenders. That problem has not been properly addressed. The cost of inputs is also rising and because of these factors, there are crisis in the agrarian sector and the farmers are committing suicide. In the Rashtrapatiji's Address, there is no mention about the crisis. He has just stated some measures which the government is now taking. But how to overcome the crisis being faced by the agrarian sector has not been mentioned here. Around 80 per cent of the people of our country are dependent on agriculture.

Another factor is the rise in the prices of essential commodities.

Sir, the poorer sections of our country are being affected adversely because of this. The prices of foodgrains, particularly that of wheat has been increased. The price of wheat has been increased to Rs. 15/-. Not only there has been an increase in the prices of foodgrains, but also in the prices of other commodities. The gap between rich and poor has increased. There has been no attempt made to reduce this gap.

15.56 hrs.

[SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG *in the Chair*]

A promise had been made in the National Common Minimum Programme to strengthen the Public Distribution System. During the NDA regime this was restricted to only targeted groups. The prices of foodgrains distributed through the Public Distribution System were also increased. The prices of the foodgrains to be supplied through the Public Distribution System to the people living above the poverty line were increased to such extent that such foodgrains available in the market were lower in prices to those supplied through the Public Distribution System. It was done with an intention only to weaken the Public Distribution System. There is not only need to strengthen the Public Distribution System but also to universalise the Public Distribution System. To do this, all that is required is spending a few thousand crores by the Government. Three years ago commodities like wheat and rice were exported at a cheaper price. It was exported one rupee cheaper than what was available to people living below the poverty line. How much did the Government spend on export subsidy then? It was to the

extent of Rs. 15,000 crore. Now, if for export subsidy the Government could spend Rs. 15,000 crore, could the Government not spend a few thousand crore for universalising the Public Distribution System in order to make available foodgrains at cheaper rates to around 80 per cent of the population of our country? Not attempt has been made either to strengthen or to universalise the Public Distribution System.

There has also been stagnation in production. There is a negative growth in the agricultural sector. Growth is less as compared to growth in population. The situation is such today that the per capita consumption of foodgrains has been reduced. It has gone back to the level of what it was at the time of the Second World War. As a result of this there is hunger, there is starvation in the rural areas. During these 20 months of existence of this UPA Government, this problem has not been addressed, rather it has got further accentuated. This is evident more in rural areas.

16.00 hrs.

Sir, the condition of the people in the rural areas is becoming worse. Rashtrapatiji has referred about modernisation of our airports in his Address. He has stated:

"My Government intends to create world class airports in India. A comprehensive Civil Aviation Policy is on the anvil. The process of modernisation and expansion of the Delhi and Mumbai Airports through public-private partnership has already commenced."

We are not objecting to modernisation of airports. But how can this be done? The Mumbai and Delhi Airports are the two important airports of our country and 60 per cent of the revenue comes from these two airports. Where is the need for their privatisation? One year back, we, the Members from the Left parties, met the Prime Minister and submitted a proposal prepared by the Unions of Airports Authority of India. They have formed a Joint Forum. The proposal was that, without taking a single paisa from the Government, these two important airports could be modernised and upgraded to the international standard. The Prime Minister assured us that the Government would examine it seriously. But when the Government has decided to privatise, there is no other alternative except to hand over these two important airports to the private sector without seriously considering the alternate proposal submitted jointly by the Unions of

Airports Authority of India and the Joint Forum of the Unions of Airports Authority of India. In spite of the fact that the Airports Authority of India is capable to modernise them, is capable of investing funds and it earns profits, why did the UPA Government decided to hand over these two airports? It goes against the National Common Minimum Programme. Sir, it has been stated that the profit-making public sector undertakings will not be privatised. It goes against what has been committed in the National Common Minimum Programme. Rashtrapatiji has also stated:

"My Government is committed to doing so through the National Common Minimum Programme."

That is what Rashtrapatiji has stated. But what the Government has done in the case of the two airports is contrary to what has been stated in the National Common Minimum Programme. We have no objection to green field airports. Plans are being made to modernise and develop Kolkata and Chennai airports. We would like to know whether the same system will be applied for the modernisation of Kolkata and Chennai airports also. We would like to know whether the same route of public private participation will be adopted.

Last Session, there was a debate in this House. We demand that all the materials relating to the tender should be placed on the Table of the House as it was done in a very dubious manner. An Expert Committee was appointed under the Chairmanship of Shri Sreedharan, the Chief of Delhi Metro Corporation. What has this Expert Committee recommended? This Expert Committee recommended that one airport should be modernised and upgraded to international standards by the Government under the Government control. For another airport this Committee recommended that fifty per cent of the share should be with the Government. But the Government went contrary to the recommendations of the Expert Committee. I demand that all the papers, including the Expert Committee's Report, must be made public so that people of our country would know what has happened. Since we have the right to information now, people of our country should know what has happened behind the curtain.

In regard to separate freight corridor, we have been told that there would be two separate freight corridors. One is Kolkata—Delhi and another is Mumbai—Delhi. But in the President's Address it is mentioned:

"The Government has decided to build two dedicated high capacity freight corridors—the Eastern Corridor from Ludiana to Sonnagar."

There is no mention of Kolkata. It further says that there will be a Western Corridor from Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust to Dadri. Then, why is it called Kolkata-Delhi Corridor? If it starts from Sonnagar, how can the traffic coming through Kolkata and Haldia Port come to northern parts of our country?

The RITES prepared a Report. It recommended a freight corridor from Kolkata to Delhi. Why has it been changed from Kolkata to Sonagar? Tram route is already saturated. It has reached 117 per cent. There is a need for a separate corridor because we have to increase our freight traffic.

The hon. President has also referred to improvement in power situation in our country.

While referring to improvement in the power situation in our country, he has mentioned about Dabhol Power Corporation. You know, Sir, there was an agreement with the Enron. They started the construction of it. They started generation. The first unit started generating power but the unit cost of power was too high, it was Rs. 6 per unit. After two years or three years of generation, it was closed down. The Enron did not bring a single paisa from the United States of America. They took money, the loan from our financial institutions like the IDBI and the State Bank of India. Now, the Government of India has decided to revive it. By spending how much, would it revive the Project? It is spending about Rs. 10,000 crore. Government can spend Rs. 10,000 crore for the revival of a sick company; dole out the money. This fund is coming from the financial institutions and the public sector undertakings like the NTPC and the Gas Authority of India Limited. But the Government has no money when we ask for the revival of our own sick public sector undertakings. In the National Common Minimum Programme, it has been stated that attempts should be made to revive the sick public sector undertakings. It has been stated:

"All privatisation will be considered on a transparent and consultative case-by-case. The UPA will retain existing "navaratna" companies in the public sector, while these companies raise resources from the capital market. While every effort will be made to modernise and restructure sick public sector

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companies and revive sick industry, chronically loss-making companies will either be sold-off or closed after all workers have got their legitimate dues and compensation..."

So, Sir, a Board for revival of sick public sector undertakings was constituted. The Board recommended the revival of certain sick public sector companies. But the Government is not providing financial assistance for the revival of such companies. The Government has no money for the revival of its own company but the Government has money to revive the Dabhol Corporation. It is spending Rs. 10,000 crore for the revival of a dead company, a private company. The money was taken away by the Enron company. They closed down the unit and left the country. They are not being penalised. Moreover, the public sector undertakings and the financial institutions are forced to provide fund for the revival of the Dabhol Power Plant. For whose interest is it done?

We have been opposing the Foreign Direct Investment in certain sectors. We are not opposed to the Foreign Direct Investment *per se*. We will welcome the Foreign Direct Investment if it helps to bring new technology, the technology which is not available in our country. We will welcome the Foreign Direct Investment if it helps to generate employment, if it helps to increase the productivity and production. Why are we opposing the FDI in the retail sector? The Government is bent upon opening our retail sector also. The earlier Government decided about it but they could not do it. Now, the UPA government, in the name of brand product, has decided to open the retail sector also. They will allow the FDI in retail sector in the name of brand. In the name of brand now many products will come to our country? What will happen to our small traders? I want to know whether the FDI in the retail sector will be able to generate employment? Or will the FDI in retail sector throwaway lakhs and lakhs of the people who are engaged in the small trades? Without considering its serious impact, the Government decided to open, in the name of brand product, the retail sector to FDI.

Sir, in regard to Foreign Policy, I quote what has been stated in the National Common Minimum Program:

"Even as it pursues closer engagement and relations with USA, the UPA Government will maintain the independence of India's Foreign Policy position on all regional and global issues."

The earlier Government changed the Foreign Policy. They surrendered to the dictates of US Imperialism. That is why the Left Parties wanted that we should have our independent Foreign Policy. Why do we want independent Foreign Policy? We want the independent Foreign Policy to protect the interest of our country.

What has happened in the case of Iran? The Prime Minister has made a statement. He has not mentioned about United States of America. Nowhere he has mentioned it. Hon. Rashtrapatiji has also not mentioned about Iran. Why? The Government of India took such a position and has lined up with the United States of America.

Today, during 'Zero Hour' we raised the issue on the statement made by the US Ambassador, David C. Mulford. We have very categorically stated that the remark or statement made by US Ambassador was not a personal statement. This is not the question of whether Iran will continue to develop nuclear weapons or not, but the question is whether the United State of America will dictate others.

After Afghanistan, before attacking Iraq, George W. Bush said: 'excess of evils.' Which countries are 'excess of evils'? They are Iran, Iraq, Syria and North Korea. I had been to Iraq 15 days before Iraq was attacked by the United States of America. I went to the corner of this country. I had been to Babylon and Karbala. Shri N.N. Krishnadas who went along with us. It is such a beautiful country. It is a secular country. For ten years, during sanction, how the people of Iraq suffered? We have seen the children suffering in the hospitals without medicines. ...*(Interruptions)* what did Mr. George Bush say before attacking? He said that they have Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD). Without taking permission from UNO, without caring for UNO, they started attacking Iraq. After three years of occupation, not a single part or particle of weapons of mass destruction could be found in Iraq. Thousands and thousands of innocent people were killed. Sanction was imposed for more than ten years. What was the fault of the people of Iraq? Now, Sir, the same method would be applied in the case of Iran, whether Iran is complying with the safeguards that is there. It is because Iran is a member, it is a signatory to NPT, the question as to whether they are complying or not can be resolved in International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). But, from day one, even before September meeting US President is saying that it has to be referred to the Security Council. We were never told; only we came to

know on the day of voting. We were surprised that our Government, our representative there, voted along with USA and EU-3 without caring, without taking into confidence the Parliament, the people of our country, and without taking confidence the parties who are extending support from outside.

This Government is dependent on our support. Without taking us into confidence, the Government took unilateral decision to support USA and to follow the line or line up with USA and EU-3. Then, we demanded that the mistake which was committed in the month of September should be corrected. It is because we would get another opportunity. We discussed here and the same thing happened when there was another voting on 6th of March in Vienna. Our representative, the Government of India, lined up with USA and EU-3. Other countries, smaller countries, non-aligned countries like South Africa, Venezuela, Cuba either abstained themselves or opposed resolution referring Iran to the Security Council.

Sir, if it is referred to the Security Council and sanction is imposed, which is the motive and intention behind referring Iran to the Security Council, the United States of America is preparing to attack Iran. On the borders of Iraq, they have 1,20,000 forces. They are ready to attack Iran.

How can we define our independent foreign policy? What is the meaning of independent foreign policy?

16.26 hrs.

[SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN *in the Chair*]

I quote what the Prime Minister in his statement has stated. He has stated, "The House will agree that the stance taken by the Government has been consistent." It may be consistent with the stance taken by the earlier NDA Government but not consistent with the stance we took in the past. The statement says: "It is consistent in keeping with the well considered independent judgement of national interest." What is the national interest? By supporting the United States of America, will our national interest be protected? Then why did the Government of India take such a stance? Is it not contrary to what has been stated in the National Common Minimum Programme? Is this programme only to form the Government? After formation of the Government, they will forget about what is there in the National Common Minimum Programme and they will pursue their own course.

We know that there is no difference in regard to the economy policy between this Government and the earlier Government. The only difference with this Government is that this Government is depending on the support of the Left parties. Why are we extending support? Our support should not be taken for granted. Why we are extending support is that we want that there should be a change in the policy which was being pursued by the earlier Government.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Basu Deb Acharia, you have taken about 40 minutes. There are four speakers after this. So, it will be better if you conclude.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, I will finish it in five minutes. Our Party has another three speakers to speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN: There are four speakers to speak and you have taken more or less 40 minutes. It is altogether 58 minutes. It is better to conclude.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Sir, you allow him to threaten the Government more.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: In Rashtrapati's Address, there is no mention about the restoration of democracy movement which is going on in the neighbouring State of Nepal. All the political parties have formed an alliance and they are fighting against the monarchy. The people of Nepal need the support and assistance from the people of our country. Why we are extending support to this Government is that this Government should undo the wrong which was done by the earlier NDA Government. But during the 20 months of its existence, this is our experience!

What Rashtrapati has stated in his speech is that this Government was voted to office to effect this precise change.

The Government should seriously think of it. Some bold measures are to be taken to arrest the crisis which is there in the agricultural sector. The poor sections are becoming poorer and poorer. Unemployment is growing in the rural economy and if it has not been arrested, the crisis in the rural sector cannot be solved. The condition of the agricultural labourers, poor farmers, marginal farmers and middle class people is gradually becoming worse.

The Government has committed in the National Common Minimum Programme that they would bring in a

[Shri Basu Deb Acharia]

legislation for the unorganised workers. Today, in our country there are 37.5 crore people in the unorganised sector. The Government is committed to provide social security to these 37.5 crore people who are in the unorganised sector. There are 22 crore agricultural labourers in the country and there is no law for them. In the National Common Minimum Programme it has been stated that the interests of the agricultural labourers would be protected. But nothing has been done so far for these agricultural labourers and for the workers who are there in the unorganised sector.

The Government has reduced EPF interest rate. We raised this issue on the floor of the House during the last Session also. Earlier, it was 11 per cent and even 12 per cent. During the NDA regime, it was reduced to 8.5 per cent. Last year it was increased to 9.5 per cent. Again, this year the Government has reduced it to 8.5 per cent. What is the argument of the Government? If 9.5 per cent is given as an interest rate for Employees Provident Fund, then the Government will have to provide Rs. 765 crore as subsidy. For how many workers that this Rs. 765 crore will go? It is for 17 crore people of our country. They say that they do not have money of Rs. 765 crore for 17 crore people of our country. How much is the amount the Government not getting because of tax evasion? Today, how many people are paying tax whose income is more than Rs. 10 lakh? Their number is only 80,000. In a country of 104 crore people, there are only 80,000 people whose income is more than Rs. 10 lakh. The tax evasion is to the extent of Rs. 1,20,000 crore. Can the Government not realise that amount? I am not talking of NPA and the bad debts etc. We have suggested as to how the resources can be mobilised, how the poorer and middle class people can be given relief and how the richer sections, who can afford, can be taxed. The need of the hour is that unless there is a change in the outlook and in the approach and unless the Government feels for the poor and the middle class who are about 80 per cent of the people, the people will not say that there is change.

Sir, we demand that they should learn from our relations with them. If they continue to commit the mistakes which the earlier Government committed, then this Government will also face the same consequences and the people will not pardon them. Time is still there and the Government should think seriously on these issues.

The basis for formation of this Government is the National Common Minimum Programme on which this Government has been formed. They should stick to it sincerely and try to implement what has been committed and promised in the National Common Minimum Programme particularly the programmes which are for the agricultural labourers, poor sections of the people of our country and for the working class and middle class people of our country.

I thank you, Sir, for giving me the opportunity.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the House is debating the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address delivered by the hon'ble President in a joint sitting of both the Houses of Parliament on 16 February, 2006. All of us are aware that the said Address is just a formality. In fact, the Address is a policy statement of the Government in power. The Address reflects the commitment of the Government towards the weaker sections, the poor and the farmers.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Members of Parliament belonging to the Congress Party highlighted in their speeches the achievements of the Government. Significantly, the policies and actions of the Government have a direct bearing on the subjects. The lofty schemes and projects announced or launched by the Government do not form the basis of its success unless the proceeds thereof reach the end beneficiary. So what is important is the direction in which the Government is moving. If the Government takes no measures for the welfare of the villages, farmers, labourers and unemployed person, we can definitely conclude that the Government is not moving in the right direction.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, mere speeches do not help in governance. The action of the Government speak for themselves. My party, the Samajwadi Party, is not happy with what the Address contains. We never expected that the Government would deviate from its direction and fail to fulfill its responsibility. The Address is not at all satisfactory. Hunger is our most serious problem. In November, 2005 our wheat stock was 14 lakh tones, whereas, our maximum monthly requirement is 12-14 lakh tonnes. The Chairman, FCI, Shri V.K. Malhotra says that we have enough stock of wheat in the country.

Despite it, the State Governments were asked to purchase wheat from open market. Not only this, on 1 January, the Government decided to reduce the per family quota of ration under PDS from 35 kgs per month to 20 kgs per month and increased the price of wheat from Rs. 6.10 to Rs. 7.05. Consequently, wheat prices sky rocketed. It is very difficult to understand as to why the Government decided to import 5 lakh tonnes of wheat, moreover, the imported wheat cannot reach here before April-May, and new crops would be ready during these very months. As per the information I have, the price of imported wheat would be Rs. 7.60 a kg. The Government's decision to import wheat is not at all justified. The farmers are committing suicide. An hon'ble Member from Congress, in his speech, has stated that no one would die of hunger now, whereas a large number of farmers from Karnataka, Maharashtra, Punjab and Andhra Pradesh have committed suicide. The House has already discussed the said issue. Earlier, the Government was not even ready to admit it, but the Chief Minister of Maharashtra had himself admitted it on 6.12.2005. Thousands of farmers in Maharashtra have committed suicide.

Para 11 of the Presidential Address states that the Government has given top priority to the welfare of the farmers to boost rural economy. Agricultural loans have been increased by 60 per cent. More allocation to agro-sector is not as important as is the fact whether a farmer who takes loan can easily repay it? Why farmers are committing suicide today? It is because agriculture has become unremunerative. The farmer is not in a position to repay the loan taken by him. Therefore, the basic question is until and unless agriculture becomes a remunerative vocation, the crisis of the farming community cannot be overcome. The Government is unconcerned about it. The supply of fertilizers, power and water to the farmers should be facilitated but the fact remains that the Government are not taking positive steps in this direction.

The security of our country, be it internal or external is not at all satisfactory. 13 States are affected by naxalite activities. Union Home Secretary, Shri Duggal, himself has admitted that naxal activities have increased by 4 percent during 2005 in comparison to 2004. Further, the Union Home Minister admits that funds required to curb naxal activities could not be spent. I do agree that the said problem is linked to social and economic reasons.

This issue was discussed in the House and thus I would like to charge the Government that it failed to take efforts on a war footing which were required to tackle it. Basically, poverty is the greatest problem in our country. When people have no access to employment, they are forced to take up arms. The Government did not pay attention to it with required level of seriousness.

Our condition is peculiar. On 14 January, 2006 newspapers published the statement of the Chief of Army Staff, General J.J. Singh, wherein he stated that the Army will not be withdrawn from the Kashmir valley. Subsequently, on 7 February it was reported that three thousand troops have been withdrawn. Newspapers also reported that terrorist training camps across the border have again become active. I would like to know under what circumstances the Government withdrew troops from Kashmir valley.

The Government have issued large scale advertisements that National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme has been launched on 2 February. The hon'ble President has also made a mention of it in his Address. But the Government have not disclosed as to by when the said scheme would be launched in remaining two-third districts of the country as it has already been started in 200 districts. The Government is silent about its target regarding the scheme, availability of resources and by when it is proposed to be launched in the whole country? Under the said scheme, unemployed persons will be guaranteed 100 days employment and minimum wage of Rs. 60 per day. The Government should also make arrangements for the remaining 205 days as one would get employment only for 100 days. How would one manage everything when prices have sky rocketed, milk has touched Rs. 20 a litre from Rs. 15. One can easily imagine that a person cannot think of other facilities. The Government says that it is creating employment, whereas, the Planning Commission is of the view that the graph of employment generation is declining. One can easily judge the plight of unemployment by an incident of recruitment in Jammu and Kashmir, wherein three lakh persons applied for 5000 posts of different categories. It is indicative of the seriousness of our Government towards solving the problem of unemployment. Unemployment is on the increase. The Government have not prepared any blue print for tackling the problem of unemployment, especially for labourers, and educated unemployed persons and the plight of farmers in view of ongoing economic liberalisation.

[Shri Ramji Lal Suman]

So far as foreign relations are concerned, the Address has highlighted the visits of our Prime Minister to different countries and also the visits paid by the Heads of different States to our country. But the Address does not carry a single word on Iran. God knows what prompted the hon'ble Prime Minister, the very next day to make a statement on Iran. Without any fear or fervour, I would like to charge the Government that these days it is doing nothing except kowtowing before America. We had thousand years old relationship with Iran.

The non-aligned policy was jointly formulated by Pt. Nehru, Marshal Tito and Nasir and we have several times led the Non-aligned countries. We should stir our conscience and ask to ourselves whether we have not aberrated from the path of NAM. A discussion was being held in the morning regarding threats emanating from the ambassador of the U.S. asking us to either toe their line or be prepared to face the music. He wrote a letter to the Chief Minister of West Bengal. If the Governments are bona fide it may take the initiative of speaking out its mind and lodging protest with the U.S. President asking him to call back his ambassador. The Government is not ready to do it either. I would like to submit that the U.S. is bent upon repeating in Iran what it did in Afghanistan and Iraq. The House must have witnessed the inhuman atrocities committed on Iraqis by the American forces in Iraqi jails, the footage of those Gory incidents were shown across the world. Only a barbaric Govt. or country would do this. In the Governing Board of the International Atomic Energy Agency 27 countries including India voted against Iran and this matter was referred to the Security Council. The most significant point is that the U.S., has repeatedly been levelling allegations on Iran that the latter is clandestinely becoming a nuclear power. What would be more ironical than this that their Chief Nuclear Expert David Albright has said that the report of the American Intelligence Agency regarding the said nuclear weapons being made by Iran is unfounded and is far from reality? Despite the report of Albright, a renowned nuclear expert who says that the intelligence report is wrong, the U.S. repeatedly levels this allegation that Iran is violating norms. Even the Chief of the International Atomic Energy Agency Mohd. Al-ber-dei has said that there is no impending danger from the nuclear activities of Iran. What proof would be stronger than this? As far as nuclear programme is concerned, the U.S. intentions are not clear and Iran has reiterated it many times that they are using the nuclear plant to generate power and they are not doing anything else besides it. In fact the U.S. intends to repeat

Afghanistan and Iraq in Iran. Mr. George Bush has said that launching an armed offensive against Iran would be the ultimate resort. America is mentally prepared to launch an offensive on Iran and all this is nothing but pretexts. Its intention and working are like this—"na tadapne ki ijazat hai na fariyad ki hai, ghut ke mar jaon yeh marzi mere saiyad ki hai". That is why I wish to submit that the Samajwadi Party has a very clear cut approach. Our CPM colleague was speaking right now, we shall accompany them for demonstration. On 2nd March, however, I would like to submit in the House that if the Government of India would not change its stance on Iran then the Samajwadi Party will have no other alternative but to bring a no-confidence motion against this Government. This Government may say anything but this Government has deflected from its policy of non-alignment. The prices of petrol and diesel are arbitrarily increased and they express their helplessness and say that the prices of crude oil have increased in the international market so what can they do? When the prices of crude oil rose to \$ 67 per cent barrel in the international market, the Government effected a hefty increase in the prices of petrol and diesel. Here I would like to ask, when the prices of crude oil were \$ 52 per cent barrel why did not the Government reduce the prices? What would be more regretful than this that the Government has no policy and the Rangrajan Committee was set up to make rules for fixing the prices, make some rules and regulations, and ironically all sorts of conjectures are being published in the newspapers that the prices of L.P.G. petrol, diesel may increase this time. What can be more ironical than this that the Government has no policy for such a big institution which is so vital in a man's everyday life. The Government must clarify its policy on petrol and diesel immediately.

Lastly, I would like to make another submission that many things were boasted in the President's Address. Only announcements are not enough. It is also necessary to see how far the assurance given by the Government have been made. The Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan has been strengthened. It has been linked with the Mid-day meal programme. I feel proud and glad to find that Uttar Pradesh is the only state to have spent 98 per cent of the funds allocated to it for the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan as were provided by the Union Government for the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan to various States. I would like to tell my Congress friends that their Government in the capital has spent only 25 per cent of the funds. If the Government has allocated funds for some programme then it becomes

its duty to see if the funds are being utilized properly or not? They have not done their duty. They cannot run the Government by showing incorrect figures. Trust cannot be generated in the people like this. The Government cannot get the desired results unless these figures would be actual, unless the people would know that the money actually allocated by the Government is being properly spent.

I would like to tell my colleague from the Congress Party hon. Manvendra Singh ji, to distribute one copy each of the budget presented by the Uttar Pradesh Government. If one is thinking in terms of working for the welfare of villages and poor people, concentrate on education then it is necessary to go through the budget of Uttar Pradesh. The tasks performed by the State Government have not been performed anywhere else. I do not know the caste of that twelfth pass girl, but she belongs to a below poverty line family. The Government of Uttar Pradesh has awarded Rs. 20 thousand to that girl. The Chief Minister through his budget decided that unemployment allowance to the tune of Rs. 500 per month would be given to people who have granted or post-graduated till 31.3.2005. We have made education free of cost for girls. So, it is mandatory to generate confidence in people. And a positive action should be taken on their problems.

I would very humbly request hon. Vijay Kumar Malhotra who has left the House that he should stop telling every one that Ram Mandir will be constructed at that very place. As long as they were in power they were never reminded of the Ram Mandir. What will be constructed in Ayodhya is a different question. Either the Hindu-Muslims should sit jointly and decide or the Court should decide. Would they be able to force the construction of a Ram Mandir? They cannot be allowed to play with the sentiments of the people. There should be consensus between the two communities. ...(*Interruptions*) When they sit in Opposition, they are reminded of Ram Mandir. ...(*Interruptions*) I would like to request the Government that politics in associated with policy, principles and programme. It is directly related with hunger and helplessness and thirst. Once the people were caught in their trap. They will not be trapped now. The strength will never be the same again. What will happen to them is a different question but their fate is certain. Had the strength of B.J.P. been reinforced by principles then I would have accepted that but it was a sentimental phase, which is over. ...(*Interruptions*) Please

leave our issue. Nobody is prepared to trust them. They know what is going to be their fate. ...(*Interruptions*) We do not consider BJP and Congress Party different on policy matters and on economic issues. Both are the same on foreign matters. At the outset they began singing a different song, thereafter three-four days they started appreciating the Government's stance on Iran. We aligned with them to check the Government. Their action has greatly disappointed us. Their works are not at all satisfactory.

17.00 hrs.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur):
Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Motion of thanks on President's Address. It is first time in the 58 years history of independent india, that UPA Government has started Bharat Nirman scheme to create rural infrastructure. The objective of the Bharat Nirman only be realised through the development of rural infrastructure. Today, the condition of villages is such that have become synonymous with poverty and unemployment. Village means absence of infrastructure. The villages and poverty have become synonymous. If UPA Government want to work in direction of generating employment and poverty alleviation, it is a good effort. I understand that this is the reason behind the vision of Bharat Nirman. Mahatma Gandhi too had visualized that "Sahi Azadi ka Saboot, Gaon Hamare Ho Mazboot". I comend and welcome the initiative taken by UPA Government for strengthening the villages. This is a historical initiative because time bound and transparent work would be done under this scheme. It has been said in President's Address, which is an expression of UPA Government that this would be time bound and transparent. Bharat Nirman Scheme has been brought to solve all basic problems related to villages whether it may be road, electricity, transport, drinking water, housing or telephone services. These schemes were announced at the time of budget, but they have also been mentioned in Common Minimum Programme of United Progressive Alliance.

One basic problem in most of the states of the country is of irrigation. All India average of irrigated land is only 40 percent and 60 percent land is unirrigated. This is the pathetic state of villages. The one reasons behind the non-improvement of basic economic condition of the villages in irrigation.

[Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav]

17.03 hrs.

[SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN *in the Chair*]

It has been said that additional irrigation capacity of one crore hectare land would be created under Bharat Nirman, it is a good initiative, but up to what extent this would be realized. Creation of additional irrigation capacity of one crore hectare land, arrangement for irrigation, target of increasing crop production would increase the agricultural production. It can change the condition of the farmers. Bharat Nirman Scheme will increase agricultural production and provide food to the poor. I understand that dream of Bharat Nirman has been nurtured to prosper the farmers. How this dream will become true in India, which is predominately on agricultural based country. Till the economic condition of the farmers is improved, the economic condition of the country will also not improve, no matter whatever slogan we may hurl.

The house is aware that discussion on making right to work as fundamental right is also going on. All political parties and our people in the House keep on raising this issue every now and then. Recently National Rural Employment Guarantee Act was passed. This Bill was introduced in the last session and we passed it, which is for the welfare of the poor and people living below the poverty line. It will particularly benefit the agricultural labourers and unskilled workers. Recently, the announcement in regard to registration was made on February 3 and the poor are being registered through Panchayat Samitis in various villages. Many of the poor living in the country will get work for 100 days. This is a good initiative in direction of running extensive employment scheme. The poor living in villages would be given employment under this scheme and a programme to give unemployment allowance to those who do not get work has also been formulated. This programme has yet not been fully implemented, since it is in its initial stage. I think that if and when implemented, in the entire country, it would be a good step in direction of the poverty alleviation.

The Government has made a mention of many such programmes in President's Address like-National Rural Health Mission, National Crop Insurance Scheme, National Horticulture Mission and One-India Plan in telecom sector. Besides that you are aware that Railways is earning profit without increasing the tariff. The Government have decided to construct two high-capacity dedicated freight corridors with the investment of more than twenty thousand crore

rupees, as was mentioned by the hon'ble CPM leader, Shri Basu Deb Acharia.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, this issue was discussed widely during the last session and Central legislation in this regard was enacted. A positional amendment was brought to ensure that the students belonging to Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribes and O.B.Cs, socially and educationally backward classes get the benefit of reservation in admission to the unaided or private education institutional also. I am of the opinion that this is a very good step. The people belonging to Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe, which comprise 24 percent of our society, and OBC, which comprise 54 percent of our population who so far have been deprived of the opportunity to get technical education, would avail this opportunity through the said legislation, which is a quite progressive piece of legislation passed by the House.

As far as minorities are concerned, the Government has set up a separate Ministry for Minority Affairs. Just now, hon'ble Malhotra ji has expressed concerns about minorities. Last time also I had said this and I hope that my BJP colleague would excuse me for saying that whenever any initiative for upliftment of backward classes, socially and educationally backward classes is taken BJP seems to find it hard to digest. Why do they find themselves ill at ease? When the Government tries to bring any deprived class in the mainstream of the country, they should express happiness in this regard. I understand that a special campaign should be launched to bring socially and economically backward class to the mainstream of the society.

A wide discussion of census has been held over here. A questionnaire to know the economic and social condition of the minorities was sent through Sachar Committee, an uproar was created over it I understand that this type of mindset cannot strengthen the nation. Not only there is a need to provide equal opportunity but also to the people belonging of all classes, includes minorities, backward classes, S.C. and S.T. to bring them into the mainstream of the country, but there is a need to provide special opportunity to those who till now has not got the opportunity. I do not want to blame anybody in saying as to which Government had been responsible for this state of affairs even after the 57 years of independence, but there is certainly a need to rethink over the issue in this year 2006. When I said this, many hon'ble members did not like it.

The issue pertaining to army has also been raised over here. This is a sensitive issue. We are proud of Armed Forces of our country. The functioning of the Armed Forces is delineated the basis of class or religion nor do the armed forces ever discriminate during the hour of crisis whether it is flood, drought, storm or cyclone. Army people risk their life to protect the people and do not discriminate among or adopt biased attitude for attaining the soul objective. Army people not only defend the borders, but also render help at the time of emergency. At the time of war with Pakistan, Abdul Hamid has exploded Pakistan's tank by sacrificing his life and set an example of patriotism. I would like to know whether anybody can raise finger against such deeds? What kind of country do they want our country to become? One needs to be broad-minded and shun parochialism to keep the secular fabric of the country intact. These people are not broad-minded; therefore, they tend to get uneasy on these issues. They should enlarge their vision to avoid being ill at ease. Everyone should support the special programmes being run by the Government to bring various classes like the deprived classes, the minorities, the backward classes, extremely backward classes, the scheduled castes, the scheduled tribes, etc. into the national mainstream. In this country, census is conducted every 10 years. Heaven will not fall on earth if in order to take stock of the economic and social status of these various classes. The Sachar Committee prepares a questionnaire.

Sir, there is a talk going on here about dividing the army. The Army can never be divided. The army of our country that boasts of a uniform and an efficient recruitment policy is too strong to get divided. A person inclined towards a divisive mentality can entertain such thoughts about dividing the army. Ours is a very great country, our nation is very strong and the world acknowledges us as second to none in military power and prowess. That is why I had said that no finger should be raised in this regard. Census based on caste and religion is conducted every ten years. Last census was conducted in the year 2001. The census is the basis of various programmes like BPL programme and other social welfare programmes. This is a trifling matter which does not demand such hype.

Here I would like to raise a question about water management. During the NDA regime, national level discussions regarding linking the rivers were in full swing, talks of 'Feel good' were also on, but I am of the opinion

that today the fundamental problem area is water management and a nation cannot ever achieve progress until it goes in for water management and uses its water resources in a better way. We have water resource in abundance, river water, ground water, rain water and various other kinds of water resources are at our disposal but we are unable to formulate a master plan by creating a single unit owing to which water is not being used in the right way in our country. This is a very basic question. Water may invoke a world war unless we use water in the right way. Now-a-days, a large number of water conservation programmes are being run. This is not only meant for India or this is not a question of Cauveri water dispute, but the question of water would be raised in the entire world. I am afraid even a world war can break out involving this water issue. So the Government should be sensitive to the question of water problem. This is a matter of concern that we are lacking in water management, the ground water, river water, sea or rainwater should be brought under a single unit and a master plan should be prepared. This is my suggestion to the government and efforts should also be made in this direction by the Ministry of Water Resources or by any other ministry.

Recently the issue of floods and drought was raised. There are a lot of rivers originating from Nepal. I belong to Northern-Bihar. My parliamentary constituency is Jhanjharpur. North-Bihar is adjacent to Nepal. Every year, six crore people of the Northern-Bihar are affected by the floods for six months and by drought for the remaining six months. The Government spends ten thousand crore rupees every year in the name of floods and drought relief in the State. This relief measure could not solve this problem. I am against this. These kind of temporary measures like disaster relief are rendering the people of this State worthless and a lazy lot. It will serve no purpose to provide these kinds of reliefs and thereby making the State full of worthless and lazy persons. This will not help in building a stronger nation. There should be a plan in place for the permanent solution of the problem of floods and droughts, irrespective of the fact that, for this purpose an amount as high as Rs. 25,000 crores should be set aside. Under this head, every year the Government is spending ten thousand crore rupees. Whenever the houses of the people are destroyed, Rs. Five thousand crores is allotted for rebuilding them. If someone is bitten by a snake in water, he is given fifteen thousand rupees in cash. This amount is distributed by the block development officer. What is going on here?

[Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav]

What purpose will be served by these kinds of reliefs. This will not help in finding a permanent solution to this problem.

Mr. Chairman, Indo-Nepal discussions were going on for the last few years. It has been going on since 2001 but now it has come to a standstill. It was decided that 7 J.P.O. will be opened in Nepal's Viratnagar, Kurele, Janakpur Sahan and Kathmandu cities which will comprise of 40% engineers from Nepal and 60% engineers from India. For this purpose the Government of India in its 10th Five Year Plan earmarked only Rs. 30,000 crore under the head—salary, but what is in store in this budget:—it will be revealed very soon. For the last two years it has been stated that a detailed project report will soon be prepared and to solve the twin problems of flood and drought permanently, a multi-purpose high-level dam will be built and as a result, the flow of water can be regulated. Every year floods destroy farmer's crops worth crores of rupees and Northern-Bihar, Assam and some parts of U.P. are also affected by these floods. Besides this, a lot of other states are also facing this problem of floods. The condition of our rivers is such that apart from destroying crops worth crores of rupees every year, it constantly poses a threat to the lives and properties of the people living nearby. Pav-Roti, Sathoo, Chooda and other packets were distributed in these areas using helicopters. I would like to know whether any positive results would come out of this. So I am of the opinion that detailed project report should immediately be prepared. As a result of preparing this project report, we can regulate water by building a high-powered dam.

Kosi River flows through Bihar. Like the Bhakhra Dam which was built for the people of Punjab which ushered in progress in agriculture sector and increased the production of food grains, similarly in the year 1952 there existed a plan for Kosi river also and for this purpose a study was undertaken in the year 1952 and a team from Japan visited there. The study team had stated that 3300-megawatt Hydro-electricity can be generated using the water of Kosi river. Similarly we can take into account Bihar's Kamla Balan, Bagmati and Advara group of rivers. Like-wise, there is a river named Gandak in western Champaran district. If we can make use of the water of this particular river, every year 10,000 megawatt electricity can be produced and farmers can be provided with electricity at cheaper rates and other consumers can also take advantage of this electricity supply by paying only

17 paise per unit. The cost of electricity today is Rs. 3 per unit which is very high. If we can generate electricity from the above mentioned river, it would be available at the rate of 17 paise per unit. The Hydro-electricity produced in Nepal can be distributed to various parts of country thereby bridging the gap of the total consumption of electricity in entire India. So, it is highly essential to give importance to this area. If we want to improve North-India's position regarding electricity, then we have to create infrastructure for it. Electricity is the key to progress. This will help in obtaining hydro-electricity at cheaper rates. If high-level dams can be built on every river, 10,000-megawatt electricity can be produced from all the dams. If any dam is proposed to be built in any area of Nepal or in Kamala Balan, from there we can avail water for Seesapani. Likewise, a dam on Kosi river is proposed to be built in Bairaj. An area covering 60 kilometers has to be used for this purpose. Some parts of this area are in Nepal for which an agreement has been reached. So I would like to add that to permanently solve this problem, positive steps should be taken in that direction. Mr. Chairman, now I would like to say something about the plight of farmers. Today our farmers are living in a very pitiable condition. Even though a major portion of the Budget of the UPA Government is spent on the farmers, yet farmers in the villages have nothing to cheer about. Farmers comprise the most downtrodden class. The people of our country are very hard working. What an irony it is that the Government had to resort to import of wheat. And see the plight of our farmers—they have to dole out 13-19 percent interest on agricultural loans. If a farmer avails loan for purchasing fertilizers, seed etc. he will have to pay the said rate of interest. India is predominantly an agriculture based country, where 85 percent population depends upon agriculture for their livelihood. Though development has taken place in cities, yet the villages are underdeveloped. India lives in villages. The rules governing loan disbursement are so cumbersome that these 85 percent people, the farmers, who live in villages find it very difficult to complete the required formalities. The farmers visit block offices many a time but no action is taken on their loan applications. They are asked to come time and again on one or the other pretext. The loan procedure adopted by the banks is highly cumbersome. The banks have not simplified the loan procedure and rate of interest for agricultural loan has been pegged at 13-19 percent.

I would like to say that loan is available to the rich people who live in cities at an interest rate of 6-7 percent.

If one wants to build a home or purchase a car, he can easily avail loan at the rate of 6-7 percent. Some people are granted loan even at zero percent rate of interest. Such is the dichotomy in India. Separate systems are followed granting loan to the rich people on the one hand and to the marginal or small farmers and poor farmers on the other. 13-19 percent interest is charged on agricultural loan. Therefore, I would like to say that there is a lot of difference between 'India' and 'Bharat'. Until and unless this difference is done away with, the gap between the poor and the rich can not be bridged.

17.22 hrs.

[SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN *in the Chair*]

If we want to alleviate economic inequality, the difference between the rich and the poor will have to be rooted out. Our country cannot be self reliant unless we are economically sound and until and unless the farmers of our country become prosperous, our country cannot become economically strong. It cannot be so unless our farmers and agriculture, the back bone of our economy becomes economically strong. Therefore, I said that there is an urgent need to simplify loan procedure being adopted by the banks.

What is the situation in RBI today? I would like to give an example of a state. Generally, only 15 percent of the money deposited in the banks by the poor people, rickshaw-pullers or marginal farmers remains in parent state and remaining 85 percent gets transferred to other states. I am talking about Orissa and Bihar. As per the Gadgil Formula, perspective plans for any State depend upon its internal resources, How Orissa can generate its internal resources? How tribal areas, which have been devastated by the cyclone can contribute to internal resources? A State, which has a large network of rivers, where the crops get destroyed by the floods, can generate internal resources? The UPA Government should change the Gadgil Formula. The formula should be based on the need of a State, its poverty level, its population and likely impact of natural calamities on the state.

Sir, so long as the plans are prepared on the basis of internal resources of a State, State's which are already poor shall remain poor and backward and will not progress. It cannot create any balance. Though, we may give slogans, yet, under present conditions such States can never progress. I would like to refer to the 'seven-sisters', the north-eastern states. See the plight of these

states. The Government boasts of 10 percent financial assistance for these states. Prior to me, Shri Ramji Lal Suman, Shri Basu Dev Acharia and Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra also mentioned about the State of progress in these states. I would like to say that only 25 percent foodgrains reach the needy people, the people living below poverty line, mainly comprising of SCs and STs. And 65% gets lost in the way. I am saying so since I am the Chairman of the Standing Committee of Parliament on Food, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution.

Sir, my Committee smelt a scam involving Rs. 400 crore in Arunachal Pradesh. I requested the Central Government and I am grateful to it since it agreed to my request, and the matter would now be investigated by the CBI. A scam involving Rs. 400 crore took place in the name of handling and transportation of food grains. The food grains were shown as transported by air, by train, by horse or by mule, but in fact it was not so. It was only on papers. When the Committee desired to know the flight number, train number and places of transportation, the Committee was shocked to know that actual transportation did not take place. It was only on papers. Transaction took place in the name of transportation. It happened and a half or two years ago and now the CBI will enquire into it.

Sir, when the condition in backward states is such, how these backward states, be they Poorwanchal states or any other state will progress? It is just a tip of an iceberg. There may be many more such instances. If we want to uplift the poor state, we will have to build infrastructure, roads there. But, that too may involve innumerable such scams. In Poorwanchal states, PWD carries out the construction work of godowns because of insurgency, but it takes 2-3 years to complete the godowns. Prices of bricks, iron and cement gets escalated so much, whereas, the Central Government allocates only 10 percent extra funds. If funds continue to be released in the same manner, it won't be possible to complete the work as the cost will rise steeply.

The Government should reconsider the Gadgil Formula. If plans for small poor states are formulated on the basis of their needs, priorities, population, standard of living of its poor people, then only it can move ahead. If the Government continue to follow Gadgil's conventional formula such states can never progress. Therefore, my submission is that the Government should reconsider it.

[Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav]

Further, I would like to tell how loan granted to the poor people, the farmers is recovered. In our country, we have non performing assets to the tune of 65-85 thousand crore rupees, which the Government writes off. Why it has been written off, because big corporate houses, the rich people availed large loans to set up industries but did not refund. They are not even black listed. But if a farmer takes a loan of 5-10 thousand rupees, his land would be mortgaged and if he fails to repay the loan, bank staff would raid his house and take away his bullock etc. And he won't be able to cultivate his land. Such is the condition of a farmer today. Recovery is made from him but not from big industrialists. On the contrary, their loans are written off and the names are not even disclosed.

Debts ranging from Rs. 65,000 crores to 85,000 crores are written off. Even the names of such individuals are withheld. A commission has been set up to find out the loaners. However, they are never blacklisted and their names are never disclosed. We cannot initiate recovery action against such people of this country against whose names an amount to the tune of Rs. 65,000 crores is outstanding. We cannot recover money from them while recovery action against farmers is going on non-stop but no efforts are made for their benefit. That's why I am saying that the real Bharath is inside India Gate. What is inside the Gateway of India in Mumbai is India. I am uttering these words with sincere feelings and pain and I am not talking against any particular party. This is the misfortune of our country. This side of India Gate comprises of India and the otherside of the India Gate comprises of Bharath. The Gateway of India inside Mumbai and other urban areas in big cities which have been divided by the gates belong to India. In India, all the facilities like water, electricity, roads, education and health measures have been provided with. You can see that there exists a well controlled management system for this. Here red lights have been installed to prevent collision of vehicles. But you go out of India to Bharath, the real Bharath about which I have been referring to here. To build that real Bharath, you need hard work, you need great resolve, you need strong will power. If you want to transform India into Bharath, create more employment opportunities for the people of Bharath, if you want to uplift the farmers of Bharath, prevent agricultural labourers from migrating from their home states. From Bihar alone agricultural farmers are abandoning their homes and are fleeing in search of green pastures in large numbers. Other states, like Assam

are also facing this problem. All other states also may be confronting this problem. From Bihar alone, more than 20 lakh agricultural labourers have fled to other states. They go to other states and from there they pick up diseases. There, after giving them opium, their capacity is exploited to the hilt. Later on, they return to their homeland in such a condition that even merely pulling a Rickshaw becomes an arduous task for them and they fall a prey to such diseases which involves the efforts of their entire family. I am talking about the practical aspects of this problem. I have got several examples to prove this point. But paucity of time is compelling me to leave it aside. Otherwise I would have explained it in detail with full data about the persons who were affected by these diseases, about the people who were made to take opium and how the labour of those people were exploited by giving medicines and all that. Owing to the exploitation of labourers, national production and agricultural production of the state to which the exploited labourer belongs, gets adversely affected. What are the reasons for our declining national foodgrains production? You can see this in the soon to be released economic survey. This is the reason why these particular labourers are being exploited. A worker who in earlier times used to put in 50 years of labour without any hitch and complaints now finds himself useless at a very young age that too after working for only ten years. He can no longer put in 50 years of service. Before attaining even the average age he succumbs to the cruel fate, actually circumstances force him towards a hasty end. This is a major problem for the country. Now-a-days people get very angry when they hear about any attack or murder. I am deliberately talking about violence so that I could talk to you about some painful things.

What kind of a situation is prevailing today? Five percent of the population travel at a height of 35,000 feet. By virtue of people's licence we also travel on the same lines. MP's have the right to fly of 35000 feet. So there comes a difference of 35000 feet between a common man with an average height of feet and us. Earlier there was not much of a difference. In ancient times, we have heard that the difference *i.e.* the economic disparity was of only 12 feet. During that time the rich men used to travel on elephants. If a man with a height of five feet travelled on an elephant, even after adding the elephant's height which is around 12 feet, the difference was only 10 feet. That means in earlier times the difference between the rich and the poor was ten feet. Now this difference has increased to 35,000 feet.

That's why the culture of A.K.-47 has gained momentum in our country. I am not in a favour of naxalism, actually I am against it because I know that in a democracy violence has no place. It cannot solve any problems. But I know that whatever the problems our country is facing especially the internal problems like nexalite activities, violence etc. are all due to this economic disparity. These words should be noted in the proceedings that these acts of violence will stop only when we can narrow down this gap of economic disparity. This economic disparity of 35000 feet should be lowered down a bit. If we cannot reduce the gap of economic disparity, then violence in the country would not be abated and this AK-47 culture will go on for a long time. People would be deprived of a peaceful atmosphere in this country.

Finally, with these words, I would like to submit that special attention should be paid to the farmers of this country. The condition of the agricultural labourers should be bettered and to implement the plan which is being prepared by the Government, great resolve is needed.
...(*Interruptions*)

There was a talk about water management. Water management is an indispensable matter. Flood and drought should not be treated as natural calamities. Now-a-days whenever we have a discussion, the people are of the opinion that these are natural disasters. These are not natural disasters, these are man-made problems created by us. We never plan for these kinds of things. We never try to find out any permanent solution to these problems, instead we term it as natural disasters.
...(*Interruptions*) Every year we are faced with one type of natural calamity or another. We should prepare a long term plan to find a permanent solution it to.

A labour Commission should be set up to improve the condition of the poor. In order to prevent the migration and also to better the condition of the farmers, plans should be made to simplify their debts. In European countries 200% subsidy is given to the agricultural sector. Similarly, we should also spend a major portion of our budget on the agricultural sector. Unless and until budgets are prepared in such a way that preference is accorded to the agricultural sector, their economic status will not show any improvement. Only agriculture is the backbone of economy. So this country can never become prosperous. ...(*Interruptions*) until it encourages and supports farmers.

With these words, I conclude my speech.

SHRI ILYAS AZMI (Shahabad): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I carefully listened the speech of the hon'ble President and also made an intense persual of it. Everybody knows that whatever has been spoken by the hon'ble President are not his thought, rather the Government gave him a written speech which was read out in the House by the President. So, the tradition to call the speech of President as the Presidential Address should be changed, you go through it. A cursory persual of the speech will make you feel happy. The speech has been written by some intelligent person or bureaucrats who has prepared the outlines of the government policy and the President has merely read the speech written by somebody else. Some of the things contained in the beginning portion of the speech are good and not only me but the entire nation agrees with it.

Many things have been said about poverty and the poor people in para-4. Undoubtedly, there can not be two different opinion in this regard that the Government have formulated several new schemes for the poor people and heavy amount of funds have been sent to the districts. Whether it is Food for Work scheme or Sam Vikas Yojana, New Rojgar Guarantee Yojana and Adarsh Zila Yojana, undoubtedly, heavy amount has been allocated, however, it is on account of the weaknesses of our system that the money is collected from the poor people of the country and the revenue collected so are allocated to those corrupt people who embezzle it and the Government have no control over them. After allocating the fund, the Government can not even ask the states as to how the funds of crores of rupees were utilized by them. I would like to speak on it later.

All the schemes are falling a prey to corruption and embezzlement. Despite raising this issue in the House time and again, the Government do not move. The Government adopt quite humble attitude towards the State Governments as people deal with America. While talking with America, the Government tend to adopt the approach which is witnessed between the money-lender and the loanees. Though the Government provide funds to the State Governments but it does not dare to ask as to how fund allocated by them are being utilized.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, my speech will be lengthy. I know that very soon you will start to ring the bell. 'Food for Work' scheme has fallen prey to corruption. The entire fund have been embezzled by the corrupt people. Even the grains have been exhausted. However, the good thing is that the said scheme was withdrawn in time. Similar is

[Shri Ilyas Azmi]

the fate of the drinking water scheme. The hon'ble President in his address has mentioned with pride about the Indira Awas Yojana. If any survey is conducted regarding the allotment of residential units under the said scheme, not even a single poor person will be found who would have got a house without paying four five thousand rupees as bribe. I know some of the physically challenged persons of the districts. These physically challenged persons have certainly got houses under the said scheme are those who are able to part with four five thousand rupees as bribe. The amount of bribe, reaches up to the District Collectors. There is no relevance to mention about various welfare schemes for the poor people in the President's Address, if there is no proper mechanism with the Government to monitor the housing and other schemes for the poor people.

Now, I would like to submit about rural electrification. It is a good scheme. I would like to extend my thanks to the Government for introducing such an ambitious scheme that needs heavy expenditure. Under this scheme all the villages of the country will be electrified in five years time. On account of being in the Advisory Committee on power I am well conversant with this fact that earlier electricity was provided in ten houses of the influential people of a village and that village was cleared electrified in the government's record while the fact was that 90 percent of the houses in the village remained non-electrified. So, the present Government have decided that the village will be declared electrified only when all the houses in the village will have electric connections. One year back heavy funds were allocated to the State Government for the execution of the said scheme. I can say about Uttar Pradesh especially about the Central part of the state. Without taking permission from the Central Government the Uttar Pradesh Government handed over the entire fund to*. The State Government asked them to execute electrification work in the state. My reservation is that if the State Government was not able to implement the scheme, then why did it take up that responsibility? I had submitted to the Advisory Committee that the Central Government itself should execute the electrification scheme for the entire Uttar Pradesh. It is the Central Fund. Now, there is no shortage of engineers in the power sector of the Union Government in any of the states. Bihar agreed, so the Government of India is executing electrification works in the state. However, the Uttar Pradesh Government told the Central Government

to do electrification works in only eight districts and the rest would be done by the state itself because the State Government had to oblige the private contractors and capitalists.

17.43 hrs.

[SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV *in the Chair*]

*Till now, not even a single village has been electrified though the funds for the same were released long back. If it is not possible for the Central Government to do this work then why do it propagate about it? I feel that this scheme is good and the Government desire to electrify the entire villages, however, the Government can not do any thing except imposing taxes on poor people, collecting it and allocating it to the State Government for embezzling by them. If it is so, then why do the Government make towering claim in this regard?

Mr. Chairman, Sir, now I would like to mention about airports. The airports are being handed over to the multinational companies in the name of modernization. The modernization of airports does not mean only cosmetic changes for pomp and show, rather, it is also concerned with its internal security as well. Airports are more sensitive than the Bagha border, custom and migration processes are also involved with the airports. I feel that it is dangerous and shameful to handover the airports to the multinational companies. I would like to submit that the Government have sold it to the multinational companies, however, the Government should review this decision. The airports must not be put under foreign control. If the airports are handed over to them then what will the Government have with itself? The Government should treat especially the Mumbai and Delhi airports as more sensitive than the Bagha and Khokharapar border. During the NDA regime one separate Ministry was set up for this purpose. They had given a very impressive name for the ministry *i.e.* the Ministry of Disinvestment.

Earlier, too, I used to call the Ministry as the Ministry of Sell and Devour. Thought the present Government have abolished that Ministry and our Arun Shourie is no longer at the helm of the affairs. However, his soul has entered into the UPA Government with greater force. Our Hindu brothers believe in rebirth and the soul of Arun Shorie ji is fully operational and from which we have to protect ourself. If the UPA Government protect itself from such tendency then it will be good not only for the country

*Not recorded.

*Not recorded.

but also for them as well. However, I feel that nothing like this is going to happen. It is so because whether it is India or Pakistan, I consider the Prime Minister as the most gentle and honest man of India. Despite that it is a fact that whether it is India or Pakistan, the Prime Ministers of both the countries are the products of IMF. They have long association with the institution. So, it has become the part of their thought and it is on account of this that it is being reflected in the form of our faulty foreign policy and the Ministry of Sell and Devour is in the form of Arun Shorie. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Where has Mr. Arun Shorie gone? I suppose he is alive.

SHRI ILYAS AZMI: He is very much alive, Sir. But he is no longer a Member of this esteemed House and the Government he was a part of, is also no more in power. ...(*Interruptions*) The President's Address makes a mention of the Administrative Reforms Commission. ...(*Interruptions*) My fellow Congress Members, may pardon me. I call this Government a Government of Commissions. Since its inception the Government has, in every Presidential Address made a mention of setting up of half a dozen new commissions. If the Government is to be run by Commissions, then what purpose is going to be served by you and me here? It is very essential to have an Administrative Reforms Commission, but in the name of reforms successive Governments inflict more damage and term it as reforms, irrespective of the fact that by doing so it creates more damage.

In this House I have been vehemently raising my voice against the practice of corruption for a very long time. I have already touched upon all the Sectors. But my cries fell on deaf ears and no steps were taken towards curbing corruption. If corruption is an accepted practice, be man enough to declare that you have recognized corruption and that nothing will be said against corruption anymore. Action has taken against 10 MPs in the name of corruption involving a paltry Rs. 15000 within the winking of an eye. These MPs were the representatives of crores of people whose mandate was dismissed by disqualifying these elected representatives from Lok Sabha, yet I wonder why the Government is being irresponsible towards the corruptoin involving millions and billions of rupees. Does this not prick their conscience? Everyone should take a note of it.

In para 33, glowing tributes were paid to minority institutions. Minority institutions are not set up and run by any Ilyas Azmi. Minority institutions are accorded

recognition by the State Governments. All members of these institutions should belong to the minority communities. I myself have founded a college. After getting elected as an MP, I resigned from there. However, I have strived hard to lay the foundation of that institution. Still, I am emotionally affiliated with this institution. So long as I am an MP, I will have no truck with that institution. Perhaps in future also I will keep myself away from that institution. I have already severed my connections with that institution. For the last 5-6 years the file regarding the minority status of the said institution has been pending with the State Government but till date the State Government has not accorded recognition to it. Minority institution is not the one which is founded or run by the minority community people but a minority institution is the one which is accorded recognition by the State Government. So, it is utterly ridiculous to use nice words about the minority institutions.

The decisions of the State Governments are; here I am not talking about any particular State Government, often politically motivated and the decision to award the minority status of any institution is also influenced by politics. To prove this point, I have already presented before you the example of my own institution which started functioning seven years ago and after making rapid progress now it has established itself as one of the biggest college of that area. But, till date, the State Government has not accorded minority status to this institution.

When the honourable President, in his address, referred to fifteen point programme for the minorities I burst into laughter. Today, while going through the Address for the purpose of making this speech once again I could not help laughing because we have been hearing about this fifteen point programme from the times of Smt. Indira Gandhi, but no one knows about its actual position. It seems that it has got no existence. In fact what matter is your intention. I hope that my fellow MPs of Congress will pardon me for my choice of words because even if we call them secular or fascist or by any other name, there is not going to be much difference either in their outlook or in your outlook towards the Muslims, the backward classes and the downtrodden. The entire nation is aware of this fact and this is very much true. A mention has been made about this fifteen point programme in the Presidential Address. If you pick up a volume from the library containing the Address delivered by the President twenty five years ago you will come across the fact that whenever the Government was formed

[Shri Ilyas Azmi]

by the Congress Party, we have been bombarded by the declarations regarding this fifteen point programme. ...*(Interruptions)* This Fifteen Point Programme is different, that is about the minorities. I have not got any clue regarding what they are talking about. In Para-34 very attractive and nice words were used to describe this by the President or by the person who had actually drafted that particular Address. I think the minorities are being misled by the Congress Party's Government. Instead of calling them the UPA Government, I prefer to name them this way. They have been talking tall about this fifteen point programme for the last twenty-five years. Either they are misleading themselves or they are misleading crores of people belonging to the minority. Something is seriously wrong with them. They have to get cured of it. So they should bring this Fifteen Point Programme to the fore. They have to take it out from the cupboard and implement it. If the President has made a mention about it then they should bring it out of mystical wraps and produce it before the people of this country so that they could get an opportunity to thump their desks on this Government's intention of giving something to the Muslims of this country.

Now I would like to dwell on the para number 50 of the Presidential Address. This para is about our foreign policy. To be honest we have not got any Foreign Policy. Our foreign policy is guided by servility. The seeds of 1000 years or 150 years of bondage, are still coursing through our veins. The only difference is that earlier our master was a different one compared to our present master. Only the master has changed. Changing of masters does not mean that the foreign policy also has changed. Earlier our master was Russia, now it is the USA. That is why I said that the master has indeed changed but not the foreign policy. It is a matter of shame. Unfortunately, there is traditional rivalry between India and Pakistan but the people of Afghanistan had been all along supporting us even before we achieved independence. They kept aloof from Pakistan and never favoured them. When the Russians invaded and occupied Afghanistan the local people waged a fierce battle against them. When for a few days Chowdhary Charan Singh became the Prime Minister of India, he did not support this move. In fact he opposed it. But after his Government lost power, the next Government was formed by the Congress Party after the general elections. That Government was led by Smti. Indira Gandhi. I would like to share with you the first thing which she did after assuming power. Even though the people of Afghanistan

are very sensitive about religious matters, they stood by us unmindful of our differences of religion. Military rule was enforced on them by a very big powerful nation after overpowering them. The day when Smt. Indira Gandhi had supported Russia's occupation in Afghanistan, there started our policy of open slavery. Now old master has been replaced. Now Russia has lost its glory. It has become a shadow of its former self. When the unarmed and the oppressed people of Afghanistan stood up to the mighty empire of Russia, it got blown into smithers likewise another mighty empire is going to meet the same fate for taking on Afghanistan, Iraq and Iran. I would like to have this prediction of mine to be recorded in the proceedings of Lok Sabha. They are serving them as slaves and prostrating before them. Their ambassador is giving us directions and he is issuing guidelines to our State Governments. He is threatening us with dire consequences so that we are forced to follow his directions. He is warning us that if we follow a certain course of action they will take action against us. Even the American Government is saying so and you are calling this as your foreign policy. By going down on their knees the Government have absolutely surrendered before them. Now, these people have also joined them, both of them are speaking in the same vein. They are of the opinion that the existence of a nuclear power in your neighbourhood is not in the interest of the country. They had been supporting Iran till now but once the remote control was operated from Nagpur they immediately fell in line and started saying that it is not good to have a nuclear power in your neighbourhood. These same lines were reiterated by Mr. Manmohan Singh and also by the Honourable President in his Address which was drafted by somebody else. The President told us that it is not in the interest of the nation to have a nuclear power in your neighbourhood. I consider Iran as a neighbour. The world has shrunk to such an extent that it has become a small unit. All nations of the world have become neighbours of one another. We share a natural border with China. China is a big nuclear power. Pakistan and India are one and the same country. Forcibly we have drawn a wrong line in between in the map. Pakistan is also a nuclear power.

Iran is saying that they do not want to make nuclear bombs, they need atomic energy for the purpose of scientific advancement and also for producing electricity. When we consider the fact that you have to cross Pakistan to reach Iran and also the fact that we are not having any joint border with Iran, then the statement which

says that there should not be any nuclear power in our neighbourhood does not make any sense. We have already been surrounded by nuclear powers in our neighbourhood, from the West, from the North and also from the East. Now we are looking for a neighbour who is not a nuclear power. I would like to know whether America has taken a promise from the almighty that only America, Britain, France and their followers can become nuclear powers and no other country in the world will have the right to become a nuclear power. If that is the case, our Parliament should not take unnecessary troubles. Then we should declare in no uncertain terms that we are with the Americans and we will obey whatever America will dictate to us and will not raise any objections and also we will accept whatever we are asked to do. But it is not proper to indulge in improper pleas. The USA is following the footsteps of Great Britain. Like Britain who about a hundred and fifty years back took possession of the majority of the countries one by one, today America is trying to emulate them. With their direct interference in Afghanistan, America began to implement their malafide agenda for the first time. Initially they set their eyes on economic slavery and other matters, then they militarily occupied. Afghanistan first and then Iraq, Iran lies between these two countries. They want to attack Iran. You or we cannot prevent them from doing so. It is going to be a very shameful day for us when our Parliament and our Government will remain mum about America's attacks on Iran and will not express their displeasure and opposition against such attacks. It seems that we have surrendered ourselves before them, but we should always be alert. During those times, I was not in Parliament. When Smt. Indira Gandhi supported Russian occupation of Afghanistan, I participated in the demonstrations organized against her at the boat club and there I stated that all the superpowers of the world have one or the other time entered Afghanistan and none of them remained there. All of them considered Afghanistan as a passage to the sub-continent of India. Jial Mujahid of Afghanistan who are shedding their blood in the hilly terrains during their crusade against the invaders are actually helping us to preserve our honour and independence. The day the last drop of their blood dries out and they are compelled to surrender before the super power, there will not be anything left for them in Russia and Afghanistan. They will not stop there and through Pakistan they will straight away come to India. Today I am saying again that after the Americans take control of Iran, God forbid so, the next in the line will be Pakistan.

18.00 hrs.

God Forbid, the next in line will be Pakistan. It is possible that they will try to make both of us attack each other. Regarding Iran's matter, we are signing the surrender letters. Our situation is such that a newspaper in Denmark has published some objectionable cartoons of the Prophet Mohammed and all over the world billions of people have come out in the streets to protest against it, still our Government has till date not even issued a statement of protest against it. The Government are silent on this matter because America is supporting Denmark in this regard. Yesterday I was in Lucknow. 25% of the population of Lucknow come out on the streets protesting against these cartoons. The number of protestors was so huge that it was difficult even to walk down the streets. Our Government did not even made a slightest protest against those cartoons. Our Hindu brothers will also not like them. In those newspapers * was depicted as a cartoon. There are talks of Hinduthva to gain political mileage. * We are protesting against it. Yesterday there were thousand banners against the defamation of the Prophet Mohammed, but at least 100 banners about* were also displayed. If yours souls have become weak so much so then think about. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Sir, your time is up.

SHRI ILYAS AZMI: If I make a cartoon tomorrow in which. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Why was our party office attacked in the name of what happened in Denmark? What was our fault? ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE): We may extend the time by half an hour and accommodate two speakers.

[*Translation*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Sir, if the House has no objection, the proceedings of the House is extended to half an hour.

SHRI ILYAS AZMI: The Government should recall our ambassador from Denmark and we should sent back

*Not recorded.

[Shri Ilyas Azmi]

the ambassador of Denmark. We should atleast make some token protest. If a huge selection of our population from Kashmir to Kanyakumari is out on the streets to protest against something, it is incumbent on the Government to do something in this regard. Have the Government become so insensitive? I wanted to say a few words about the Freedom of press but I know that you will expunge it from the records. If a person makes a cartoon in the name of freedom of press and in which he shows that * is in the arms of a man who is not her husband and a child is born to them out of this illicit relation, then will it be construed as the freedom of press? Certainly it will not be labelled as freedom of press.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: No names will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Names will not be recorded.

[Translation]

SHRI ILYAS AZMI: Freedom of press does not mean that we insult someone and we hurt the sentiments of one and half billion people of this world. Freedom of press does not mean that for the name of whom hundreds of people came out protesting in the entire world and in a few days many of them got killed. ...(Interruptions) Is the freedom of press so sacred that we cannot send back Denmark's ambassador or at least recall our ambassador?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now please take your seat.

SHRI ILYAS AZMI: As the time is over, I am concluding here. I wanted to speak some more things in this regard but I was not given sufficient time.

18.03 hrs.

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Twenty-first Report

[English]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Sir, I beg to present the Twenty-first Report of the Business Advisory Committee.

*Not recorded.

18.04 hrs.

MOTION OF THANKS ON PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS—*contd.*

[English]

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for allowing me to participate in this discussion on the Motion of Thanks on the Address of the hon. President. Hon. President's Address is an annual report of the Government as well as it also throws light on the plan and programme which the Government intends to do. Most of us had heard him with rapt attention the other day when the hon. President gave his Address in the Central Hall.

We would also pass this Motion of Thanks on the President's Address, but before doing so, our attempt would be to discuss certain issues that were raised in the Address, and if possible to add certain amendments to the Motion of Thanks, which is supposed to be adopted.

Everyone is talking about the exciting growth recorded, that is, 7.5 per cent in 2004-2005. This has also been reflected in the Address of the hon. President, and it is presumed that it is likely to cross 8 per cent in 2005-2006. Who would benefit from this growth? The overwhelming focus on economic growth in the last few years has diverted attention away from other key areas. Hopes have soared with an economy that seems to have taken off, and there is much discussion on how to move further up and to be on a higher orbit of 8 per cent to 10 per cent of the growth. But other vital indications are suffering neglect.

I will come to those aspects later on, but education and health services need more attention. Noble Laureate Dr. Amartya Sen has recently expressed his fears stating that if the current trend continues in our country, then one half of India would be like California and the other half would be like sub-Saharan Africa. More radical critiques even go to the extent of suggesting that at least 10 per cent of India would be like California while the remaining 90 per cent would be reduced to sub-Saharan Africa. Who is to be blamed for this state of affairs? The Leftist critics put the blame for the plight of the poor in India squarely on liberalisation, globalisation, privatisation. Is the critique justified? This is my question. Is the critique justified or is the State rather than the market the principal culprit here?

The truth is that even before liberalisation efforts replaced the old style of central planning in India, India's performance in either growth or poverty reduction was nothing to talk about. Public Sector Units were producing goods from bread to cars, and in many cases were running in losses. The Government was doing little in areas like developing and maintaining roads, transport, communication—which is physical in nature—and the social infrastructure including basic education, health services, sanitation, drinking water and social safety net. The Government was also doing very little in providing a responsive administrative system and speedy justice for all. The people who suffer most were the poor and the underprivileged.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the market would bypass them as they do not have the purchasing power or the buying power. The State machinery was either ineffective, corrupt or it was busy looking after the affluent and the well connected. For instance, foodgrains were rotting in the FCI godowns while people died of starvation. This was a reality 10 years ago. The public money that used to create rural roads got washed away by rains.

Mostly the contractors, local officials and various middlemen prospered. Subsidies on fertilisers, higher education, bank finances, electricity were usurped by clever people. The quality of services in public hospitals was awful for the poor patients, while the influential people could get far better treatment in special wards. I agree, everyone would agree, that in the post-liberalisation era, the average growth rate of the economy has improved, but the condition of the poor continues to be miserable as before.

India has had three phases of reforms. The first, rather undeclared, unnoticed, one came starting in the 1980s. It was a half-hearted approach and the existing political opinion, during that time, did not favour it. The second set of reforms initiated in the early 1990s was due to an economic crisis. But the on-going third round of reforms has come from within and not under any sort of compulsion. It has come into existence with sheer power of vote. The public demand has led to many of the reforms. The idea of independence and the power within oneself is growing in the country. Today, we have 30 crore middle class people in this country. However, mere growth is not development; I am again harping on this aspect that mere growth is not development. The rate of growth that has been calculated and being talked about should reach the poor. If the Government does not visit the poor, the poor will visit the Government.

Nehruvian policies ensured infrastructure development and self-sufficiency in food. The failure in the past should be attributed to the system and not to the policies. The solution lies in entitling the poor people to land and other resources including education and improving the connectivity of villages to the markets through better roads. Some revolutionary steps were taken during the NDA regime under Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee's tenure. Attention was given for connecting rural areas. Attention was given for the upliftment and empowerment of the rural folk. PMSRY is one such programme which was introduced; Annapurna Yojana was another; Antyodaya was another. I am just citing these three programmes which were initiated to empower the poor, to bring connectivity to the rural areas. Rural electrification also got a big boost during the NDA regime.

Due to expansion of telecom network, it revolutionised the total communication network. Telephone connections improved four times between 1998 and 2002. We had a National Telecom Policy during that period. However, today, we all know how miserable the conditions of the poor have become. During the last 20 months of the UPA regime, prices have shot up breaking the backbone of the *aam admi*.

The Government in this Address mentioned about five pillars. The Government wants to build, "new architecture, all inclusive development, on the foundations of five pillars." What are these five pillars? First is, National Rural Employment Guarantee Act; second is, Bharat Nirman; third is, National Rural Health Mission; fourth is, Mission for Urban Renewal named after Jawaharlal Nehru.

Fifth is the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, with a universal mid-day meal programme. I would like to deal with all these five pillars in detail to show how the Government has functioned in the last 20-21 months because these are the five pillars on which an inclusive development is envisaged.

The National Rural Employment Guarantee Act is a good scheme. We have debated it in the House. It first needs proper implementation, proper identification of beneficiaries and also proper monitoring. We have seen through monitoring how this programme has failed in Maharashtra. No attempt has been made till now, despite the Act coming into force, to check the *hera-phen* in that programme, how bungling can be made and funds can be siphoned off.

[Shri B. Mahtab]

I would like to request through this discussion that more Districts need to be included under this programme. You have selected 200 Districts. There are three criteria for selection under this programme. The Planning Commission took note of those three elements and selected these 200 Districts which qualify under that criteria. But, there are another 75 Districts which also qualify to be included in this programme. Why have those 75 Districts not been included?

In Orissa, for instance, 19 Districts have been included. Another nine Districts qualify the criteria. The three criteria are: population of SCs and STs in the District; *per capita* income of people in the District; and the agricultural yield per acre in the District. These are the three criteria. That being so, why did the government select only 200 Districts? There is no commitment in this Address to say that more Districts will be included.

The second pillar is Bharat Nirman. There is nothing new in Bharat Nirman. No new programme has been included in Bharat Nirman. All the programmes which were going on for the last 25-30 years under different names have been compiled, have been pooled together and termed as the flagship programme of this Government. Providing electricity to every village is a commitment which is nothing new. Providing all-weather roads to every habitation having 1000 population or more has been going for the last five years under PMGSY. Providing safe drinking water to people is also nothing new. This has been going on for the last thirty years.

If the programme had come up with better parameters—say it was a habitation of 250 population which was being provided with a tubewell and now you have brought it down to a habitation of 100 population—we could have said that some more areas are going to be included. But that is not the case here.

We have been hearing of providing telephone facility in every village, for the last many years. We have been discussing it in various forums. Here lies the problem that despite a four-fold increase in telephone connectivity in the country, despite mobile facility, wireless facility, landline facility in the country, despite laying optical fibre networks throughout the country, thousands of people in the villages are yet to be connected with telephones.

A target was fixed when Shri Ram Vilas Paswan was the Minister for Communications that on such and such a date and year, all villages will be covered. But

we got a technology like MARR technology. Here, thousands of such villages were provided with those telephones and those telephones do not work. No attempt is being made. I should not say no attempt, very little is being made to provide telephone connection to those villages.

The Government seeks to provide one crore hectares of land with additional irrigation capacity. I do not find anywhere, neither it was in last year's Budget nor is there anything in the outcome of the report that was placed here as to where you are going to place the funds and as to where the funds would be made available where you can add one crore hectares of land with additional irrigation capacity.

Lastly, under *Bharat Nirman* 60 lakh rural households for the poor would be constructed. This programme is nothing new but just pooling together all these five programmes and naming it as *Bharat Nirman*. Under the programme, you have to identify the poor in the rural area and those in the BPL list. But the BPL list is not getting updated. Persons were denied and their names are not being included in the BPL list for certain political reasons. How are you going to provide 60 lakh houses to the poor people?

The third aspect and the third pillar is the National Rural Health Mission. This is a very good project. The idea is good. Taking certain States and focusing on the health services is also a laudable step. I do not deny that. But the National Rural Health Mission has got an allocation of Rs. 6,713 crore in 2005-06. How much of it has been spent? How much of it has been spent on curative health services? How much of it has been spent on preventive health services? Who is the affected person for whom this is addressed to? Who is the targeted person for whom this NRSM is addressed to? It is the poor. Those States which are traditionally bereft of health services have been targeted and poor is being provided with curative health services instead of preventive health services. I am making a point clear. If attempt is being made to invest more on preventive health services, I think, the poor will benefit more than the curative health services because under the curative health services, only the affluent people, the rich people and the influential people will take advantage of the situation. Today, I would not go into the details of that but here, I would like to mention that a mention has also been made in the Address about the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) like institutions will be constructed in the country,

at least in six places. Already a year has passed by. We have got a commitment, again.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI B. MAHTAB: I have some more points to say.

The AIIMS-like institutions have not seen the light of the day, neither in Bhubaneswar nor in other places, though the commitment was there. Already a year has passed but not a single brick has been laid.

Regarding the Urban Renewal Mission, certain programmes have been made. It has been launched on 2nd December. The idea was that all mega cities will be included. Cities having population of more than 10 lakhs will be included. Then, another part also came in that those cities with a population between three lakhs and ten lakhs also will be included. The problem lies here. There are 63 cities of this country which are included in this Mission. If the population is the criteria, then all cities which have a population of more than three lakhs should have been included as all mega cities with ten lakhs or 25 lakhs population have been included. They are making a selection between three lakhs and ten lakhs for certain cities. What have they mentioned? They have mentioned about the historicity; they have mentioned about the religious pilgrim centres; and they have mentioned about the Urban Growth Centres. If this is the case, I do not see why Tirupati has been omitted, why Cuttack has been omitted, or why a number of other cities have been omitted. A meeting is being held next month. I hope that a good sense would prevail on this Government. My request would be to include all cities which have a population of more than three lakhs.

The last pillar is the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan. I would like to mention here that today in this country, we have 19.63 crore of children between the age-group of 6-11. Out of which around 11 to 12 crores go to formal and non-formal schools and another eight crores of children do not go to any school. Should we not make an attempt to send these children to schools? Under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, things like increasing infrastructure, constructing buildings and posting teachers are being done. This is a good programme. This is one aspect. But, we have to make effort to see that another eight crore children, who are not going to schools, should be sent to schools. They are not included in the formal or non-formal education. Secondly, the secondary education also needs a lot of support from the Central Government.

No mention has been made about it in the Address of the hon. President.

When we talk about the human resource development, there is another aspect. About the North-East the hon. Minister for Heavy Industries is here, so also the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Tripura is getting a National Institute; Kokrajhar is also getting a national institute. There is another management institute that is coming up in the North-East. We welcome that. There is an attempt being made for opening an Indian Institute of Management in Singapore. I would like to know what attempt is being made in those areas where this type of national institutes are not there. The Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad was started in 1961. It had the full support of the State Government. Today, respective State Governments are insisting for this. The Orissa Government is insisting for getting a National Institute of Science, but the Government is silent. Rather, they are by-passing the issue. I would again urge upon this Government in this House that attempt should be made for a holistic development of this country which was envisaged during the framing of the Constitution. Chairman, Sir, you yourself had vouchsafed when you were participating in this debate that all States should develop together. It is not that those States which have been progressing should progress at a faster pace and those who have fallen behind, because of historical reasons, should always follow others. We should have a cohesive, holistic approach for the development of this country. Then only this country can march forward.

Lastly, I will just conclude with these words by mentioning the problems of farmers. More than 30,000 farmers have committed suicides during the last many years.

I would just like to draw the attention of the House regarding Maharashtra where a large number of farmers have committed suicide, and most of them are from the cotton growing areas of Vidarbha. Andhra Pradesh also is facing a similar problem. But what is the approach of the Union Government? The approach of the Union Government is: "We will support the grape growers; we will support the wine cultivation, grape cultivation, but we will not support the cotton growers. Rather we will import cotton from outside." This is the dichotomy with this Government. This is the problem with the Government.

Sir, I would conclude with these words that I do not find a single mention of Orissa in this Address.

...(Interruptions) There is not a single mention for the development of backward States like Orissa. I am not satisfied with this Address. With a heavy heart I would only say that. This Government should think about the *Aam Adami* if they really think of the common people.

With these words, I conclude.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY (Berhampore, West Bengal): Sir, in the inception I must express my overwhelming gratitude to the hon. President of India, as he took pain to deliver his address to both the Houses of Parliament.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury. I would like to tell you that the stipulated time of the House is over. So you may continue your speech tomorrow and sit down for now.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: If the House agrees we shall now take up Special Mention (Zero-Hour).

SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Yes, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Ramji Lal Suman—not present.

[English]

*SHRI P. MOHAN (Madurai): Sir, The people of Tamil Nadu are chocked and agitated about the unilateral decision of the Andhra Pradesh Government to go ahead with the construction of a dam across Paalar River despite the opposition from all the political parties of Tamil Nadu and the Government of Tamil Nadu. The public particularly the farmers and the political parties are greatly agitated and has given rise to tension between people of both the states.

Traditional cultivable lands to the tune of about 1 lakh 50 thousand acres of land in the three districts of Vellore, Thiruvannamalai and Kanchipuram are irrigated by the River Paalar. Apart from this Paalar is the only drinking water source for municipal towns like Vellore-, Katpadi, Kanchipuram and Chingleput and also Chennai,

*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

the capital city of Tamil Nadu. About a crore and half people depend on River Paalar for their drinking water needs. If the Government of Andhra Pradesh goes ahead with the project, the irrigation and drinking water supply would be seriously hampered.

River Paalar that originates in Kolar district of Karnataka flows through Karnataka for about 9.0 kms and then through Andhra Pradesh for a mere 33 kms and runs to about 222 kms in Tamil Nadu before it could flow into Bay of Bengal near Cuddalore in Tamil Nadu.

According to 1892 agreement, which covers fifteen inter state rivers that include River Paalar also, there is a clear mention that lower riparian states must be consulted before any dam or barrage construction in the upstream is to be taken up. The Government of Andhra Pradesh has not obtained the consent of Tamil Nadu and has ignored the letter from Tamil Nadu in this regard. The Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh has not sent any reply to the Government of Tamil Nadu till now. Apart from that it has been stated that the proposed site where a dam is to be raised come under Central Reserve Forest area. As a reserve forest, that area comes under the Union Government and no state can take a unilateral decision without the consent of the Centre. Hence, I urge upon the Centre to intervene and prevail upon the Government of Andhra Pradesh not to go ahead with this unilateral decision to construct a dam across River Palaar.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR DUBEY (Dhanbad): Mr. Chairman, Sir, drawing the attention of the Ministry of Steel through you would like to submit that the Bharat Refractories Limited (B.R.L.) was earlier an ancillary unit of Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL), which has now been separated. Approximately 1800 workers are working therein. Similarly, approximately 2100 workers are employed in the Hindustan Steel Construction Limited (H.S.C.L.) Both the said organizations are engaged in the production of goods used by SAIL, without which the latter cannot work.

It is my request to the Government that the way of ISCO has been merged in the SAIL, similarly B.R.L. and H.S.C.L. may also be merged with SAIL so that there is no hindrance in the supply of goods to SAIL. Besides, it would ensure security of the workers employed therein.

This is a very important issue. 1800 workers of B.R.L. and 2100 workers of H.S.C.L. are starving.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is in the notice of the Government.

DR. KARAN SINGH YADAV (Alwar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, fresh mustard crops is coming in the mandis of Alwar, Bharatpur, Kota and Ganganagar—the mustard growing regions of Rajasthan. It is regretful that the procurement of mustard has not begun as on date despite the announcement of support price. As it is the farmers who have to bear 25 to 50 per cent loss owing to severe cold this year. Even when the farmers are going to the mandis with their first crop, they are compelled to sell their crops at a lesser price due to non-procurement by the Government.

Even the State Government of Rajasthan is sitting quietly therefore, I would request the Union Minister of Agriculture to immediately start the procurement of mustard through State Government agencies, F.C.I., NAFED and Tilam Sangh in the State.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Mr. Chairman Sir, the Buddhist religion was initiated under the leadership of Babasaheb Ambedkarji in Maharashtra on 14th October, 1956. You were also a Member of the V.P. Singh Government. During his regime a decision to provide all the benefits to the Buddhist people which were being given to the Scheduled Castes people was taken. But all the Buddhists of Maharashtra have been put in the General Category as per the Buddhist record prepared during the census of 2001. So, they are not getting the benefits of Scheduled Castes.

It is our request to the Government of India that 48 seats and 8 seats should be reserved in Legislative Assembly and Lok Sabha respectively for the people belonging to Scheduled Castes Category in the ensuing delimitation process and Buddhists should also be declared as Scheduled Castes. Since our Buddhist population in the State is 6 per cent and the Scheduled Castes population is 10 per cent. The Ministry of Law and Ministry of Home Affairs should make efforts in this direction.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur): Sir, 20 lakh gallons less water is being produced owing to the load shedding in Vishwakarma industrial area and Jhotwada industrial area in the Jaipur city. The summer season has begun and the people are facing enormous difficulties. The water supply in the walled city of Jaipur is now only for one hour instead of one and a half hours owing to shortage of water. There are approximately 250

tubewells in the Jhatwada and Vishwakarma areas. The water supply is being adversely affected owing to 8-10 hours daily load shedding in the industrial areas.

I request the Union Government for the implementation of power projects pending before it and the agreements reached with State of Rajasthan so that the residents of Jaipur may not face difficulties due to load shedding and may get relief by getting sufficient supply of power during summer and the problem of production of water owing to the load shedding in Vishwakarma and Jhotwada industrial areas may also be done away with. Alongwith that the electricity may be sufficiently supplied to the farmers of Rajasthan.

The State Government is making best efforts in this regard. Efforts are being made by the State Government not to cut supply of electricity in any area. However, the load shedding has become a compulsion since the Union Government has been ignoring the interests of the State.

So it is my request to the Union Government to pay attention to safeguard the interests of the people of Rajasthan. Immediately and to do away with the load shedding being done owing to the mistakes of the Union Government so that there may be sufficient supply of power to the people be they farmers or industrial areas of Jaipur, Rajasthan.

With these words, I express my gratitude to you for providing me an opportunity to speak.

[English]

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY (Berhampore, West Bengal): Maoist insurgency has been spreading in various parts of the country with all its venomous tentacles. It is a concern for all of us. West Bengal, which had till recently remained outside the ambit of Maoist network, has hogged the limelight by recent Maoist activities. Three districts in Southern part of West Bengal have virtually become the field day of Maoist activities. The State Government of West Bengal has miserably failed to contain the Maoist insurgency resulting in the virtual collapse of law and order situation in those districts.

You will be surprised to note that a couple of police outposts have been vacated by the administration in anticipation of Maoist attacks often conducted by the insurgents to procure arms and ammunition. The tribal

[Shri Adhir Chowdhury]

people of those areas become the fodder of Maoist insurgents largely due to persistent poverty and penury only. Police oppression will not be able to yield tangible results. The Government had earlier deployed Special Police Force to protect the affected persons but now that has been withdrawn. Those people are now at the mercy of the Maoist insurgents.

May I request the Government to reinforce the police force in those areas? Not only that, I would also request to provide adequate welfare programmes so as to wean

away those affected tribals who have fallen prey to the Maoist insurgents.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House stands adjourned to meet tomorrow at 1100 hours.

18.42 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, February 21, 2006/Phalguna 2, 1927 (Saka).

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Published under Rules 379 and 382 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha
(Eleventh Edition) and printed by Shree Enterprises, New Delhi.
